

# Corporate Parenting Board – Highlight Report

## Date of Board: 24 January 2023

Data is as at 30<sup>th</sup> November 2022, unless stated otherwise.

\*Benchmarking Source: Children's Social Care Benchmarking Tool (BMt) V3.29. Benchmarking data is from March 2022 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	
		Dec 21	Sep 22	Oct 22	Nov 22	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	63.8 (625)	62.6 (614)	64.8 (635)	64.7 (634)	92.0	70.0
	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)	12.5% (78/625)	12.7% (78/614)	11.0% (70/635)	10.6% (67/634)	12.0%	16.0%
	Direction of Travel		↓	↓	↓		
4.05.01 Placement Stability Within Year - LAC with three or more placements	% (number)	7.0% (44)	9.0% (55)	8.7% (55)	8.7% (55)	9.0%	10.0%
	Direction of Travel		↔	↓	↔		
4.05.04 Social Worker change of LAC in care 12+ Months: Number of Social Worker changes	Number	276	302	292	264	N/A	N/A
	Direction of Travel		↑	↓	↓		
Average number of SW changes	Average	0.55	0.63	0.61	0.57	N/A	N/A
	Direction of Travel		↑	↓	↓		

## Service Narrative

### What difference did we make?

- The number of children looked after has been relatively consistent during the 12-month period from Dec 21 to Nov 22 from 63.8 (625 children) in Dec 21 to 64.7 (634 children) in Nov 22. The current 12-month average for Kirklees is 63.0 (618 children), above our 31 March 2022 published rate of 62.0, but below the England 2022 rate of 70.0 and significantly below our Statistical Neighbours 2022 rate of 92.0.
- Of the 67 children placed outside of Kirklees and more than 20 miles from their home address, the large majority are placed in fostering. The full breakdown is as follows:

Placement Type	Number	%
Fostering	55	82.1%
Placed for Adoption	5	7.5%
Residential	3	4.5%
S1 - Residential School	1	1.5%
Placed with Parents	1	1.5%
YOI or Prison	2	3.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>67</b>	

- The Heads of Service continues to have oversight of permanency planning through Legal Gateway and Permanence Panel. The panels are held weekly to ensure consistency regarding decision

making and care planning for children and young people. The panels also provide a quality assurance framework and opportunity to evidence good practice and areas for development.

- An External Placement and Finance Review Panel 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 and provides a quality assurance function in that it provides high support and challenge as required to avoid drift and delay in care planning for children and young people.
- The number of social work changes has seen a further decrease. This will remain a focus for us to ensure we are minimising the impact on children and young people as it is important that we maintain and continue to strengthen relationships. This will remain a challenge due to the recruitment of Social Work Practitioners, of which is not just specific to Kirklees Council. We are mindful of the impact this has on our children and young people and in order to address this we are in the process of recruiting youth engagement and family support practitioners to undertake non-statutory roles. We will also continue to focus on staff retention and consistency in case allocation.
- Although we have not seen an increase in relation to the number of children who have had 3 or more home in October and November 2022, we remain focused on reducing this number further. Due to the limited availability of foster carers for this age group of which is a national issue, this has resulted with the service having to utilise the temporary options that have been available, until a suitable home has been found, therefore having an impact on our performance data.

### **What do we want to improve?**

- The service will continue to work with the Placement Support team and the Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST) team to collaboratively support improving placement stability for our children and young people with a focus on integrating strength-based approaches and tools into practice.
- 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.
- Ongoing work regarding placement stability is being undertaken jointly with practitioners and partners to address the challenges and ensure good homes are available for our children and young people.

