

CORPORATE PARENTING SUB-COMMITTEE



Date: Wednesday, 20 March 2019

Democratic and Members' Services

Fiona McMillan
Monitoring Officer

16:15hr

Shire Hall
Castle Hill
Cambridge
CB3 0AP

**Council Chamber, East Cambridgeshire District Council,
Nutholt Lane, Ely CB7 4EE
[Venue Address]**

AGENDA

Open to Public and Press

- | | | |
|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| 1. | Apologies for absence and declarations of interest | |
| | <i>Guidance on declaring interests is available at</i>
http://tinyurl.com/ccc-conduct-code | |
| 2. | Minutes of the meeting on 30 January 2019 | 5 - 14 |
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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 Claire Richards

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 30 January 2019

Time: 4.00pm – 7:15pm

Venue: Room 128, Shire Hall, Cambridge

Present: Councillors L Every (Chairman), A Hay (Vice Chairman), A Bradnam, M Goldsack (substitute for Councillor A Costello) and C Richards

Co-opted Member: S Day

Apologies: Councillor A Costello

Co-opted Member: P Asker

73. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman apologised for the change in the meeting's location and informed the Sub-Committee that the meeting on 20th March was likely to be held in Ely.

74. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Apologies for absence were reported as recorded above.

No declarations of interest were made.

75. MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 21 NOVEMBER 2018

The minutes of the meeting on 21 November 2018 were approved as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

76. ACTION LOG

The action log was reviewed and verbal updates noted.

77. PARTICIPATION REPORT

The Chairman asked the Co-opted Sub-Committee member present to share how he viewed his experience since joining the Sub-Committee.

Mr Day commented that he had enjoyed the six months and that he felt listened to in a way that he had not felt when interacting with other services. He stated that he felt privileged to be able to put across the views of children in care, as most were not afforded such an opportunity.

Elected Members of the Sub-Committee expressed their enthusiasm for the Co-opted members' participation, remarking that it allowed greater understanding of the effects of the work carried out by the Sub-Committee. They also expressed the hope that that, while they were inspired by the words and thoughts of Mr Day, he was also inspired to

see the Council in action and the passion that elected Members and officers had for their roles.

In discussing the report, Sub-Committee members:

- Considered extending the invitation to more young people to attend as observers to provide them with insight into the process as well offering them the chance to learn about how they could take advantage of opportunities open to them and who to contact. Many may not be aware of the possibility that they could attend meetings. It was suggested that despite report summaries providing simpler reading of the reports, some of the issues discussed may have appeared quite complex for young children to understand, as well as the fact that meetings often lasted a few hours and it would be hard to engage the children for such extended periods. Officers committed to consulting other young people in order to assess interest and how to make it constructive and meaningful.
(Action: Participation Services Managers)
- Suggested that the time of Sub-Committee meetings made it hard for many young people to attend, especially those who lived further from where the meeting was being held. One Member proposed holding one meeting specifically aimed towards encouraging the attendance and participation of young people. Another Member informed colleagues and officers of a taxi service that provided voluntary transport to young people, undertaking to explore this further and advise the Assistant Service Director.
(Action: Councillor Goldsack)
- Were informed of progress being made over reciprocal arrangements with other local authorities across the region, allowing for the offer to be extended to children outside the county, with all the necessary safeguards in place.
- Noted that not all young people wanted to be involved in the activities offered by the Participation Service and that they had alternative arrangements through schools, groups and other organisations. However, it was important for the service to establish good communication with them in order to let them know that opportunities were available if they were interested.
- Established that funding would be likely to continue when the 16-month contract expired.

It was resolved to:

Provide feedback on the range of consultation events and activities the Participation Service provided for looked after children.

78. VIRTUAL SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES

The Sub-Committee received an update on the priorities for development of the Virtual School over the next two terms. In presenting the report, the Interim Head of the Virtual School noted that she had used information from the external review, as well as her knowledge and experience from looking at other Virtual Schools in the region in order to find out how to make their successes fit into the Cambridgeshire plan. It was noted that efforts were being made to develop a relationship with the Peterborough Virtual School.

