

CORPORATE PARENTING SUB-COMMITTEE



Date: Wednesday, 17 July 2019

Democratic and Members' Services

Fiona McMillan
Monitoring Officer

16:00hr

Shire Hall
Castle Hill
Cambridge
CB3 0AP

Room 128

Shire Hall, Castle Hill, Cambridge, CB3 0AP

AGENDA

Open to Public and Press

1. Constitutional Matters

1. Change in Membership

To note the appointment of Councillor Elisa Meschini.

2. Apologies for absence and declarations of interest.

Guidance on declaring interests is available at

<http://tinyurl.com/ccc-conduct-code>

2. Minutes of the meeting on 22 May 2019

5 - 10

3. Action Log

11 - 20

4. Young People's Participation

21 - 38

5.	Performance Report	39 - 64
6.	Children in Care and Care Leavers Not in Education, Employment or Training Reduction Strategy Action Plan 2019-20	65 - 78
7.	Sub-Committee Workshop and Training Plan - July 2019	79 - 82
8.	Agenda Plan	83 - 88

The Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee comprises the following members:

Councillor Lis Every (Chairman) Councillor Anne Hay (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor Anna Bradnam Councillor Adela Costello and Councillor Elisa Meschini

For more information about this meeting, including access arrangements and facilities for people with disabilities, please contact

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CORPORATE PARENTING SUB-COMMITTEE: MINUTES

Date: Wednesday 22 May 2019

Time: 4.05-5.55pm

Venue: Room 128, Shire Hall, Cambridge.

Present: Councillors A Hay (Vice Chairman), A Bradnam, A Costello and C Richards

Co-opted member: S Day

Apologies: Councillor L Every (Chairman)

96. NOTIFICATION OF CHAIRMAN/WOMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN/WOMAN

The Clerk stated that the Children and Young People Committee had been pleased to re-appoint Councillor Lis Every as Chairman and Councillor Anne Hay as Vice Chairman of the Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee at its meeting on 21 May 2019.

97. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Apologies had been received from the Chairman, Councillor Every. In her absence the meeting was chaired by the Vice Chairman, Councillor Hay.

98. MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 20 MARCH 2019

The minutes of the meeting on 20 March 2019 were approved as an accurate record and signed by the Vice Chairman.

99. ACTION LOG

The Sub-Committee reviewed the action log. The following updates were noted:

- Minute 9: Councillor Richards would be stepping down from the Sub-Committee so her DBS check was no longer required.
- Minute 53: The Task and Finish Group was meeting bi-monthly. Meeting dates would be circulated to all members of the Sub-Committee for information.
(Action: Clinical Lead for Psychology)
- Minute 58: The Permanence Practice Development Manager would discuss the format and content of the proposed training with the Chairman. Dave Sergeant would be invited to take part in this session (Action Log minute 93 refers).

It was resolved to review and comment on the Action Log.

100. PARTICIPATION REPORT

Officers had attended the Mind of my Own (MOMO) conference the previous week and received an award for the most improved use of the MOMO app by a local authority. Several officers had also been nominated for individual awards as MOMO Champions.

The Voices Matter group would meet the following week and around 25 children and young people were expected to attend, including some currently accommodated out of county and some with additional needs. One member of the Participation Service team was on long-term sick leave and the Participation Manager was supporting the team to cover their absence. Efforts to identify more young people to act as substitutes to the Sub-Committee's co-opted members had stalled slightly. It was hoped that the current co-opted members would have the opportunity to share their experiences with potential candidates to encourage interest and take-up. Some Arts Council funding would be available through the 'Library Presents' programme to support an arts-based project for children in care and care leavers. This would be discussed at the Voices Matter meeting the following week.

Arising from the report:

- The Vice Chairman welcomed the wide age range of children and young people who had attended the Voices Matter meeting on 9 April 2019. She stated that it was disappointing that only one young person had attended the care leavers' forum, but acknowledged that there were many competing calls on young peoples' time. The Participation Service relied on social workers to promote these opportunities to care leavers and officers undertook to remind social work teams of the importance of this;
(Action: Service Manager – County Wide and Children in Care)
- A Member welcomed the award and nominations which the Council had received at the recent MOMO conference, but asked whether officers were satisfied that the app represented good value for money given that only 84 accounts had been set up when the Council currently had over 700 children and young people in its care. Officers stated that there had been more personal accounts in operation, but a number had been deleted following negative press reports. In addition to the individual accounts, young people also had access to MOMO via the 363 worker accounts currently in operation. The programme was jointly funded with Peterborough City Council and officers judged that it did represent good value for money;
- Paragraph 2.3: Officers clarified that 'Top Statements – One' related to written comments made by older children and young people and that 'Top Statements – Express' related to pictorial-based comments shared by young children and those with additional needs. Members commented that it would be helpful to make this more clear in future reports.
(Action: Participation Service Manager)

It was resolved review and comment on the consultation events and activities provided by the Participation Service to Children in Care.

101. VIRTUAL SCHOOL HEAD TEACHERS' ANNUAL REPORT

The Virtual School Head Teacher's annual report set out the context of the Virtual School offer and was written in May when validated exam data was available. The report noted a higher proportion of Cambridgeshire's children in care were accommodated outside of the county that was seen by other Virtual Schools in the Eastern Region. Training and development was a key aspect of the Virtual School's work and 479 educators had attended Virtual School training events during the previous year. Training was also offered to foster carers, new adopters and those caring for

children and young people under Special Guardianship Orders. Figures relating to young people not in education, employment and training (NEET) were positive with 93/106 young people in Year 12 and 75/87 young people in Year 13 being in education, employment or training. The county's statistical neighbours were performing better in relation to numbers of unauthorised absences so there was some work to be done in this area. Personal Education Plans (PEPs) remained a key priority going forward with a particular focus on their quality and quality assurance. Further detailed evaluation of progress against priorities would take place over the summer and be reported back in the autumn.

Arising from the report:

- Members thanked the Interim Head Teacher of the Virtual School for a comprehensive and helpful report;
- The Chairman noted the number of teachers at the Virtual School was reducing from 7.2 full time equivalents to 6.0 from September 2019 due to reductions in budget. Officers confirmed that the service was being re-modelled in response to a budget reduction, but stated that they also believed that this was the right way forward. Members were reassured by officers' assurance that if the changes were found to impact negatively on service delivery they would produce a business case to seek additional funding;
- Officers stated that educators and partners were not charged for the training provided by the Virtual School as the upskilling of those providing support to children and young people in care was of direct benefit to the Council;
- A Member asked what was done to support young people re-sitting public exams. Officers stated that the Post 16 team was proactive in this and that Transitions Advisers' were also involved;
- A Member sought more information about fixed term exclusions. Officers stated that generally they would expect a school to discuss a potential exclusion with the Virtual School before a final decision was reached;
- The Vice Chairman noted that a new duty had been placed on the Council in relation to support for children previously in care and asked whether the funding of £39,441 provided to meet this new duty was sufficient. Officers stated that as it was a new duty it was not yet known whether this sum would fully meet the cost of providing the service required. This would be kept under review as the new arrangements bedded in;
- The Co-opted Member commented that he felt that the number of young people in Years 12 and 13 who were within education, employment or training was really good. Looking more widely at the report he asked who should be invited to attend Post 16 PEP meetings. Officers stated that the process had been undergoing revision since January 2019. Not all students wanted their PEP reviews carried out in the same way so officers were trying to be more creative about how they were delivered provided that it fully met the needs of all involved. The young person should be consulted, but the designated person should be creative about how this was achieved;

- A Member noted that there was currently no all-girl alternative educational provision available for under 11s within the county. Officers stated that a working party on social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) was underway and that the Virtual School was involved in its work;
- Officers stated that they were working with schools and key providers to ensure that all services available to Cambridgeshire children were offered to children in addition to the support provided by the Virtual School;
- A Member asked about the current position in relation to filling the Head Teacher role at the Virtual School on a permanent basis. Officers stated that they understood this was in progress, but that the post had not yet been advertised;
- A Member welcomed the inclusion of the anonymised case studies to illustrate the work of the Virtual School which they had found both informative and moving;
- The Vice Chairman commented that it would have been useful to have had some explanation of why a child had been placed out of county, but accepted officers' explanation of the need to ensure that no child could be identified from the information given.

It was resolved to note and comment on the Virtual School Teacher's Annual Report, offering support and challenge as necessary.

102. PERFORMANCE REPORT

The report before the Sub-Committee contained data as of 31 March 2019 and was in a revised format designed to make the information more readily accessible. At that date there had been 768 children in care, whilst as of 22 May 2019 there were 787 children in care. The number of children and young people visited by a social worker within statutory timescales in February and March 2019 had risen following a dip during the restructuring of the service. The number of children and young people missing and deemed at risk of exploitation was now reported as a specific cohort to make this information more readily identifiable and trackable over time. The data on Initial Health Assessments was incomplete for February 2019 and as of the meeting date no data had been received for March 2019. A whole-service approach was being taken alongside Health Service colleagues to address these figures and a reduction in outstanding consents had been achieved, but the 20 day target remained a challenge and there was some roll-over at the end of each month. Officers would expect to see an improvement in the figures coming through by the summer.

The Children's Service Annual Feedback Report 2018/19 would be submitted to the Children and Young People (CYP) Committee in July 2019. In preparation, data on complaints relating to children in care had been included in the Performance Report to allow the Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee's comments to inform the report going to CYP. Of these, 17 complaints had been made by children in care themselves. These related mainly to supervised contact with birth family members, changes in social worker and being moved to a different geographical area. Complaints from others included those from birth families and complaints from foster carers regarding agreed care plans and late and missed social worker visits, exclusion for Personal Education Plan and Child in Care reviews.

Arising from the report:

- The Vice Chairman stated that it would be helpful to see which complaints had been upheld and what measures had been taken to address these issues. This should be brought back to the Sub-Committee for further examination. This request should also be flagged up in the report to CYP in July;
(Action: Customer Care Manager)
- The Vice Chairman asked that percentages should be included in the ethnicity table in future reports and that the shading used to represent male and female in bar graphs should be applied consistently throughout the report;
(Action: Permanence Practice Development Manager)
- Officers stated that a national task force had been established to tackle the issue of county lines exploitation and that Cambridgeshire was involved in this work;
- The Assistant Director for Children's Services stated that quite a high proportion of children accommodated outside of the county lived just across the border in neighbouring counties. However, the aim remained to accommodate as many children within Cambridgeshire as possible.

It was resolved to review performance for Children in Care and comment on the themes and trends identified in the report.

103. FOSTERING SERVICE ANNUAL REPORT 2018/19

The need to meet the demand for foster care placements had led to a re-structuring of the Fostering Service from six teams into four. This avoided duplication and improved communication. A new Foster Carer recruitment campaign had been launched in September 2018, financed through Transformation funding. In total, 391 enquiries from potential foster carers had been received in 2018/19 compared to 365 in 2017/18. Had the revised campaign been launched earlier it was expected that this figure would have been higher and further increases were expected in Years 2 and 3 of the campaign. From these enquiries, 24 new foster caring families had been approved. Eight fostering households had joined the Council from Independent Foster Care agencies. Nine fostering families had left during the period which was in line with usual figures. This was primarily due to changes in personal circumstances and no in-house foster carers had left to join Independent agencies in this period. The Fostering Service was continuing to work with local language schools in relation to the DBS checking of carers as the Council had a duty of care to all young people placed outside of the family for 28 days or more.

Lots of work had been achieved in preparation for an audit of processes and systems by PQA and in response to the Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services (ILACS) carried out in January 2019. Both audits had identified areas of strength within the Fostering Service such as the assessment and annual review processes for foster carers, but they had also highlighted that some improvements were needed, for example in the way data was held to improve access. This issue should be addressed through the introduction of the new 'Liquid Logic' system. The need to ensure that secondary foster carers and kinship foster carers received the same levels of training and supervision as primary foster carers had also been highlighted and was being addressed though placing all primary and secondary foster carers onto the main foster carer support system.

Arising from the report:

- A Member asked for clarification of the duration of Transformation funding for foster carer recruitment. Officers stated that it was for a three year period. Councillor Richards asked that it should be minuted that she would like to see this additional funding carried forward beyond the three year period and that she would like to see the Sub-Committee support this. The Vice Chairman confirmed that the Sub-Committee would want officers to look at ways of supporting foster care recruitment beyond the three year period covered by Transformation funding.

(Action: Assistant Director for Childrens' Services)

It was resolved to review and comment on the report.

104. SUB COMMITTEE WORKSHOP/ TRAINING PLAN

The Sub-Committee noted that a briefing on access to universal credit and benefits for care leavers would be incorporated into the Members' Seminar on 14 June 2019 alongside the planned item on the Local Offer for care leavers.

It was resolved to review and comment on the Sub-Committee training plan.

105. AGENDA PLAN

It was resolved to review and comment on the Sub-Committee agenda plan.

Chairman
(date)

**CORPORATE
PARENTING
SUB-COMMITTEE**

Minutes-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 **1 July 2019**.

Minutes of 13 December 2017

9.	Young People's Participation	Sarah-Jane Smedmor/ Richenda Greenhill	To provide advice on whether Members should undergo a Disclosure and Barring Service check given that it was proposed that they would have direct access to personal information about children and young people in care and, on occasion, direct contact with the children and young people themselves.	<p>08.01.18: The Assistant Director gave the view that Members of the Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee would need to undergo a DBS check in order to fully discharge their duties. Advice sought from the Head of HR.</p> <p>09.04.18: To be processed by Democratic Services.</p> <p>08.10.18: Updated training required to sign off DBS request. Course booked 29.11.18.</p> <p>21.01.19: DBS check completed for Cllr Hay. Documentation supplied and verified for Cllr Costello and certificate awaited. Existing DBS certificate held by Cambridgeshire County Council for Cllr Every confirmed by HR as sufficient to cover her role on the Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee. Application awaited from Cllr Richards.</p> <p>25.06.19: Cllr Richards replaced on the Sub-Committee by Cllr Meschini. DBS check no longer required. Cllr Meschini's DBS check complete.</p>	No longer required
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Minutes of the meeting on 19 September 2018

53.	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Issues relating to LAC in Cambridgeshire	Pam Parker	To try to establish whether resources described in the Green Paper represented new or existing funding so that Members could take a view on whether they might wish to lobby for support.	<p>21.11.18: A Task and Finish Group has been established which includes the Assistant Director for Children's Services, the Clinical Lead on Psychology, the Sub-Committee's two co-opted members and representatives from the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group and the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Foundation NHS Foundation Trust.</p> <p>20.03.19: The Task and Finish Group had held its first meeting which had been productive. Work was continuing and a further update would follow.</p> <p>8.05.19: The Task and Finish Group continues to be convened and activity is ongoing.</p> <p>28.06.19 The Task and Finish Group continues to be convened and activity is ongoing. A report on activity and outcomes will be included in the Annual Corporate Parenting Sub Committee Report due to be submitted to in September 2019.</p>	On-going
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55.	Coram Cambridgeshire Adoption Annual Report 2017-18	F van den Hout	To keep the Sub-Committee in touch with developments relating to central government funding for post-adoption support services.	<p>13.01.19 Commissioned by the Department for Education, Cambridgeshire County Council has been chosen alongside 14 other Local Authorities to participate in a longitudinal study on the Adoption Support Fund. The meeting with the research lead from Public Care at Brookes University is due to take place at the end of January 2019.</p> <p>20.03.19: The Sub-Committee was advised that an update would be available in June 2019.</p> <p>28.06.19: The Adoption Annual Report will be submitted to the September Corporate Parenting Sub Committee.</p>	The Adoption Annual Report to be submitted to Sub Committee in September
58.	Sub-Committee Workshop/ Training Plan	Jacqui Barry Aidan O'Reilly	To arrange a generic workshop for all members and substitute members to consider how best to upskill themselves so that they were best equipped to fulfil their roles. It would be important to ensure a good turnout for this event to develop an agreed approach and to make full use of the wide variety of skills, experience and expertise of all involved.	<p>29.10.18: Jacqui Barry discussing this with the Chairman.</p> <p>12.02.19: Aidan O'Reilly to pick this up.</p> <p>08.05.19: No updated provided. Sub Committee will be verbally updated on 17.05.19</p> <p>28.06.19: The training plan has been reviewed and amended and will be considered by the Sub Committee in July 2019. A Guide to Corporate Parenting for members will be submitted to the Sub Committee in September 2019 for approval.</p>	On-going

