

Corporate Parenting Board – Highlight Report

Date of Board: 5 October 2021

Data is as at 31 August 2021, unless stated otherwise.

* Benchmarking Source: Children's Social Care Benchmarking Tool (BMt) V3.10. Benchmarking data is from March 2020 unless stated otherwise. SN = Statistical Neighbours average, Eng. = England average. Where no equivalent published data is available, "N/A" is shown.

Children Entering Care, Children in Care and Placement Stability

Key Indicator	Type of measure	Month End				*Benchmarking	
		Sep 20	Jun 21	Jul 21	Aug 21	SN	Eng.
4.02.01 Children in care - numbers in care per 10,000 of age 0-17 population.	Per 10,000 population aged 0-17	68.6 (687)	64.9 (650)	65.0 (651)	64.7 (648)	92.2	67.0
	Direction of Travel		↓	↑	↑		
4.02.04 Children in care by placement within and outside the LA boundary: Total placed outside Kirklees and more than 20 miles from home address	% (number)	12.2% (84)	11.1% (72)	11.5% (75)	11.9% (77)	12.9%	16.0%
	Direction of Travel		↓	↑	↑		
4.05.01 Placement Stability Within Year - LAC with three or more placements	% (number)	7.7% (53)	5.8% (38)	6.9% (45)	6.2% (40)	10.3%	11.0%
	Direction of Travel		↑	↑	↓		
4.05.04 Social Worker change of LAC in care 12+ Months: Number of Social Worker changes	Number	267	215	232	217	N/A	N/A
	Direction of Travel		↔	↑	↓		
Average number of SW changes	Average	0.56	0.42	0.45	0.42	N/A	N/A
	Direction of Travel		↑	↑	↓		

Service Narrative

What difference did we make?

- There is currently a decreasing trend in the number and rate of children in care from 68.7 (688 children) in Nov 20 to 64.7 (648 children) in Aug 21. The current 12-month average for Kirklees is 66.9 (670 children), below our 31 March 2020 published rate of 67.0, England 2020 rate of 67.0 and our Statistical Neighbours 2020 rate of 92.2.
- Of the 77 children placed outside of Kirklees and more than 20 miles from their home address, the large majority are placed in fostering.
- Stability in leadership, management and decision-making are helping to improve the quality of planning and engagement from a strength and relational based approach with children and their families in achieving timely permanence for our looked after children, but we recognise there is still more to do. Purposeful and confident planning and practice has helped to safely reduce the number of looked after children. Good and regular performance reporting are supporting and informing managers' ongoing work to drive improvement. As a result, there is increased confidence in decision-making, ensuring the right children are supported at the right time through our care planning processes.
- Legal Gateway and Permanence Panel takes place on a weekly basis and chaired by the Head of Service. The panel meetings continue to oversee, and quality assure the consistency of practice in regard to decision making and planning around Placement moves, and care planning for children and young people. An External Placement Review Panel is now in place, and is held every 2 weeks,

chaired by the Service Director. The purpose of the panel is to ensure better oversight of children who are not placed in Local Authority provision.

- A monthly review of external residential placements will be undertaken of all children who are placed out of Local Authority to consider their care planning and explore options of returning to the local area, if this is in line with meeting the children and young person's needs. We have already made progress reducing this number placed outside of Kirklees and more than twenty miles away from Kirklees.
- For Placement Stability the Placement support team are very active, and we have implemented innovative solutions to support several placements to limit unplanned moves in that, where a foster carer or Placement is given 28-day notice, the Team Manager will coordinate a stability meeting within 5 working days to look at what can be provided to avoid Placement breakdown and to maintain the current Placement.
- Whilst the data shows improvement in certain areas, we are focusing on the data relating to children and young people who have had three or more Placement changes in the previous 12-month period and continuing to reduce the number of Placement with Parents.
- As of at the end of July 2021 there had been 232 social worker changes in the previous 12 months with a further reduction to 217 by the end of August 2021. Whilst social work change data has improved a focus needs to remain on reducing this number further, as we are mindful of the impact this has on our children and young people and will continue to focus on staff retention, staff absence and case allocation.
- As of the end of August 2021 there are 48 children subject to Placement with Parent regulations. 30 children are subject of a Care Order and care proceedings are ongoing for 18 of the children who are subject of Interim Care Order.