Attention was drawn to the four main priorities listed in the report. Improving how data was collected, analysed and used would improve setting the direction of work, including the need to increase capacity, while officers stated that there were two types of databases; one on individual pupils and the other on a school level. Creating a school improvement approach to improving outcomes would focus on the school level data and would lead to a unified, empowering approach, with a focus on making information on the children available to the schools and developing a coherent communications strategy to make it clear what the Council was doing and why it was doing it. The new model would not provide for a worker to be assigned individually to each child, meaning that it would be important to ensure people were not omitted or left behind, which would depend heavily on data.

The Sub-Committee was informed about the possibility of funding an educational psychologist that would make access easier for service users although it was noted that this would supplement current processes rather than replace them. It was also noted that in Cambridgeshire set funding was given to schools on a per-pupil basis with the option to apply for more if necessary, whereas other local authorities distributed funds according to what schools considered necessary.

In discussing the report, Members:

- Agreed that an educational psychologist would be a key part of the process, which they praised for its thorough research while expressing their eagerness to provide support. It was agreed to take the request to the Children and Young People Committee.
(Action: Chairman/ Assistant Service Director)
- Expressed concern over the allocation process of Designated Teachers, noting the already high workload of teachers and that it would be important to ensure consistency in any relationship between Designated Teachers and pupils. Acknowledging this concern, officers identified the need to involve head teachers in the discussion to ensure that designated teachers were afforded the necessary support and capacity to fulfil their role.
- Discussed the effectiveness of one to one training and the necessity for Designated Teachers to be able to join into small groups if deemed appropriate for the pupils.
- Expressed their appreciation for the report and the work of officers on the issue while noting their agreement that basing everything around relationships and communication was the correct approach.

It was resolved to:

- a) Note the direction the Virtual School is moving in.
- b) Offer support and challenge as appropriate.

79. PERFORMANCE REPORT

The Sub-Committee was informed that there was an error in the published report's figures, stemming from the use of figures relating to all Cambridgeshire children rather than solely Children in Care and that the correct data had been circulated to Members

prior to the meeting. It was also noted that much of the information in the charts was difficult to read in black and white because they were colour-coded and officers were requested to try to avoid using colours in the future. Some of the information in the charts appeared to be in conflict with the accompanying commentaries and officers undertook to ensure greater accuracy and clarity in future papers.

(Action: Service Manager – Corporate Parenting)

While discussing the report, Members:

- Were advised that it had been difficult to produce accurate figures, but that improvements were constantly being made. It was to be expected that other local authorities prioritised their own children and conversations were held continually over improving the quantity and quality of available information, which was made all the more difficult to analyse due to issues extrapolating the data from health assessments without a mechanism to do so. Data often changed over time and required repeated manual checking.
- Various methods were being taken to improve the situation, including the processes for recording information and rating performances, as well as reconvening a service improvement panel within the Corporate Parenting Service, subject to resources.
- Queried how they could provide assistance to officers. They were advised that bringing children and young people within Corporate Parenting, as opposed to being located across the services as before, had already been of great benefit. Further planning would be necessary to ensure the right assistance was requested.
- Expressed concern over the apparent increase in missing incidents, missing children and child sexual exploitation, as indicated in the tables on pages 56-57 of the report, as well as the issue of county lines. It was noted that more context would be provided in a report at the meeting on 20 March 2019 and Members were assured that a lot of work was being done on the issue. Maintaining good relationships with other local authorities was considered fundamental in overcoming the problems.

It was resolved to:

- a) Review performance for Looked after Children.
- b) Comment on the themes and trends identified in the report.

