

# CORPORATE PARENTING SUB-COMMITTEE



**Wednesday, 29 March 2023**

**Democratic and Members' Services**

Linda Walker

Interim Monitoring Officer

**16:00**

New Shire Hall  
Alconbury Weald  
Huntingdon  
PE28 4YE

**Red Kite Room, New Shire Hall, Alconbury Weald PE28 4YE**  
**[Venue Address]**

## **AGENDA**

**Open to Public and Press**

**Meeting theme: Health**

- 1. Apologies for absence and declarations of interest**  
*Guidance on declaring interests is available at <http://tinyurl.com/ccc-conduct-code>*
- 2. Minutes - 16 November 2022 and minutes action log** **1 - 10**
- 3. Petitions and Public Questions**
- 4. Participation report** **11 - 14**
- 5. Report from the Cambridgeshire Foster Carer's Association and the Fostering Service** **15 - 20**
- 6. Health Report** **21 - 36**

<b>7.</b>	<b>Performance Scorecard</b>	<b>37 - 42</b>
<b>8.</b>	<b>Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee Workshop and Training Plan - March 2023</b>	<b>43 - 46</b>
<b>9.</b>	<b>Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee agenda plan</b>	<b>47 - 50</b>

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The Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee comprises the following members:

Councillor Anna Bradnam (Chair) Councillor Lucy Nethsingha (Vice-Chair) Councillor Alex Bulat Councillor Anne Hay Councillor Mac McGuire

Clerk Name:	Richenda Greenhill
Clerk Telephone:	01223 699171
Clerk Email:	Richenda.Greenhill@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

# Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee: Minutes

Date: Wednesday 16 November 2022

Time: 16:00pm – 17:35 pm

Venue: New Shire Hall, Alconbury Weald

Present: Councillors A Bradnam (Chair), A Bulat, A Hay, M McGuire (left 17:00pm) and L Nethsingha (Vice-Chair)

Non-voting observer:

T Stephenson – Chair, Cambridgeshire Foster Carers' Association

## Meeting theme: Education

### 51. Membership Update

It was resolved to:

- a) Note the appointment of Councillor L Nethsingha to the Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee on 22 September 2022, replacing Councillor P Slatter.
- b) Note that Councillor P Slatter was appointed as a substitute member of the Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee on 22 September 2022.
- c) Note that Councillor L Nethsingha was appointed Vice Chair of the Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee by the Children and Young People Committee on 19 October 2022.

### 52. Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest

There were no apologies for absence or declarations of interest.

### 53. Minutes – 3 August 2022 and Minutes Action Log

A member commented that some action log updates had not been provided and requested that actions were numbered in future to improve ease of referencing. Officers undertook to update the action log and circulate it before the sub-committee's next meeting. Action required.

The minutes of the meeting on 3 August 2022 were agreed as an accurate record and signed by the Chair.

The action log was noted.

#### 54. Petitions and Public Questions

There were no petitions or public questions.

#### 55. Participation Report

The Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee received a report which noted activities run by the Participation Team which delivered projects and events for young people in care. This included young people's involvement in: the Every Word Matters project, a lyric writing workshop, mural construction at a supervised contact centre, a virtual art exhibition, training for foster carers and ASYE (Assessed and Supported Year in Employment) newly qualified social workers, and a performance project. The Children in Care Council had also met with members of the Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee, designed coming into care packs, and created a video.

In response to the report, members:

- Congratulated the Participation Team for winning the Coram National Voice Participation Award.
- Thanked officers for supporting young people to attend informal Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee meetings.
- Welcomed the ways in which the Every Word Matters work had influenced language used on the Performance Scorecard.

It was resolved to:

- a) Note the content of the report.
- b) Raise any queries with lead officers.

#### 56. Report from Cambridgeshire Foster Carers' Association

The Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee received a standing report on the work of the Foster Carers' Association. This included:

- Authorising foster carers to make minor amendments to transport arrangements, such as pick up times, to address concerns regarding transport provision.
- Additional work was taking place to address the delay in transport plans for emergency care arrangements.

- Removal of the annual review of those in settled circumstances.
- Process development and employment of a business support officer had occurred to mitigate concerns regarding young people's savings.
- An £100 emergency clothing allowance would be paid as e-vouchers, rather than the expenditure needing to be paid up front by foster carers and reclaimed.
- Procedure had been implemented to aid the quick acquisition of passports.
- Retention had increased. Between the 2021 and 2022 April-September quarter, there had been a 47% reduction in foster carer resignations. Further, most resignations had been retirements. Newly implemented retention visits had occurred for eleven households, eight of which had remained in the service.

It was noted that, since report publication, the number of Cambridgeshire Foster Carer Association Committee members had increased from four to six. The committee were aiming for twelve to sixteen members.

The recently elected Chair of the Cambridgeshire Foster Carers' Association, Tracey Stephenson, thanked officers for their help in producing the report. She noted that 100/176 foster care households in Cambridgeshire had opted into the CFCA. A survey was being produced to establish what support existing members required, but the CFCA currently offered: monthly meetings; in-person support groups in Huntingdonshire, Cambridge, Ely and Fenland; an online teenager carer support group (as requested by the retention group); a mentor scheme for new foster carers and those under assessment; and a carer retention working group.

In response to the report, sub-committee members:

- Reflected upon promotion of membership to the CFCA through incorporation of its details in welcome packs and CFCA attendance at Foster Service events, such as Journey to Foster training and the Emergency Foster Care event scheduled for 25 November 2022. Fostering mentors often belonged to the CFCA and also promoted the organisation in the mentor group's bi-monthly meetings and at events. Supervising social workers were also utilised to establish why foster carers might choose not to be a part of the organisation.
- Established that the additional payment of £250 to foster carers to address rising energy costs was singular as the service was unable to provide further funding. Additional methods of supporting carers through the energy crisis were being sought and Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee members were invited to contribute their own ideas. One member suggested collaboration with the district councils, some of which were already providing signposting to financial aid and employee assistance programmes.
- Requested that, in future, the service complete the 'Alignment with Corporate Priorities' section of the report. Action required.

It was resolved to note the report.

## 57. Virtual School Report

The Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee received a report which detailed the work of the Virtual School with regard to children in care, children previously in care, and children with a social worker. There had been a 60% rise in enquires to the Virtual School from carers of children previously in care. The response to this had been an increase in resource and seeking proactive measures, such as providing training. Trauma informed training was being strengthened across the education directorate and now used virtual reality headsets. Also, an app was in development for social workers which would provide signposting for Children in Need and those with Child Protection Plans. Key successes of the Virtual School included the introduction of target attainment and progress monitoring in personal education plans; and collaboration with thirteen academy trusts.

In response to the report, sub-committee members:

- Thanked officers for the content of the report and appreciated the glossary included at the back.
- Welcomed the Virtual School's collaboration with the Regional Adoption Agency.
- Noted that training provided by the Virtual School was available at no cost to all schools in Cambridgeshire and those outside Cambridgeshire attended by Cambridgeshire's young people in care. The offer was gaining traction as schools became aware of the Virtual School, and it was hoped that the County Council's involvement with this offer would increase uptake further. Councillors expressed that providing training for the management of children in care would help schools meet the needs of children outside the care system as well as within. Officers agreed, but noted that all schools had a statutory duty for SEN provision as well.
- Welcomed the service's work supporting young people awaiting refugee status and the right to work or employment in the UK. They encouraged partnership working on this subject with the Combined Authority's Skills Team and Planning Partnership for this. It was agreed that the Virtual School would contact Councillor Bulat, Combined Authority Independent Chair for ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) Planning Partnership, with regard to this. Action required.
- Established that home schooling for children in care was not advocated by the Virtual School, but that some children were educated off school site for reasons including placement change, escalation of need or awaiting special provision.

It was resolved to:

- a) Note the content of the report.
- b) Raise any queries with the lead officer.

## 58. Regional Adoption Agency Annual Report

The first Annual Report of the Regional Adoption Agency noted that between April 2021 and March 2022: 65 children had been placed for adoption and 42 adopters had been approved; 18 Stage 1 complaints had been received, three of which were upheld. The budget for 2021/22 was £2,145,980 with an underspend of £288,108.28 caused predominantly by staff vacancies, including three managerial vacancies and a 50% social worker vacancy rate. This had resulted in increased wait times for the 107 referrals – a greater number than anticipated. Low recruitment had been mitigated by virtual information sessions and agency/ independent staffing. Vacancies were now filled.

In response to the report, members:

- Requested the report was circulated to the Children and Young People Committee. Action required.
- On behalf of the sub-committee, the Vice-Chair asked for their endorsement of the focus on early permanence to be communicated across.
- Heard that numbers of children with special guardianship orders or adoption referrals remained high, with 60-70 referrals for initial assessments from April - November 2022. This was especially true with regard to teenagers. Therefore, an additional social worker had been approved into the Support Team funded on an annual basis by the Adoption Support Fund. Further, it was anticipated that a group support offer would reduce waiting times. Increased therapeutic upskilling was also offered to support to families.
- Noted that the Regional Adoption Agency had no dedicated resource going forward and was developing a business case. The Assistant Director for Safeguarding and Quality Assurance would discuss this outside of the meeting with the Executive Director for Children's Services and the Head of the Regional Adoption Agency. Action required.

It was resolved to:

- a) Note the content of the report.
- b) Raise any queries with the lead officer.