Minutes of the Meeting on 21 November 2018

65.	Participation Report	Richenda Greenhill	To hold Sub-Committee meetings in Ely when possible.	<p>28.11.18: The meeting on 30 January 2018 has been moved to The Grange, Ely. Future meeting venues will be reviewed following that meeting.</p> <p>23.01.19: The meeting on 20 March 2019 will be held in Ely and arrangements reviewed after that.</p>	Complete
70.	Local Offer for Care Leavers	Sarah-Jane Smedmor	<p>To follow up a Co-opted member's comments about the Local Offer information pack they had received; and</p> <p>Conduct an audit of the process and report back on this to the Sub-Committee.</p>	<p>14.01.19: The process of preparing the Local Offer is ongoing.</p> <p>08.05.19: Transformation funding has been secured for a Local Offer Personal Advisor and recruitment is underway. Processes have been reviewed in service.</p>	Complete

Minutes of the meeting on 20 March 2019

89.	Virtual School	Claire Hiorns	The Assistant Director for Children's Services said that she would be interested to hear how Pupil Premium funding might be used creatively to support students in Years 11 and 13 through their exam preparation. Officers undertook to include this information in a future report.	03.07.19: The changes to Pupil Premium (PPP) Payments come into effect from September 2019. From this time schools will be able to bid for projects, which may include work with year 11s. The funding will not be used for year 13s as PPP funding is only for children up to the end of Year 11.	Completed
92.	Children in Care: Emotional Health and Wellbeing	Pam Parker	The Vice Chairman commented that the Sub-Committee would welcome an update in six months' time describing the results of the work at that point. This might usefully be linked with a further workshop or training session, ideally on a date suitable for Councillor Richards.	18.06.19: Six month update added to the agenda plan for September 2019.	Completed
		Pam Parker	The Chairman suggested that this topic should be included as part of a future Corporate Parenting item at a Members' Seminar.		
93.	Actions taken by the Council in response to Child Sexual	Jenny Goodes	The Chairman stated that there might be scope for using some Community Safety funding in support of this work and asked that this should be explored.	13.06.19: This will be considered as part of the working group looking at funding bids. Has been passed on to Emily Tucker Prescott.	Completed

	Exploitation and County Lines Gang Exploitation	Jenny Goodes	To invite Dave Sargeant, an ex-police officer working with the Local Safeguarding Children Board, to help co-ordinate thinking on this issue and to deliver a training session. This might also be opened to members of the Children and Young People Committee.	<p>05.04.19: Dave Sargeant is actively involved in this area. A working group has been set up by the LSCB to be chaired by police to lead on this.</p> <p>22.05.19: Mr Sergeant to be invited to take part in the training session to be arranged for all members and substitute members of the Sub-Committee (minute 58 above refers).</p>	On-going
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Minutes of the meeting on 22 May 2019					
99.	Action Log	Pam Parker	To circulate dates of the bi-monthly Task and Finish Group meetings to all Sub-Committee members.		
100.	Participation Report	Kate Knight	To remind social work teams of the importance of promoting the care leavers' forum.		
		Claire Betteridge	To clarify the meaning of 'Top Statements – One' and 'Top Statements – Express' in future reports.	26.06.19: This will be reflected in future reports.	Completed
102.	Performance Report	Jo Shickell	The Vice Chairman stated that it would be helpful to see which complaints had been upheld and what measures had been taken to address these issues. This should be brought back to the Sub-Committee for further examination. This request should also be flagged up in the report to CYP in July 2019.	28.06.19: Anonymised information on upheld complaints and action taken to address any underlying issues with processes to be included in the Performance report July 2019.	On-going
		Aidan O'Reilly	Percentages should be included in the ethnicity table in future reports and that the shading used to represent male and female in bar graphs should be applied consistently throughout the report;	19.06.19: Shared with the Business Intelligence team. The format of the performance dashboard remains under review.	Completed
103.	Fostering Service Annual Report 2018/19	Sarah-Jane Smedmor	The Sub-Committee would want officers to look at ways of supporting foster care recruitment beyond the three year period covered by Transformation funding.	03.07.19: The Assistant Director for Children's Services to work with the fostering team and transformation team to consider sustainability. This will be fed back as part of the next fostering service report in November 2019.	For report in November 2019

YOUNG PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION

To: Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee

Meeting Date: 17 July 2019

From: Claire Betteridge - Service Development Manager
Hullal Miah – Mind of My Own (MOMO) Apprentice
Amanda Prior – Participation Worker
Helen Hooson – Business Support

Electoral division(s): All

Purpose: Update on the participation of young people within Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee

Recommendation: To comment or provide feedback on the range of consultation events and activities the Participation Service provide for children in care and care leavers.

<i>Officer contact:</i>	<i>Member contact:</i>
Name: Claire Betteridge Post: Service Development Manager Email: csc.participation@cambridgeshire.gov.uk Tel: 01480 372493	Name: Councillor Lis Every Role: Chairman, Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee Email: Lis.Every@cambridgeshire.gov.uk Tel: (office) 01223 706398

Summary:

- There is a plan for participation activities throughout 2019.
- The Mind of My Own Apprentice continues to promote the use of the APP offering individual and group training.
- The Participation Team hosted a Voices Matter meeting on the 30 May 2019 at Xtreme360 Trampoline Park in St Neots, this event was well attended.
- A group for younger children was held in Whittlesey in May 2019 in conjunction with a Company Artzforkids decorating pottery.
- We recently attended the Mind of My Own conference and as a local authority we were recognised by Mind of My Own developers as being the most improved organisation according to size in using the APP, we were recognised as individual workers in promoting the use of the APP and we were finalist in the most memorable Mind of My Own story.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Committee requested an update on the work of the Participation Service at each meeting.

2. MAIN ISSUES**2.1 Update on Involvement of Young People****Consultation**

The participation team has continued to identify other young people who might be interested in being substitutes for the co-opted members of the corporate parenting sub-committee, so we can ensure we have young people in attendance at each meeting. One young person expressed an interest and she intended to observe the meeting on the 22 May 2019 but then was not able to make it.

One of the two co-opted young people has agreed to come and speak to young people about the role if he is available during one of our events over the summer, as a way of promoting the role.

Voices Matter

The children in care council meeting (Voices Matter) took place in May 2019 at Xtreme360 Trampoline Park in St Neots. As part of the preparation and promotion for the event the participation team made contact with 75 foster carers and 28 children signed up to come along; however, three didn't make it as the taxi which was booked to support their attendance didn't arrive.

Of the 25 young people who attended we had 12 Girls and 13 Boys, aged between 5 and 14 years of age. We also had 4 young people who were placed out of county come along to the event.

The session started with introductions and sharing the plan for the session. The film clip of the top tips for social workers was shown to the group which generated a discussion later on in the meeting about what the group thought about the film and the top ten tips and whether they had any more advice or tips that they would give to their social workers.

An hour on the trampolines followed, where everyone seemed to have fun being able to freestyle their way around all areas of the park, as well as try out the other activities available which included dodgeball, slam dunk, the jousting beam, the foam pit and aero ball.

The group returned to the meeting room and tucked into a buffet tea where we carried on the discussions in smaller groups, whilst they ate, about tips they had for their own social workers and particular comments about their relationship with their social workers.

This is what the children and young people shared in this session:

“I love being in care”
“Thank you for giving me a second chance”
“I like it when my social worker visits as she plays with me” (Ciara)
“My social worker works really hard”
“My social worker is a good parent”
“I’d give my social 100%”
“I’d score my social worker 10/10”
“Want to keep same social worker, don’t like change”
“Social Workers disappear”
“Not on time”
“Don’t see her enough”
“Plays games”
“I liked the top ten tips for social workers”
“The best thing about my social worker is they let me in their car”
“I need to get answers to my questions. I need to talk to manager as not good enough”
“Need help to understand why I am in care”
“Other top ten tips from the group: 1. Be friendly; 2. Need to be understanding – don’t give us labels; 3. Don’t be repetitive.

Most popular top ten tips were:

- Say Goodbye
- Take me out
- Don’t nag
- Don’t be late
- Don’t wear your badge.

Once again the event was positively received by all and everyone seemed to have a good time. The feedback received has been shared with the corporate parenting service.

Just Us Group

A pottery session was hosted in Whittlesey in May 2019 in conjunction with a company Artzforkids. There were 7 young people signed up to attend, between the ages of 7 and 12. Unfortunately only 4 attended the session. One of these was not able to make it as he had tired himself the day before attending the trampoline session and two others were unable to attend due to family illness.

The aim of this group activity was to get to know young people who reside in the North of the county. The children who came along either decorated a plate or the word home, which after glazing they would be able to keep.

During this group, a general conversation was discussed around the young people's foster families, schools and social workers. All the young people knew each other so their school experiences were similar.

For these events to take place, the Participation team contacted 21 foster families and emailed details of this 'just us' event to in-house foster carers and teams.

Care Leavers Forum

Unfortunately attendance at the care leaver's forum continues to be low and meetings have not taken place as scheduled. We are looking to relaunch this forum and plan to have a series of drop-in meetings at different venues across the county. We are in the process of promoting the group to young people via their workers with a view to confirm dates and venues once we know who is interested in coming along and getting involved.

2.2 Other Events

- The Realise Team from Cambridge University hosted an event during the course of the May half term (28 May 2019). The session consisted of a science session which involved extracting DNA from a strawberry, an engineering workshop building a small racing car, lunch and ice-cream and a visit to Kings College. Only 1 young person from Cambridgeshire attended this session, despite 4 being signed up. This is disappointing as these events facilitated by Realise provide a good insight into university life and are fun activities to participate in for our young people. The Participation Team continue to disseminate information to colleagues, but we are reliant on them to promote events with the young people they are working with and encourage their foster carers to support attendance.

More information on the events that the Realise Team host can be found via the link below.

<https://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/events/care>

- We have been supporting the learning and development team with the assessments and interviews of candidates who have applied for sponsorship to undertake their social work training. This has consisted of four days of being part of a panel and contributing to the assessment process. Unfortunately Hullal has been the only young person involved in this process despite others agreeing to be involved who weren't available on the day.

- The Participation Team attended an event hosted by the Virtual School on 1 July, to promote the work of the team with colleagues from education who work with children in care and care leavers.

Activities Planned

- A schedule of events and participation activities are planned for 2019 and children residing out of County are invited to attend in the same way as all other children.
- The annual summer “picnic in the park” is booked for the beginning of the summer holidays. We are in the process of finalising the activities for the day.
- We continue to meet with social care teams and the foster carers support meetings to update them regarding participation activities and promote the APP Mind of My Own.
- Further discussions have taken place to explore facilitating with colleagues from the library service a commissioned project called ‘The Library Presents’ which is funded by Arts Council England which deliver arts events in libraries across Cambridgeshire. The information can be seen at the following link - www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/arts.

A representative from the ‘Library Presents’ team joined us at the last Voices Matter meeting in May to explore with the children the concept behind the project and to gather ideas as to the theme of the project and to establish what medium they would be interested in using.

A brief has now been developed based on the discussions with children, young people and their foster carers, in order for an artist to be commissioned to support this project based on the following: “We are seeking an artist/organisation to deliver a high quality, fun and accessible digital arts experience to children in care, their foster families and friends. We would like a digital outcome(s) which can be hosted on the County Council’s YouTube platform following the sessions and shared widely. We have consulted children and young people about what kind of project they want, they have said that they want a project that will use game imagery, styles or formats on the theme of ‘dreams’ like exploring future worlds/utopias and the kinds of people/jobs/actions needed to make them a reality. Games mentioned as inspiration included Minecraft and Fortnite”.

The plan is for there to be two groups engaging with this project, each attending for two days, commencing on the 27 August 2019 and will be held at a venue in the St Ives area.

The Arts Award is also planned over the summer in conjunction with the Fitzwilliam Museum, this activity is open to young people aged 11 plus and will be taking place for four days in August. Young people who attend the programme will achieve a bronze award.

- We are looking to host the next Voices Matter meeting at the end of August at Grafham Water after a positive visit to the venue. We are in the process of finalising the arrangements with colleagues in the Fostering service.
- In August and September we are planning to host a couple of Just Us sessions, one at a Country Park, aimed at 5 to 12 year olds, where various woodland activities will be on offer and the second to be held at the Adventure Playground in Wisbech, aimed at children and young people aged between 8 and 14 who like climbing and exploring.

Regional Participation

The regional participation teams are planning to collaborate on another project and has a meeting planned for the end of September 2019 at The Junction in Cambridge. The plan is to make a film with children and young people across the region to share their experiences about their journey into care.

2.3 Participation Service

Staffing

The Participation Team currently has a part time manager, two participation workers, a business support assistant and an apprentice leading on Mind of My Own. One of the participation workers has recently resigned from their post.

Mind of My Own

The Mind of My Own Apprentice continues to target practitioners across the service who have registered for a Mind of My Own account but have not used it, offering training and support as a team or on a one to one basis to enhance practitioners understanding in how to use the application to capture the voice of the child.

We attended a recent conference in Birmingham along with other local authorities hosted by the Mind of My Own developers and we were recognised as being the most improved organisation in using the APP, we were also recognised as individual workers in promoting the use of the APP and we were finalist in the most memorable Mind of My Own story.

The information in Appendix 1 summarises Mind of My Own activity for April, May and June 2019.

3.0 SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS

3.1 Resource Implications

n/a

3.2 Procurement/Contractual/Council Contract Procedure Rules Implications

n/a

3.3 Statutory, Legal and Risk Implications

n/a

3.4 Equality and Diversity Implications

n/a

3.5 Engagement and Communications Implications

n/a

3.6 Localism and Local Member Involvement

n/a

3.7 Public Health Implications

n/a

Source Documents	Location
None	

Overview of Mind of My Own

Mind of My Own is a web based application which can be accessed via a smartphone, tablet, laptop or desktop computer. The program helps children and young people express themselves and communicate with professionals in their lives making sure they are heard. Both One App and Express are effective direct work tools which can be used by a range of professionals from social workers and teachers to support workers.

The **MOMO One App** is a great way for young people to share their thoughts and send them to those who need to hear from them. The app has a number of options called statements which the young person can choose to use, for example preparing for a meeting, share good news or sort a problem. This version of the app provides prompts in terms of what the young person might want to share, for example: preparing for a meeting there are a number of questions, like who do you want to be there, sit next to or talk about, but there is also room for the young person to expand and provide more of a narrative of their views. The app is available to young people to have their own account or they can access it via their workers account when they have a one to one session. The app is able to assist in guiding or structuring a conversation with a young person. The young person can choose who they want to send their statement to.

The **MOMO Express App** is aimed at younger children or those with additional needs and uses expressive pictures, minimal text and affirming sounds. It has some accessibility features that can be tailored to the needs of the child and it can be used to support education, health or social care planning or review process, including EHC plans. The Express App is designed to be used with a worker.

The Mind of My Own developers have added some additional reporting functions which we have used for the first time for the purposes of this report.