80. CORPORATE PARENTING STRATEGY

The Sub-Committee was asked to review and endorse the Corporate Parenting Strategy, a draft document that had gone through extensive consultation as well as other committees. Members were informed that it was largely based on a Bright Spots survey of 140 young people, which meant that it was designed around what children and young people in care felt was necessary instead of the previous corporate-based strategy. It was noted that measurement areas had been reconsidered to reflect this, with an example being that more focus was given on achievements out of the academic curriculum to reflect the wider issues that were important to young people. Working groups would continue to monitor each area to ensure that key players were able to fulfil action points.

While discussing the strategy, Members:

- Appreciated that a more accessible version had been created alongside the detailed one, although it was noted that the summary version had omitted 'rights' as one of the key areas. Officers suggested that the issue of rights ran through the document and should perhaps be treated as a global consideration, rather than identifying them as a separate area.
- Expressed concern that some of the areas might be hard to monitor, proposing that more information could be included on how they would be monitored. Officers acknowledged the concerns, noting that they were keen to use the areas identified in the strategy because they had been selected by young people. Members were advised that service managers were likely to each take control of an area and internal monitoring would be carried out.
- Considered the importance of recovery and how officers and social workers could play a part, noting that the word recovery could be construed as meaning that the young people had a problem. It was also suggested that recovery was something that could be completed when it was in fact an ongoing process, which led officers to propose changing the wording to indicate that the necessary support would be provided. Officers undertook to consult young people over the wording and how they would prefer to see it written.
(Action: Service Manager – Corporate Parenting)
- Praised the content of the document and the effectiveness of presenting the strategy in an easily understandable and informative way.

It was resolved to:

Review and endorse the Corporate Parenting Strategy 2019-2021 prior to its launch with children, their families, their carers and designated officers.

81. SUPPORT TO CARE LEAVERS (INCLUDING STAYING PUT) AND THE ROLE OF THE PERSONAL ADVISER

When presenting this report on the support given to care leavers and the role of the personal advisor, it was noted that the next item on the agenda (Minute 82 – Local Offer for Care Leavers refers) involved the same issues and that the discussion would therefore consider both reports. Officers advised that the role of Personal Adviser was key during the transition of leaving care, although it was noted that it was hard to know when the right time was for transitions, leading to constantly changing cohort lines. One of the benefits of having a 14-25 sector was identified as being able to follow young people from a young age, which allowed time to prepare them and teach them the necessary skills depending on their individual needs.

It was emphasised that the local authority only represented one aspect in the life of young people in care and that the local offer had to consider other parties as well, including schools and the family or home life situation. The ideal situation would be for the local authority to not be needed at all. Members were advised that young people continued to receive support on a more infrequent level until they were 25 as it was important to maintain the relationship and be available to provide help if needed. Some young people did not want further help after turning 18, but the local authority felt responsible for care leavers and would not cease contact unless specifically requested

by the young person. It was noted that national performance indicators showed that the Council was in touch with 94% of its care leavers, which was above statistical neighbours.

There were already 23 Personal Advisers in higher education and the aim was to have more. One of the main areas of focus was identifying children at a young age and ensuring that help continued on into university and apprenticeships. Care leavers were starting to be mapped in order to maintain a rough picture of where they were geographically and what they were doing, as well as being able to map housing options. A new finance panel was working to make it clear what funding would be available for each young person.

The Co-opted Member present shared his experience of how becoming an adult was affecting his care provision and wider life. During a review six months before turning 18, he had received a care leavers' pack with information. A week before his birthday, he was told that he would not be eligible for Universal Credit and that all his financial agreements, such as his tenancy agreement, would be changing. He expressed concern that being in full time education as well as holding down a job meant that he would no longer receive sufficient benefits to cover his needs and noted that other people in his situation often had even greater complications. He expressed gratitude for the assistance and support given by his Personal Adviser and noted that she was well prepared, although he also suggested that all Personal Advisers should receive training on how to manage Universal Credit, while more information should be provided in advance to care leavers in order for them to prepare.