## 59. Children in Care/ Care Leavers EET Promotion Action Plan Update

The Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee received a report listing the action plan for promoting children and care leavers' access education, employment or training (EET). Quarterly reporting had been developed for NEET young people (those not in education, employment or training). Provisional data for 2022 showed that 54.1% of

young people were in education, employment or training. This was a 5.1% increase upon 2021 figures. Further, the most recent Anglian Ruskin University open day had been attended by ten young people in care.

The improvement had been caused by: early identification of children at risk, links with out of county support services, inclusion work, positive activities, careers guidance, partnerships with specialist education and training personal advisory organisations, challenging employer perceptions of young people in care, bespoke training and summer activities. The service was seeking to change attitudes towards EET and improve aspirations of young people through earlier future planning.

In response to the report, members:

- Were pleased at the efforts being made to improve young people's aspirations, including work with further education providers. Collaboration amongst education providers would inspire young people accessing courses at a lower level to progress learning.
- Suggested encouraging young people to consider language or IT courses. The officer responded that surveys received from personal advisers and social workers clarifying their young people's interests informed what industries the team promoted year on year. This ensured opportunities sought from education and training providers aligned with young people's interests. In the previous year, construction work had been the focus.
- Expressed a desire for quantitative data on EET outcomes for young people in each district. This was not currently available, although there was an appetite for it, in part due to Cambridgeshire care leavers not necessarily remaining in-county.

It was resolved to note and comment on the report.

## 60. Performance Scorecard

The performance scorecard demonstrated that of the 642 children in care, 214 had been placed in-house; 78 were in independent living accommodation; 56 were in residential care; and 10 were with their parents and subject to full care orders.

Officers thanked the Chair for creating an environment which empowered the young people to speak at the informal Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee. Following that meeting, wording on the scorecard had been adapted in response to challenges from young people regarding language. Young people had been invited to continue to reflect upon the scorecard.

In response to the report, sub-committee members:

- Agreed that targets for initial health assessments and annual dental examinations had been impacted by capacity, out of area placements, personal choice amongst older children, and recording. For children coming into care, resolving legal



concerns were often be deemed a higher priority by the social worker than these assessments. However, annual health assessment statistics were improving and there had been an increase in capacity for dental provision, despite dental health provision being a national issue. In some instances, annual health assessments were performed in Cambridgeshire for children also living out of area, although this movement could impact the child.

- Raised the drop in the number of care leavers with a pathway plan. Officers stated that high numbers had occurred due to failures in reporting, staff/team performance, difficulties for young people surrounding the transition to 18, and the failure to close the pathway plans of young people who had transitioned into adult social care. Effective action had occurred to mitigate this, including: temporary movement of social workers from the Under-18 Team into the Children in Care Team; clear demarcation of the Children in Care Team and Leaving Care Team; and retraining of social workers to improve individual performance.

Now pathway plan performance had improved – pathway plans had been completed for 95% of 18-21 year olds. Performance clinics and weekly data reviews occurred to ensure this statistic remained stable.

- Emphasised that, while preventative measures, such as monitoring and targeted strategies, occurred and residential units were good at reporting instances of children going missing, the numbers were cyclical, often with the same young people leaving their home repeatedly. Officers were seeking the cause of this through return interviews. Originally, they had theorised that it could be placement-based, seasonal or temperature dependent, but found that these theories were inaccurate. Officers noted that some slides on interpreting data for missing children had been produced and could be shared with councillors. **Action required.**
- Clarified that the statistic at the bottom left of page 132 should read that the length of time children had been in care was counted in **days** and requested that this was specified in future reports. **Action required.**
- Requested sight of the pathway planning workshop presentation for social workers. a report on this would be brought to the next meeting or a workshop arranged. **Action required.**

It was resolved to:

- a) Note the content of the report.
- b) Raise any queries with lead officers.

61. Sub-Committee Workshop and Training Plan

It was resolved to note the sub-committee workshop and training plan, pending the inclusion of a possible workshop on Care Leaver Pathways. Action required

62. Agenda Plan

It was resolved to note the agenda plan. Going forward, the Chair asked that the whole administrative year should be included on the agenda plan. Action required

The Chair thanked Fiona van den Hout, Head of Corporate Parenting, for her service as she would be leaving her current role before the next meeting.

(Chair)

## Action Log

### Summary

The Action Log is a list of all of the things that people have been asked to do at earlier meetings. It is included at each meeting so that members can check that everything is being done. It was last updated on 22 November 2022.

### Minutes – 16 November 2022

	Report title	Officer	Action	Update	Status
53	Minutes – 3 August 2022 and Minutes Action Log	Democratic Services	Updated action log to be circulated.	20.03.23: Actioned.	Completed
56	Report from Cambridgeshire Foster Carers' Association	Anita Hewson	Requested that, in future, the service complete the 'Alignment with Corporate Priorities' section of the report.	27.02.23: This will be reflected in future reports.	Completed
57	Virtual School Report	Claire Hiorns	Agreed that the Virtual School would contact Councillor Bulat, Combined Authority Independent Chair for ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) Planning Partnership, to collaborate on supporting young people awaiting refugee status and the right to work or employment.	03.03.23: Contact has been made and partnership working is underway to move this forward.	Completed
58	Regional Adoption Agency Annual Report	Democratic Services	Requested the report was circulated to the Children and Young People Committee.	22.11.22: The RAA Annual Report was circulated to CYP members on 8 <sup>th</sup> November 2022.	Completed

	Report title	Officer	Action	Update	Status
58	Regional Adoption Agency Annual Report	Ricky Cooper	Noted that the Regional Adoption Agency had no dedicated resource going forward and was developing a business case. The Assistant Director for Regional Adoption and Fostering would discuss this outside of the meeting with the Executive Director for Children's Services and the Head of the RAA.		
60	Performance Scorecard	Myra O'Farrell/ Michaela Berry	Officers noted that some slides on training to interpreting data for missing children had been produced and could be shared with councillors.		
60	Performance Scorecard	Myra O'Farrell/ Michaela Berry	Clarified that the statistic on page 132 should read that the time children had been in care was 127 days and requested that data was specified in future reports.		
60	Performance Scorecard	Myra O'Farrell/ Michaela Berry	Requested sight of the pathway planning workshop presentation for social workers. A report on this would be taken to the next meeting or a workshop arranged.		
61	Sub-Committee Workshop and Training Plan	Myra O'Farrell/ Michaela Berry	To consider the inclusion of a possible workshop on Care Leaver Pathways.		
62	Agenda Plan	Ricky Cooper	The Chair asked that the whole administrative year should be included on the agenda plan.	20.03.23: Dates to April 2024 have been included.	Completed

## Participation Report

To: Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee

Meeting Date: 29 March 2023

From: Ricky Cooper, Assistant Director

Electoral division(s): All

Key decision: No

Forward Plan ref: n/a

Outcome: An update on the activity of the Participation Service in relation to Children in Care.

Recommendation: The Sub-Committee is recommended to:

- a) Note the contents of the report.
- b) Raise any queries with the lead officers.

### Officer contact:

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### Member contacts:

Names: Councillors Anna Bradnam and Lucy Nethsingha  
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[Lucy.nethsingha@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:Lucy.nethsingha@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)  
Tel: 01223 706398 (office)

## 1. Background

- 1.1 The Participation Team continues to promote the voice of children and young people in care by offering a variety of opportunities for engagement and feedback, and ensuring action is taken as a result of that feedback.
- 1.2 The Children in Care Council (CiCC) enjoyed the opportunity to meet Corporate Parents at the face-to-face informal Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee in January.
- 1.3 Work on the 'Every Word Matters' project continues, and audio for the video was recorded by children and young people in the February half term.
- 1.4 The Young Trainers delivered their first training session for student social workers on the Council's Assisted and Supported Year in Employment (ASYE) in February.
- 1.5 Young people engaged with the Participation service across Peterborough and Cambridgeshire attended the first of two Youth Leadership training events in February, with the second scheduled for March.
- 1.6 The Participation Easter activities programme and annual awards date have been finalised and shared. The summer activities programme is in the process of being finalised.

## 2. Main Issues

- 2.1 The Participation Team continues to promote opportunities for children and young people through regular newsletters, as well as creating event-specific publications to encourage engagement. Recent newsletters have updated young people on the work of the Children in Care Council (CiCC), Care Leaver Forum (CLF) and other participation groups including the Young Inspectors, the latest on the 'Every Word Matters' project, and have promoted other relevant opportunities including opportunities with the National Children in Care Council, the charity Article 39 and the Prince's Trust.
- 2.2 The Children in Care Council (CiCC) enjoyed the opportunity to meet Corporate Parents again at the face-to-face informal Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee in January. The CiCC attendees shared their views on health services for Children in Care and the new Virtual School project on 'usualising' care.
- 2.3 The CiCC continues to meet in person on a monthly basis to work on projects and consultation requests, meet professionals and give feedback on services. Recent consultations have included a session on influencing the impact of services on young people with a councillor from South Cambridgeshire District Council. The CiCC has also scheduled in a visit from the Chief Executive and the Chair of the Children and Young people Committee in their March meeting.
- 2.4 The Care Leaver Forum (CLF) has been discussing their own care experiences and focusing on improving the support and preparation for young people leaving care. The Service Manager for the Leaving Care Service asked to consult Care Leavers about their experiences of finding suitable housing, to assist with writing a new Joint Housing Protocol for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, and a focus group was arranged with

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Care Leavers to facilitate this. Feedback has been shared with the service, and the draft protocol will come back to the group for review.

