

Name of meeting: Corporate Parenting Board
Date: 18th December 2019
Title of report: Siblings in Care

Purpose of report: To give an overview of siblings in care and whether they are placed together.

Key Decision - Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?	Not Applicable
Key Decision - Is it in the <u>Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports)?</u>	Key Decision – No
The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?	Not Applicable
Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> & name Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance IT and Transactional Services? Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning Support?	Elaine McShane for Mel Meggs (6th December 2019) N/A N/A
Cabinet member portfolio	Cllr Kendrick

Electoral wards affected: N/A

Ward councillors consulted: N/A

Public or private: Public

Has GDPR been considered? Yes.

1. **Summary**

The Corporate Parenting Board have asked for an overview of the numbers of siblings in care.

2. **Information required to take a decision**

There are currently 58 groups of siblings in care who are subject to a Full Care Orders, 38 groups of siblings are currently placed together in the same placement and 20 groups of siblings are placed in separate placements. The number of siblings range from 2 – 5, there are currently 35 groups of 2 siblings, 19 groups of 3 siblings, 2 groups of 4 siblings and 2 groups of 5 siblings. The children and young people are currently placed in a range of placements which include fostering, residential and supported accommodation.

When a decision is made and approved for a sibling group to come into the care of the local authority and where appropriate there is a placement search for the children to be placed together. In some situations this might not be the best option and this is dependent on the assessments of the individual needs of the children and young people.

In some situations when concerns are raised with regards to sibling relationships the allocated social worker will undertake a sibling assessment to determine whether it is in the sibling's best interests for them to remain living together.

If the assessments identify that it is not possible for siblings to remain together then contact arrangements are made taking into account a number of factors which include the individual care needs of each child, relationships and their age, type of contact including activities dependant on age to build positive family connections balanced against ensuring that each child continues to have a stable placement. The arrangements are reviewed at their looked after children reviews to ensure that positive sibling relationships are maintained into adulthood.

3. **Implications for the Council**

3.1 **Working with People**

Not applicable

3.2 **Working with Partners**

Not applicable

3.3 **Place Based Working**

Not applicable

3.4 **Improving outcomes for children.**

To ensure that children and young people are able to maintain relationship with their birth siblings.

3.5 **Other (eg Legal/Financial or Human Resources)**

Not applicable

4. **Consultees and their opinions**

Not applicable.

5. **Next steps and timelines**

Not applicable.

6. Officer recommendations and reasons

That the report be noted.

7. Cabinet Portfolio Holder's recommendations

Not applicable

8. Contact officer

Julie Bragg, Head of Service (Children in Care and Care Leavers)

9. Background Papers and History of Decisions

None

10. Service Director responsible

Elaine McShane, Service Director (Family Support and Child Protection)