Number of YP accounts – 99			
Number of worker accounts – 367			
	APR 2019	MAY 2019	JUNE 2019
Number of statements per month from YP	4	4	3
Number of statements per month via worker	18	17	10
MOMO Express Statements (younger children) per month (replied to directly)	36	9	16

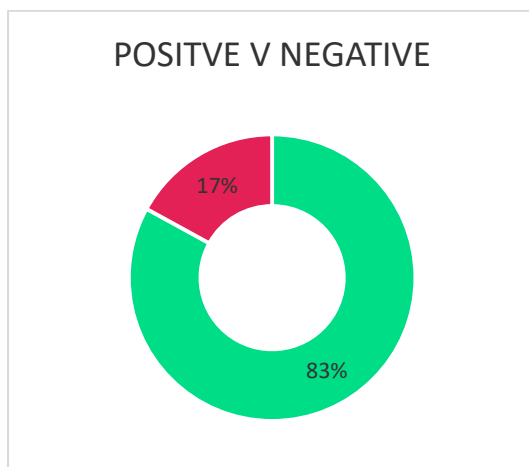
Top 3 subject matters each month MOMO ONE (older children)	55% Foster Care Review 18% Preparation 14% Worker Visit	48% Foster Carer Review 24% Worker Visit 14% Preparation	54% Worker Visit 31% Foster Carer Review 8% Preparation / Pathway
Top 3 subject matters each month MOMO EXPRESS	23% My Education 23% My Life 20% My Day 20% About Me	27% About Me 27% My Life 23% My Education	24% About Me 24% My Life 24% My Education

Mind of My Own Statistics

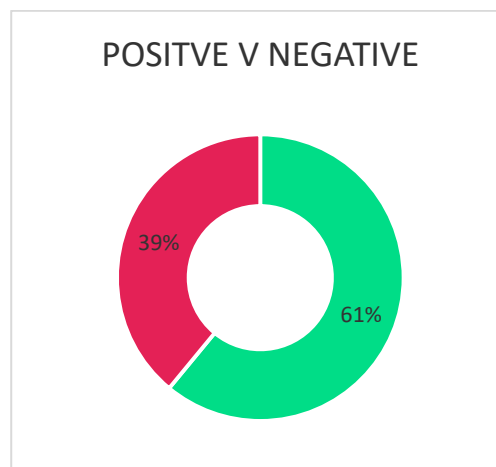
The developers have updated the dashboard which means we can extract information from the statements we receive from children and young people and the following charts are an example of the information we have gathered for the months of April, May and June 2019.

Within the statements received, children and young people are telling us about how positive they feel in general; there was a dip in May as to how positive children were feeling. The graphs on the next page provide a breakdown of their feelings.

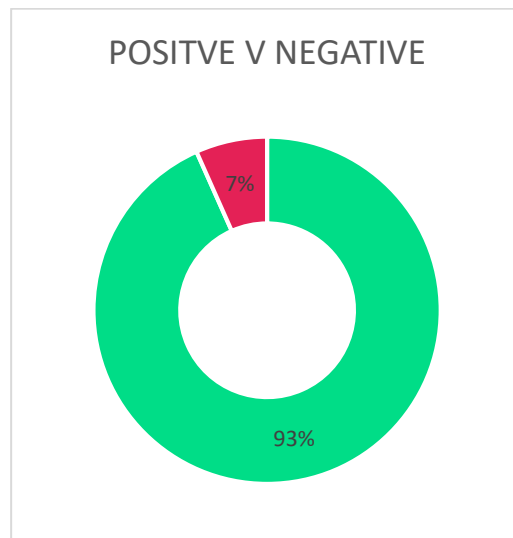
April 2019



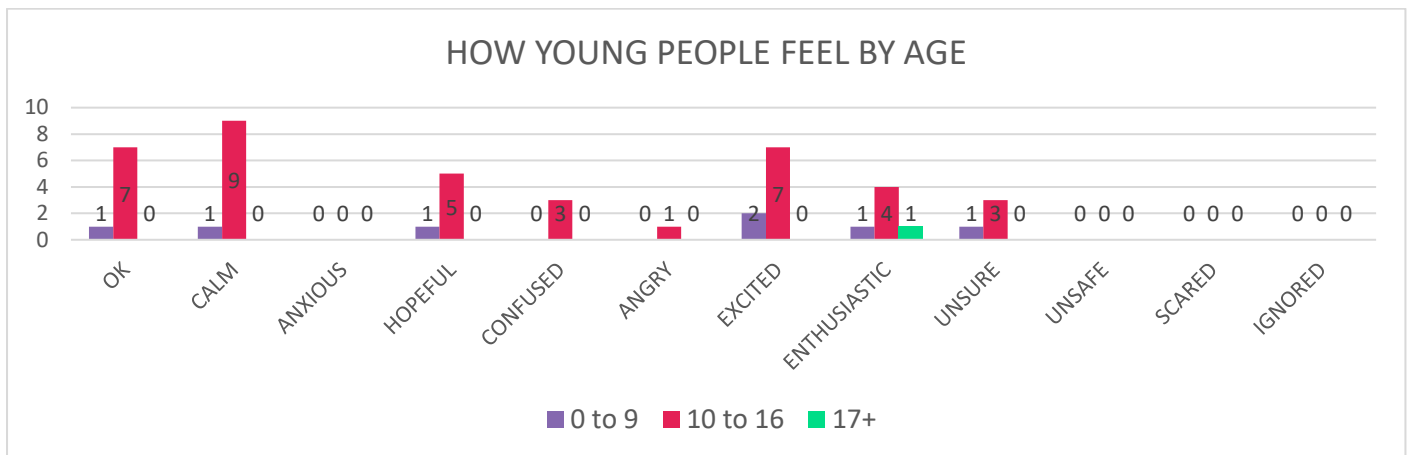
May 2019



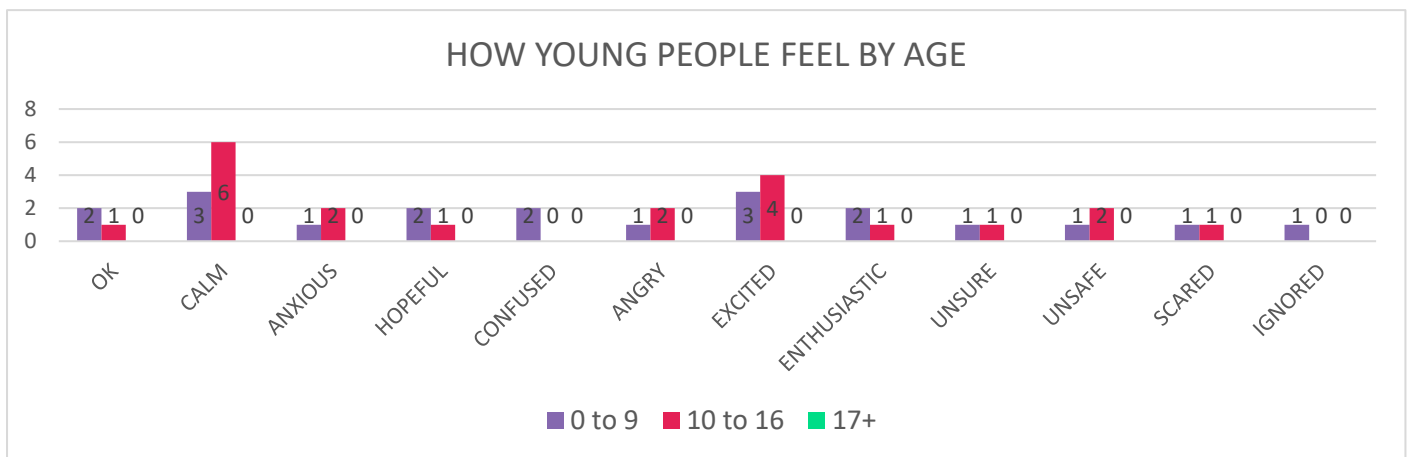
June 2019



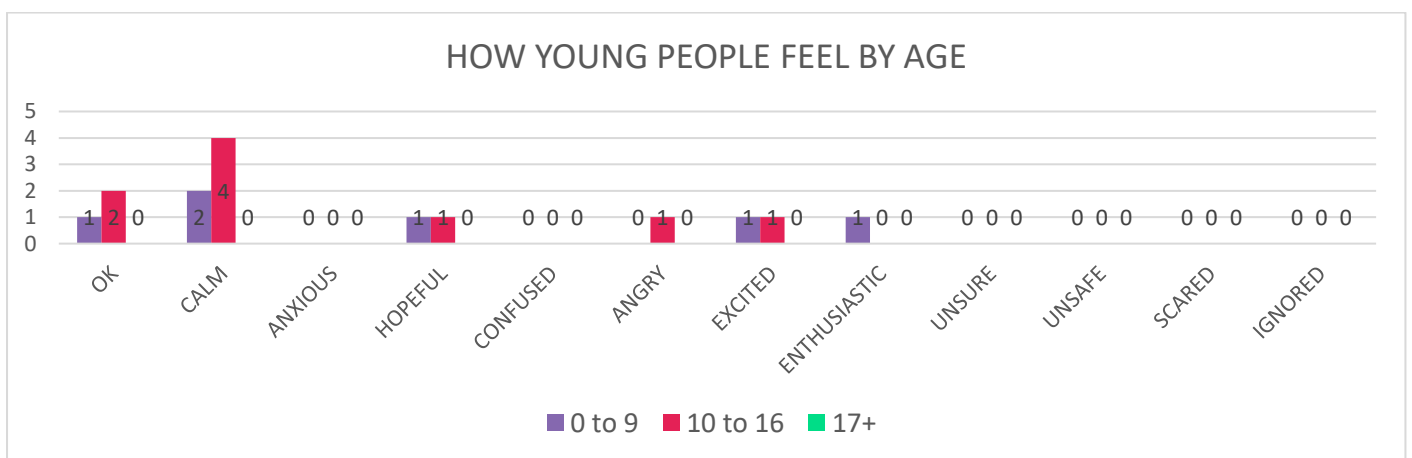
April 2019



May 2019

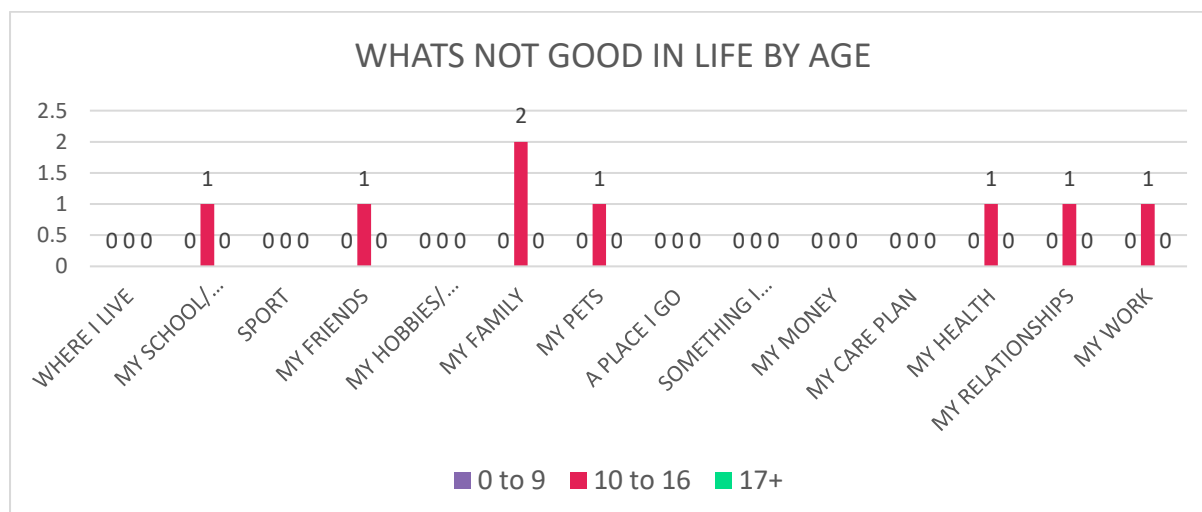
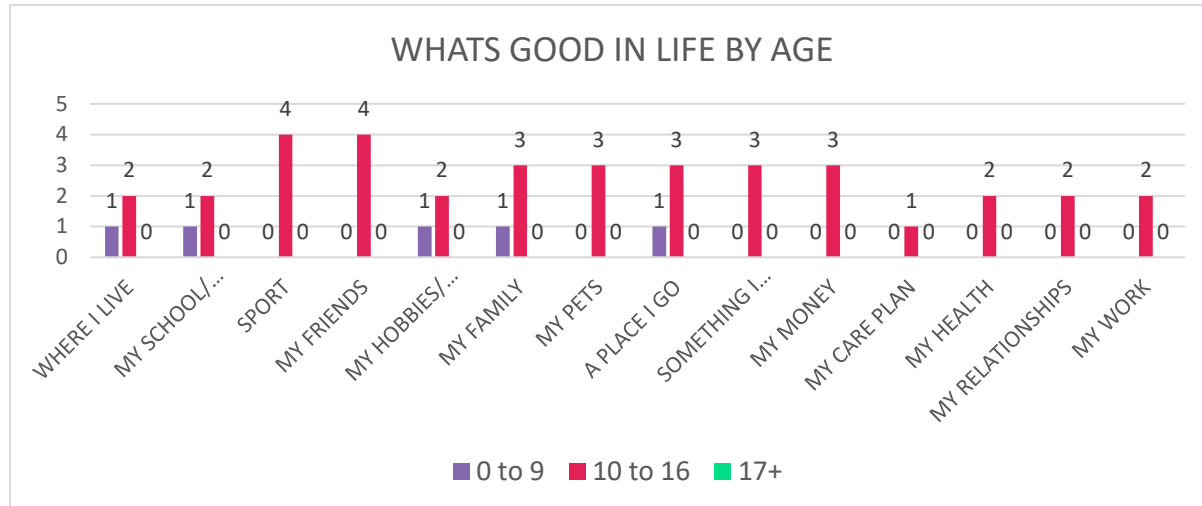


