

Name of meeting: Childrens Scrutiny Panel
Date: 19 July 2019
Title of report: Number and Age of Children in Care

Purpose of report

To provide information to Children's Scrutiny Panel on a regular basis related to the number, age, and ethnicity of children in our care. The Panel had also requested that they be updated on a regular basis regarding the number of children and young people in Kirklees Council care placed outside of the Kirklees District, this is also provided within this report.

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?	NA
Key Decision - Is it in the Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports?)	NA
The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?	NA
Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> & name	Elaine McShane for Mel Meggs – 9.7.19
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance IT and Transactional Services?	NA
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning Support?	NA
Cabinet member portfolio	Cllr V Kendrick Childrens Portfolio

Electoral wards affected: All

Ward councillors consulted: No

Public or private: Public

(Have you considered GDPR?)

Yes GDPR has been considered. The information in this report does not identify any individuals.

1. Summary

We have seen a decrease in the number of children in care from a 12 month high of 68.0 per 10,000 children (668 children) in May 2018 to 62.7 (631 children) in May 2019. The current 12-month average for Kirklees is 65.3 per 10.000 population and we have remained below our 31 March 2018 published rate of 68.0 and below our Statistical Neighbours 2018 rate of 86.1 and the England 2018 rate of 64.0.

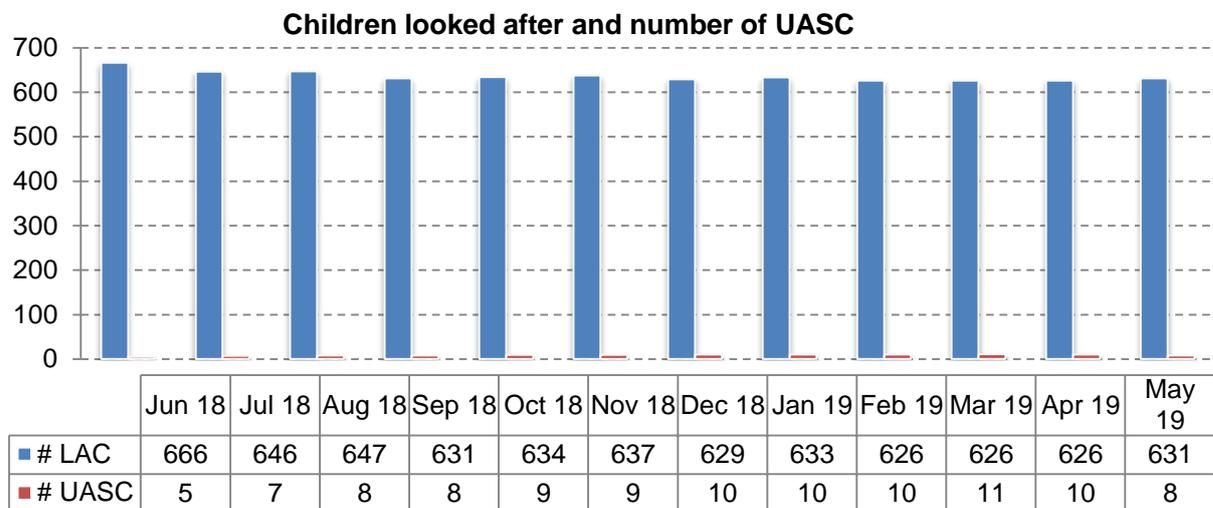
The number of children in care has decreased by 35 between June 2018 and May 2019, the number of children placed more than 20 miles from Kirklees has again followed a trend of decreasing now down to 89. The number of children in Kirklees aged 0-17 has been revised for the calculation from 99,192 to 99,815 as per the data published by DfE in October 2018)

This graph shows the number of looked after children (excluding any looked after children receiving only S20 short term breaks) alongside the number of unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC).