- 2.5 Members of the CiCC, CLF and the Young Trainers group attended a recording studio in the February half term to record audio discussion for the 'Every Word Matters' project. The recordings are being edited for a video summarising their views, and the young people are meeting with professionals to decide on the style of the final animation. The young people are also considering releasing the remaining audio from the session as a podcast and have expressed interest in being involved in future podcasts on important topics, which would enhance the training materials they have already created for carers, social workers and other professionals.
- 2.6 The Young Recruiters continue to support services recruit into roles working directly with children. This has recently included interviews for vacancies within the Leaving Care and Participation services. The group will be also working once again with the Principal Social Worker to interview Newly Qualified Social Workers for the next ASYE places. The Young Recruiters have recently accepted an invitation to work with Anglia Ruskin University to assess candidates for the Social Work Degree Program. This service has benefitted from the involvement of young people and adults across children in care and care leavers.
- 2.7 The Young Inspectors completed and shared their re-inspection report of Supervised Contact Centres across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. They have now started a new project to inspect Cherry Lodge, a residential setting for children with complex needs. This started with a meeting for the young people to plan the inspection, including learning more about Cherry Lodge and thinking about what they would look at and who they wanted to speak to from Cherry Lodge. The inspection took place in the February half term and the Young Inspectors are currently in the process of collating their views and writing the final report.
- 2.8 The Young Trainers delivered another face-to-face training session for prospective foster carers in January, with the next training taking place in March. They have also delivered their first training session for student social workers on the Council's Assisted and Supported Year in Employment (ASYE). This took place in February half term and gave the group the experience of how to adapt the training sessions to benefit different audiences, to have the most positive impact.
- 2.9 Young people engaged with the Participation service across Peterborough and Cambridgeshire attended the first of two Youth Leadership training events in February, with the second scheduled for March. This training has been facilitated by the British Youth Council and was open to children and young people from the CiCC, CLF, Young Inspectors, Young Trainers and Young Recruiters as part of their ongoing training and development. Attendees gave positive feedback on the session which focused on confidence building and problem-solving strategies and also said they enjoyed the opportunity to make new friends from across the county. The session was followed by lunch for participants and a bowling activity.
- 2.10 The Participation Team has continued to plan joint activities with Cambridgeshire County Council for Easter and Summer 2023, consulting both Children in Care Councils on the activities planned. The Easter programme of events has been shared with staff and carers and includes a visit to an escape room, laser tag and a trampoline park, alongside a virtual

craft session. The Summer programme of activities is being finalised, and the Children in Care Awards date and venue have been confirmed and invitations sent to all Children in Care, carers, staff and Corporate Parents.

### 3. Alignment with corporate priorities

#### 3.1 Environment and Sustainability

There are no significant implications for this priority.

#### 3.2 Health and Care

There are no significant implications for this priority.

#### 3.3 Places and Communities

There are no significant implications for this priority.

#### 3.4 Children and Young People

The report above sets out the implications for this priority in section 2.

#### 3.5 Transport

There are no significant implications for this priority.

### 4. Significant Implications

n/a

### 5. Source documents guidance

#### 5.1 None.



## Report from the Cambridgeshire Foster Carer's Association and the Fostering Service

To: Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee

Meeting Date: 29 March 2023

From: Ricky Cooper, Assistant Director

Electoral division(s): All

Key decision: No

Outcome: The Sub-Committee is being asked to note the work of the Cambridgeshire Foster Carer's Association and the Fostering Service.

Recommendation: The Committee is recommended to note the contents of the report.

### Officer contact:

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### Member contacts:

Names: Councillors A Bradnam and L Nethsingha

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Tel: 01223 706398 (office)

## 1. Background

- 1.1 This is an update to the Corporate Parenting Committee from the Cambridgeshire County Council Foster Carer's Association and the fostering service.
- 1.2 As of 01 March 2023, there are 163 registered Foster Carers to Cambridgeshire County Council.
- 1.3 This report has been prepared to update the Corporate Parenting Committee on the continued participation activity and collaborative working between Cambridgeshire County Council's fostering service and the Cambridgeshire Foster Carers.

## 2 Main Issues

### 2.1 Overview of activity

- 2.1 Cambridgeshire County Council's Fostering Service continues to work in partnership with the Foster Carer's Association to ensure that Foster Carer's views are understood and to support service development.
- 2.2 Foster Carers representatives on the Cambridgeshire Foster Carer Association (CFCA) are: Tracey Stephenson (Chair) Kevin Arrowsmith (Vice Chair), Anna Williamson (treasurer), whilst Stuart Currie, Julian Ayres, Nikki Flowers, Jen Madams and Barbara Hall continue as Association members in support of the Chair and Vice Chair and committee business.
- 2.3 Since the last Corporate Parenting Committee, the Cambridgeshire Foster Carer Association have a new Chair in Tracey Stephenson, with Kevin Arrowsmith stepping down to Vice Chair. During this period of change the frequency of meetings was impacted upon, however with the planned AGM ahead, the frequency of meetings will be reinstated too monthly. The new Chair will host a Foster Carer survey to explore and plan the business for the coming year of the CFCA.
- 2.4 The CFCA brings significant experience of fostering, caring for and working with children and/or other relevant experience (both collectively and individually) and transferable skills and knowledge along with individual inter-personal skills into the Foster Carer Community. The service works closely with the members of the CFCA throughout the year to ensure the voice and views of Cambridgeshire Foster Carers are heard and remains central (alongside outcomes for children) to plans for service development.
- 2.5 The Fostering Service will continue to attend meetings with the CFCA to hear feedback from Foster Carers on what is working well and what Foster Carers feel needs to be considered or addressed by the service and children's social work teams within the wider Children's Services. The CFCA will consider who from the service will attend meetings to support and escalate concerns or issues as appropriate. The CFCA also highlights to the service what CCC does well.

- 2.6 The Head of Service for Fostering, who is new in the role, has continued the existing practice of meeting bi-monthly with the Chair and Vice Chair of both the CFCA (and our Peterborough Foster Carer Community), which provides the opportunity to get to know carers and the service, including beginning to understand both the strengths and developmental needs of the service from all perspectives. The Head of Service will be able to share information regarding service developments and plans in more detail and to review feedback from Foster Carers received at formal meetings.
- 2.7 The Fostering Service and the CFCA continue to be actively involved in and contribute to a range of new and established initiatives and working groups.
- 2.8 The existing carer retention working group continues to meet monthly and is supported by carers from both Local Authorities. The impact of the group and the work to develop our approach to carers at risk of stopping fostering (for any reason) has been evident in improved Foster Carer retention and positive feedback from carers. In this financial year 2022/23 we have retained 13 fostering households who might have been considering leaving CCC fostering or leaving fostering altogether. The group includes staff from across the fostering service in both PCC and CCC in order that retention of carers becomes embedded into the culture of the service from the starting point of our Foster Carers' journey into fostering. It is clear that our new approach, which is informed by carer experience, is having a positive impact on the way we respond to our carers.
- 2.9 The Fostering Recruitment Ambassadors from within the Fostering Community continue to support the service, they promote the service within their local communities in both Peterborough and Cambridgeshire as well as ensuring literature is provided to community groups and organisations such as schools. They work alongside the service supporting recruitment activity and raising the awareness of the need to recruit more Foster Carers and to talk about Private Fostering in their communities using their wealth of knowledge and experience of the fostering task. Ambassadors support by scheduling and attending community and recruitment events such as attending the Christmas lights and Pride events etc. As a joint service across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough we continue to be supported in this area by a Peterborough elected Member Champion. The Ambassadors have recently supported one of the Foster Carer coffee mornings specifically for those in the enquiry and assessment stage to come along and speak with an Ambassador and ask questions about the fostering task, this has received positive feedback from applicants. The service plans to develop this by spreading this practice across Peterborough and Cambridgeshire.
- 2.10 We continue to work together with carers to develop our Mentoring Scheme; Mentors are allocated and matched at the point of approval to all new Foster Carers. We will be further developing this practice to individuals going through the assessment stage to become a Foster Carer. The Mentors already host a monthly virtual drop-in session for all those in assessment, supporting them through the Mentors lived experiences. Mentors also help other Foster Carers with unfamiliar tasks and to support their progression. Mentors are allocated to support carers who might be experiencing a difficult time in their fostering role, e.g., those who are subject to an allegation or Standards of Care investigation. Currently we have one Foster Carer Mentor who has been trained and supported by the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) to offer support to carers. This will be developed to increase the cohort of carers who can offer this support.