While discussing the report, Members:

- Clarified that the role of Personal Advisers was not new and that the Council currently had 18, as well as a specialist Personal Adviser. Funding was potentially going to allow for another specialist dedicated to homelessness and rough sleeping, as meeting basic needs was considered fundamental.
- Expressed concern that the cut-off point was on a young person's 18th birthday, meaning that some may go through their whole final year of high school without funding. Noting that there was a strong correlation between how much work young people did and how well they did, it was suggested that this represented a significant disadvantage and that it might be fairer and more pragmatic to make the transition at the end of the school year.
- Established that in the Staying Put arrangement, the relationship was between the local authority and the foster carer, instead of with the individual service or external agency. It was noted that each situation was different and that it was difficult to formulate an approach that would be of benefit to all young people.
- Emphasised the need to retain highly trained and specialist staff after investing in developing their skills and knowledge, noting that it was common practice for businesses to have such strategies in place. The Sub-Committee was told that staff benefited from excellent working conditions and career development prospects, with attention given to assigning responsibility and lead roles. Members requested a future report on skill protection and staff retention and recommended that the Children and Young People Committee might consider the issue.
(Action: Chairman/ Assistant Director for Children's Services)

It was resolved to:

Note the services and support being provided to Care Leavers.

82. LOCAL OFFER FOR CARE LEAVERS

The Sub-Committee considered an update report on the implementation of the 'local offer' for care leavers. Attention was drawn to the need to secure funding as well as the request for Members to consider championing key areas. It was noted that the case for funding would be helped by the Sub-Committee's endorsement of the plan.

While discussing the report, Members:

- Expressed willingness to take on further roles championing key areas contained in the local offer, but sought further clarification on what such roles would entail. Specifically, this included whether it was a question of general oversight, or attending other meetings, or speaking out on behalf of the issues. They were advised that further to Section 2.4 of the report, it was hoped that Members would be able to provide guidance, support and networking, as well as offering fresh approaches. Members were encouraged to identify areas in which they were well-informed or already active and that the requirements of the role would differ according to the individual circumstances. One Member suggested that trying to assign Members to individual areas would be of detriment to the overall coherence of the Sub-Committee's work. There was discussion over the potential for the Council's Community Champions to become involved but this was discarded due to the Community Champions being area based as well as the fact that there were areas of the County not represented by a Community Champion. Officers offered to host a session at a Member Seminar in order to reach a wider spectrum of Members in the call for champions.

(Action: Chairman/ Lead Manager – Corporate Parenting/ Democratic Services Officer)

- Contemplated the possibility of working with other local authorities across the region to put a case to the Government saying that there would be no charge for care across the region, taking the example of the 10 boroughs of Greater Manchester as inspiration for organising reciprocal arrangements. It was noted that working with other authorities had been informative and new ideas had arisen as a result of the consultations.

It was resolved to:

- a) Continue to encourage partners to engage with the development of the Local Offer.
- b) Note the progress in the development of the local offer and Elected Members continue raising awareness of the offer within the Council.
- c) Reflect on Members' networks and contacts and identify areas in which they might be able to support the creation of opportunities for our care leaves.
- d) Consider Elected Members to champion one of the key areas contained in the Local Offer.

83. SUB-COMMITTEE WORKSHOP AND TRAINING PLAN

The Sub-Committee reviewed its workshop and training plan. A request was made for a date to be set for the proposed training day on fostering.

(Action: Service Manager – Corporate Parenting/ Head of Foster Care)

It was suggested that some form of training might also be considered regarding the use of correct terminology.

A request was made for training on the issue of how access to Universal Credit and benefits in general affected care leavers. It was suggested that involving a Personal Adviser or the Personal Adviser Coordinator would be of benefit.

(Action: Lead Manager- Corporate Parenting)

It was resolved to:

Note and comment on the Sub-Committee's workshop and training plan.