Kirklees (May 2019) = 62.7 per 10.000 child population

Statistical Neighbours (2018) = 86.1 per 10.000 child population

England (2018) = 64.0 per 10.000 child population



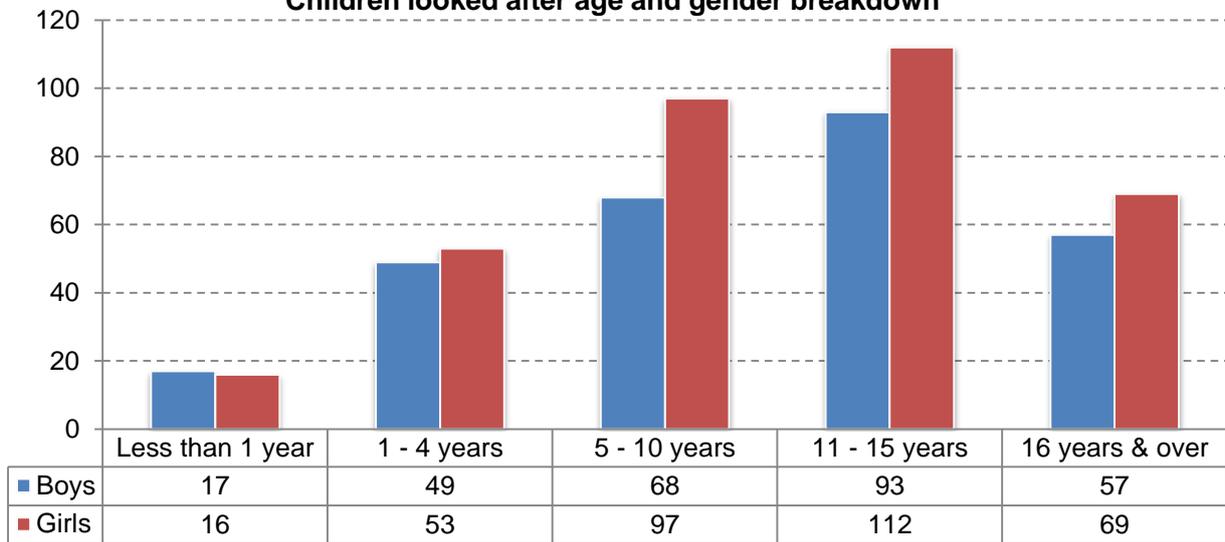
Statistical Neighbours

(Authorities regarded as similar not by population but by a range of socio economic factors)

Local Authorities "Very Close"* to Kirklees (* Source LAIT)
Kirklees Council
Rochdale Borough Council
Bolton Council
Calderdale Council
Bury Borough Council
Dudley MBC
Derby City
Lancashire Council
Stockton-on Tees Borough Council
Leeds City Council
Telford & Wrekin Council

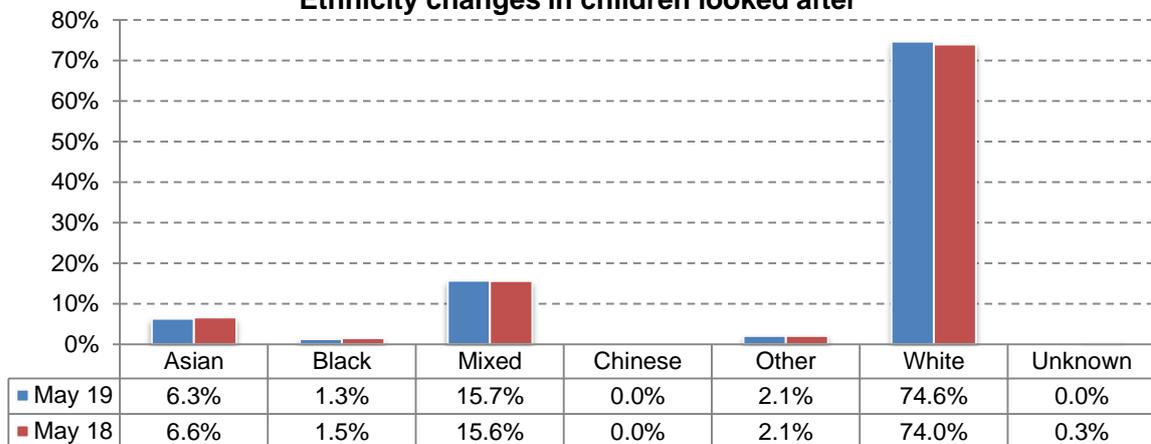
This graph shows the breakdown by age and gender of the children in care.