- 2.11 Face to face (in person) Support Groups for carers continue. Support Groups are being held in easily accessible community venues across the county in the north, south, east and west to enable as many carers to attend as possible without significant travel time. Some virtual Support Groups are continuing for specific meetings i.e., for those times which may prove difficult for carers to attend, for instance evening meetings. Cambridgeshire offers four face to face Support Groups each month as well as one virtual group plus one group focussed caring for teenage children.
- 2.12 The Fostering Service plans to hold an Easter Activity Day on 01 April for all fostering households. We are also planning a summer picnic at Hinchbrook Park in June as well as the annual Wickstead Park event in August. The Participation Team are also in the process of organising the Annual Children in Care Celebration event in July (date TBC).
- 2.13 The Fostering Service has implemented a 'Feedback Loop' System. This is an initiative whereby specific issues raised by the Foster Carer forums are collated and discussed with the relevant areas of the wider children's services. Responses are collated and then shared with the Chairs and Vice Chairs of the Associations. The Corporate Parenting Service alongside the Fostering Service are reconsidering the terms of reference for this scheme as there are new staff in place across the board.
- 2.14 The service continues to work across children's social care to support resolutions to issues raised by Foster Carers:
- 2.15 A new transport booking portal is awaited which is anticipated to solve some of the transport issues highlighted by Foster Carers and give them more autonomy to book and cancel transport. It should also help with issues of communication. The Fostering Service Manager is actively working with the transport department and other parts of children's social care to support this activity and escalate issues arising.
- 2.16 The service is currently working with our corporate parenting colleagues to ensure that there is clarity about how Foster Carers open Junior ISAs and Trust Fund Accounts. Foster Carers are requesting a single point of contact within the Council to support them on this activity.
- 2.17 The service is currently working with our corporate parenting colleagues to ensure that children's passports are applied for in a timely way to ensure that Foster Carers can take children on holidays and to enable the older young people to have a passport as a form of identity.
- 2.18 The Local Authority recognises the difficult financial climate in which Foster Carers find themselves. Carers are supported to come to the service with any specific difficulties and are provided with forums to express their concerns and anxiety with regards to the issues around the increasing cost of living. The service has also shared, and will continue to share via the newsletter, details of organisations offering advice and guidance. Foster Carers can also access the Council's Employee Assistance Programme which also offers additional sources of information, support, and advice. The service will be making a further one off £250 cost of living payment to Foster Carers on 24 March, whilst agreement is sought over the annual

allowance uplift across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough for 2023-2024. The service and the CFCA would also like support to whether any Council Tax exemptions or discounts could be applied to Foster Carers across the five Council districts.

### 3. Alignment with corporate priorities

#### 3.1 Environment and Sustainability

There are no significant implications for this priority.

#### 3.2 Health and Care

#### 3.3 Places and Communities

The Fostering Service enables local support groups and training for Foster Carers.

#### 3.4 Children and Young People

The Fostering Service ensures that children and young people are safe from harm and lead healthy lives. Children and young people are confident, resilient, thrive in their learning and engage positively and actively in their communities. The Fostering Service supports Care Leavers through the Staying Put Scheme and also to learn independence skills.

The Fostering Service ensures every Child gets the best start in life – with more children and young people in care finding permanent, safe and stable homes and support to care leavers to access a good, enhanced local offer that meets their health, education, housing and employment needs.

#### 3.5 Transport

There are no significant implications for this priority.

### 4. Significant Implications

#### 4.1 n/a

### 5. Background papers

#### 5.1 None



## Health Report

To: Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee

Meeting Date: 29<sup>th</sup> March 2023

From: Designated Nurse for Children in Care, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Integrated Care Board

Electoral division(s): All

Key decision: No

Forward Plan ref: n/a

Outcome: To continue to enable the delivery of health services to Children in Care.

Recommendation: The Sub-Committee is recommended to:

- a) Note the content of this report
- b) Raise any queries with the Lead Officers

### Officer contact:

Name: Katie Liddle  
Post: Designated Nurse for Children in Care  
Email: [katie.liddle@nhs.net](mailto:katie.liddle@nhs.net)

### Member contacts:

Names: Cllrs Anna Bradnam and Lucy Nethsingha  
Post: Chair/ Vice Chair  
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[lucy.nethsingha@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:lucy.nethsingha@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)  
Tel: 01223 706398 (office)

## 1. Background

- 1.1 This report provides an update on both physical and mental health services for Children in Care. The report provides an overview of the Integrated Care Board's (ICB) activities to ensure robust monitoring and quality assurance systems are in place to meet the health needs of Cambridgeshire's Children in Care including those with a disability.

## 2. Main Issues

- 2.1 Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Integrated Care Board (ICB) commission the Children in Care (CIC) Health Team, Cambridgeshire Community Services NHS Trust (CCS) to have oversight of the health needs of our children in care via Initial and Review Health Assessments; this means that the doctors and nurses within the team undertake the health assessments, or ensure provision by a health service in another part of the country for those children and young people placed outside of Cambridgeshire. The Designated Nurse and Doctor for Children in Care work with commissioners and providers across social care and health to ensure the provision, quality and timeliness of the required health services including statutory health assessments and completion of the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire.
- 2.2 Initial Health Assessments (IHAs) are completed in a clinical setting, face to face with a paediatrician. Due to the increased number of requests for IHAs, senior managers within CCS have made the decision to cap the number of IHA appointments to 15 per month. This decision has been made due to the pressure on Community Paediatric Services and the delays on Paediatrician appointments as a result of the pandemic. The ICB are assured that 15 slots is enough to accommodate the IHAs for Cambridgeshire children but this does have an effect on children and young people placed in Cambridgeshire from other areas. When a request for an IHA from out of county is received, CCS send a reply to advise there will be a delay in completing the IHA due to capacity within the team and if they would still like CCS to go ahead they will see the child or young person as soon as they can but it will not be within the statutory timeframe.
- 2.3 Initial Health Assessment Performance Data

Initial Health Assessment Performance 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2022 – 31 <sup>st</sup> Dec 2022		
In County Placements		
	Number of IHA requests (minus early discharges)	Number of IHAs completed within 20 working days
Total numbers	88	23
<b>Total Percentage</b>		26%
Out of County Placements		
	Number of IHA requests (minus early discharges)	Number of IHAs completed within 20 working days
Total numbers	79	4
<b>Total percentage</b>		5%



<b>Overall Totals (combining In County and Out of County placements)</b>		
Total Number	167	27
Total percentage		16%

- 2.4 The reasons that the IHAs are not completed within 20 working days are delayed consent and referral from social care to health, and carers and young person not able to attend the initial appointment offered so the chosen appointment sits outside of the 20-working day timescale. For those children and young people placed out of area the reasons are not known but are likely to be impacted by their own service capacity.

Breakdown of the 20 working day target for IHAs to be completed:

- Day 0 – Child becomes looked after
- 5 working day target for consent to be obtained from birth parent and referral to be completed by the social worker and sent to health colleagues (appointments cannot be arranged prior to receipt of referral and consent).
- This allows 15 working days following receipt of consent and referral for the appointment to be sent, rearranged if necessary (which is often the case) and the IHA to be completed.

- 2.5 Since coming into post in August 2022, the Designated Nurse has requested further information from Health colleagues to understand the delay in completing IHAs within the 20 day timeframe.

<b>Cambridgeshire Children – placed in or out of Cambridgeshire</b>						
<b>Consent received</b>	<b>October 2022</b>		<b>November 2022</b>		<b>December 2022</b>	
0-5 days (Target)	2	20%	1	10%		
6-10 working days	1	10%	1	10%	2	15%
11-15 working days	3	30%	2	20%	4	31%
16-20 working days			1	10%		
21+ working days	4	40%	5	50%	7	54%

The data in the chart above indicates the delay in health colleagues receiving the referral and consent, with 48% of them received after 21 working days and only 10% of them being received within the statutory timeframe of 5 working days. Further to this The Designated Nurse has analysed the timeframes to understand the average timeframe for each step within the Cambridgeshire Local Authority and CCS Children in Care Health Team.

BLA – Became Looked after

IHA – Initial Health Assessment

<b>Cambridgeshire children and young people placed within Cambridgeshire</b>			
<b>Month</b>	<b>Average time from BLA to Consent and referral received by health</b>	<b>Average time from consent referral received by health to IHA completed</b>	<b>Average time from BLA to IHA</b>
	<b>(5 day target)</b>	<b>(15 day target)</b>	<b>(20 day target)</b>

October 2022	23 days	17 days	33 days
November 2022	18 days	13 days	23 days
December 2022	17 days	20 days	33 days

The data in the table above gives an indication of the delays within the different steps from a child or young person becoming looked after to completion of their IHA. The average time from becoming looked after to consent and referral received is 19 working days between October 2022- December 2022. The average time following receipt of consent and referral to completion of IHA is 16.5 working days for the same time period.

- 2.6 Late receipt of referrals and consent is not the only reason for late IHAs as mentioned above in 2.4. Below is a table to reflect the reasons for late IHAs specifically for Cambridgeshire children and young people placed within Cambridgeshire.

<b>Reason for late Health Assessments</b>	<b>October 2022</b>  <b>4 IHAs required</b>  <b>1 seen within 20 working days</b>	<b>November 2022</b>  <b>6 IHAs required</b>  <b>1 seen within 20 working days</b>	<b>December 2022</b>  <b>6 IHAs required</b>  <b>0 seen within 20 working days</b>
Late referral/Consent from Children's Social Care	3  3 x 21+ days	2  1 x 11-15 days 1 x 21+ days	3 1 x 6-10 days 1 x 11-15 days 1 x 21+ days
Multiple appointments required for siblings to be seen on same day			
Was not brought for initial apt which was offered within timeframe			
Paediatrician capacity			
Staff sickness		1 x IHA cancelled due to Paediatrician off sick	
Carer declined initial offer of apt (within timeframe) due to other commitments		2	2
Other			1 x Multiple placement moves within first month of BLA. Consent

			and referral forwarded, but child had already moved on.
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- 2.7 The Designated Nurse has focused her analysis around Cambridgeshire children placed within the county as this is an area that health and social care colleagues will be able to work together to develop an efficient process to tighten up these timeframes. This can be facilitated through the monthly Health of Children in Care Partnership meetings facilitated by the ICB. The Designated Nurse and Designated Doctor lead a monthly partnership meeting whereby health and local authority colleagues come together and share information and updates relevant to their partners. This meeting continues to strengthen relationships between partners and aid the dissemination of information. It is hoped that during these meetings the process and steps between becoming looked after to completion of the IHA can be streamlined.
- 2.8 Review Health Assessments (RHAs) are also face-to-face appointments completed in the child or young person's home with Specialist Nurses. Virtual assessments can be undertaken if the agreed criteria are met as this will offer a degree of flexibility in certain circumstances. For those who decline their consultation a questionnaire is provided which enables a Health Action Plan to be created (in line with the Pathway).