84. AGENDA PLAN

While reviewing the Agenda Plan, the following issues were considered:

- The Workforce Development report (20th March) would be renamed Recruitment Retention and Training.
- The Sub-Committee meeting to be held on 20th March would be themed around health issues, with the subsequent meeting on 22nd May themed around education issues. As a result, the 'Refreshed NEET Strategy' report was moved from 20th March to 22nd May, as was the 'Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee: Draft First Annual Report to the Children and Young Person Committee (CYP)' report.
- The 'Early Permanence' report (20th March) would be combined with the 'Fostering Service Annual Report 2018/19' on May 22nd.
- It was agreed that a brief update on the Local Offer would be given to the Sub-Committee at every other meeting, starting on May 22nd.
- Members expressed frustration that a large proportion of the recommendations in papers coming to the Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee asked only for the report to be noted or commented on. There was a request for stronger recommendations, including for the Sub-Committee to recommend actions to the Children and Young People Committee (CYP). It was suggested that the Chairman might discuss this with the Chairman of CYP.

It was resolved to:

Note and comment on the Sub-Committee's 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 **11 March 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. Replacement link to the DBS application site requested for Cllr Bradnam. Application awaited from Cllr Richards.</p>	On-going
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Minutes of the meeting on 13 June 2018

42.	Virtual School	Jacqui Barry/ Claire Betteridge	<p>To explore with the Voices Matter Panel and report back on:</p> <p>1.Young people's experience of the support arrangements provided to Looked After Children by their schools and the Virtual School;</p> <p>2.Looked After Young People's experience of college and Further Education.</p>	<p>06.09.18: Due to some transport difficulties the Voices Matter Panel held in July 2018 only had two attendees who were older young people. However, this will be explored in future meetings and also through the Care Leavers Forum and Just Us groups and an update given.</p> <p>29.10.18: On the agenda for the Voices Matter Panel on 6 November 2018.</p> <p>06.11.18: This was discussed at Voices Matter as planned and there was mixed feedback from the young people regarding their experience.</p>	Completed
46.	Workshop and Training Plan	Aidan O'Reilly and John Heron	<p>To re-arrange the planned training session on foster care from 24 July 2018 to a date which more members were able to attend.</p> <p>Requested again by Members at the meeting on 19 September 2018 and again at the meeting on 31 January 2019.</p>	<p>06.09.18: John Heron will arrange this.</p>	On-going

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.	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.	On-going
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.	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.	On-going
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.	29.10.18: Jacqui Barry discussing this with the Chairman. 12.02.19: Aidan O'Reilly to pick this up.	On-going

Minutes of the Meeting on 21 November 2018

65.	Participation Report	Jacqui Barry/ Claire Betteridge	To provide details of the programme of participation events and outreach support which is being offered to Looked After children and young people accommodated outside of Cambridgeshire.	01/03/2019: This information has been provided in the Participation Report for the Corporate Parenting Sub Committee meeting on the 20 March 2019	Completed
		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>	On-going
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>	14.01.19: The process of preparing the Local Offer is ongoing.	On-going
71.	Sub-Committee Workshop and Training Plan	Aidan O'Reilly/ Kate Knight	To arrange a training session on the Local Offer.	14.01.19 Training date to be identified following meeting with National Care Leavers advisor on 31.01.19.	On-going

Minutes of the Meeting on 31 January 2019

77.	Participation Report	Jacqui Barry/ Claire Betteridge	Officers committed to consulting other young people in order to assess interest in attending a Sub-Committee meeting and how to make it constructive and meaningful.	01.03.19: The participation team have appointed a new worker who is currently looking at recruiting additional young people who might be interested in being involved with the Sub-Committee. We anticipate being able to have a firmer update as to the progress made for the May 2019 meeting.	On-going
		Cllr Goldsack	To find out more about a voluntary taxi transport service for young people and update the Assistant Director for Children's Services.	11.02.19: Cllr Goldsack has spoken to the provider and will pass the information on to officers for consideration/ action as appropriate.	Completed
78.	Virtual School Development Priorities	Cllr Every/ Sarah-Jane Smedmor	To request funding for an educational psychologist to make access easier for service users.	28.02.19: The funding is budgeted for through the pupil premium plus. The secondment opportunity has been advertised with a view to interviewing and appointing for an April 2019 start date. The position is for two days in the summer term with a view to increasing to three days from September 2019. This will be fixed term for one year, so that the impact of the role can be measured and consideration can be given to extending the role based on impact.	Completed