What do we want to improve?

- Work to continue in relation to improving placement stability for our children and young people and will focus on lessons learned to inform practice. We are currently in the process of reviewing our model of practice and have established much better links with our supervisory social workers to help with better support to our foster carers. We are currently reviewing our placement support so that we are able to enhance our offer to foster carers.
- Further worker needs to be undertaken to improve allocated social worker stability.
- Reduce number of children placed more than 20 miles from their home address. We aim to recruit more local foster carers to provide more local placement options.
- We are planning to review all of our external foster placements to consider whether children and young people who are placed more than twenty miles from Kirklees, in line with their care planning and meeting the children and young person's needs, are able to return to more local placements.
- Further improvement work to be undertaken to focus on whether: the improvement activity that had taken place had resulted in improved outcomes for looked after children and to identify what are the key issues that impacted on outcomes.
- Further reduce the number of Placement with Parents and increase the number of Special Guardianship Orders, for the looked after children in long term foster care.

Children Looked After Reviews, Visits and Missing

Key Indicator	Type of measure	Month End				*Benchmarking	
		Sep 20	Jun 21	Jul 21	Aug 21	SN	Eng.
4.06.01: CLA Reviews Within Statutory Timescale	%	97.6%	99.2%	99.3%	99.4%	N/A	N/A
	Direction of Travel		↑	↑	↑		
4.07.01: CLA visits within statutory time-scale: % of CLA visited in line with Kirklees Practice Standards	%	93.1% (639/ 687)	92.6% (602/ 650)	90.5% (589/ 651)	90.4% (586/ 648)	N/A	N/A
	Direction of Travel		↑	↓	↓		
4.09.02: Missing children: a. No. of CLA having at least one Missing episode per month	% (number)	3.2% (22)	2.2% (14)	3.2% (21)	2.8% (18)	9.3%	11%
	Direction of Travel		↓	↑	↓		
b. No. of LAC that have more than one missing episode in the month (repeat Mispers)	% (number)	31.8% (7)	71.4% (10)	57.1% (12)	44.4% (8)	N/A	N/A
	Direction of Travel		↑	↓	↓		
4.09.03: Independent Return Interviews for CLA offered within 72 hours of the child being located	% (number)	91.7% (11/ 12)	75.0% (33/ 44)	73.7% (14/ 19)	78.9% (15/ 19)	N/A	N/A
	Direction of Travel		↓	↓	↑		

Service Narrative

What difference did we make?

- 18 requests for Initial Review forms were received by the Child Protection and Review unit from 1 July to 31 August 2021 relating to 23 children in total, all of whom remain Looked After as at end August 2021. For all the referrals received, children and young people were allocated an Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) within 24 hours and Initial Child Looked After Reviews were arranged within 4 weeks of the children and young people becoming Looked After.
- In July and August 2021, the Child Protection and Review Unit held 279 Looked After Review Meetings for children, with over 99% of these being held within timescales
- Independent Reviewing Officers closely monitor Child Looked After Review timescales to ensure that this high percentage is maintained, whilst a clear rationale is recorded on a child's file if there are circumstances which result in a child's review meeting not being held within statutory timescales.
- In August 2021, 3 children and young people were supported by an Advocate from the Children's Right's Team at their Looked After Review.
- At the end of August 2021 29 Children Looked After were receiving support from an Independent Visitor.
- The timeliness of CLA visits has fluctuated with a 12-month low of 87.7% in Jan 21, and a high in Mar 21 of 93.8%. Performance in Aug 21 was 90.4%, just below the 12-month average of 91.4%.
- There has been a slight decrease with regards to the number of Children in Care who have received a statutory visit in line with practice standards, we continue to monitor the visits as part of our service performance meetings to address and increase the timeliness of visits to children and young people.
- Missing CLA:
 - All children's homes have been encouraged to review missing reporting strategies with the placing Local Authorities to ensure they are fit for purpose and have a clear expectation on the home to try all avenues to locate a child/young person before reporting they are reported as missing to the Police.
 - The Philomena Protocol documents are being used by children's homes and semi-independent providers in Kirklees, and meetings have been held with providers to review the protocol, the information within it and expectations of providers.