## Children Looked After Reviews, Visits and Missing

Key Indicator	Type of measure	Month End				*Benchmarking	
		Dec 21	Sep 22	Oct 22	Nov 22	SN	Eng.
4.06.01: CLA Reviews Within Statutory Timescale	%	99.0%	98.0%	98.1%	98.1%	N/A	N/A
	Direction of Travel		↑	↑	↔		
4.07.01: CLA visits within statutory timescale: % of CLA visited in line with Kirklees Practice Standards	%	92.5% (571)	93.3% (568)	94.2% (586)	93.8% (591)	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)	2.9% (18)	1.6% (10)	2.4% (15)	3.6% (23)	11%	11%
	Direction of Travel		↓	↑	↑		
b. No. of LAC that have more than one missing episode in the month (repeat Mispers)	% (number)	72.2% (13)	70.0% (7)	100.0% (15)	78.3% (18)	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)	86.7% (13/15)	76.9% (10/13)	50.0% (8/16)	64.0% (16/25)	N/A	N/A
	Direction of Travel		↑	↓	↑		

### Service Narrative

#### What difference did we make?

- 13 requests for Initial Review forms were received by the Child Protection and Review unit in November 2022 relating to 13 children – unusually each of these referrals was for a single child. 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 November the Child Protection and Review Unit held 173 Looked After Review Meetings for children, with all but one (for 3 siblings) 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.
- IROs robustly review children's care plans. They provide time-bound actions, which are followed up in between review meeting to ensure that plans for children progress swiftly, and where drift is identified informal and formal resolution processes are used effectively. Children's reviews are well attended by a range of partner agencies, who commit to taking actions to improve children's experiences and outcomes.
- IROs robustly review children's care plans. They provide time-bound actions, which are followed up in between review meeting to ensure that plans for children progress swiftly, and where drift is identified informal and formal resolution processes are used effectively. Children's reviews are well attended by a range of partner agencies, who commit to taking actions to improve children's experiences and outcomes.
- The Children's Rights Team supported 13 young people at their CLA review in the month of September with 7 of these young people living out of area.
- There has been decrease in percentage of Children in Care who have received a statutory visit in line with practice standards. We continue to have weekly oversight and monitoring of the visits as part of our service performance meetings. The meetings focus on timeliness and quality of visits to young people as well as providing evidence of practice in relation key strengths and areas for further development.
- *Missing CLA:*
  - The number of Children having at least one missing episode has reduced in November, however the average remains at approx. 3%. This average remains considerably below the national average and statistical neighbours (10.0% and 8.7% respectively).
  - The principles of 'Right Support, Right Person, at the Right Time' are consistently adopted when approaching an Independent Return Interview. Utilising familiarity and identifying the

right person for the circumstances and placing the Young Person at the centre of the decision is the consistent approach undertaken. With very specific exceptions all Children and Young people are offered an independent return home interview (97%).

- 99% of all Independent Return Home interviews offered and accepted were completed.
- The number of children having multiple missing episodes has fluctuated between 3 and 8 in the three-month period which is lower than the 12-month average. The percentage rate of these children is determined from a very low overall number in the cohort of missing children. The slight fluctuation in the overall number of Children therefore creates a significant shift in the percentage and as such presents a volatile range.
- As per previous reports, all children's homes are being 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 the child before reporting them missing.
- Daily Risk Exploitation and Missing Meetings (DREAMM) occur with partners to discuss, intelligence, missing episodes and individual circumstances to ensure actions, and allocations are in keeping with the core principles placing the child at the centre.
- The Philomena Protocol is a Police initiative to help locate and safely return a young person as quickly as possible when they are missing. The basis of the scheme is for vital information about the young person to be recorded on a form so that this can be used to help locate them safely and quickly. The Philomena Protocol documents continue to be used by all children's homes and semi-independent providers in Kirklees (introduced in July 2020). A number of meetings have been held with providers recently to consider the protocol, the information within it and expectations that all providers use it. Feedback showed that children's homes and semi-independent providers like the protocol and that the information held means that children are located more quickly and that it aids the Police to do this. It was recognised by the police that more work needs to take place with the police call operators who receive the information as they are not all familiar with the protocol.
- Provider meetings are run 3 to 4 times per year. These have focussed on the Philomena Protocol and support through Covid-19. Meetings have continued to take place and attendance has been good, but more work is required, to increase understanding and fully implement the protocol across the partnership.