79.	Performance Report	A O'Reilly	Members commented that much of the information in the charts was difficult to read in black and white because it was colour-coded and officers were requested to try to avoid using colours in the future. Some of the information in the charts appeared to be in conflict with the accompanying commentaries and officers undertook to ensure greater accuracy and clarity in future papers.	04.03.19: Requirements discussed with the Business Intelligence team. Most will be reflected in the March Sub-Committee report and work continues to address the remaining issues.	On-going.
80.	Corporate Parenting Strategy	A O'Reilly	Use of the word 'recovery': Officers undertook to consult young people over the wording and how they would prefer to see it written.		
81.	Support to Care Leavers (including Staying Put) and the role of the Personal Adviser	Cllr Every/ S-J Smedmor/ R Greenhill	Members requested a future report on skill protection and staff retention and recommended that the Children and Young People Committee might consider the issue.	12.02.19: A report on Recruitment, Retention and Training to be taken to the Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee meeting on 20 March 2019.	Completed
82.	Local Offer for Care Leavers	Cllr Every/ K Knight/ R Greenhill	Officers offered to host a session at a Member Seminar in order to reach a wider spectrum of Members in the call for champions.	11.03.19: Slots available at the Members' Seminars in June or July 2019. Details to be confirmed.	On-going
83.	Sub-Committee Workshop and Training Plan	K Knight	A request was made for training on the issue of how access to Universal Credit and benefits in general affected care leavers. It was suggested that involving a Personal Adviser or the Personal Adviser Coordinator would be of benefit.		

YOUNG PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION

To: Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee

Meeting Date: 20 March 2019

From: Jacqui Barry & Claire Betteridge - Service Development Managers
Hullal Miah – Mind of my Own (MOMO) Apprentice
Amanda Prior – Participation Worker

Electoral division(s): All

Purpose: To provide an update on the range of participation and consultation events offered by the Participation Service.

Recommendation: To comment on the consultation events and activities provided by the Participation Service to Children Looked After.

<i>Officer contact:</i>	<i>Member contact:</i>
Name: Jacqui Barry and Claire Betteridge Post: Service Development Managers Email: SC.Participation@cambridgeshire.gov.uk Tel: 01480 372493 / 01223 715530	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, including Voices Matter meetings and the Care Leavers Forum.
- The Corporate Parenting Committee Co-Opted Members are being consulted over mental health issues for children in care and care leavers.
The Mind of my Own Apprentice continues to promote the use of the APP offering individual and group training. See Appendix 3 for a breakdown of performance for Mind of My Own.
- The Participation worker vacancy has been recruited to and Amanda Prior joined the team on the 16 January 2019.
- A new Participation Strategy has been produced and is awaiting approval and a formal launch
- An action plan is being drafted to support the monitoring and the implementation of The Promise for children in care and care leavers.
- The Participation Team hosted the annual awards ceremony for children in care and care leavers on the 15 February 2019.

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 Care Leavers' Forum has been consulted on the Local Offer, including coming up with a new name for the initiative, Pathways4Us.

The two Co-Opted members of the Corporate Parenting Committee have been invited to be involved in the task and finish group on mental health for children in care and care leavers, with the Assistant Director and the Clinical Lead for Psychology.

The participation team is seeking 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 two young people in attendance at each meeting.

The participation team have been asked to support the children in care health team review the Health Passport. This will be discussed with the Care Leaver's Forum who are due to meet on the 12 March 2019.