What do we want to improve?

- The Service Managers are increasing focus on statutory visit compliance to improve the performance. Regular performance meetings are held within the service to ensure that we can improve our performance.
- Independent Reviewing Officers to continue to liaise closely with Social Workers and the Children's Rights team to ensure that children are enabled to participate in their virtual Reviews and that their voice is heard. Reviews are still being held virtually, but there are creative ways being utilised to develop the engagement of children and young people in their Review process, alongside this recovery planning is in place to resume in person CLA Reviews
- IROs are linked to social work team clusters and continue to share updates about the IRO service and CPRU Service Manager continues to liaise regarding any themes that may be contributing to delays for children.
- Children's Rights Service have liaised closely with IRO Service and updated physical and online versions of Children's consultation documents for Looked After Reviews are being produced. These will be shared with children and young people when they first come into care. They will help children and young people gain understanding of what a Review meeting is, what they can expect, why it is important that their views are heard, the different ways they can make sure this happens, and to encourage improved participation from children and young people in their Reviews. The documents will also be made available to existing children Looked After. IRO Service will be part of this relaunch and will send electronic documents to each child after their Review from October 2021, these will highlight the key decisions which were made at their Review Meeting.
- The Children's Rights Service has sought the views of children who have an Independent Visitor to gain an in depth understanding of their experience during Covid-19. The feedback received has informed a service action plan focused on ensuring continuous service delivery improvement.
- A recent Independent Visitor recruitment exercise has been successful and interviews for new Independent Visitor volunteers are currently being coordinated and will commence shortly

Children Looked After Education Outcomes

Key Indicator	Type of measure	Autumn Term 20/21	Spring Term 20/21	Summer Term 20/21	Benchmarking	
					SN	Eng.
4.10.02 Personal Education Plans (PEP) up to date (current school age LAC with PEP in the last term)	%	100%	100%	100%		
	Direction of Travel	-				

Key Indicator	Type of measure	Month End				Benchmarking	
		Jun 21	Jul 21	Aug 21	Cumulative	SN	Eng.
Initial PEP completed within 10 school days of Virtual School being notified child came into care	%	100% (10/10)	100% (9/9)	n/a – no PEPs	97%	N/A	N/A

Key Indicator	Type of measure	Month End				Benchmarking	
		Sep 20	Jun 21	Jul 21	Aug 21	SN	Eng.
4.10.05 LAC Persistent Absentees	%	N/A	40.8%	45.6%	N/A	10.5% (2018/19)	10.9% (2018/19)
	Direction of Travel		↑	↑			
LAC with a mid-year school move	%	N/A	3	3	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Direction of Travel		↓	↔			

Service Narrative

What difference did we make?

- 100% of PEPs have been completed within the Summer Term in-line with the new termly processes.
- The Virtual School is currently leading on all PEPs since the Covid-19 lockdowns began in March 2020. These are all currently virtually held meetings.
- 97% of initial PEPs in 2020-21 have been completed within 10 school days of child coming into care since 01/09/2020. 4 were held out of timescales
 - 2 were due to the CLA start date having changed in Liquid Logic to an earlier date
 - 1 was due to Covid-19 (positive case in education setting – PEP had to be meeting rearranged)
 - 1 was due to being cancelled by SW
- We continue to work with social work teams to improve both PEP and initial PEP completion and the quality assurance of PEPs. We have successfully moved to termly PEPs to meet statutory requirements.
- 100% of school moves since the start of the academic year have been carefully planned across the service to ensure a smooth transition with no break in provision

What do we want to improve?