### **What do we want to improve?**

- The report identifies the number of independent Return Home Interviews offered and accepted. Securing more IRI's remains a priority and together with securing those IRI's comes the requirement to ensure quality and value is maximised.
- The Service Managers to continue to provide oversight of statutory visit compliance through the weekly performance meetings that are held within the service.
- The Youth Engagement Service has developed a recording system to enable a more nuanced understanding of IRI outcomes. This recording is intended to inform discussion about how more productive and informative data might be able to be created regarding both the allocation of and outcomes of IRI's.
- 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 Reviews, and that their voice is heard. The IRO Service is working towards giving every child the opportunity for in person Review Meeting and visit if this what they indicate they would want.
- Children's Rights Service have liaised closely with IRO Service and have relaunched updated online versions of Children's consultation documents for Looked After Reviews, and Evaluation forms for children to complete about their Reviews. The aim is to 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 of children and young people in their reviews.
- With others capture children's voices and experiences, and support young people's participation to inform service development.
- Introduce improved quality assurance mechanisms to support the development of the Children's Rights Service and the team, and benchmark the service against the new Advocacy Standards which are due to be published imminently.

## Children Looked After Education Outcomes

Key Indicator	Type of measure	Spring Term 21/22	Summer Term 21/22	Autumn Term 21/22	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	
		Oct 22	Nov 22	Dec 22	Cumulative	SN	Eng.
Initial PEP completed within 10 school days of Virtual School being notified child came into care	%	100%	100%	100%	100%	N/A	N/A

Key Indicator	Type of measure	Month End				Benchmarking	
		Dec 21	Oct 22	Nov 22	Dec 22	SN	Eng.
CLA Persistent Absentees	%	22.0%	23.5%	26.8%	18.5%	28.4% (2020/21)	30.4% (2020/21)
	Direction of Travel		↑	↑	↓		
LAC with a mid-year school move	%	3	8	9	1	N/A	N/A
	Direction of Travel		↓	↑	↓		

### Service Narrative

#### What difference did we make?

- The above published information shows outstanding performance at Key Stage 4 in 2021 and strong performance in terms of overall attendance and exclusions all in Quartile Band A.
- 100% of PEPs have been completed within the Autumn Term with 100% initial PEPs completed within 10 school days.
- The Virtual School is currently leading on all PEPs which are virtually held meetings.
- We continue to work closely with social care to improve young people's educational experiences.
- 73% 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?

- Issues as a result of the pandemic remains a priority. This includes Catch up and Emotional Wellbeing.
- Reducing the number of unauthorised absences in both frequency and duration
- Reduction in the number of young people who are classed as PA (Persistent Absenteeism (90%))
- Increase in overall attendance percentage
- Reducing the time young people are not in full time provision.

## Children Looked After Health

Key Indicator	Type of measure	Month End				Benchmarking	
		Dec 21	Sep 22	Oct 22	Nov 22	SN	Eng.
4.11.11 Dental Checks within last 12 months - timeliness	%	66.1%	61.6%	60.4%	61.5%	73.0%	70.0%
	Direction of Travel		↑	↓	↑		
4.11.12 Initial health Assessments completed on time - within 20 days	%	85.3%	80.5%	77.8%	76.8%	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	%	84.4%	89.0%	86.2%	86.9%	82.6%	89.0%
	Direction of Travel		↑	↓	↑		
b: Over 5s Annual Health Assessments – percentage up to date	%	89.3%	93.7%	93.7%	91.0%	92.2%	91.0%
	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)	1.38% (7)	1.26% (6)	1.26% (6)	1.08% (5)	3.0%	3.0%
	Direction of Travel		↑	↔	↓		