June 2019

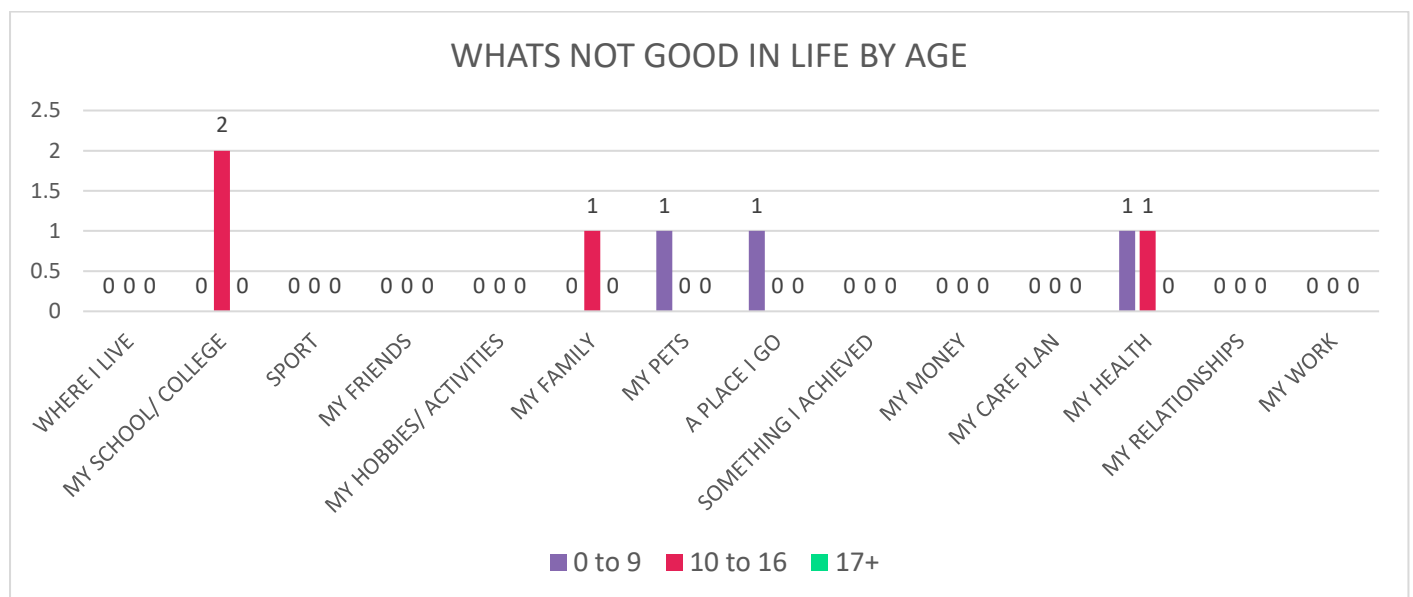
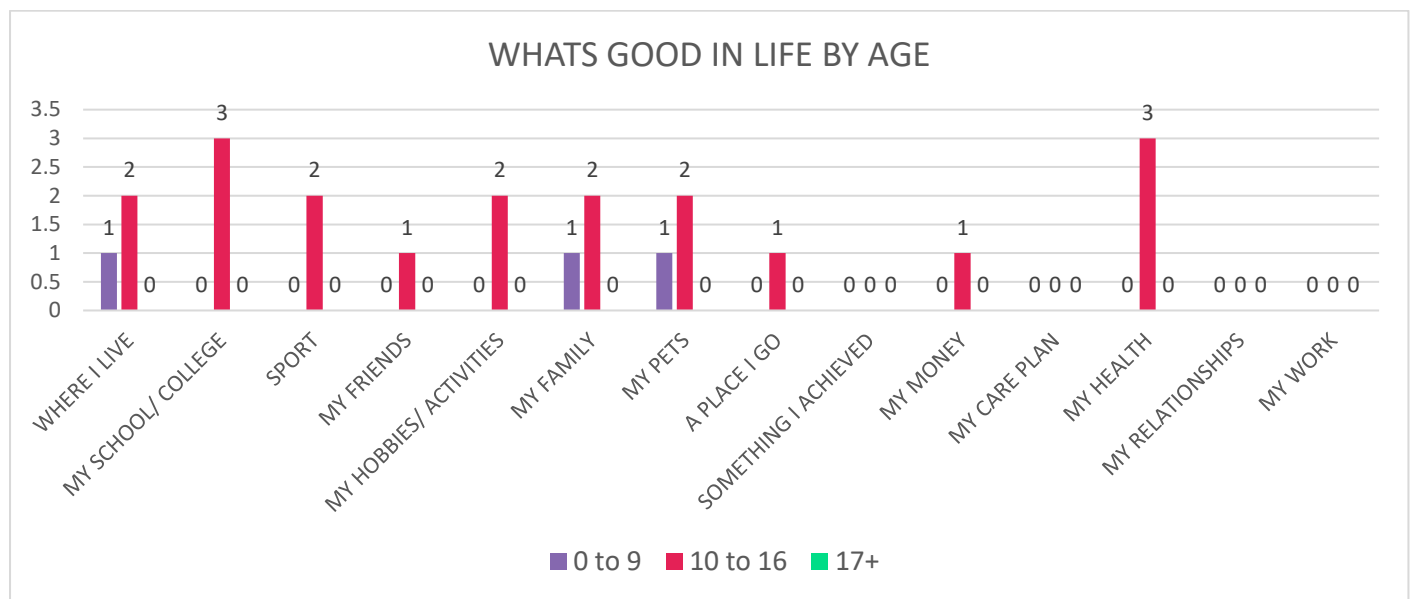


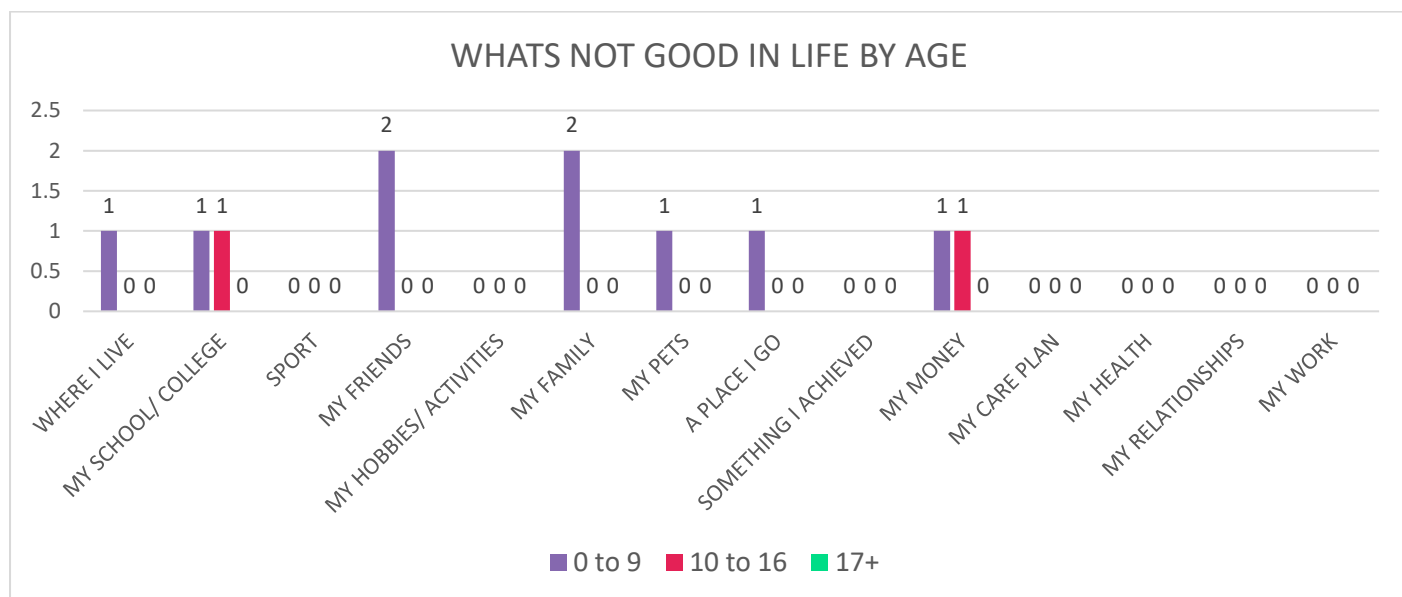
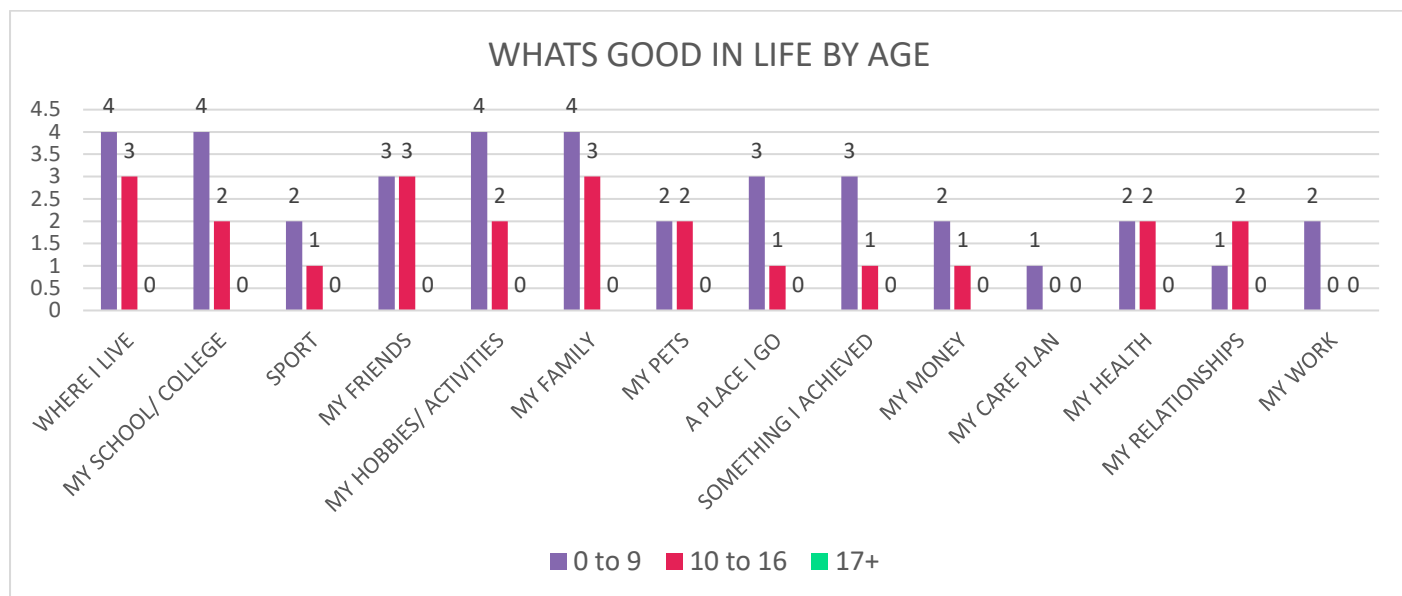
The graphs below highlight what is going well for children and young people according to their age and what isn't so great for them.

April 2019



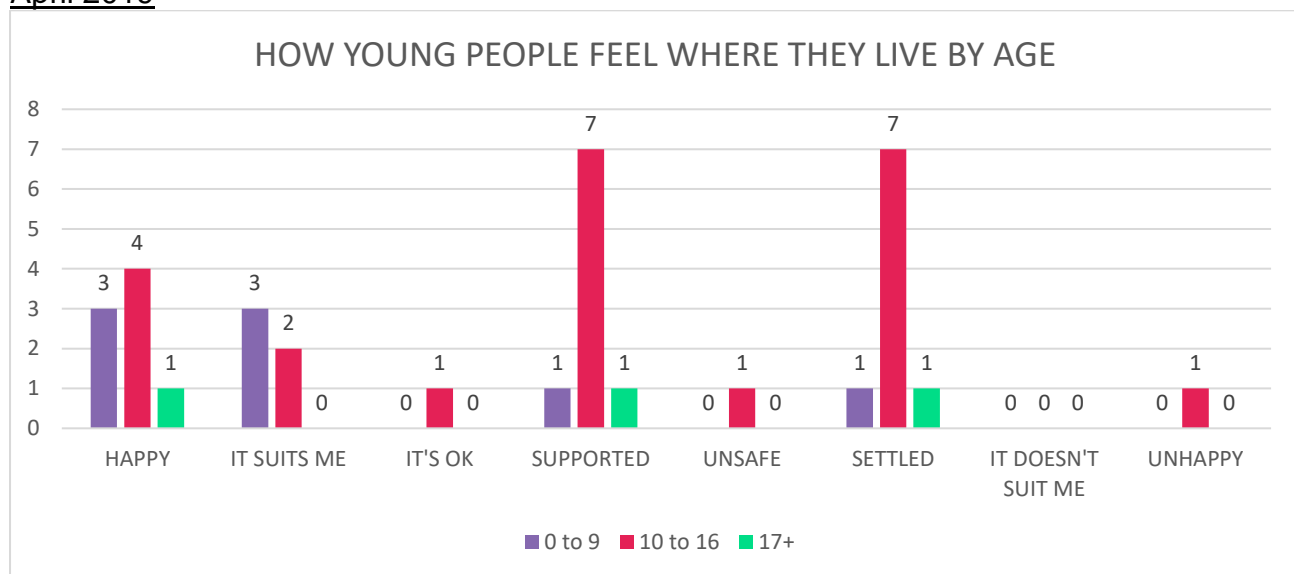
May 2019



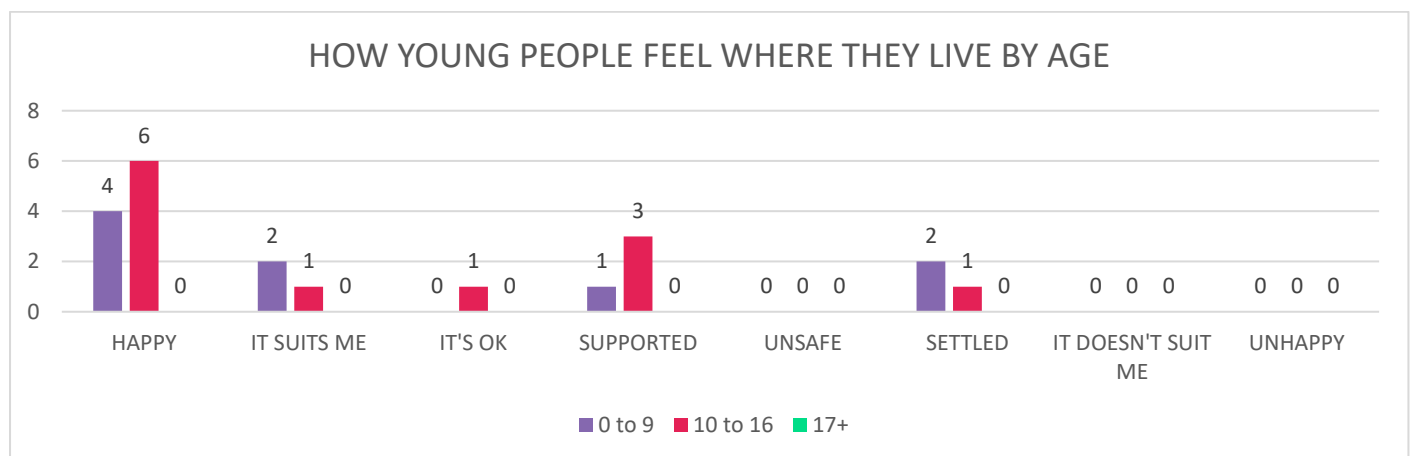


How do you feel about where you live?

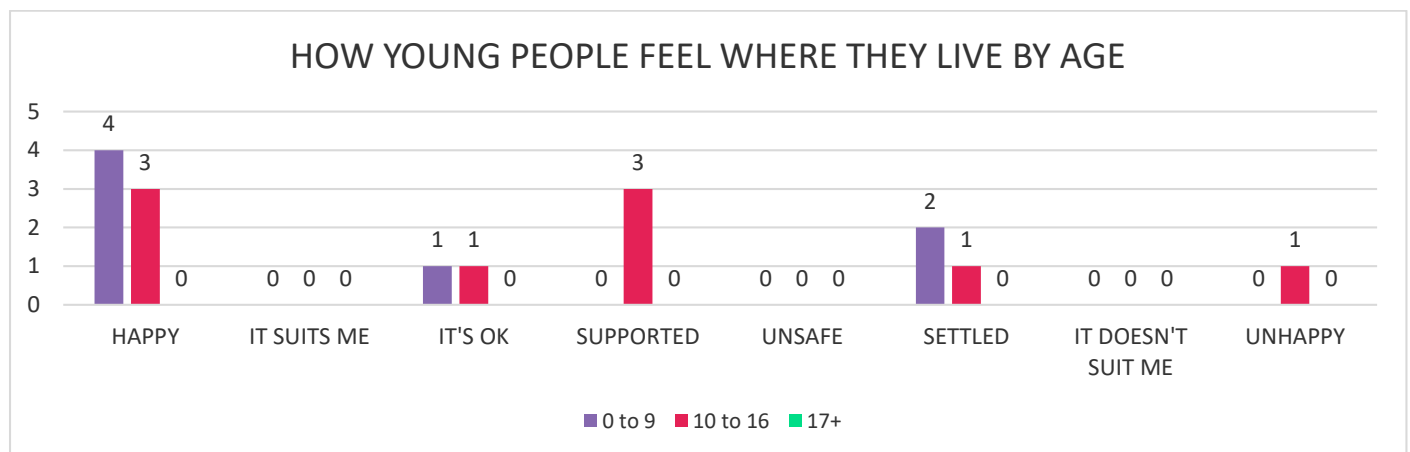
April 2019



May 2019



June 2019



CORPORATE PARENTING SUB-COMMITTEE PERFORMANCE REPORT

To: **Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee**

Meeting Date: **17 July 2019**

From: **Aidan O'Reilly
Permanence Practice Development Manager**

Electoral division(s): **All**

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

Recommendation: **The Sub-Committee is recommended to review performance for Children in Care and comment on the themes and trends identified in this report.**

<i>Officer contact:</i>		<i>Member contact:</i>	
Name:	Aidan O'Reilly	Name:	Councillor Lis Every
Post:	Permanence Practice Development Manager	Role:	Chairman, Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee
Email:	aidan.oreilly@cambridgeshire.gov.uk	Email:	Lis.Every@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
Tel:	01223 518719	Tel:	(office) 01223 706398

Summary:

The data referred to within this report is reflective of the situation on 31 May 2019.