- Our initial focus was the transition back into education following the Covid-19 school closures (vulnerable offer) with a continued focus on supporting young people who are having to work at home e.g. isolation / bubble closures. This will continue to be our priority following the current return to school for all pupils.
- We will continue to have a focus on termly PEP completion with transition support and support for working at home where necessary as key focus areas.
- Attendance / Persistent Absence (PA) remains a high priority and all pupils with attendance less than 90%. We will need to be mindful of some of the emotional issues for our young people as they return and respond creatively where there are issues or concerns. Attendance data is collected daily by welfare call for us. We do have attendance data for 2020-21, and attendance to the end of the 2020-2021 academic year is 86.7%. However, this is not information that can be used in any comparative way to previous years due to the Covid impact and the use of X and C codes. As X codes did not count as possible attendance in the first lockdown there is a disproportionate impact on any illness or absence of any other reason. This includes time working at home and shielding. Subsequently C codes were used in the second lockdown for those young people learning at home and these counted as a non-attendance – although young people were accessing 100% of their learning at home. This has therefore negatively impacted on the number of PA pupils, even though many of these young people are not attendance concerns. We monitor individual attendance closely and work to support young people on an individual basis. We will have a detailed summary and analysis of this in the Headteacher Report using data for the whole academic year.
- We will continue to maintain a strong focus on pupils not in full-time education provision.
- We will continue to work across service to reduce the number of school moves (2018-19 (82), 2019-20 (64) 2020-21 (75)) and to reduce the number of young people with a break in provision whenever possible.

Children Looked After Health

Key Indicator	Type of measure	Month End				Benchmarking	
		Sep 20	Jun 21	Jul 21	Aug 21	SN	Eng.
4.11.11 Dental Checks within last 12 months - timeliness	%	64.8%	42.8%	45.9%	50.7%	N/A	N/A
	Direction of Travel		↑	↑	↑		
4.11.12 Initial health Assessments completed on time - within 20 days	%	88.3%	92.9%	88.5%	88.8%	N/A	N/A
	Direction of Travel		↑	↓	↑		
4.11.13 Annual health assessments: a: Under 5's 6 month Developmental Assessments -percentage up to date	%	88.8%	94.7%	86.3%	88.2%	N/A	N/A
	Direction of Travel		↑	↓	↑		
b: Over 5s Annual Health Assessments – percentage up to date	%	89.2%	92.7%	90.5%	92.2%	N/A	N/A
	Direction of Travel		↑	↓	↑		
4.11.16 No. of LAC in care more than 12 month and identified as having a substance misuse problem during the last year	% (number)	0.42% (2)	0.39% (2)	0.39% (2)	0.97% (5)	2.4%	3.0%
	Direction of Travel		↑	↔	↑		

Service Narrative

What difference did we make?

- **Initial health assessments:** Kirklees Local Authority (LA) rolling 12-month data shows that 88.8% were completed in the statutory 20 working day timescale. Locala monthly data was not available at the time of report request. Verbal feedback will be given on 5th October meeting. There is now limited opportunity to re-set part of the IHA assessment in clinic preceded with a virtual call. This is to comply with the clinic 2-person attendance (Paediatrician, Carer & child), and to ensure the birth parents and social worker are involved in the initial discussion.
- **Review health assessments:** Kirklees rolling 12-month data shows that **88.2%** & **92.2%** of the 'Developmental' assessments (under 5yrs old) and 'Annual' assessments (over 5 yrs. old) respectively, were completed in statutory timescales. Locala monthly data was not available at the time of report request. Verbal feedback will be given on 5th October meeting.
- **Dental Checks within last 12 months:** Kirklees rolling 12-month data shows that **50.7%** of children had attended the dentist. Locala monthly data was not available at the time of report request. Verbal feedback will be given on 5th October meeting. This is an improving picture from times when the closure/limited availability of dentists during the Covid lockdown, prevented routine checks. The cohort figure is likely higher, as it will need to wait for the question to be asked at their RHA. A new 'Flexible Commissioning' dental project (Y&H) aimed at vulnerable children, is allowing easier access to some named dental surgeries in Kirklees.
- **Substance misuse:** 5 young people (**0.97%**) have admitted or are known to use substances that significantly affect their life, when asked at their RHA. It is dependent on admission and their wish to share that information. There may be a more accurate source for this information, possibly through social workers and substance misuse services. Any young person misusing substances at any level is offered support. Young people who refuse support, are discussed with the local Substance Misuse Service, to try to offer an alternative response e.g., group work or access through other agencies.