#### Review Health Assessment Performance Data

<b>Review Health Assessment Performance 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 – 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 2022</b>		
<b>In County Placements</b>		
	Number of RHAs due	Number of RHAs completed within timescales
Total numbers	248	231
<b>Total Percentage</b>		93%
<b>Out of County Placements</b>		
	Number of RHAs due	Number of RHAs completed within timescales
Total numbers	174	144
<b>Total percentage</b>		83%
<b>Overall Totals (combining In County and Out of County placements)</b>		
Total number	422	375
Total percentage		89%

For Cambridgeshire children in care living outside of Cambridgeshire, the CCS Health Team send a request to the nearest CIC Health Team to the child or young person's placement address. This is sent 3 months in advance of the date the RHA is due. Many areas are struggling with capacity and hold waiting lists for children and often prioritise their

own Local Authority's children. The Cambridgeshire CIC Health Team have little control over when our children are seen who live out of area, but will accommodate Cambridgeshire children living within a 20 mile radius of the Cambridgeshire boundary.

- 2.9 The Designated Nurse wanted to gain insight into the young people's views of their health appointments. Following discussion with the CIC health teams across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough it was decided that a questionnaire would be the most appropriate tool to get anonymous feedback. The purpose was to gain insight of children and young people's experiences of health appointments, language used and give the young people the opportunity to feedback what improvements or changes they feel could be made. The Questionnaire was shared with the Children in Care Council at their December meeting. Health colleagues did not attend the meeting ensure anonymity and encourage honesty within their answers.

The questionnaire consisted of 16 questions. Some were multiple choice, some on a scale of 0-10, some yes/no and some open questions with space to write. CICC Participation Worker shared the questionnaires with the young people at their CICC meeting in December 2022. Responses were anonymous. 4 questionnaires were returned from Cambridgeshire young people. Please see Appendix 1 for the analysis of this questionnaire.

The overwhelming response was that all young people preferred face to face appointments as opposed to virtual/telephone calls. Something the Designated Nurse had not appreciated prior to receiving the responses was the literacy level of the young people. Several answers were 'I don't know' or 'IDK'.

Verbal feedback to the Designated Nurse from the CIC at the point of returning the questionnaires was:

- It was too long, and there were too many questions
- They preferred the multiple-choice questions
- They reiterated that they all preferred face to face appointments as opposed to virtual methods

CICC Quality Assurance Lead (Participation and Independent Visiting) suggested sharing the questionnaire wider to the Care Leavers forum who may be better placed to answer some of the more open questions.

## 2.10 Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ)

The Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire, commonly known as the SDQ, is a short behavioural screening questionnaire. There are three versions of the SDQ: the parent/carer, the teacher, and the self-report scale (completed by 11–16-year-olds), which provide the potential for triangulation of information about a child across the different versions. These questionnaires are used alongside health assessments to support the assessment of emotional health and wellbeing. The health team in Cambridgeshire undertake the SDQ process on behalf of Social Care.

Following the launch and implementation of the SDQ pathway in July 2022 and the introduction of a leaflet to support carers in their completion of the SDQ there was a very slight improvement in questionnaires returned to the Health Team indicated in the chart below.

Please note: the number of questionnaires sent is significantly lower for the second half of the year as the SDQ pathway now indicates that an SDQ is not required for IHAs from July 2022.

	1 <sup>st</sup> Jan 2022 – 30 <sup>th</sup> Jun 2022	1 <sup>st</sup> July 2022 – 31 <sup>st</sup> Dec 2022
SDQs sent	244	157
SDQs returned	103	67
Percent returned	42%	43%

Young People aged between 11-16 years are supported by their social worker to complete their own SDQ. The Designated Nurse is planning to work with the Children in Care Council to design a leaflet to support young people with this process.

## 2.11 Mental Health Service update

The Designated Doctor met with the Children's Mental Health Commissioner in February 2023 to explore mental health provision for children in care living in Cambridgeshire.

Currently all CIC in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough who have suspected mental health needs need to be referred by a professional (not their carer), for example: Nurse, Doctor, Social worker to YOUNited. YOUNited is made up of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Foundation Trust's Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), Cambridgeshire Community Services (CCS), Centre 33 (who deal with children 13 years of age and over) and Ormiston Families (who deal with those aged 12 years and under). Depending on the issue the child is signposted to trusted websites, early intervention or CAHMS for therapeutic intervention.

The Commissioner shared with the Designated Doctor that she will be looking into YOUNited particularly to see what streams are available when a child is referred and in particular how Children in Care could be prioritised.

YOUNited offers help to children and young people with their emotional wellbeing and mental health who are registered with a GP in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. It is available to those up to the age of 25 and offers a range of support including therapies, counselling and guided self-help. If a child or young person is experiencing mental health symptoms they are referred to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) for core assessment or Neurodevelopmental Service (NDS). If the referral does not meet criteria for core CAMHS or NDS YOUNited will signpost to other appropriate services.

The Young People's Counselling Service (YPCS) is a child and adolescent counselling/mental health charity providing free counselling to children aged 11-18 years (up until their 19<sup>th</sup> birthday).

Centre 33 supports young people up to the age of 25 years living across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough with mental health, caring responsibilities, housing and sexual health.

The Local Authority clinical team support carers and carry out some 1:1 work with young people.

Young people are referred to the adult mental health team if over 17 years of age.

The Refugee council offer counselling support for unaccompanied asylum seeking children.

#### 2.12 Unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC)

Over the summer, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough saw an increased number of UASC entering the care system. All of Cambridgeshire UASC were placed in Peterborough. This is due to the increase in the number of housing providers in Peterborough to accommodate UASC in their semi-independent accommodation.

The Designated Doctor recently contacted Peterborough City Council to find additional support for Cambridgeshire UASC placed in Peterborough. They were directed to the Designated Doctor to Peterborough Asylum and Refugee Community Association (PARCA). In October 2022, the Designated Doctor and Lead Nurse from Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Foundation Trust attended PARCA to find out what they can offer. PARCA is a charity based in Peterborough and offers translation/interpretation, youth and adult activities, employment help, English classes, assistance with form filling and support with employment. PARCA is a space for UASC and asylum-seeking families and offers an opportunity to meet with people who have had similar experiences. They hold weekly breakfast clubs and youth groups. PARCA have been invited to talk at the CIC Team Meeting to share with clinicians what services they can offer.

#### 2.13 Dental Services update

Dental health remains a challenge as the Covid-19 pandemic greatly impacted on dental provision, and although provision has improved, the back log still has implications for access to routine care. NHS England (NHSE) Regional Dental Services are working with the Designated Professionals and Lead/Named Nurses to ensure that children and young people in care can access routine dental treatment, with data around need being collected and collated, and General Dental Practices being approached to provide this service to children and young people who they would not normally see.

Difficulty finding an NHS dentist to register new patients is not just local to Cambridgeshire – it is a National Dental crisis. The expectation to register privately is unrealistic for Children in Care. NHSE have devised a link to locate an NHS dentist via postcode who are able to take on CIC as NHS patients across the East of England: [dental practices locations](#)

The Designated Nurse has joined a working group with colleagues in NHS England to support the development of an e-learning package for carers and professionals; 'Improving mouth care for children in care'. Oral health assessments are already a mandatory part of the child's Initial and Review Health Assessments. The Mouth Check tool aims to support the completion of the oral health assessment, explains how to perform a Mouth Check and how to signpost children in care to appropriate dental services depending on their oral health risk: red, amber or green. The mouth check however, is not a substitute for a full dental examination by a member of a dental team.

Despite the difficulties locating dental services for routine and preventative dental provision, urgent care is always accessible via NHS 111 and emergency treatment centres. There have been no concerns raised around accessing urgent dental care.

### 3. Alignment with corporate priorities

#### 3.1 Environment and Sustainability

There are no significant implications for this priority.

#### 3.2 Health and Care

The report above sets out the implications for this priority in 2.1 to 2.13

#### 3.3 Places and Communities

There are no significant implications for this priority.

#### 3.4 Children and Young People

The report above sets out the implications for this priority in 2.1 to 2.13

#### 3.5 Transport

There are no significant implications for this priority.

### 4. Significant Implications

None.

### 5. Source documents guidance

It is a legal requirement for the following to be completed by the report author.