- As of 31 May 2019, 793 Children in Care are supported by the Council.
- 56% of Children in Care are male, 44% are female.
- 8% of Children in Care have a disability.
- At the end of May 2019, 55% of children (excluding unaccompanied children) are living out of County and of those 37% are living more than 20 miles over Cambridgeshire borders.
- 86% of unaccompanied asylum seeking young people are living out of county.
- The proportion of Children in Care being visited within the statutory timescales is 93% in May 2019.
- The number of Children in Care reported as going missing has been as follows; 35 in April 2019 and 30 in May 2019.
- There were 10 children adopted in this 2 month period.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 This report provides the Sub-Committee with an overview of performance of services for Children in Care and Care Leavers for April and May 2019. The full performance report can be found in Appendix A.

2. MAIN ISSUES

- 2.1 As noted in previous reports to the Sub-Committee, there have been difficulties in the capturing and analysis of data around Initial Health Assessments (IHA) for Children in Care. A multi-agency working group has reviewed the joint protocol and process which encompass this work and implemented changes to improve matters.

Specific issues identified related to communication and information sharing, having no single process for gaining the consent needed by health professionals, working across multiple NHS trusts and restructuring of services, in particular business support, in Children's Social Care.

An improvement plan has been implemented and dedicated business support is now in post. May 2019 saw an improvement from 5% to 40% of health assessments being completed in the statutory timescales. Moving forward it is anticipated that this improvement will continue.

- 2.2 Adoption Activity; There were 10 children being adopted in April and May 2019. No children who were adopted in these two months were waiting for more than 14 months to be placed with their adoptive families.

- 2.3 The percentage of children who have been visited within statutory timescales has seen a steady overall rise since November 2018, despite a dip in performance in April 2019. Currently we are reporting 93% which is just below the agreed target of 95%.
- 2.4 There has been a rise in the total numbers of Children in Care over these two months. This is caused in part by several large sibling groups that have entered care, but it is also reflective of an increase in new sets of care proceedings over this period of time.
- 2.5 Upheld Complaints
- 2.6 Information about complaints relating to children in care was included in the Performance Report in May 2019 to give the Sub-Committee the opportunity to review this before Children's Services Annual Feedback report for 2018-19 was considered by the Children and Young People Committee on 9 July 2019. The Vice Chairman stated that it would be helpful to see which complaints had been upheld and what measures had been taken to address these issues. Officers undertook to report back at the next meeting.
- 2.7 Nine complaints were upheld during 2018-19. Of these, two complaints were about payments being late due to administrative issues. These issues are now resolved on the electronic system. Two complaints were around communication difficulties and the service has put measures in place to mitigate the risk of this occurring again. One was around a change of worker at a critical point in the young person's care journey. This was upheld due to this change being agreed, but another worker was allocated to the family who was known to them. Four complaints were around financial support or arrangements. All four complaints were upheld as it was found that there were delays in processing the financial applications and administration. The service is currently reviewing and implementing new financial mechanisms for all parts of the service and we are already seeing some positive results. This includes new finance panels and quicker administration processes.

3. ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PRIORITIES

Evaluation of proposals being made

3.1 A good quality of life for everyone

n/a – no proposals being made

3.2 Thriving places for people to live

n/a – no proposals being made

3.3 The best start for Cambridgeshire's children

n/a – no proposals being made

4. SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS

3.1 Resource Implications

n/a

3.2 Procurement/Contractual/Council Contract Procedure Rules Implications

n/a

3.3 Statutory, Legal and Risk Implications

n/a

3.4 Equality and Diversity Implications

n/a

3.5 Engagement and Communications Implications

n/a

3.6 Localism and Local Member Involvement

n/a

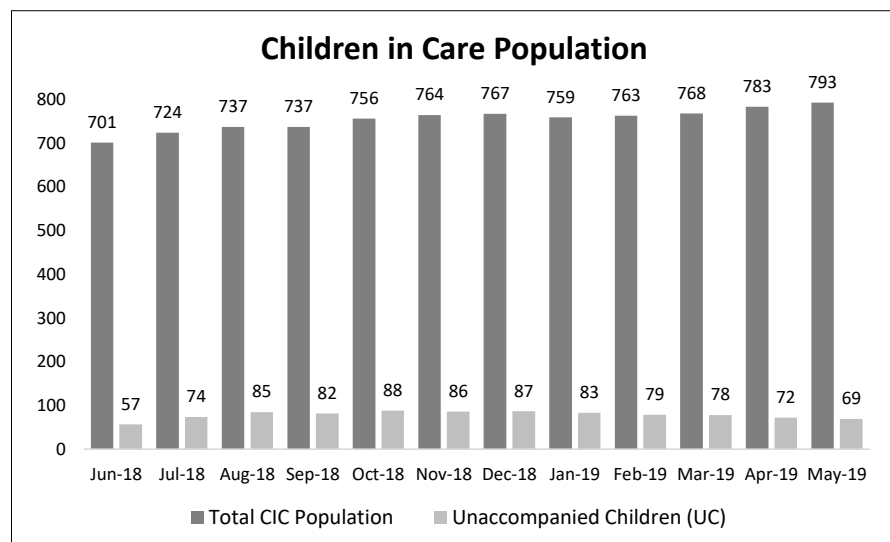
3.7 Public Health Implications

n/a

Source Documents	Location
None	

Children in Care - Population

Children in Care	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Average
Total CIC Population	701	724	737	737	756	764	767	759	763	768	783	793	754
Non-Unaccompanied Children	644	650	652	655	668	678	680	676	684	690	711	724	676
Unaccompanied Children (UC)	57	74	85	82	88	86	87	83	79	78	72	69	78
Unaccompanied Children %	8.1%	10.2%	11.5%	11.1%	11.6%	11.3%	11.3%	10.9%	10.4%	10.2%	9.2%	8.7%	10.4%
Rate per 10,000	53.2	53.0	52.2	53.9	54.9	54.9	56.3	56.8	57.0	56.4	56.7	57.1	55.2



Commentary:

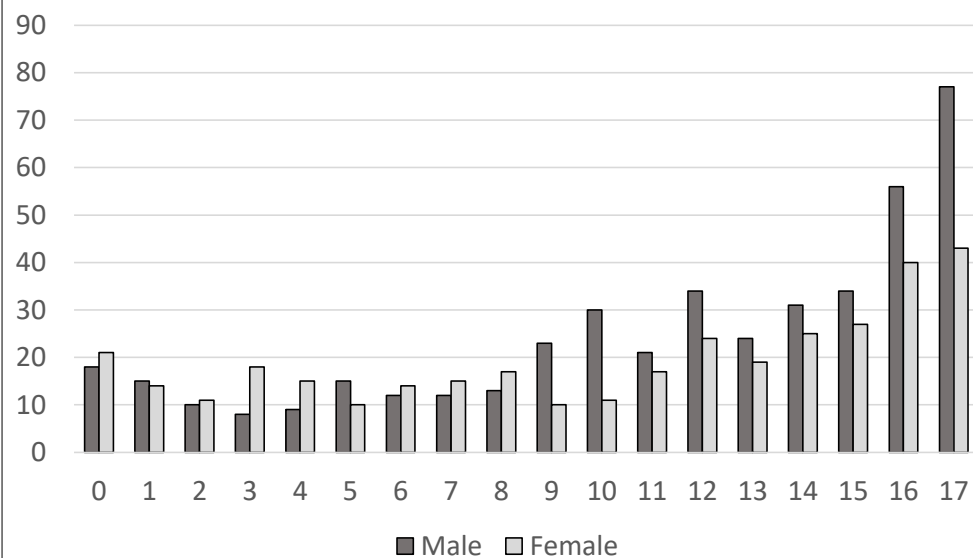
There has been an increase in the number of Children in Care since the last report to the Corporate Parenting Sub Committee. There are 25 more Children in Care. This is reflective of the overall increasing trend over the last 12 months. There are 9 fewer unaccompanied children in care since March 2019, this cohort has seen less significant increases over the last year.

Notes on data and definitions:

- The 'CIC population figure' measures the number of children who are in the care of the local authority at the end of each month.
- A 'UC' is an Unaccompanied Child. A contribution of accommodating UCs is met by the Government.

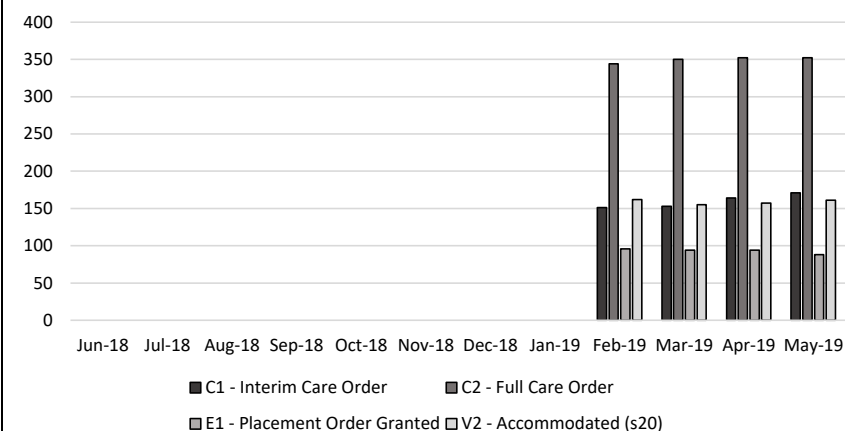
Children in Care - Demographics as at Month End

CIC - Age and Gender

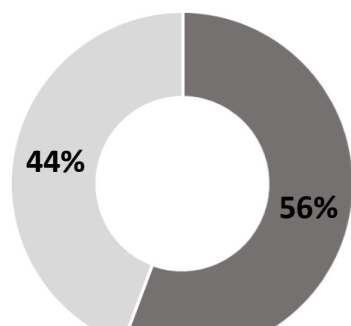


Legal Status

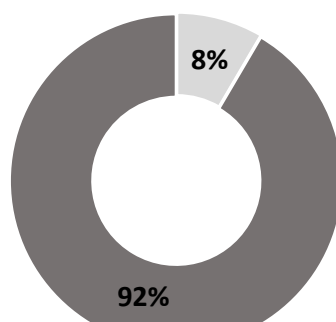
20.3% of children (161) subject to S20 (voluntary accommodation)
21.6% of children (171) subject to an Interim Care Order
44.4% of children (352) subject to a full Care Order
11.1% of children (88) subject to a Placement order



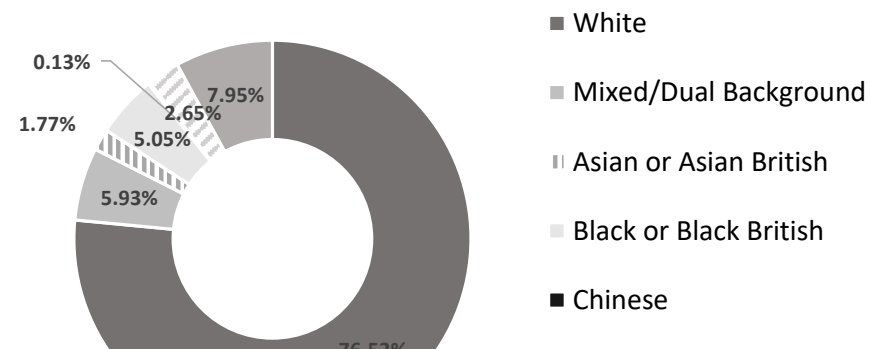
Gender

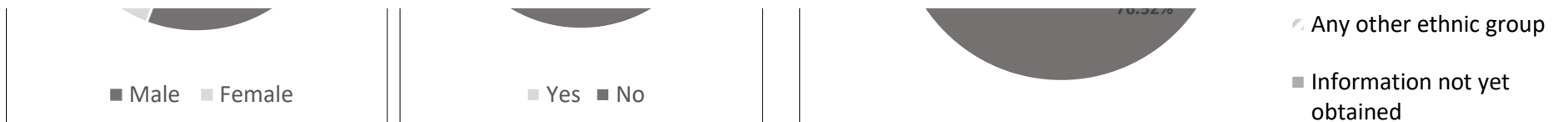


Disability

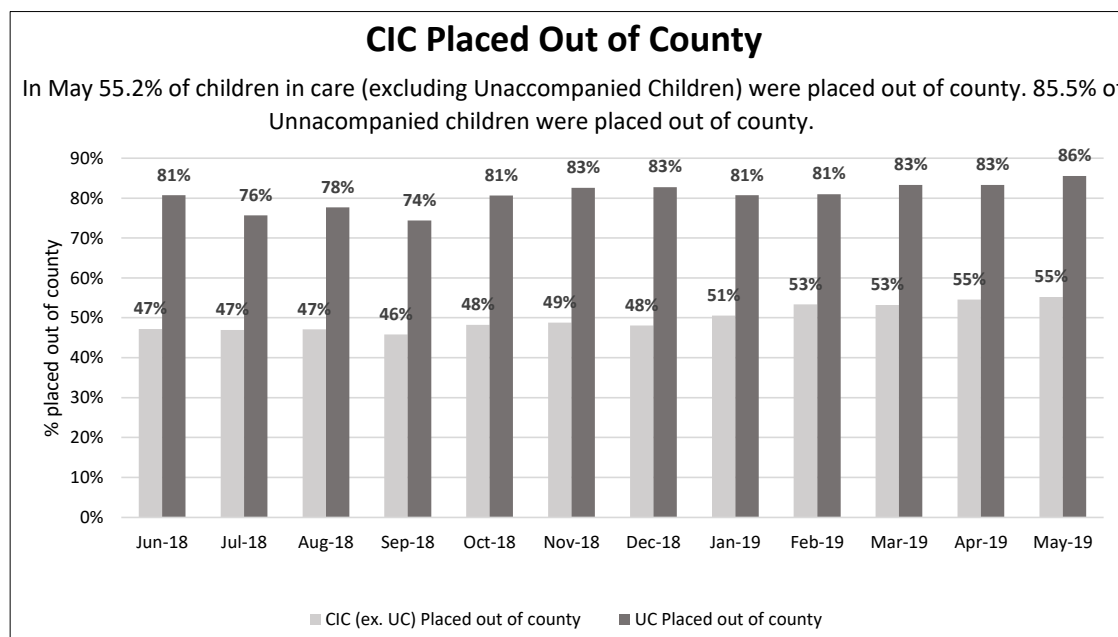
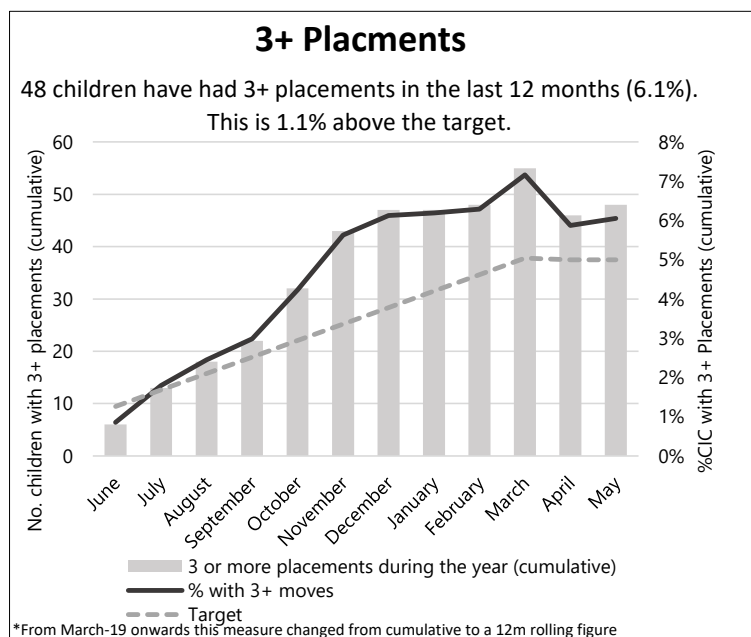