Children Looked After Convictions

Key Indicator	Type of measure	Quarter				*Benchmarking
		Jul-Sep 20/21 Q2	Oct-Dec 20/21 Q3	Jan-Mar 20/21 Q4	Apr-Jun 21/22 Q1	
4.12.01 Number of young people who have been looked after continually for 12 months or more aged between 10 and 17 who have offended and received a substantive outcome (Youth Caution/ Conditional Caution or a Court Order)	%	1.87% (6/321)	1.24% (4/321)	1.24% (4/321)	1.37% (5/364)	Eng.: 3.00% SN: 3.43% Y&H: 3.00%
	Direction of Travel	↑	↓	↔	↑	

Service Narrative

What difference did we make?

- For the year 2018/2019 65.8% of Children Looked After successfully completed their interventions but is however a much-improved picture from 2016 when less than 30% of Children Looked After successfully completed their interventions
- For the year 2019/2020 90.9% of Children Looked After successfully completed their interventions which in comparison with the last year is an increase of over 25% (65.8%).
- For the year April 20 to March 21, 87.7% of Children Looked After successfully completed their interventions. Whilst this performance is slightly worse than the same period of the previous year, it remains in line with that of the general population successfully completing their intervention.
- For the April to June 21 period 87.5% of Children Looked After successfully completed their interventions, compared to 91.5% of the general population.
- Whilst the numbers of Children Looked After offending remain small in the cohort, we are seeing a very small increase in the numbers compared to the same period last year. In the year to date we have seen a rise in the percentage of CLA offending from 1.24% (20/21) to 1.37% (21/22).

What do we want to improve?

- Continued reduction in the numbers of Children Looked After offending. The overall cohort for the 21/22 year is bigger than the 20/21 year (364 compared to 321), but through continued interventions by the YOT, restorative processes, liaison with Children's Homes and creative out of court disposals it is hoped the offending rate will continue to fall.
- To maintain the high level of successful outcomes achieved by Children Looked After, through creative interventions, restorative processes, liaison with Children's Homes and the continued development of the Youth Engagement Service.

Care Leavers

Key Indicator	Type of measure	Month End				*Benchmarking	
		Sep 20	Jun 21	Jul 21	Aug 21	SN	Eng.
5.01.04 Children in care aged 17 years and 4 months with a Personal Advisor	%	78.2%	87.2%	83.8%	72.2%	N/A	N/A
	Direction of Travel		↑	↓	↓		
5.01.08 Local Authority In Touch with Care Leavers	%	95.4%	92.7%	91.2%	92.1%	94.0% (2019)	93.0%
	Direction of Travel		↑	↓	↑		
5.01.09 Care Leavers in suitable accommodation	%	88.2%	87.2%	85.7%	87.0%	89.3%	85.0%
	Direction of Travel		↑	↓	↑		
5.01.10 Care Leavers Employment, Education and Training (EET)	%	52.7%	54.9%	55.7%	57.0%	49.1%	53.0%
	Direction of Travel		↑	↑	↑		
5.01.11 Number of Care Leavers with a Pathway Plan that is up to date	%	95.8%	81.7%	85.0%	78.0%	N/A	N/A
	Direction of Travel		↓	↑	↓		

Service Narrative

What difference did we make?