#### 5.1 None

### 6. Accessibility

#### 6.1 An accessible version of the information contained in this report is available on request from [katie.liddle@nhs.net](mailto:katie.liddle@nhs.net)





**Questionnaire for Children in Care – Completed December 2022,  
Returned to Designate for Children in Care Jan 2023**

Cambridgeshire – 4 Questionnaires returned

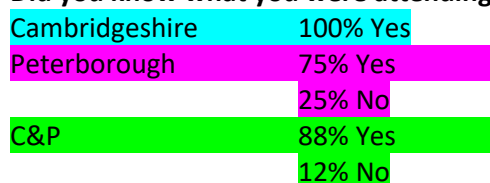
Peterborough – 4 Questionnaires returned

C&P – Total of 8 Questionnaires to report on

**Specifically thinking about your experience of receiving Initial and Review Health assessments:**

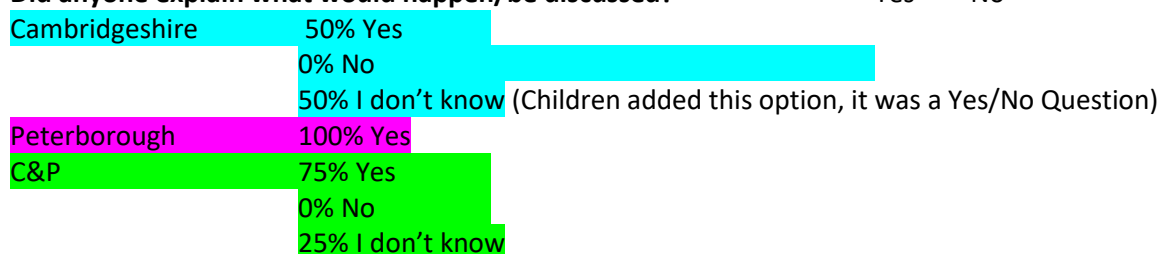
**Did you know what you were attending?**

Yes ☐ No ☐



**Did anyone explain what would happen/be discussed?**

Yes ☐ No ☐



**What did you expect?**

Cambridgeshire

- I don't know
- Didn't expect anything
- I don't know
- ?

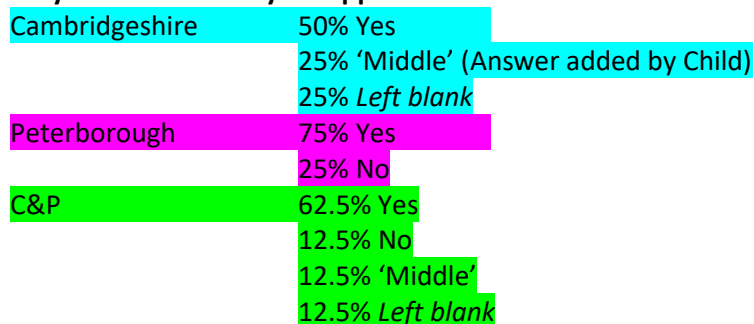
Peterborough:

- Everything
- A quick check on my height and weight and a few questions on my current health
- I didn't really know
- Left blank

**Do you feel heard at your appointments?**

Yes ☐ No ☐

Please circle a number below



Not heard at all 😞 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 😊 Very well heard

Cambridgeshire total score – 30 out of 40. Average score 7.5

Peterborough total score – 23 out of 40. Average score 6

C&P total score – 53 out of 80. Average score 7

Do the clinicians speak to you?

Yes ☐

No ☐

Cambridgeshire 50% Yes

0% No

25% 'I cant remember' (Child added this response, it was a yes/no question)

25% 'I don't know what clinicians are' (Child added this response, it was a

yes/no question)

Peterborough 50% Yes

50% No

C&P 50% Yes

25% No

12.5% 'I cant remember' (Child added this response, it was a yes/no question)

12.5% 'I don't know what clinicians are' (Child added this response, it was a yes/no

question)

Or do the adults speak about you?

Yes ☐

No ☐

Cambridgeshire 100% Yes

Peterborough 25% Yes

25% No

50% Not answered

C&P 32.5% Yes

12.5% No

25% Not answered

How did you feel during your health review appointment?

Relaxed ☐

Nervous ☐

Scared ☐

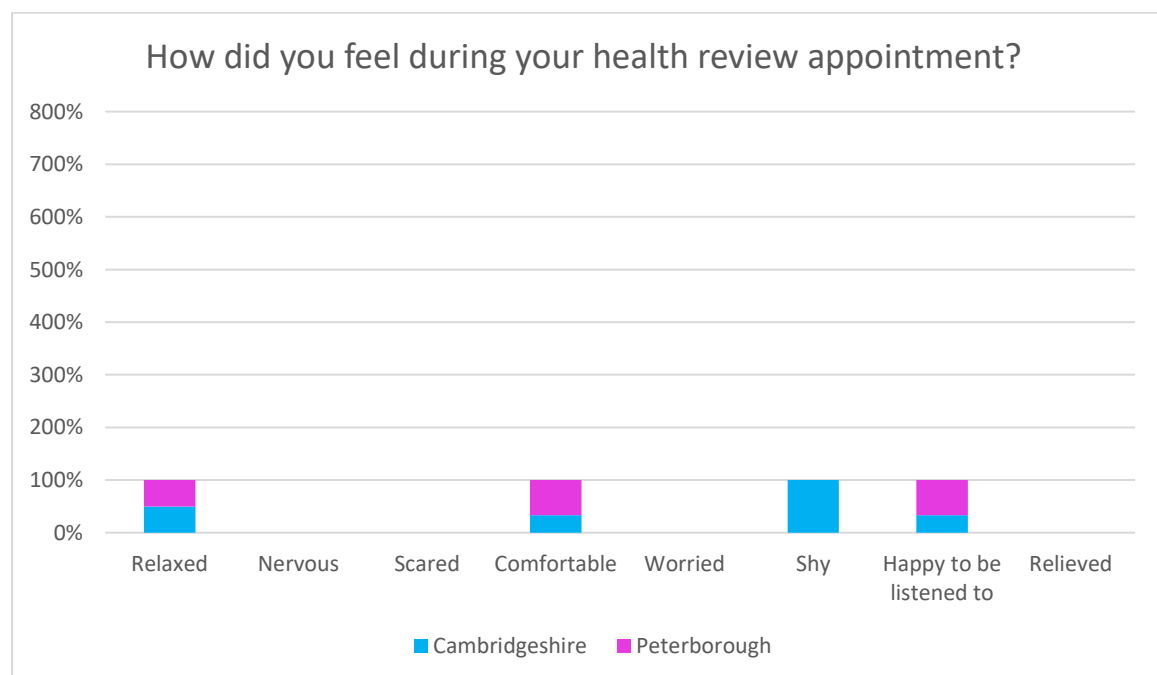
Worried ☐

Comfortable ☐

Shy ☐

Happy to be listened to ☐

Relieved ☐



On a scale of 0-10 how would you rate your experience of health assessments? Please circle number

Not good 😞 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 😊 Excellent

Cambridgeshire total score – 19 out of 30. Average score 6 NB: 1 questionnaire not completed this question.

Peterborough total score – 16 out of 40. Average score 4

C&P total score – 35 out of 70. Average score 5

Additional comments:

Cambridgeshire – None

Peterborough

- 'Therapy don't do anything to me'

Did you understand everything during your appointment?

Yes ☐ No ☐

Cambridgeshire	50% Yes
	25% No
	25% Not answered
Peterborough	50% Yes
	50% No
C&P	50% Yes
	37.5 No
	12.5% Not answered

Were you aware that you could talk to the Doctor or Nurse alone?

Yes ☐ No ☐

Cambridgeshire	75% Yes
	25% Not answered
Peterborough	75% Yes
	25% No
C&P	75% Yes
	12.5% No
	12.5% Not answered

If there was anything you could change about your appointment what would it be?

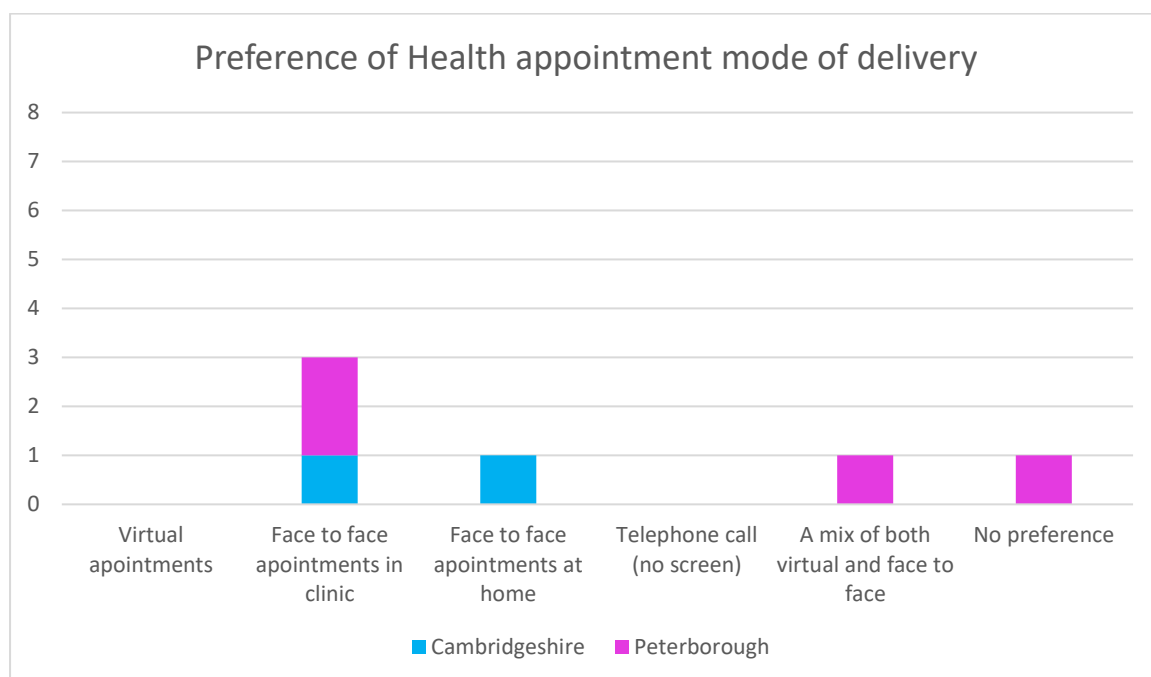
Cambridgeshire	50% answered 'No' or 'N/A'
	50% Not answered (left blank)
Peterborough	50 % answered 'No' or 'Nothing'
	25% Not answered (left blank)
	25% (1 person) left a detailed response: * Local Appointments
	* Suicidal thoughts leave my head
	* Relationship help

NB: Suicidal thoughts were discussed with workers at CICC and followed up with appropriate medical appointment.