Ethnicity



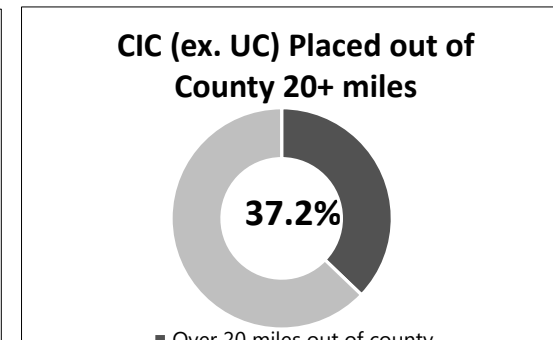
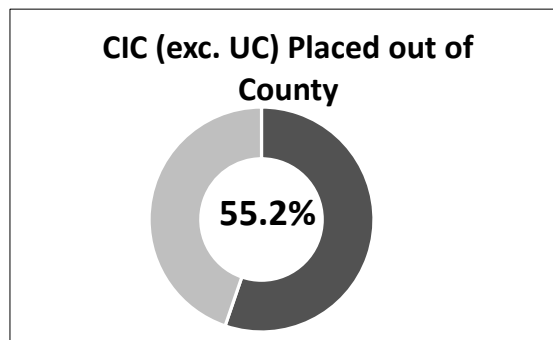


Children in Care - Placements



Commentary:

55% of the Children in Care, excluding unaccompanied children, are living in County whereas 86% of the unaccompanied cohort are living out of County. This high proportion is due in part to the lack of available suitable accommodation in Cambridgeshire but also other areas offer the opportunity for cultural and religious needs to be met. 6% of Cambridgeshire's Children in Care have experienced 3 or more changes in placement and of these 75% are assessed as now living in stable and settled care arrangements.



■ Out of County

■ In County

■ Over 20 miles out of county
■ Under 20 miles out of county

Notes on data and definitions:

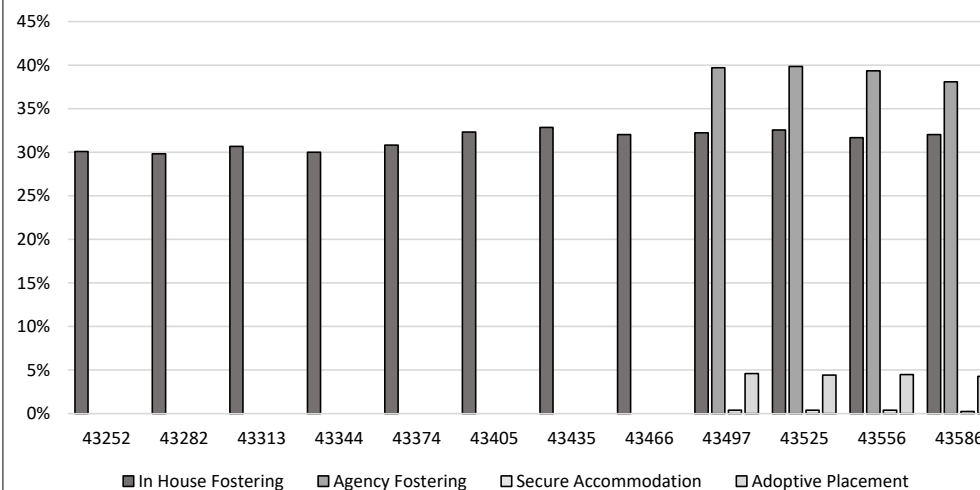
- 'Children in Care placed in county' - Children who have been placed into care within the Cambridgeshire area.
- 'Children in Care placed out of county' measures the number of children we are responsible for, who are placed into care outside of the Cambridgeshire area.
- We also measure those who have been placed into care outside Cambridgeshire, who are 20 miles or more from the home they lived in before they entered care.
- We count separately the number of unaccompanied Children who are placed into care outside Cambridgeshire.
- '3+ placements' is a count of the number of 3 or more placement changes a child in care has had since the start of April (for the current financial year) to fall in line with statutory reporting. This is measured cumulatively. We measure the number of placement changes to understand a child's placement stability whilst in care.

Children in Care - Placement Types at Month End

At the end of May there were the following number of placements of these types:

In House Fostering	32.0% of CIC cohort
Agency Fostering	38.1% of CIC cohort
Secure Accommodation*	0.3% of CIC cohort
Adoptive Placement	4.3% of CIC cohort

**Fostering, Secure Accommodation, Adoptive Placements
by % of total CIC cohort at month end**



Commentary:

10% of children are placed in children's homes. Some children will have disabilities and will require specially adapted settings to meet their needs. 70% of all children live with foster carers, this has fallen by 2% since the last report to Sub- Committee.

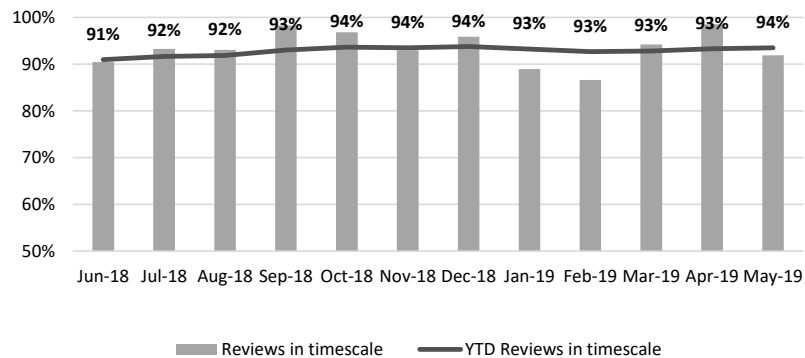
Notes on data and definitions:

*Secure accomodation includes children placed in secure children's homes and young offender's institutions

Children in Care -Visits, Reviews and Health

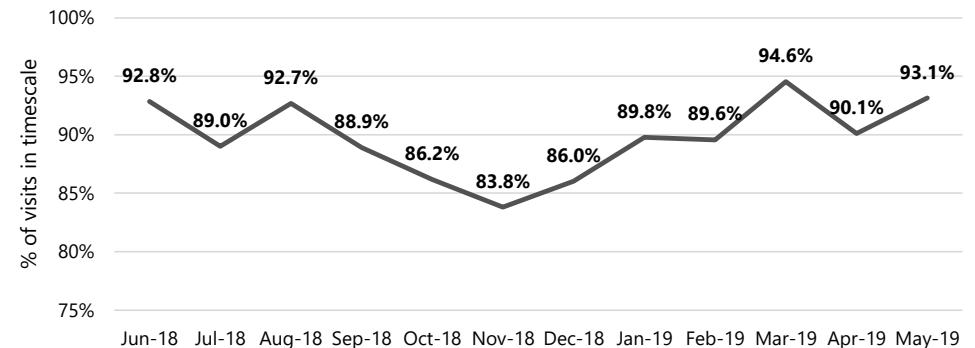
Children in Care Reviews

In May there were 86 reviews completed. 79 of these were in timescale (91.9%). So far this year 93.5% of all reviews due were in timescale.



Children in Care Visits

In May there were 597 visits due or completed. 556 of these were seen (93.1%).



Initial Health Assessments completed in timescale

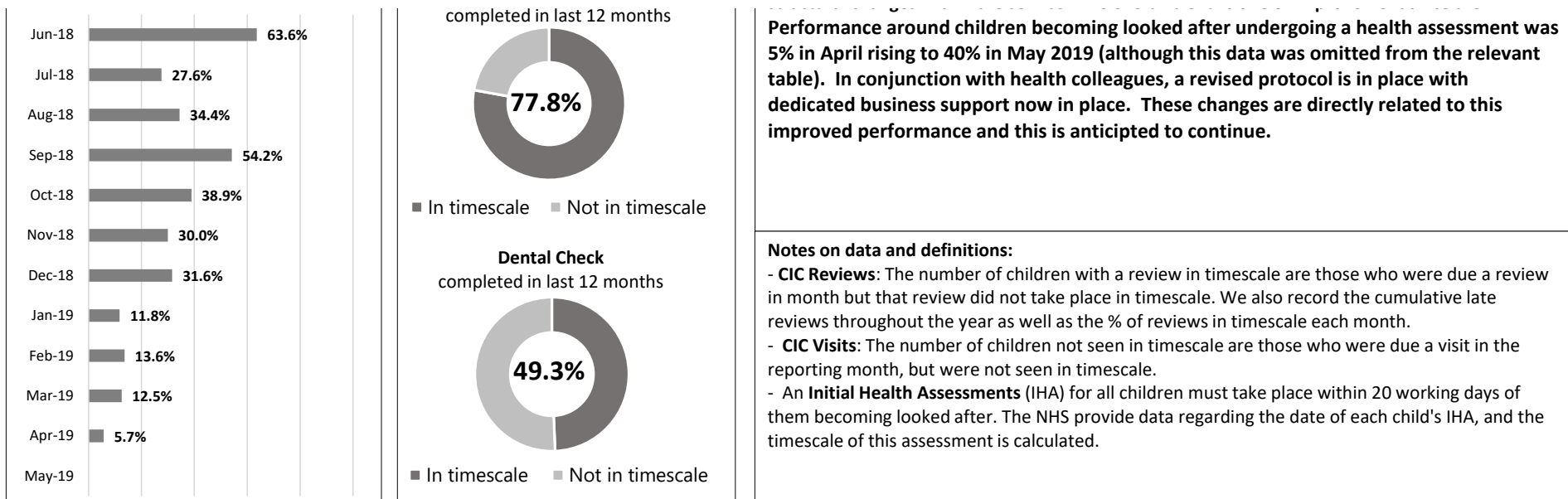
0% 20% 40% 60% 80% 100%

For CIC who have been in care 12

Annual Health Assessment

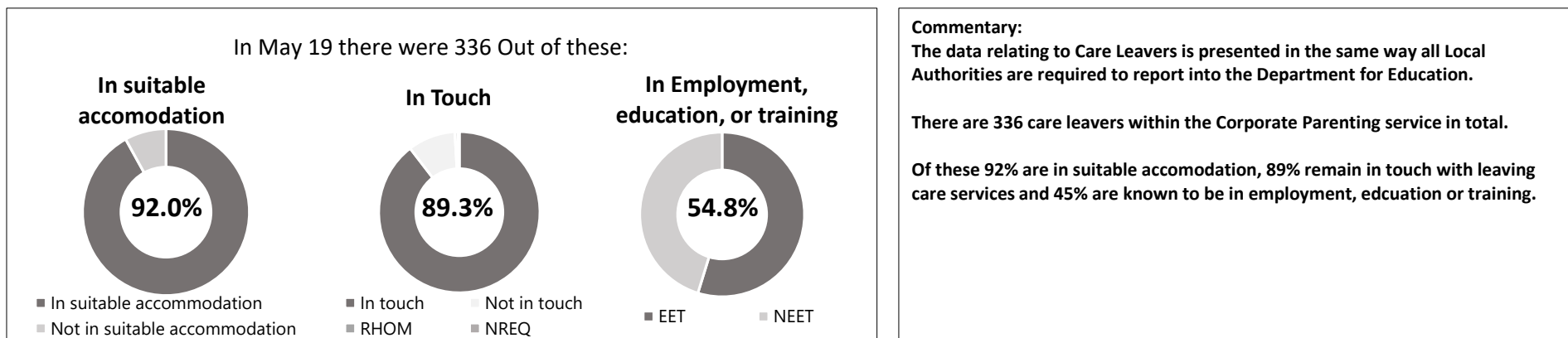
Commentary:

May 2019 saw 93% of our Children in Care being visited in timescale and in accordance with their care plan. The earlier reduction of children visited as noted in November 2018 was linked to structural changes within the service. The overall trend is one of improvement since then.



Children in Care - Education and Care Leavers

Care Leavers



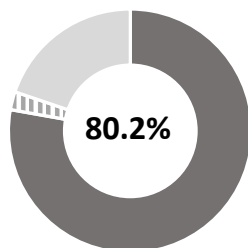
Notes on data and definitions:

- **Suitable Accommodation:** Whether accommodation is deemed 'suitable' is judged on an individual case. The Department for Education judge the following accommodation types as suitable ('Parents or relatives', 'Community home or other form of residential care', 'Semi-independent', 'transitional accommodation', 'Supported lodgings', 'Ordinary lodgings' without formal support, 'Foyers and similar supported accommodation', and 'Independent living').

- **In Touch:** There should be "contact" between the authority and the young person around 3 months before and one month after the Care Leaver's birthday. This is designed to monitor the situation of young people when they have left care, rather than their situation immediately before they left care.

Children in Care (post-16)

In Employment, education, or training



■ In Learning ■ In Employment ■ NEET

Commentary:

The Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) figures for both Children in Care Post 16 and Care Leavers have increased slightly. Unfortunately it can be difficult to find alternative opportunities for our care leavers until September, due to being in the summer term and also depending on where they live.

Notes on data and definitions:

- Measures of the percentage of children Post 16 who are in Learning, In Employment or NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training)

Children in Care - Adoption

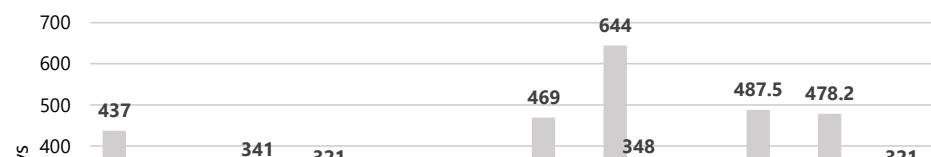
Adoptions in Month

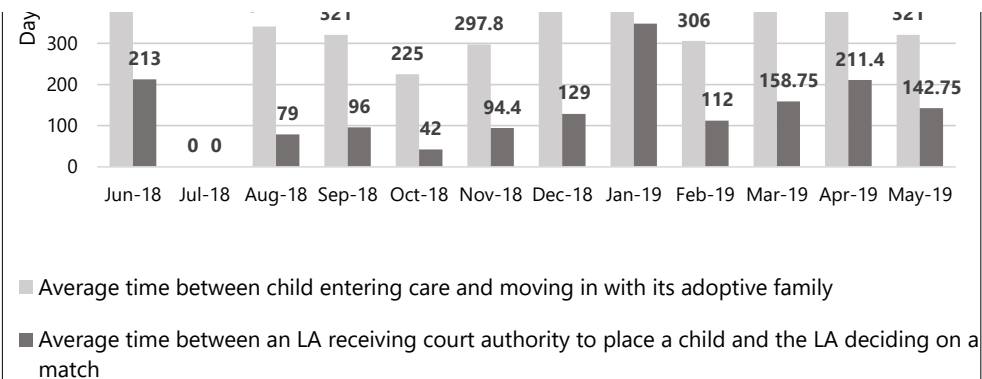
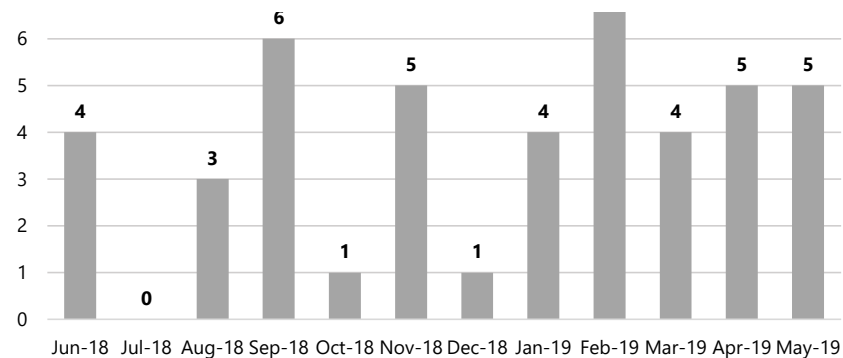
In May there were 5 children adopted (27.8% of CLA).