- *Contact with care leavers* – There has been increase in relation to the number of Care Leavers we were in touch with during June, July, and August 2021. This has to be viewed in the context of this group all being aged 18 plus. In some situations, young people do not wish to keep in contact with their Personal Advisor. The team work innovatively to keep in touch, we have a best practice protocol in place.
- *Number of young people in suitable accommodation* - Despite the recent pandemic there has been a significant impact on the increasing demands for tenancies. However, we have worked closely with our housing colleagues who have agreed to prioritise the properties for our young people, and this has helped to improve our performance in May 2021. We continue to maintain strong links with KNH and Housing and the Housing Panel is enabling us to ensure that suitable accommodation is available. We have strong links with private housing providers and are considering how collectively we can improve our skills for independence training. We have continued to provide virtual life skills and pre-tenancy training during COVID19.
- *Kirklees Commitment to Care Leavers* – Unfortunately during the year our drop-in centres at N°11 and N°12 have been closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. N°11 is open and we are hopeful that we will be in a position to reopen N°12 in October 2021.
- *Children in Care aged 17 years and 4 months with an allocated Personal Advisors* – There has been decrease in performance on this indicator from 83.8% in July 2021 to 72.2% in August 2021. Work to be undertaken with the team to address Personal Advisor (PA) allocation, but it is important to note that all the young people do have either an allocated PA or an allocated Social Worker.
- *Education Employment Training* – Our performance in relation to Employment, Education and Training (EET) indicator is a focus for improvement. We have a C&K Careers Advisor in the Leaving Care Service. We have a pro-active multi-agency group to improve opportunities in partnership working and there is a real desire to ensure our young people are afforded the best of opportunities in relation to EET. Due to the COVID19 pandemic some of our young people have unfortunately been in a situation where they have either been furloughed or made redundant from their employment. In order to offer support to our young people we have recently established a virtual clinic where extra support is available from our Careers Advisor. In August 2021 we have seen an increase in the number of young people who are either in employment, education or training.
- *Pathway Plans* – We have seen a decline in the numbers of young people who have an up-to-date pathway plan. Further work is required to be undertaken with the Team Leaders and Personal Advisors to ensure pathway plans are completed in a timely manner to meet targets with a focus going forward on the improvement of the quality of plans, the involvement of young people and

ensuring we capture their wishes and feelings. This will continue to be monitored in the performance meetings, held fortnightly and chaired by the service manager.

What do we want to improve?

- *Number of young people with a pathway plan* – The number of young people with a pathway plan has seen a decrease in the timely completion of pathway plans. Work is currently ongoing within the service and it is expected that the measure will improve. We continue to work with the Personal Advisors to ensure pathway plans are completed in a timely manner to meet targets with a focus going forward on the improvement of the quality of plans, the involvement of young people and ensuring we capture their wishes and feelings.
- We have recently reviewed our financial offer to our care leaver along with our staying put policy and they are in the process of being implemented. We aim to review our commitment to care leavers and both will significantly improve and enhance our offer to our young people.
- To improve the allocation timeliness of Personal Advisors.

Adoption

Key Indicator	Type of measure	Month End				*Benchmarking	
		Sep 20	Jun 21	Jul 21	Aug 21	SN	Eng.
5.02.01 Number of children adopted as a percentage of children leaving care (12 month rolling period)	% (number)	9.4% (21)	7.6% (18)	8.1% (19)	7.8% (17)	19.0%	12.0%
	Direction of Travel		↑	↑	↓		
5.02.03 A1 Average timescale (days) between the child coming into care and being placed with the adopter (12 month rolling period)	Number	515.7	627.8	637.0	628.1	386.0 (17-20)	367.0 (17-20)
	Direction of Travel		↓	↑	↓		
5.02.05 A2 Average timescale (days) between Kirklees council receiving court authority to place a child and the council deciding to match the child with an adoptive family (12 month rolling period)	Number	227.4	274.1	257.9	267.1	173.0 (17-20)	175.0 (17-20)
	Direction of Travel		↓	↓	↑		

Service Narrative

What difference did we make?

- At the end of August 2021, 7.8% of children leaving care in a 12-month rolling period had been adopted, equating to 17 children. At the level of performance to May 2021, Kirklees is significantly below the England rate of 12.0% (2020) and the Statistical Neighbours rate of 19.0% (2020)
- The average timescale has been on an increasing trend, standing at 515.7 days in Sep 20 before increasing to 648.0 days by Apr 21. This has since reduced to 628.1 days. This remains well above the Statistical Neighbours average of 384.7 days and the England average of 376.0 days from the Adoption Scorecard (3-year average outcome to March 2019). Kirklees performance on the Scorecard was 388 days, so the average timescale has increased since this time.
- The average timescale has been on an increasing trend, standing at 227.4 days in Sep 20 before increasing to 282.6 days by May 21. This has since reduced to 267.1 days. Overall, this remains above the Statistical Neighbours average of 168.9 days and the England average of 178.0 from the Adoption Scorecard (3-year average outcome to March 2019). Kirklees performance on the Scorecard was 132.0 days, so there has been an increase in the average timescale since this time.
- We have established weekly clinics to support children's Social Workers who are undertaking child permanence reports, sibling assessments and considering whether a plan for adoption is