C&P 50% answered 'No', 'N/A' or 'Nothing'  
 37.5% not answered (left blank)  
 12.5% gave qualitative answer: \* Request local appointments  
 \* Support with Mental Health  
 \* Support with relationships

Over the last 2-3 years we have used virtual appointments. Now we are using a mix of face to face and virtual appointments (Mostly face to face). What is your preference?



Virtual appointments ☐ Face to Face appointments in clinic ☐  
 Face to face appointments at home ☐ Telephone call (no screen) ☐  
 A mix of both virtual and face to face ☐ No preference ☐



C&P Overwhelming response of preference for Face to Face contact for health appointments.

When you have attended a clinic for appointments, what are your thoughts on the location?

Cambridgeshire: 50% Not answered (left blank)  
 50% answered 'fine' or 'good'  
 Peterborough 25% not answered (left blank)  
 25% answered 'none'  
 25% answered 'it's local'  
 25% answered: 'too far travel wise'

**NOT** Child/young person friendly  0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10  **VERY** child/young person friendly

Cambridgeshire	Scored 20 out of 30	Average score 6.5
Peterborough	Scored 26 out of 40	Average score 6.5
C&P	Scored 46 out of 70	Average score 6.5

NB: 1 questionnaire not completed this question.

**How do you think health services could be improved for Care experienced children and young people? (please be as honest as possible)**

Cambridgeshire	75% questionnaires left blank for this question 25% answered: 'Can't remember'
Peterborough	75% answered 'N/A' or 'Nothing' 25% questionnaires left blank for this question
C&P	50% questionnaires left blank for this question 37.5% answered 'N/A' or 'Nothing' 12.5% didn't answer this question.

**Are you able to tell us something positive about a recent health appointment?**

Cambridgeshire	75% left this question blank 25% answered 'can't remember'
Peterborough	25% N/A 25% answered 'No' 25% left this question blank 25% answered: 'felt listened to and my questions were answered'

Verbal feedback from the CIC at the point of returning the questionnaires:

- It was too long, and there were too many questions
- We preferred the multiple choice questions
- Reiteration that they all preferred face to face appointments as opposed to virtual methods
- Shalina Chandoo, Quality Assurance Lead (Participation and Independent Visiting) suggested sharing the questionnaire wider to the Care Leavers forum who may be better placed to answer some of the more open questions.



## Performance Scorecard

To: Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee

Meeting Date: 29 March 2023

From: Ricky Cooper, Assistant Director Fostering, Regional Adoption and Specialist Young People's Services

Electoral division(s): All

Forward Plan ref: n/a

Key decision: No

Outcome: This report has been submitted to provide the Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee with an overview Health related activity within the Corporate Parenting Service.

Recommendation: The Sub-Committee is recommended to:

- a) Note the content of the report
- b) Raise any queries they have with the lead officers

### Officer contact:

Name: Michaela Berry  
Post: Acting Head of Service, Corporate Parenting  
Email: [Michaela.Berry@peterborough.gov.uk](mailto:Michaela.Berry@peterborough.gov.uk)  
Tel: 07930 832309

### Member contact:

Names: Cllrs Anna Bradnam and Lucy Nethsingha  
Post: Chair/ Vice Chair  
Email: [anna.bradnam@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:anna.bradnam@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)  
[Lucy.nethsingha@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:Lucy.nethsingha@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)  
Tel: 01223 706398 (office)

## Summary

1.1 The Scorecard for Health activity is submitted.

## 2. Background

1.1 The content is fully detailed in the report and questions from Members welcomed.

## 2. Main Issues

2.1 Please see the Scorecard.

## 3. Alignment with corporate priorities

3.1 Environment and Sustainability  
There are no significant implications for this priority.

3.2 Health and care  
There are no significant implications for this priority.

3.3 Place and community

3.4 Children and Young People  
The entire report is aligned with this priority as the Corporate Parenting Service is responsible for delivering services for Cambridgeshire's Children in Care.

3.4 Transport  
There are no significant implications for this priority.

## 4. Significant Implications

4.1 n/a

## 5. Source documents

5.1 None



# CCC Corporate Parenting Scorecard

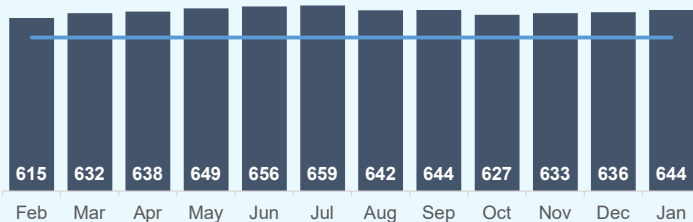
## HEADLINE FIGURES

Number of children in care (CiC) on the last day of the month

644



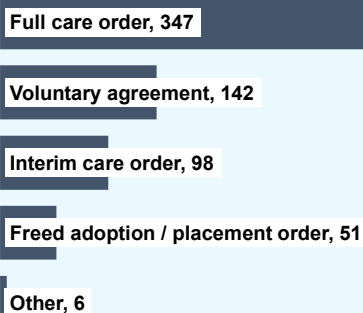
Target: below 546



## Staffing

	Staff	Average Caseload	Change*	Performance
Children in Care Qualified social workers	22	23		-
Leaving Care Personal Advisors	14.5	25		-
Independent Reviewing Officers	9.8 FTE	66		-

## Legal status of children in care



## Length of time children have been in care



## Key

Change since previous month  
Performance against target



Improved  
Strong



Stayed the same  
Acceptable



Deteriorated  
Poor

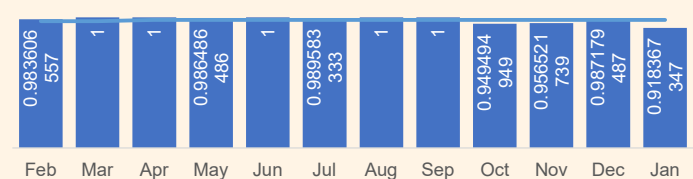
## SERVICE STANDARDS

% of CiC reviews which were held on time (year to date, and during each month)

98%

872 out of 892

Target: above 98%

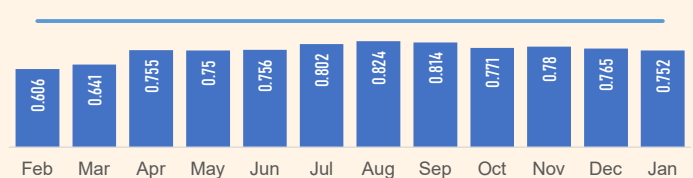


% of CiC statutory visits which were carried out on time (year to date, and during each month)

75.2%

463 out of 616

Target: above 98%



## HOMES

### Home Stability

3+ Homes

9.1%

58 out of 637

Target: below 9%



9.1% of children in Cambridgeshire's care had 3 or more different homes in the last 12 months. Out of those children who have been in care for over 2.5 years, 62.9% have been in their current home for two or more years.

In home 2+ yrs

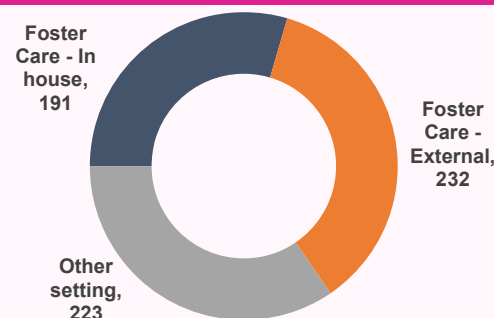
62.9%

149 out of 237

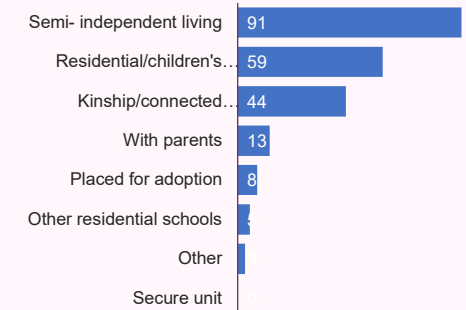
Target: above 68%



### Type of home of children in care

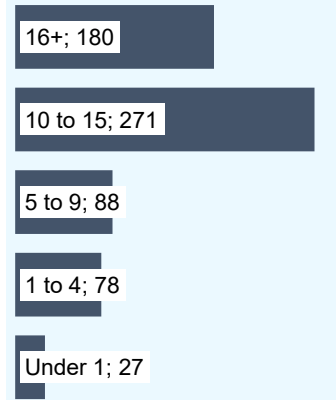


### Other settings: breakdown



## EDUCATION

### Children in care by age group



### % of school-aged children in care who have a PEP in place

99.7%

359 out of 360

A Personal Education Plan (PEP) was in place for 359 children in Y1 - Y11, who were in the care of CCC and on the role of the virtual school at the end of the Autumn Term 2022.

### % of school-aged children in care in good or outstanding schools

66.6%

269 out of 404

As of June 2022

66.6% of Cambridgeshire's children in care are taught in good or outstanding schools, as at the end of June 2022.