### Service Narrative

#### What difference did we make?

##### Initial health assessments (IHA):

- LA rolling 12-month data shows that **76.8%** were completed in the statutory timescale.
- Locala monthly data for Nov. shows that **28 IHA's were completed + 3 for OLA, 100%** in timescales. The number of IHA's have doubled from the previous month & sees the largest increase since 2017. A telephone & F2F model is used due to clinic restrictions, allowing the majority of the IHA to be completed virtually supporting timescale completion. Team capacity continues to be affected. *Update - From Dec 22 a temporary bank nurse (7.5hrs/wk.) is supporting preparation of IHA templates, significantly easing pressure on the Nurses, but is not substantive.*

##### Review health assessments (RHA):

- Kirklees rolling 12-month data shows that **86.9% & 91%** of the 'Developmental' assessments (under 5yrs old) and 'Annual' assessments (over 5 yrs. old) respectively, were completed in statutory timescales.
- Locala monthly data for Nov. shows that **54%** of under 5-year-olds and **62%** of over 5-year-olds RHA's were completed in timescales, showing a **continuing downward trend**. There were 19 in-house breaches, with capacity and carer arrangements being the most common reasons.
- A Business Case has been presented to the Commissioners to request additional nursing resources.

##### Dental Checks (attended) within last 12 months:

- Kirklees rolling 12-month data shows that **61.5%** of children aged 1+, at the point of their RHA had attended the dentist. Comparison differences with Locala due to minor age range difference, rolling annual collection & non-inclusion of children who attended 12 months prior to coming into care.
- Locala monthly data for Nov shows that 86% & 98% of children age 18months to under 5 yrs., and 5 to 18 yrs., had attended the dentist.

##### Registered at dentist:

- Locala data shows **87% & 100%** of children age 18m to 4 years and 5 years+ respectively at the point of their RHA, were registered with a dentist.
- The use of the 'Flexible Commissioning Project' has supported CLA and care leavers to register. We have seen recent staff changes in some practices affecting some availability. The Designated Nurse is to attend the 'Kirklees Oral Health Advisory Group', to advocate for vulnerable children and care leavers.

### Substance misuse:

- 5 young people (1.08%) have admitted or are known to use substances that have a significant impact on their daily life when asked at their last RHA. All have been discussed with the local Substance Misuse Outreach worker, to ensure support has been offered. The reduced number is due to young people reaching 18yrs and being removed from the data.
- If a young person declines their RHA, a check is made with the social worker to ascertain if substance use is an issue.

Any young person misusing substances at any level is offered support.

## Children Looked After Convictions

Key Indicator	Type of measure	Quarter				*Benchmarking
		Jan-Mar 21/22 Q4	Apr-Jun 22/23 Q1	Jul-Sep 22/23 Q2	Oct-Dec 22/23 Q3	
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)	%	0.00% (0/364)	1.75% (6/343)	1.75% (6/343)	0.00% (0/363)	(2021/22) Eng.: 2.0% SN's: 4.0% Y&H: 2.0%
	Direction of Travel	↓	↑	↔	↓	

### Service Narrative

#### What difference have we made?

- 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 21 to March 22 period 64.3% of interventions completed by Children Looked After were completed successfully compared to 72.8% of the general population. This is a reduction in Children Looked After completion from the same period of last year which was 87.7%, whilst the general population remains broadly the same.
- Whilst the numbers of Children Looked After offending remain small in the cohort, we are seeing an increase in the numbers compared to the same period last year. In the year to date we have seen an increase in the percentage of CLA offending from 2.47% (21/22) to 3.50% (22/23). However in the Oct to Dec 2022 period no Children Looked After have received convictions.

#### What do we want to improve?

- Continued reduction in the numbers of Children Looked After offending. The overall cohort for the 22/23 year is smaller than the 21/22 year (343 compared to 364), 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 remain low.
- There is a focus around Looked After Children in our subgroups – specifically Subgroup 2 – Reducing offending and reoffending.