appropriate. This is a joint initiative between the Assessment & Intervention Service and One Adoption and will be supported by regular training and workshops. One Adoption continue to attend Legal Gateway and Permanence Panel on a weekly basis in order to track children with a plan for adoption and to ensure a family finder is allocated.

- If an adoption Placement ceases, then One Adoption have a 'disruption review' and their new procedure is on our procedures website. They will be working with Kirklees staff on the implementation of this process. We have a structured Agency Decision Making process in relation to adoption planning. This includes legal and medical advice as well as advice from One Adoption West Yorkshire.
- Adoption Support Fund offers funding for ongoing support to adoptive families and children. There has been an increase in successful applications for Kirklees children that resulted in an increase of support, training and therapeutic input.
- The progression of Adoption cases is now monitored by Head of Service at the monthly permanence tracking panel ensuring a more robust approach to avoiding drift and delay.
- During the recent COVID19 we have had some difficulties in relation to being able to progress transition plans however as restrictions have been lifted we are now in a much stronger position in being able to progress these plans to be able to move children into their potential adoptive Placement. As a result of the CODID 19 pandemic we have experienced delays in relation to court hearings for application for adoption orders again has restrictions have lifted this is now an improving picture.

What do we want to improve?

- To continue to develop working relationships between One Adoption West Yorkshire and Kirklees social workers and managers, to ensure we maximise the potential benefits of the regional adoption agency in Kirklees. Regular meetings between the Service Managers in One Adoption and Assessment and Intervention have been established which will improve areas of communication and partnership working to assist timely adoption for our children.

Fostering

Key Indicator	Type of measure	Month End				Benchmarking	
		Sep 20	Jun 21	Jul 21	Aug 21	SN	Eng.
6.02.07 Total New Carer Approvals in Month:	Number	8	4	0	0	N/A	N/A
	Direction of Travel		↓	↓	↔		
In-house Fostering approvals in the month	Number	6	1	0	0	N/A	N/A
	Direction of Travel		↓	↓	↔		
In-house Fostering De-registrations in the month	Number	3	0	1	5	N/A	N/A
	Direction of Travel		↓	↑	↑		
6.02.09 Placements split: a. In-house foster placements	Number	256	244	234	230	N/A	N/A
	Direction of Travel		↓	↓	↓		
b. Family and friend placements	Number	102	93	99	100	N/A	N/A
	Direction of Travel		↓	↑	↑		
c. Independent Fostering Agency Placements	Number	185	179	175	170	N/A	N/A
	Direction of Travel		↓	↓	↓		

Service Narrative

What difference did we make?

- June 2021 saw 1 recorded in-house approval with July and August showing no in-house approvals (NB: including Family and Friends carers). The rolling 12-month total to August 2021 was 41

households. There were 5 in-house de-registrations in August 2021 and 1 in July. The rolling 12-months total for in-house de-registrations is 34. This gives a net gain of 7 households.

- The number of children placed with Kirklees foster carers decreased to 230 at the end of August 2021 compared to 244 in June. This is below the 12-month average of 244.
- The number of Family and Friends Placements increased to 100 in August 2021 from 93 in June 2021. This is well below the 12-month high of 118 in Jun 20 (Note that this figure includes Reg 24 Placements). The 12-month average is 100.
- The August figure of 170 Independent Fostering Agency (IFA) placements is a decrease over the 179 seen in June 2021 and below the 12-month average of 185.
- The forward plan in terms of foster placements to is grow internal fostering capacity reducing the use of fostering agencies and residential placements. The work undertaken so far has a clear focus on this. A review is currently underway of the last 12 months resignations so we can be clear about the reasons for carers resigning and identify learning we can take forward.
- The fostering recruitment process and team functions have been reviewed and the new Liquid Logic pathway is live, this will help provide accurate recruitment data to support the improvement work, regarding enquiries, expressions of interests and assessments.
- In terms of recruitment there are currently 6 fostering households in Stage 2 assessment, and 3 in Stage 1. In addition, there are 2 households being assessed for Supported Board & Lodgings.

