

CORPORATE PARENTING SUB-COMMITTEE PERFORMANCE REPORT

To: **Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee**

Meeting Date: **21st November 2018**

From: **Fiona Van Den Hout
Head of Corporate Parenting**

Electoral division(s): **All**

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

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

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Summary:

- As of 31 August 2018, 737 looked after children are supported by the Council
- 58% of looked after children are male, 42% are female
- 8% have a diagnosed disability
- At the end of August 47.1% of children (excluding unaccompanied children) were living out of County and of that 47%, 36.2% were placed more than 20 miles over Cambridgeshire borders
- 77.6% of unaccompanied asylum seeking young people are living out of county
- The proportion of looked after children being visited within the statutory timescales is 92.7% in August which is an improvement from July (89%)
- The number of looked after children reported as going missing has fluctuated in this period (20 in June compared to 17 in July and 25 in August)
- In August there were 220 fostering placements being provided by local authority foster carers, 38 children on Short Breaks (temporary care to support their main placement) and 10 young people are living with foster carers beyond their 18th birthday under Staying Put Arrangements.
- There were 3 children were adopted in this reporting period all in August.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 This report provides the sub-committee with an overview of performance of services for Looked After Children and Care Leavers for July and August 2018. The full performance report can be found in Appendix A.

2. MAIN ISSUES

- 2.1 There has been an increase in the number of looked after children that Cambridgeshire is Corporate Parent for since the last report – to 54.9 per 10,000.
- 2.2 We have 47.1% of children and young people (excluding unaccompanied children) out of in-county. 77.6% of unaccompanied asylum seeking young people are placed out of county and the majority of their placements are located in Peterborough, where their cultural needs are appropriately met. However due to resource availability some are being placed further afield.
- 2.3 The proportion of looked after children being visited within the statutory timescales has risen but does fluctuate between 89 and 92.7%, and this continues to be monitored closely.

- 2.4 In July and August, 60 children and young people became looked after and 31 children and young people ceased to be looked after.
- 2.5 Performance around newly looked after children having their health assessments within 20 days of becoming looked after improved in August 35% after a drop to 33% in July. Arranging assessments for children who are out of county is a significant issue.
- 2.6 The incidents of looked after children going missing was reported as being 17 children in July (30 incidents) and 25 in August (40 incidents).

There is a multi-agency approach to missing incidents and supporting children and young people to tell their story. The children and young people are monitored individually and patterns are examined to identify individuals and locations of concern and to plan intervention to break dangerous cycles.

3. SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS

3.1 Resource Implications

3.2 Procurement/Contractual/Council Contract Procedure Rules Implications

None.

3.3 Statutory, Legal and Risk Implications

None

3.4 Equality and Diversity Implications

None

3.5 Engagement and Communications Implications

None

3.6 Localism and Local Member Involvement

None

3.7 Public Health Implications

None

Source Documents	Location
Children's Service Performance Dashboard. Appendix A - Corporate Parenting Dashboard	Hannah Parkinson Senior Analyst Business Intelligence Cambridgeshire County Council Octagon, Shire Hall Cambridge CB3 0AP