Adoption Timescales

In May 100.0% of the children adopted waited less than 14 months between entering care and moving in with their adoptive family.





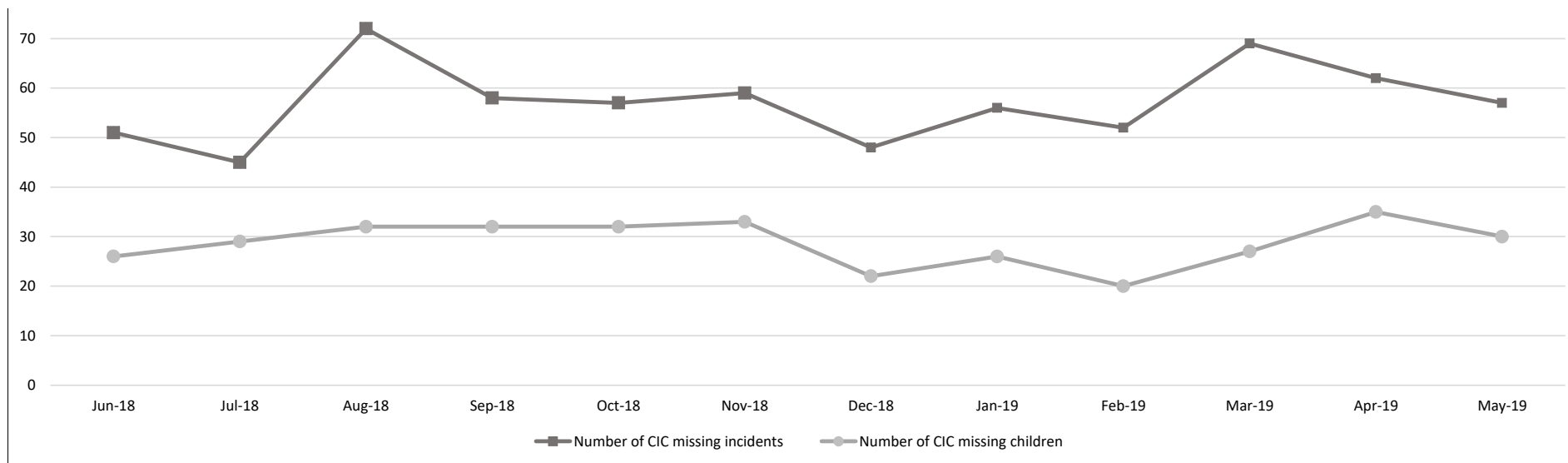
Commentary:

Every child adopted in April & May 2019 was placed with their adoptive family in less than 14 months from entering care. During these months a total of 10 children were adopted.

Children in Care - Missing

CiC - Missing	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Average
Number of CiC missing incidents	51	45	72	58	57	59	48	56	52	69	62	57	57.2
Number of CiC missing children	26	29	32	32	32	33	22	26	20	27	35	30	28.5

Missing incidents and missing children



Commentary:

The total number of missing children and missing incidents has decreased since April 2019 but has remaining relatively consistent over the last 12 months. There is a multi-agency network around missing children who work hard together to identify and support this extremely vulnerable cohort and an escalation in safeguarding activity involving joint working with police has taken place.

Notes on data and definitions:

- Each episode of a child going missing is recorded as a missing incident.
- A child who goes missing during the month will be recorded as a missing child only once, but if they go missing multiple times then they generate more than one missing incident during the month.

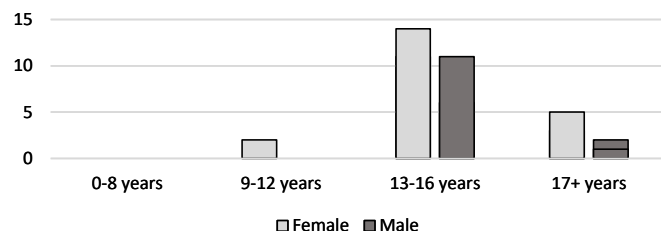
Child Sexual Exploitation and Gang Exploitation for CIC

Child Sexual Exploitation

Child Sexual Exploitation - CIC by gender

In May there were 33 CIC who were identified as at mild/emerging, moderate & significant risk of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE).

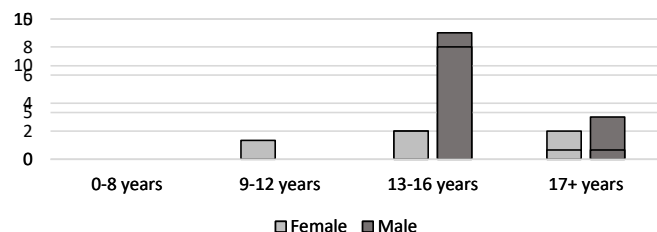
CIC CSE by Age & Gender



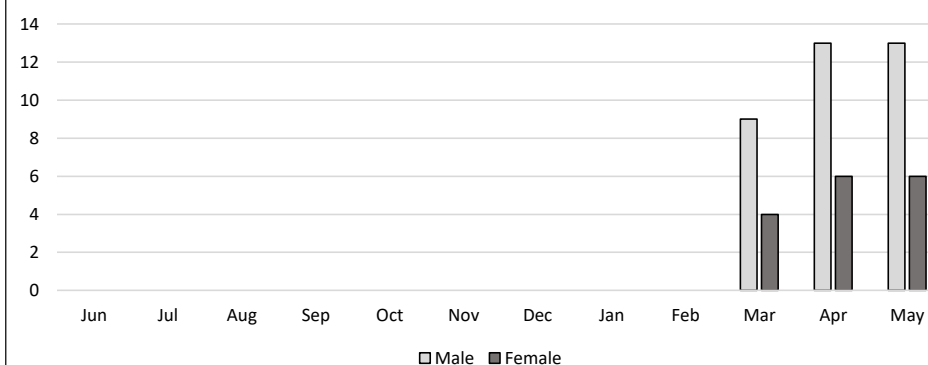
Gang Exploitation

In May there were 19 CIC who were identified as at mild/emerging, moderate & significant risk of gang exploitation.

CIC Gang exploitation by Age & Gender



Gang Exploitation - CIC by gender



Commentary:

April and May 2019 have seen an increase in both gang and sexual exploitation. This increase in reported concerns is likely due to increased professional focus on these areas of risk. Girls appear to be twice as likely of sexual exploitation and the reverse is true with regards to gang activity.

Notes on data and definitions:

- As part of a child's assessment, practitioners assess a child or young person's level of risk of child sexual exploitation (CSE). CSE is defined as children under 18 in exploitative situations, contexts or relationships where they receive 'something' (e.g. food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, affection, gifts, money) as a result of them performing, and/or another or others performing on them, sexual activities.
- As part of a child's assessment, practitioners assess a child or young person's level of risk of gang exploitation. The definition of being at risk of gang-related exploitation is - 'There are tangible indicators/evidence that suggests risks that a young person is being groomed and/or coerced into moving or selling drugs and being involved in other violence related gang activity, e.g. missing episodes with limited information on whereabouts and/or involvement with groups involved in the supply of drugs and carrying of weapons'.

**CHILDREN IN CARE/CARE LEAVERS NEET REDUCTION STRATEGY ACTION PLAN
2019-20**

To: **Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee**

Meeting Date: **17 July 2019**

From: **Mark Cowdell
Countywide NEET Manager**

Electoral division(s): **All**

Purpose: **To provide the Committee with an update on progress towards reducing the number of young people Not in Education Employment and Training (NEET)**

Recommendation: **The Committee is asked to note and comment on the report.**

<i>Officer contact:</i>		<i>Member contact:</i>	
Name:	Mark Cowdell	Names:	Councillor Lis Every
Post:	Countywide NEET Manager	Role:	Chairman, Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee
Email:	Mark.cowdell@cambridgeshire.gov.uk	Email:	Lis.Every@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
Tel:	01223 507218	Tel:	(office) 01223 706398

Summary:

The council wants to make sure that children in care and care leavers are able to get as much help as possible to stay in education or get a job.

One way of making sure this happens is by having a written document that says how the Council will help young people so everyone knows what they should do to help.

There is an overall Not in Education, Employment and Training (NEET) Reduction Strategy for the County which is being finalised and this document is one of the action plans that sits under this strategy.

Staff in the council have met recently to make sure this document is up to date.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 1.1 The numbers of young people in education, employment and training (EET) is a key positive outcome measure for children in care and care leavers so measurement of those in EET and those not in education, employment and training (NEET) is carefully monitored.
- 1.2 A NEET reduction strategy was developed in 2015 to sit underneath the Corporate Parenting Strategy: Outcome Area 2 – ‘Care Leavers successfully gain employment’.
- 1.3 It was then decided in 2018 to develop an overall Cambridgeshire NEET Reduction Strategy which encompasses information about all the key performance indicators around Raising Participation Age and NEET reporting. It was also decided that there would be four action plans that sit underneath this strategy to outline the work that would be done. One of these action plans was specifically for Children in Care and Care Leavers
- 1.4 This report is regarding the updated action plan for 2019-20 (draft attached at **Appendix 1**).

2. MAIN ISSUES

- 2.1 The current NEET figure for care leavers aged 16 to 21 is 38.1% (157 young people). We do not have figures for the general 16-21 Cambridgeshire cohort available as a direct comparison, but we do capture the 16-18 Cambridgeshire cohort and the current NEET result for this group is 2.8% plus 0.6% of not knowns. This gives a total figure of 3.4% for NEET and Not Known which is

the Department for Education key performance indicator for Raising Participation Age. Within this overall performance figure, more specific detail about the reasons for young people's NEET status is kept and monitored.

2.2 The strategy details six areas of focus:

- Support Pre-16 young people to get offers of learning and make successful transitions into post 16 provision.
- Support post-16 young people to ensure that they sustain placements in post 16 provision or reengage into post 16 provision.
- Ensure the right support is provided to young people with SEND.
- Identify and Develop more provision to meet the needs for post 16 young people
- Support young people to make successful transition to employment and develop links with JCP to ensure claiming suitable benefits
- Improve data performance/Quality Assurance/Workforce Development

2.3 The strategy has an emphasis on cross-directorate working and ensuring good corporate parenting principles in regards to encouraging further education, training and employment opportunities. This includes consideration of wider issues such as accommodation and travel which may act as barriers to engagement in education employment and training.

3. ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PRIORITIES

3.1 A good quality of life for everyone

There are no significant implications for this priority.

3.2 Thriving places for people to live

There are no significant implications for this priority.

3.3 The best start for Cambridgeshire's children

The following bullet points set out details of implications identified by officers:

- This action plan is to reduce the number of young people in care and care leavers that are NEET (not in education, employment or training).
- Research has shown that young people being engaged in education, training and employment will improve self esteem, self confidence and reduce other vulnerabilities such as risk of offending.

4. SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS

3.1 Resource Implications

There are no additional resource implications from the strategy

3.2 Procurement/Contractual/Council Contract Procedure Rules Implications

None

3.3 Statutory, Legal and Risk Implications

NEET performance is a key indicator of care leaver performance and is taken into account by Ofsted in their inspection of services for care leavers.

3.4 Equality and Diversity Implications

None

3.5 Engagement and Communications Implications

None

3.6 Localism and Local Member Involvement

N/A.

3.7 Public Health Implications

None

Source Documents	Location
None	.

Leaving Care NEET Reduction Action Plan 2019-20

This action plan sits within the NEET Reduction strategy for Cambridgeshire County Council

The overarching aim of this action plan is:

“Every young person in Care/Care Leaver is provided with the support to find and access Education, Employment or Training that is appropriate to their needs”

This action plan has 6 areas to help achieve the relevant outcomes, they are:

- Support Pre-16 young people to get offers of learning and make successful transitions into post 16 provision.
- Support post-16 young people to ensure that they sustain post 16 provision and achieve their qualifications or reengage into post 16 provision.
- Ensure the right support is provided to young people with SEND.
- Identify and Develop more provision to meet the needs for post 16 young people (including those with mental health needs)
- Support young people to make successful transition to employment and develop links with DWP to ensure claiming suitable benefits
- Improve data performance/Quality Assurance/Workforce Development

Successful outcomes for this action plan will mean that young people in Care and Care Leavers will:

- Feel supported to find the most appropriate education and/or training to ultimately find employment.
- More young people in Care or Care leavers will be in Education, Employment or Training.
- There will be seamless transition support from leaving school into post 16 education or training. The Virtual School Post 16 co-ordinators, EET providers, social workers and personal advisors will ensure there are clear plans which are reviewed regularly with young people.
- Young people in Care and Care leavers will know where they can access support regarding Benefits or find employment.
- Young people in Care and Care leavers who require support will be identified sooner and offered the right kind of support to find education, employment or training.
- Young people in Care and Care Leavers will sustain their care placements and we will minimise placement moves in the middle of academic year.
- More Care leavers will complete degree level courses and be supported to make a successful transition to university

Support Pre-16 young people to get offers of learning and make successful transitions into post 16 provision

<u>Aim</u> To ensure all young people in Care have all the support necessary to make a smooth transition from Education to Further Education or Training at age 16.				
<u>Action</u>	<u>Lead Officer</u>	<u>Timescale</u>	<u>How do we know if successful?</u>	<u>Comments on Progress</u>
1.1 The Virtual school and corporate parenting to carry out an aspiration audit of year 9s to identify their long term career goals	Mellisa Horn Rebecca McCallum	Dec 2020	Information is collated and analysed and we will use the information to help us target our services and support in the best way.	
1.2 The Virtual School to ensure there is appropriate IAG (Information, Advice and Guidance) and support in place for all young people making transition to post 16. This should start in Year 10. This will be monitored through Virtual School ePEP data and the September Guarantee.	Claire Hiorns	June 2020	All year 11 students report that have had suitable IAG appointment, either by school representative or by someone from Local Authority. NB: Is it possible to report on this via ePEP reporting?	
1.3 Every young person in Care will have an identified "Key worker" to support them through the transition from pre-16 Education to Post 16 Further Education identified through the Year 11 PEP Reviews. (This could be Senior Transition Adviser, Foster Carer, Careers Adviser in School)	Claire Hiorns	June 2020	All year 11 students know who their key worker is. NB: Is it possible to report on this via ePEP reporting?	