Children looked after age and gender breakdown



This graph shows the ethnic breakdown of the children looked after population at the end of May 2019 and the same point 12 months ago. The ethnic mix of the children in care cohort has remained relatively stable throughout the period.

Ethnicity changes in children looked after



Children and Young People placed more than 20 miles outside of Kirklees

The current number of looked after children placed outside Kirklees 20+ miles from the home address is 89 as at 30/06/2019. This follows a continuum of decline from a number of 127 in 2017

30 Nov 2019		31 Dec 2018		31 Jan 2019		28 Feb 2019		31 Mar 2019		30 Apr 2019		31 May 2019		30 Jun 2019	
Number	%														
103	16.2%	106	16.9%	107	16.9%	104	16.6%	105	16.8%	101	16.1%	103	16.3%	89	14.4%

The majority of our children and young people placed out of area, sixty two are placed in foster care, the remainder are placed in children's homes, semi-independent homes, a small number in youth custody or other specialist settings.

In the past 12 months to the end of June 2019 we have had 168 children entering our care, of which 10 (6.0%) have been placed 20+ miles from home, outside the LA boundary.

Month	Jul-18	Aug-18	Sep-18	Oct-18	Nov-18	Dec-18	Jan-19	Feb-19	Mar-19	Apr-19	May-19	Jun-19	Total
Placed Outside Kirklees & Over 20 miles from home	0.0% (0)	8.3% (1)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	6.3% (1)	25.0% (4)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	11.8% (2)	0.0% (0)	16.7% (2)	0.0% (0)	6.0% (10)
New into care	9	12	16	7	16	16	23	7	17	26	12	7	168

Summary of the current cohort of our children placed more than 20 miles out of District broken down by age, ethnicity and gender

Age	Total
1	1
2	3
3	2
4	2
5	1
7	6
8	4

Ethnicity	Total
A1 - White British	58
B1 - White and Black Caribbean	13
B2 - White and Black African	1
B3 - White and Asian	4
B4 - Any other mixed background	5
C2 - Pakistani	5
D2 - African	2

Gender	Total
Female	41
Male	48
Total	89

9	6
10	8
11	5
12	5
13	10
14	6
15	7
16	14
17	9
Total	89

E2 - Any other ethnic group	1
Total	89

- 9 of these children are aged between 1-5yrs
- 24 children are aged between 6-10yrs
- 33 children are aged between 11-15yrs
- 23 children are aged between 16-17yrs

Analysis of the children in this cohort who are part of a sibling group

39 of the 89 children are part of a sibling group (17 sibling groups in total in this cohort) A check has established in most cases siblings in this group are placed together, the exception being 4 children.

Analysis of this cohort by length of placement

Length of Placement (Years)	Total
0	30
1	12
2	11
3	7
4	12
5	1
6	3
7	3
8	4
9	2
10	1
11	3
Total	89

- There are thirty children who have been in placement for under one year whose ages range from 2-17yrs

- There are forty two children who have been in placement between 1-4yrs whose ages range from 1-17yrs (none of these children are aged 3-5yrs)
- There are thirteen children who have been in placement between 5-9yrs whose ages range from 9-17yrs
- There are four children who have been in placement for ten years and above whose ages range from 14-17yrs

2. Information required to take a decision

No decision is required.

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

This information is provided at the request of Corporate Parenting Board to monitor the number of children in care their age and location of placements.

3.5 Reducing demand of services

Not applicable

3.6 Other (eg Legal/Financial or Human Resources)

Not applicable

4. Consultees and their opinions

Not applicable

5. Next steps

A similar report will be presented at a future Corporate Parenting Board.

6. Officer recommendations and reasons

That the report be noted.

7. Cabinet portfolio holder's recommendations

Not applicable

8. Contact officer

Steve Comb Head of Corporate Parenting

9. Background Papers and History of Decisions

Previous reports to the Corporate Parenting Board on number and age of children in care.

10. **Service Director responsible**
Elaine McShane, Service Director (Child Protection and Family Support)