## Care Leavers

Key Indicator	Type of measure	Month End				*Benchmarking	
		Dec 21	Sep 22	Oct 22	Nov 22	SN	Eng.
5.01.04 Children in care aged 17 years and 4 months with a Personal Advisor	%	79.4%	97.9%	100.0%	94.0%	N/A	N/A
	Direction of Travel		↑	↑	↓		
5.01.08 Local Authority In Touch with Care Leavers	%	94.0%	93.3%	96.7%	95.0%	95.0%	92.0%
	Direction of Travel		↑	↑	↓		
5.01.09 Care Leavers in suitable accommodation	%	90.4%	88.3%	91.7%	90.3%	91.0%	88.0%
	Direction of Travel		↓	↑	↓		
5.01.10 Care Leavers Employment, Education and Training (EET)	%	55.7%	60.3%	61.3%	58.0%	50.0%	55.0%
	Direction of Travel		↑	↑	↓		
5.01.11 Number of Care Leavers with a Pathway Plan that is up to date	%	85.8%	68.7%	64.3%	72.7%	N/A	N/A
	Direction of Travel		↓	↓	↑		

## Service Narrative

### What difference did we make?

- *Contact with care leavers* – There has been a slight increase in relation to the number of Care Leavers we were in touch with during this month. This also has, to be viewed in the context of this group being aged 18 plus and, in some situations, young people do not wish to keep in contact with their Personal Advisor. The team continue to work innovatively to keep in touch with all young people.
- *Number of young people in suitable accommodation* – There has been a significant impact on the increasing demands for tenancies. However, we continue to work with our housing colleagues who have agreed to prioritise the properties for our young people, and this has helped to improve our performance. We will continue to work with our Housing providers to ensure that suitable accommodation is available, we have also maintained strong links with private housing providers. We have continued to provide virtual and face to face life skills and pre-tenancy training and continue to explore collectively how we can improve independence training for our young people.
- *Children in Care aged 17 years with an allocated Personal Advisors* – There has been a decrease in performance on this indicator this month. Further work is to be undertaken as a priority with the team to address Personal Advisor (PA) allocation, but it is important to note that all the young people under 18 have 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. 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.
- *Pathway Plans* – We have seen an increase in the numbers of young people who have an up-to-date pathway plan this month. 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. This is monitored at our performance meetings chaired by the service manager. Work is being undertaken to identify and address the issues that are impacting the timeliness of pathway plan reviews being undertaken.



## What do we want to improve?

- *Number of young people with a pathway plan* – The number of young people with a pathway plan has increased. Work is currently ongoing within the service and it is expected that the measure will improve further. 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 will be launched following approval. 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 and the timeliness and quality of visits to young people.
- This is a key priority area for the service to address and increase the number of our young people who will have access to Education, Employment or Training.

## Adoption

Key Indicator	Type of measure	Month End				*Benchmarking	
		Dec 21	Sep 22	Oct 22	Nov 22	SN	Eng.
5.02.01 Number of children adopted as a percentage of children leaving care (12 month rolling period)	% (number)	9.5% (21)	5.5% (11)	5.3% (10)	5.3% (10)	13.0%	10.0%
	Direction of Travel		↑	↓	↓		
A10 Average timescale (days) between the child coming into care and being placed with the adopter adjusted for foster carer adoptions (12 month rolling period)	Number	496.5	473.8	446.3	456.8	396.7 (17-20)	367.0 (17-20)
	Direction of Travel		↑	↓	↑		
A2 Average timescale (days) between receiving court authority to place a child and the council deciding to match the child with an adoptive family (12 month rolling period)	Number	206.5	215.4	202.8	204.2	180.0 (17-20)	175.0 (17-20)
	Direction of Travel		↑	↓	↑		

## Service Narrative

### What difference did we make?

- We have prioritised brothers and sisters growing up together.
- We have established closer working relationships between Kirklees and One Adoption West Yorkshire (OAWY), to address challenges at the earliest point.
- Monitoring of the adoption cases and outcomes takes place through monthly tracking of adoption cases by Kirklees and OAWY Service Delivery Managers.
- Training from OAWY has been and will continue to be provided to Kirklees staff, to ensure understanding of the complexities of the adoption process and awareness raising from research/practice.
- Support from OAWY to practitioners to Kirklees staff in relation to adoption practice.
- Timely identification of harder to place children and provision of appropriate resources to progress linking and matching outside of One Adoption where needed.
- OAWY attend Legal Gateway with a view to being able to provide support and assistance for any adoption cases including consideration of Early Permanence.