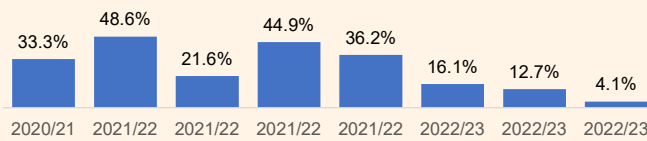
## HEALTH - SERVICE STANDARDS

### Children in care whose initial health assessment was completed on time (Year to date and by quarter)

25.4%

88 out of 347

Target: above 95%

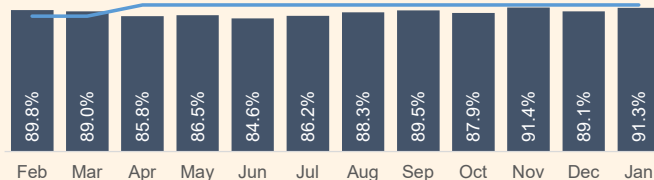


### Children in care whose annual health assessment was completed on time

91.3%

411 out of 450

Target: above 93%



### Children in care whose annual dental examination was completed on time

61.3%

276 out of 450

Target: above 90%



## MISSING

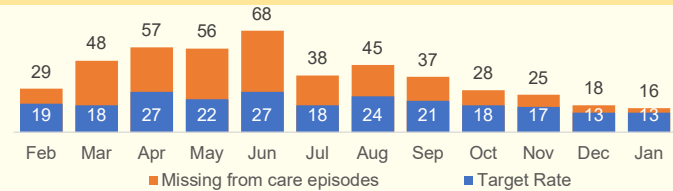
### Children in care who go missing (with number of episodes)

13

Children

16

Episodes



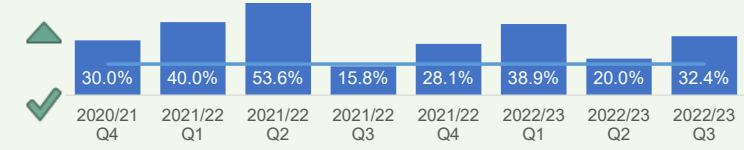
## ADOPTION

### % of children leaving care who are adopted (Year to date and by quarter)

31.6%

71 out of 225

Target: above 17%



### Timeliness of adoption process

Time to placement

521

Target: below 430

For children adopted during the past 12 months, an average of 521 days passed between the child entering care and them moving into their adoptive home. An average of 315.6 days passed between their placement order being granted and approval of a match with their adopters.

Time to match

316

Target: below 185

## CARE LEAVERS

### Care Leavers who have a pathway plan in place

88.5%

454 out of 513

Target: above 95%



19 to 21 year old care leavers who are not in employment, education or training (NEET)

85 out of 216

19 to 21 year old care leavers who live in unsuitable accommodation

19 out of 216



## Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee Workshop and Training Plan

Each committee at the County Council has its own training plan to help its members learn more about the business that the Committee covers. Each training session is listed and a record is kept of which members of the committee attend.

Subject	Desired learning outcome	Priority	Date	Responsibility	Format	Audience	Attendance	% of Sub-Committee members attending
Member Induction Programme: Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee	To brief new and returning Members and Substitute Members on the responsibilities of the Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee	High	Monday 12 July 2021	Nicola Curley/ Myra O'Farrell	Teams meeting	Members and Substitute Members of the Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee	Cllrs Ambrose Smith Bird Bradnam Bulat Goodliffe M King Slatter van de Ven	60%
Member Induction Programme: Safeguarding	To brief on Members on safeguarding issues.	High	08 October 2021	Charlotte Black/ Lou Williams	Teams meeting	All Members	Cllrs Bulat Goodliffe Bird Bradnam Coutts Cox Condrion Nethsingha van de Ven	40%

Subject	Desired learning outcome	Priority	Date	Responsibility	Format	Audience	Attendance	% of Sub-Committee members attending
Corporate Parenting and Foster Care	To brief Members on their role as corporate parents, with a particular focus on the work of foster carers.	High	22 October 2021	Fiona van den Hout	Teams	All Members	Bulat Goodliffe Hay Slatter Nethsingha van de Ven	40%
Supporting the mental and emotional health needs of children in care/on the edge of care	The aim of this session is to introduce CYP Members and the Corporate Parenting Sub Committee to the clinical framework and how it supports our foster carers and contributes to the emotional wellbeing of children and young people.		7 April 2022  1.30 – 2.30pm	Alison Bennett	Teams meeting	All CYP and CPSC members	Cllrs Atkins, Bradnam, Goodliffe, M King, Hay, Hoy and Slatter	80%

Subject	Desired learning outcome	Priority	Date	Responsibility	Format	Audience	Attendance	% of Sub-Committee members attending
Journeys for children in care including types of placement, placement matching and seeking permanent placements			04 May 2022 12.30 – 2pm	Ricky Cooper	Teams meeting	All Members		
The Role of the Foster Carer	To brief Members of the role of foster carers.	Medium	21 October 2022	Ricky Cooper	Teams meeting	All Members	Cllrs A Bradnam, A Bulat, Cox Condron, Dauntton, B Goodliffe, S King, S Taylor, Whelan, Wilson	40%
Contextual Safeguarding	To brief members on the contextual safeguarding approach		13 January 2022	Sharmain Lawrence Anna Jack	Teams	All Members		

Children and Maternity Collaborative and Integrated Care System	Awareness raising of new health provision		Postponed Date to be re-issued.	Director of Children's Services/Raj Lakshman	Virtual	All CYP members Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee		
Meeting with - (Young People's Council)			TBC 2022/23	Service Director: Children's	Virtual	All CYP Members invited		
Commissioning Services – what services are commissioned and how our services are commissioned across Children Services			TBC 2022/23	Service Director: Children's / Head of Children's Commissioning		All CYP Members invited		
Visit Family Safeguarding Team			TBC 2022/23	Head of Safeguarding		All CYP Members invited		



## Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee Agenda Plan

### Notes

The definition of a key decision is set out in the Council's Constitution in Part 2, Article 12.

\* indicates items expected to be recommended for determination by full Council.

+ indicates items expected to be confidential, which would exclude the press and public.

The following are standing agenda items which are considered at every Committee meeting:

- Minutes of previous meeting and Action Log
- Workshop and Training Plan
- Agenda Plan

### Summary

The Agenda Plan shows the dates and times of future meetings and what reports are expected to be considered. Unless otherwise stated, all public meetings will be held in the Red Kite Room, New Shire Hall, Alconbury Weald, Huntingdon PE28 4YE.

## Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee Public Meeting

### Meeting Theme: Health

Date: 29.03.23	Agenda item	Lead officer	Reference if key decision	Deadline for draft reports	Agenda despatch date
	1. Agenda Plan	Ricky Cooper	-	17.03.23	21.03.23
	2. Workshop/Training Plan	Myra O'Farrell/ Michaela Berry	-		
	3. Participation report	Shalina Chandoo	-		
	4. Cambridgeshire Foster Carers' Association report	Tracey Stephenson Anita Hewson	-		

Date: 29.03.23	Agenda item	Lead officer	Reference if key decision	Deadline for draft reports	Agenda despatch date
	5. Performance Scorecard	Ricky Cooper			
	6. Health Report	Katie Liddle	-		

## Informal Meeting (Not open to the public)

### Meeting Theme: Placement

Date: May.23 - tbc	Agenda item - tbc	Lead officer	Reference if key decision	Deadline for draft reports	Agenda despatch date
	1.				n/a
	2.				
	3.				
	4.				

## Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee Public Meeting

### Meeting Theme: Placement

Date: 12.07.23	Agenda item	Lead officer	Reference if key decision	Deadline for draft reports	Agenda despatch date
	1. Agenda Plan	Ricky Cooper	-	29.07.23	03.07.23
	2. Workshop/Training Plan	Myra O'Farrell/ Michaela Berry	-		
	3. Participation Report	Shalina Chandoo	-		
	4. Performance Scorecard	Ricky Cooper			

Date: 12.07.23	Agenda item	Lead officer	Reference if key decision	Deadline for draft reports	Agenda despatch date
	5. Cambridgeshire Foster Carers' Association report	Tracey Stephenson Anita Hewson	-		

## Informal Meeting (Not open to the public)

### Meeting Theme: Education

Date: 06.09.23	Agenda item	Lead officer	Reference if key decision	Deadline for draft reports	Agenda despatch date
	5.				n/a
	6.				

## Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee Public Meeting

### Meeting Theme: Education

Date: 15.11.23	Agenda item	Lead officer	Reference if key decision	Deadline for draft reports	Agenda despatch date
	1. Agenda Plan	Ricky Cooper		02.11.23	06.11.22
	2. Workshop/Training Plan	Myra O'Farrell/ Michaela Berry			
	3. Participation Report	Shalina Chandoo			
	4. Performance Scorecard	Ricky Cooper			
	5. Cambridgeshire Foster Carers' Association report	Tracey Stephenson Anita Hewson			

## Informal Meeting (Not open to the public)

### Meeting Theme: Health

Date: 17.01.24	Agenda item	Lead officer	Reference if key decision	Deadline for draft reports	Agenda despatch date
	1.				n/a
	2.				

## Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee Public Meeting

### Meeting Theme: Health

Date: 20.03.24	Agenda item	Lead officer	Reference if key decision	Deadline for draft reports	Agenda despatch date
	1. Agenda Plan	Ricky Cooper		07.03.24	11.03.24
	2. Workshop/Training Plan	Myra O'Farrell/ Michaela Berry			
	3. Participation Report	Shalina Chandoo			
	4. Performance Scorecard	Ricky Cooper			
	5. Cambridgeshire Foster Carers' Association report	Tracey Stephenson Anita Hewson			