

CORPORATE PARENTING PERFORMANCE REPORT

To: **Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee**

Meeting Date: **15 July 2020**

From: **Nicola Curley
Assistant Director Children's Services**

Electoral division(s): **All**

Outcome: **The purpose of this report is to update the Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee in respect of the numbers of children and young people currently being looked after by the Council and to provide a breakdown of the types of placements in which they are living.**

Recommendation: **The Sub Committee is recommended to:**
a) to note the content of the report, and
b) raise any queries with lead officers

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Summary:

- As at 31 May 2020 there were 717 Children in Care.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 This report will be submitted to each Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee.

2. MAIN ISSUES

- 2.1 Of the 717 children in care they were in the following placements:

- 253 children were placed with in house foster carers providing placements for the Local Authority.
- 217 children were in foster care and placed with independent fostering agencies (IFAs). The agencies work with the Local Authority on a contractual basis to provide foster placements.
- 86 post 16 year olds were living on their own, with support (independent living) but still classed as Children in Care with an allocated social worker.
- 26 children have a court order (Placement Order) that allows them to live with their prospective adoptive parents whilst they are awaiting a final adoption order.
- 37 children were placed with family or friends carers (connected person). These carers are formally assessed in the same way that our other in house carers are assessed and are presented to the Fostering Panel for approval in the same way. They are paid the same level of allowances as other in house foster carers.
- 12 children were living with their parents but considered as looked after children because they are subject to a full care orders so the local authority still shares parental responsibility with the birth parent. Placements with parents are often made pending a plan for reunification with the parent and in some cases will result in an application for care orders to be discharged.
- 60 children and young people (without disabilities) were placed in residential care which provides intensive support in a residential setting. These placements are most usually made when it is clear that foster care is not able to meet the child or young person's needs. Residential care is nearly always accessed by adolescents and only very rarely used for younger children.

- We are beginning to see an improving picture in respect of initial health assessments being completed within 28 days, although there is still further to go. Performance had reached 64% in the last quarter of the last financial year, compared with a low point of less than 20% of these assessments being completed on time in the same period a year ago.
- We continue to need to promote dental checks for our children in care, but performance in relation to annual health checks is also consistently above 80%; again not quite as good as we would want it to be, but a good basis from which to improve further.
- We are continuing to focus on improving outcomes for our care leavers in respect of the proportion in suitable accommodation and who are in education, employment and training. It is worth noting that these are areas where Covid-19 may have an adverse impact on outcomes for our young people.

3. ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PRIORITIES

3.1 A good quality of life for everyone

We strive to ensure that all children in care are in the best possible placement for their needs.

3.2 Thriving places for people to live

There are no significant implications within this category.

3.3 The best start for Cambridgeshire's children

The service ensures that children in care are given all the best opportunities in life.

4. SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS

3.1 Resource Implications

There are no significant implications in this report

3.2 Procurement/Contractual/Council Contract Procedure Rules Implications

There are no significant implications in this report

3.3 Statutory, Legal and Risk Implications

There are no significant implications in this report

3.4 Equality and Diversity Implications

Children in care and care leavers will be invited to be involved in working with the Local Authority looking at these areas.

3.5 Engagement and Communications Implications

We will continue to improve engagement with our children in care and care leavers.

3.6 Localism and Local Member Involvement

No significant implications in this report

3.7 Public Health Implications

No significant implications in this report.

Source Documents	Location
None	