What do we want to improve?

- Recruitment and retention of foster carers is a priority as is reducing the use of fostering agency care. We are focussed on recruiting foster carers who can help us to meet our sufficiency needs around placements for older children, children with complex needs, offering long-term placements and emergency placements. Alongside recruitment we want to ensure that new foster carers receive the right level of support particularly in their first year of fostering; induction, training and support from a Supervising Social Worker are all essential aspects of supporting and retaining new foster carers.
- We are currently working with the National Fostering Network to implement Foster Carer Mockingbird hubs in Kirklees. This model facilitates additional support to specific carers. We have recruited the first Hub carer
- We are currently in the implementation stage of the modernisation of the Fostering Service, focusing on management realignment to accommodate the changes which will enable us to achieve our aspirations of all children being placed locally in suitable placements and that when support is needed, it is timely and effective, to help ensure placement stability is achieved.
- Under the wider sufficiency agenda, we are opening a new children's home in Kirklees. We are also opening an MST-FIT residential provision which supports reunification with family using an evidence-based model. Support is provided to the young person and their family with intensive support provided once the young person returns home (after 12 weeks in the residential unit).

Appendix – Glossary of Terms

Term	Description
A&I	Assessment & Intervention (part of Family Support & Child Protection)
ADCS	Association of Directors of Children's Services
ASYE	Assessed and Supported Year in Employment (for a newly qualified Social Worker)
BSM	Business Support Manager
BSO	Business Support Officer
CCE	Child Criminal Exploitation
CIC	Child(ren) in Care (see also CLA and LAC)
CIN	Child(ren) in Need
CLA	Child(ren) Looked After (also see CIC and LAC)
CPP	Child Protection Plan
CPRU	Child Protection & Review Unit
CSC	Children's Social Care
CSE	Child Sexual Exploitation
CWD	Children with a Disability
D&A	Duty & Advice (part of Family Support & Child Protection)
DCS	Disabled Children's Service / Director of Children's Services
EET	Education, Employment or Training
EHC	Education, Health and Care (Plan)
EITS	Early Intervention and Targeted Support
HMCI	Her Majesty's Chief Inspector
Form F	Assessment form for approval of Foster Carers
HMIP	Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons
HOS	Head of Service
ICPC	Initial Child Protection Conference
IFA	Independent Fostering Agency
IHA	Initial Health Assessment (for a Looked After Child)
IRO	Independent Reviewing Officer
KNH	Kirklees Neighbourhood Housing
LA	Local Authority
LAC	Looked After Child(ren) (also see CIC and CLA)
LAIT	Local Authority Interactive Tool (DfE tool for access to nationally published data)
NEET	Not in Education, Employment or Training
NQSW	Newly Qualified Social Worker
PA	Personal Advisor (to Care Leavers)
PEP	Personal Education Plan (for a Looked After Child)
PLO	Public Law Outline
QSW	Qualified Social Worker
RCPC	Review Child Protection Conference
RHA	Review Health Assessment (for a Looked After Child)
S17	Section 17 of the Children Act – Relates to Children in Need
S20	Section 20 of the Children Act – Relates to a child accommodated by the LA
S47	Section 47 of the Children Act – Relates to Child Protection
SDQ	Strength and Difficulties Questionnaire

Term	Description
SEND	Special Educational Needs and Disability
SM	Service Manager
SN	Statistical Neighbours (closest match Local Authorities for benchmarking)
SW	Social Worker
TM	Team Manager
UASC	Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Child
Y&H	Yorkshire and the Humber
YOT	Youth Offending Team