1.4 Where appropriate, the virtual school to advise Designated teachers in schools to complete a Senior Transition Adviser (STA) Criteria Form for support from District team. This should happen by December in Year 11.	Claire Hiorns	June 2020	In county year 11 young people who are identified as at risk of becoming NEET by Virtual School are referred to Early Help District teams.	
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Support post-16 young people to ensure that they sustain placements in post 16 provision or reengage into post 16 provision.

<u>Aim</u> To ensure that all young people in Care and Care Leavers have access to the right support when they have made the transition into further education, Higher Education or training to stay engaged in further education, higher education or training in order that they have better chances of employment and moving onto adulthood.				
<u>Action</u>	<u>Lead Officer</u>	<u>Timescale to be in place</u>	<u>How do we know if successful?</u>	<u>Comments on progress/On Track RAG</u>
2.1 Ensure that EET support needs are identified within the Pathway Plan and are discussed within the Pathway Planning meetings. This will be monitored through Pathway Plan Audits	Kerry Seymour/Peter Goddard	June 2020	All pathway plans that are subject to audit are assessed as being Good.	
2.2 Identification of those young people in care that are NEET or at risk of leaving their post 16 provision.	Claire Hiorns/Kerry Seymour/Pete Goddard	June 2020	All NEET young people who are considered able to engage in Employment or	

			Training are referred for specialised support.	
2.3 With the transport team, review Education Transport processes and policies to ensure children in care and care leavers vulnerabilities and needs are met	Mark Cowdell	June 2020	Young people whether in Care or Care leavers are able to receive appropriate support to attend school, college or Apprenticeships	
2.4 To further develop the support for care leavers going to university.	Rebecca McCallum/NNECL network	June 2020	More young people complete their degree courses	

Ensure the right support is provided to young people with SEND.

<u>Aim</u> To ensure that there are links between Corporate Parenting teams and SEND service to ensure that those young people with SEND have the right support for them to be able to engage in suitable education, training or employment.				
<u>Action</u>	<u>Lead Officer</u>	<u>Timescale</u>	<u>How do we know if successful?</u>	<u>Comments on Progress</u>
3.1 Complete data analysis to identify how many young people in Care/Care leavers have a current EHCP.	Mark Cowdell	October 2019	Understand the percentage of young people who are in care/care leavers have current EHCP and therefore understand better around what other services may be involved.	
3.2 Develop upon existing links between PA/SW in corporate teams and the SEND service, specifically the Statutory Assessment	Rebecca McCallum	June 2020	PA/SW know who to contact within the SEND service regarding young	

Team and 14-25 Preparing for Adulthood Additional Needs Team.			people that they are supporting.	
3.3 Develop processes to ensure that young people with SEND who are NEET are reviewed to identify the right support is being provided to find them suitable EET.	Sasha Long	June 2020	Feel confident that all young people in care/care leavers who have SEND are being provided the right support to move into Education, Employment or Training.	

Identify and Develop more provision to meet the needs for post 16 young people

<u>Aim</u> To identify and develop new provision that meets the needs of young people in care and care leavers who have left statutory education. This may include developing in-house provision with Early Help District teams or working in partnership with other organisations.				
<u>Action</u>	<u>Lead Officer</u>	<u>Timescale</u>	<u>How do we know if successful?</u>	<u>Comments on Progress</u>
4.1 Develop and maintain links with internal and external partners to develop the range of further education training provision to meet the needs of young people. Including links provided by the Children in Care	Rebecca McCallum/Mark Cowdell/Robert Froude-Break/	June 2020	There is more provision available to meet the needs of vulnerable young people and NEET % will therefore reduce.	

Participation Service and Break.	Claire Betteridge			
4.2 PA for the local offer to work with other directorates of the county council to identify opportunities for our care leavers	PA for the Local offer	June 2020	Employment or training opportunities are identified within the county council for care leavers.	
4.3 Develop links with Adult learning and skills to look at what provisions can be developed that could meet the needs of vulnerable young people including young people in care/care leavers.	Mark Cowdell	June 2020	There is more provision available to meet the needs of vulnerable young people and NEET % will therefore reduce	

Support young people to make successful transition to employment and develop links with DWP to ensure claiming suitable benefits

<u>Aim</u> To ensure that all young people in care and care leavers are provided the right support to make a successful transition into the right employment and develop links with Job Centre Plus to share information to ensure care leavers are claiming the right benefits at the right time.				
<u>Action</u>	<u>Lead Officer</u>	<u>Timescale</u>	<u>How do we know if successful?</u>	<u>Comments on Progress</u>

5.1	A review to be done with Semi Independent housing providers and the contracts for these providers to ensure there is a consistent rate paid by all LAC young people/care leavers and young people who find work or apprenticeships are not detrimentally affected.	Kate Knight	June 2020	All young people pay a consistent rate for living in semi-independent housing and are not demotivated to find work because of increased rent.	
5.2	Continued liaison and partnership working with DWP Representative to quickly resolve issues around claiming benefits for Care leavers.	Rebecca McCallum	June 2020	Processes are in place to escalate issues around benefits for Care leavers	
5.3	Develop a Business Mentor Programme to match care leavers who could benefit from the support of mentor to help with reach their career goals.	Rebecca McCallum/CRC/Break/Local offer PA.	June 2020	Identified care leavers have support from a business professional	
5.4	To further develop the support for care leavers going to university.	Rebecca McCallum/NNECL network	June 2020	More young people complete their degree courses	

Improve data performance/Quality Assurance/Workforce Development

Aim

To review the data that is used for Children in Care/Leaving Care young people EET status and ensure that we are producing reports that are useful for sharing with partner agencies and senior managers to be used to make decisions on how to improve performance. To ensure the workforce are suitably trained and knowledgeable to support our young people in Care and care leavers into suitable education, employment or training.

<u>Action</u>	<u>Lead Officer</u>	<u>Timescale</u>	<u>How do we know if successful?</u>	<u>Comments on Progress</u>
6.1 Review and investigate whether a process can be identified for NEET Reduction meetings to review the support provided to all NEET young people in Care/Care leavers and to check that data recording is correct.	Kerry Seymour/ Mark Cowdell	June 2020	All Young people in Care/Care Leavers who are NEET are reviewed at least every month to ensure that recorded correctly and right support is in place.	
6.2 Develop a working group to review the data recording guidance and processes for young people in care/care leavers. Taking into consideration the new Liquid Logic system and how this will be recorded in this system.	Kate Knight	November 2019	An identified process has been developed and is being followed by all teams that support young people in care & Care leavers.	
6.3 Development of ongoing training to Personal Advisers and Social Workers around all aspects of supporting young people back into EET.	Kerry Seymour/ Peter Goddard	June 2020	All PA/SW feel confident to support young people to make benefit claims and support into Education/Training or Employment.	

DRAFT

Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee Workshop and Training Plan 2017/18

Summary

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/ Success Measures	Priority	Date	Responsibility	Nature of Training	Audience	Attendance by:	% of Elected Members Attending
1.	We are all Corporate Parents	To discuss councillors' role and responsibilities as Corporate Parents.	High	12.01.18	<i>Fiona MacKirdy, Head of County Wide and Looked After Children</i>	Seminar	All county councillors	Cllr Bradnam Cllr Costello Cllr Cuffley Cllr Every Cllr Hay Cllr Joseph Cllr Whitehead (only members and subs of CPSC shown)	80%
2.	Looked After Children and Care Leavers	To brief Members on all areas of the Council's work in relation to looked after children and care leavers	High	11.04.18	<i>Jacqui Barry, Service Development Manager, District Safeguarding Manager</i>	Presentation and discussion	Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee members	Cllr Every Cllr Hay Cllr Bradnam Cllr Richards Cllr Cuffley	80%
3.	Safeguarding training and visit to the Multi-	To refresh and update Members'	High	11.04.18	<i>Lou Williams, Service Director</i>	Presentation, tour of	Children and Young People	Cllr Every Cllr Hay	60%

	Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)	safeguarding training and offer them the chance to see first-hand the work being done at the MASH.			<i>Jenny Goodes, Head of Service – Integrated Front Door</i>	facilities and discussions with staff	Committee and Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee members and substitute members	Cllr Bradnam Cllr Cuffley	
4.	Corporate Parenting Strategy refresh	To discuss corporate parenting strategies going forward.	High	12.06.18	Jacqui Barry	Workshop	Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee members	Cllr Every Cllr Hay	40%
5.	Fostering	To meet Service Managers and discuss current practice and future developments.	Medium	24.07.18 17.04.19	John Heron, Residential and Placements Provision Manager	Presentation/ workshop	Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee members	Cllr Every Cllr Bradnam Cllr Richards	60%
6.	Mental Health	To include developmental trauma and mental health, parent infant mental health, school aged children, adolescence and mental health and resilience	High	22.01.19	Pam Parker, Clinical Psychology Lead	Presentation and Workshop	Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee members	Cllrs Bradnam, Costello and Every	60%
7.	The Local Offer for Care Leavers/ Access to Universal Credit and benefits for care leavers	To brief Members on the Local Offer and benefits available to care leavers	Medium	14.06.19	Kate Knight, Lead Corporate Parenting Manager/ DWP officers	Members' Seminar	All Members	Cllrs Ashwood, Bailey, Boden, Bradnam, Bywater, Costello, Count, Criswell,	80%

								Every, French, Gowing, Hay, Hunt, Rogers, Sanderson, Wotherspoon	
8.	Developments in Children and Safeguarding Services – Family Safeguarding	To brief Members on service developments and provide an overview of District Safeguarding work	High	TBC					
9.	Permanence planning for children	To brief Members on the importance of permanence planning for children and the different types of arrangements including concurrency	High	TBC	Kate Knight Lead Corporate Parenting manager/Julie Ann Saunders				
10.	Accommodation provisions for Children in Care and Care leavers	To brief Members on the variety of provisions available for Children in Care and Care Leavers	Medium	TBC	Access to Resources TBC				
11.	The Role of the Personal Advisor and update on the Local Offer	To brief Members of the role of the Personal Advisors and specialist PA roles in the context of the Local offer and opportunity to meet with PA's	Medium	TBC	Kate Knight lead Corporate Parenting Manager				

CORPORATE PARENTING SUB-COMMITTEE FORWARD AGENDA PLAN

Published 8 July 2019

Agenda Item No:8

Summary

The Forward Agenda Plan shows the dates and times of future meetings, where they will be held and what reports will be considered.

Committee date	Agenda item	Lead officer	Reference if key decision	Deadline for draft reports to Sarah-Jane Smedmor	Approved reports to Democratic Services by
Wednesday 17 July 2019 – 4.00pm – Room 128, Shire Hall, Cambridge					
	Change in Membership	Democratic Services	Not applicable		
	Minutes and Action Log	Democratic Services	Not applicable		
	Performance Report (standing item)	A O'Reilly	Not applicable		
	Sub-Committee Workshop/ Training Plan (standing item)	A O'Reilly	Not applicable		
	Young People's Participation (standing item)	C Betteridge	Not applicable		

Committee date	Agenda item	Lead officer	Reference if key decision	Deadline for draft reports to Sarah-Jane Smedmor	Approved reports to Democratic Services by
	Refreshed NEET Strategy: Reducing the number of Children in Care who are Not in Education, Employment or Training	M Cowdell	Not applicable		
	Agenda Plan	Democratic Services	Not applicable		
Wednesday 18 September 2019 – 4.00pm – venue tbc					
	Minutes and Action Log	Democratic Services	Not applicable		
	Virtual School <i>(Standing item)</i>	C Hiorns	Not applicable		
	Performance Report <i>(standing item)</i>	A O'Reilly	Not applicable		
	Corporate Parenting Annual Report	S-J Smedmor/ F van den Hout	Not applicable		
	Sub-Committee Workshop/ Training Plan <i>(standing item)</i>	A O'Reilly	Not applicable		
	Young People's Participation <i>(standing item)</i>	C Betteridge	Not applicable		
	Workforce Development <i>(quarterly standing item)</i>	S-J Smedmor	Not applicable		
	A Guide to Corporate Parenting for Members	F van den Hout	Not applicable		
	Annual Adoption report	S Byatt	Not applicable		

Committee date	Agenda item	Lead officer	Reference if key decision	Deadline for draft reports to Sarah-Jane Smedmor	Approved reports to Democratic Services by
	Children in Care - Emotional Health and Wellbeing: Six Month Update report	P Parker	Not applicable		
	Independent Review Officers' Annual Report: April 2018-March 2019	Olly Grant	Not applicable		
	Agenda Plan	Democratic Services	Not applicable		
Wednesday 20 November 2019 – 4.00pm – venue tbc					
	Minutes and Action Log	Democratic Services	Not applicable		
	Virtual School (<i>Standing item</i>) 1. <i>Unvalidated exam results</i>	C Hiorns	Not applicable		
	Performance Report (<i>standing item</i>)	A O'Reilly	Not applicable		
	Sub-Committee Workshop/ Training Plan (<i>standing item</i>)	A O'Reilly	Not applicable		
	Young People's Participation (<i>standing item</i>)	C Betteridge	Not applicable		
	Fostering Service Update	J Heron	Not applicable		
	Update on the Local Offer (<i>bi-meeting update</i>)	K Knight	Not applicable		

Committee date	Agenda item	Lead officer	Reference if key decision	Deadline for draft reports to Sarah-Jane Smedmor	Approved reports to Democratic Services by
	Agenda Plan	Democratic Services	Not applicable		
Wednesday 15 January 2020 – 4.00pm – venue tbc					
	Minutes and Action Log	Democratic Services	Not applicable		
	Virtual School (<i>Standing item</i>) <i>i. Validated exam results (if available)</i>	C Hiorns	Not applicable		
	Performance Report (<i>standing item</i>)	A O'Reilly	Not applicable		
	Sub-Committee Workshop/ Training Plan (<i>standing item</i>)	A O'Reilly	Not applicable		
	Young People's Participation (<i>standing item</i>)	C Betteridge	Not applicable		
	Workforce Development (<i>quarterly standing item</i>)	S-J Smedmor	Not applicable		
	Child and Adolescent Mental Health issues for Cambridgeshire's Children in Care: Update (bi-meeting update)	P Parker	Not applicable		
	Agenda Plan	Democratic Services	Not applicable		

Committee date	Agenda item	Lead officer	Reference if key decision	Deadline for draft reports to Sarah-Jane Smedmor	Approved reports to Democratic Services by
Wednesday 25 March 2020 – 4.00pm – venue tbc					
	Minutes and Action Log	Democratic Services	Not applicable		
	Virtual School (<i>Standing item</i>)	C Hiorns	Not applicable		
	Performance Report (<i>standing item</i>)	A O'Reilly	Not applicable		
	Sub-Committee Workshop/ Training Plan (<i>standing item</i>)	A O'Reilly	Not applicable		
	Young People's Participation (<i>standing item</i>)	C Betteridge	Not applicable		
	Agenda Plan	Democratic Services	Not applicable		
Wednesday 20 May 2020 – 4.00pm – venue tbc					
	Notification of the Chair and Vice Chair for the Municipal Year 2020/21				
	Minutes and Action Log	Democratic Services	Not applicable		
	Virtual School (<i>Standing item</i>)	C Hiorns	Not applicable		
	Performance Report (<i>standing item</i>)	A O'Reilly	Not applicable		

Committee date	Agenda item	Lead officer	Reference if key decision	Deadline for draft reports to Sarah-Jane Smedmor	Approved reports to Democratic Services by
	Sub-Committee Workshop/ Training Plan (standing item)	A O'Reilly	Not applicable		
	Young People's Participation (standing item)	C Betteridge	Not applicable		
	Workforce Development (quarterly standing item)	S-J Smedmor	Not applicable		
	Child and Adolescent Mental Health issues for Cambridgeshire's Children in Care: Update (bi-meeting update)	P Parker	Not applicable		
	Agenda Plan	Democratic Services	Not applicable		