

CORPORATE PARENTING SUB-COMMITTEE PERFORMANCE REPORT

To: **Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee**

Meeting Date: **13th June 2018**

From: **Lisa Reid
Head of Partnerships and Quality Assurance**

Electoral division(s): **All**

Purpose: **To report on the performance of services for Looked After Children and Care Leavers - as required in legislation and fulfilling the purpose of monitoring and offering advice.**

Recommendation: **The Sub-Committee is asked to review performance for Looked After Children, and comment on the themes and trends identified in this report**

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Summary:

- As of the 31st March 2018 there are 698 Looked After children supported by the Council
- 56% of Looked After children are male, 44% are female
- 8% have a disability
- 55% of the current placements are in-county, with 45% of placements out of county
- Almost 84% of unaccompanied asylum seeking young people are placed out of county
- The proportion of Looked After children being visited within the statutory timescales fell between February and March from 92% to 86%
- The incidents of Looked After children going missing was higher in March than February but the number of Looked After children who went missing only slightly increased between February and March.
- 224 fostering placements are provided by local authority foster carers. 33 children are on Short Breaks (temporary care to support their main placement), and 10 young people are living with foster carers beyond their 18th birthday under 'staying put' arrangements (March 2018).

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 This report provides the Sub-Committee with an overview of performance of services for Looked After Children and Care Leavers. The full performance report can be found in Appendix 1.
- 1.2 Due to the date of the Sub-Committee, data for April is not yet finalised and therefore this data set reports on the statistics to March 2018. Going forward, the Corporate Parenting data set will usually reflect two months of data rather than one as is this case with the report.
- 1.3 Members have asked for fostering data to be added to the Corporate Parenting dashboard. This will be achieved by the time of the next Committee meeting. This report includes information up until March 2018.

2. MAIN ISSUES

- 2.1 The rate of Looked After children per 10,000 of population equates to a rate of 52 and has fluctuated between 50.2 and 52.3 (it was at 51 in April 2017). The national average is 60.0 per 10,000 of population, meaning Cambridgeshire is performing favourably compared to nationally.
- 2.2 55% of the current placements are in-county, with 45% of placements out of county. 83% of unaccompanied asylum seeking young people are placed out

of county and the majority of their placements are located in Peterborough, where their cultural needs are appropriately met.

- 2.3 The proportion of Looked After children being visited within the statutory timescales fell between February and March from 92% to 86%. This was partly due to adverse weather conditions and some visits being declined. Overall, statutory visits have been improving across the service from 70% in April 2017. Performance within the 14-25 service specifically improved in March. Performance on children having their Looked After review in timescales was the same as February as a result of adverse weather conditions and meetings needing to be rescheduled.
- 2.4 Performance around newly Looked After children having their health assessment in 20 days of becoming Looked After fell in March to 21%. 24 children became Looked After in March. Two children did not attend their health assessment appointment, three declined or cancelled, consent was delayed for two children, there was a delay in coordinating an interpreter and a clinic appointment and two children moved before an appointment could be arranged, six children were placed out of County, two have appointments booked and four are waiting for an appointment. Their health assessments are organised by the hosting Primary Care Trust and Cambridgeshire cannot specifically determine when their assessment takes place. The 20 day timescale is national guidance so all Health trusts do work to the same arrangements, but it is important to highlight that Health authorities will prioritise seeing children from their local area before assessing the needs of children placed in their area by other authorities.
- 2.5 Children are placed in a range of accommodation, the detail of which is reflected in the Corporate Parenting Dashboard, but 5% are placed with adopters or potential adopters, 17% are in accommodation that offers varying degrees of support depending on their needs.
- 2.6 There has been an increase in the number of missing incidents between February and March 2018, from 15 to 35 incidents. These incidents have involved 15 children and young people, with one young person going missing on 10 different occasions.

There is a multi-agency approach to missing and supporting children and young people to tell their story. The children and young people are monitored individually and patterns are examined to identify individuals and locations of concern and to plan intervention to break dangerous cycles. This includes return home interviews within 72 hours of the young person being located.

3. SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS

3.1 Resource Implications

The number of children who are Looked After increased by 0.14% since February. Social workers and other staff are travelling distances to visit

children placed out of County. Many of these children are in Independent Fostering Agency placements due to a lack of in-house provision that can meet their needs and this puts pressure on the placement budget.

3.2 Procurement/Contractual/Council Contract Procedure Rules Implications

None

3.3 Statutory, Legal and Risk Implications

Ofsted will consider the data and analysis available to the Sub-Committee when considering the effectiveness off the council's Corporate Parenting Function.

3.4 Equality and Diversity Implications

All children who become Looked After have access to the same service provision irrespective of their age, gender and ethnicity. There is a gap in suitable in-County provision for children and young people seeking asylum, with the majority of placements located in Peterborough.

3.5 Engagement and Communications Implications

None

3.6 Localism and Local Member Involvement

Relevant to all Members in the role as corporate parents.

3.7 Public Health Implications

None

Source Documents	Location
Children's Service Performance Dashboard.	Matthew Tullett (Interim) Senior Analyst Business Intelligence Cambridgeshire County Council Octagon, Shire Hall Cambridge CB3 0AP Matthew.Tullett@cambridgeshire.gov.uk