- Kirklees has reinstated the Early Permanence Meetings, which are held fortnightly to discuss all children and their plans for adoption, this is to further ensure permanence planning is considered as early as possible in a child's journey.
- OAWY and Kirklees have taken part in, and will continue to take part in, Practice Learning days, where a dip sample of adoption cases are more closely considered. This is for children with a plan for adoption, as well as children who have been adopted, but required adoption and social care support post order.
- Agreed escalation processes where drift is identified from tracking and monitoring processes.
- OAWY have secured national funding to support family finding for children who wait the longest for adoption and local provision of Early Permanence for older children/sibling groups. Kirklees children will be eligible for and benefit from these resources as the projects progress.

### **What do we want to improve?**

- To increase the numbers of children placed through Early Permanence through early identification of children and increasing the number of EP adopters.
- To improve timeliness in agreeing transitional payments for foster carers adopting the child in their care to reduce delay; Heads of Service are working on a pathway to avoid delay in these circumstances.
- To ensure all children considered 'harder to place' are identified early for OAWY to commence family finding. For OAWY to continue taking an innovative approach to family finding for these children, ensuring that all avenues are proactively explored.
- To increase staff understanding of adoption, including Early Permanence, through training.
- Continue to jointly review cases where adoptions disrupt or breakdown to understand contributing factors to inform future practice.

## Fostering

Key Indicator	Type of measure	Month End				Benchmarking	
		Dec 21	Sep 22	Oct 22	Nov 22	SN	Eng.
6.02.07 Total New Carer Approvals in Month:	Number	7	8	1	5	N/A	N/A
	Direction of Travel		↔	↓	↑		
In-house Fostering approvals in the month	Number	2	8	1	5	N/A	N/A
	Direction of Travel		↑	↓	↑		
In-house Fostering De-registrations in the month	Number	1	2	5	2	N/A	N/A
	Direction of Travel		↓	↑	↓		
6.02.09 Placements split: a. In-house foster placements	Number	200	177	174	179	N/A	N/A
	Direction of Travel		↔	↓	↑		
b. Family and friend placements	Number	106	124	129	134	N/A	N/A
	Direction of Travel		↑	↑	↑		
c. Independent Fostering Agency Placements	Number	173	174	165	165	N/A	N/A
	Direction of Travel		↑	↓	↔		

### Service Narrative

#### What difference did we make?

- In November there were 5 new foster carer approvals, of which 7 were connected carers and 1 mainstream carer.
- The total number of approved Kirklees Foster Carers is 160 households and the number of Approved Connected registered Foster Carers is 60 households (source is Tableau)
- The number of children placed with Kirklees foster carers stood at 179 at the end of November 22, just below the 12-month average of 183
- The number of Family and Friends Placements stood at 134 at the end of September 22, inclusive of Reg 24 Placements. The 12-month average is 116.
- The September 22 figure of 165 Independent Fostering Agency (IFA) placements for IFA placements is further a decrease over the 12-month high of 185 seen in Mar 22. The 12-month average is 176.
- The data shows a net gain of 7 fostering households in the past 12 months.

#### What do we want to improve?

- Recruitment and retention of foster carers continues to be a priority. We are focussed on recruiting internal foster carers who can help us to meet our sufficiency needs around placements for older children, children with complex needs, offering short and long-term placements, and short notice / emergency placements.
- 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.
- The new website for foster carers is being further developed, to include additional information for that will inform prospective foster carers
- We now have in post a new Head of Service for sufficiency who will lead on implementing our modernisation plan for the Fostering Service. This service improvement plan will include further integration with the Placement Support Service, this work will be overseen by the Homes For Children Board.

## 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
SEND	Special Educational Needs and Disability

Term	Description
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