2.2 Events Held

- The participation service hosted the annual awards ceremony on the 15 February 2019. There were two hundred children and young people who were nominated for an award and around eighty attended the event, where they were entertained by a magician and disco.

- A number of children and young people along with their carers attended a recent stargazing session at Cambridge University hosted by the Realise team on astronomy, the event was reported to be extremely enjoyable and informative.
- We have supported six young people in their attendance during the half term holiday at another Realise University Explore days. The two day event, offered workshops on debating, geology, modern languages and an engineering session on bridges, as well as circuit training at the sports centre.

Activities Planned

- A series of events are planned throughout 2019, with Cambridge University for children in care and care leavers. We have met with representatives from the corporate parenting team and the virtual school to explore how we can work more collaboratively to improve attendance.
- 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. We are currently exploring having a number of activity based sessions during the course of the year, which might include water based activities, drama and dance workshops.
- We are exploring supporting the participation of unaccompanied asylum seeking young people and how we can engage them in the groups we facilitate.
- The annual summer “picnic in the park” is booked for the 26 July 2019. We are going to consult with young people about the format of the day and what activities they would like to have on offer for this event.
- The next Voices Matter meeting is planned to take place over the Easter holidays and will include an activity of bowling and lunch in St Ives on the 9 April 2019.
- A Just Us group is planned for the 24 April 2019 and will take place in the Fenland area of the county.
- The participation team have also been asked to identify and support a group of young people being involved in the interviews for the step up to social work applicants which are taking place in May and June 2019.
- We are also looking at developing some training to support young people being involved in interview panels for social care staff.
- We are looking to visit social care teams and the foster carers support meetings in the coming weeks to update them regarding participation activities, promote the APP Mind of My Own, as well as using this as an opportunity to promote the revised promise and how this can be evidenced in their everyday practice.
- We have a session planned with the virtual school to promote the Mind of My Own App.
- We have finalised the content of the Facebook page and are looking to launch this with a restricted number of young people to ensure that the focus is appropriate before a formal launch. A process has been drafted to ensure that members of the page are children in care and care leavers from Cambridgeshire to safeguard that requests to join the closed group are valid to prevent the possibility of inappropriate involvement others on the page.

Finally, in the summer of 2018, we attended a regional participation event where local authorities in this region are working on a project which will cover children in care advice for social workers, called top ten tips. The subjects that will be covered are -

- Don't nag!
- Communication is key: Listen
- Take me places: don't wear your badge
- Honesty
- Saying Goodbye is important: Introduce new workers to us
- Social Worker to promote the Children in Care Council (CiCC)
- Arrive on time
- Be respectful: Please don't judge us
- Be happy & smile
- Don't take it personally if we are having a bad day; Don't use our emotions against us

We have been tasked with collecting feedback on - **Be Respectful: Please don't judge us.** We have collected some comments from children and young people. This work will be taken to the national Children in Care Council and will inform all of Local Authority Children's Social Care about what things social workers need to remember when supporting children in care and care leavers. The top ten tips will be made into a film and showcased on the 17 April 2019 in London.

Hullal in the team has made models to share the comments received.

Please refer to Appendix 1 for examples of the work.

2.3 Participation Service

Staffing

Our new participation worker Amanda Prior has now joined us. The participation worker currently on maternity leave is due to return to their post in April 2019.

The absence of a Participation worker has impacted on capacity to engage children and young people in participation events and meetings. The service is confident that this will improve in the coming months when the appropriate staff are in post.

Mind of My Own

There has been lots of media coverage in recent times regarding other websites which have been using the acronym of MOMO to promote self harm to children and young people. The developers of Mind of My Own have been regular communication with Local Authorities and have taken a decision recently to stop using the acronym of MOMO and will be re-branding their APP. At the time of writing this report we are still awaiting the new branding materials but information has been sent out to practitioners in the principal social workers newsletter to make everyone aware and advising how to support young people access the APP.

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. He has a number of training sessions across the county planned for April 2019.

There continues to be an issue with statements being created by workers on their accounts with young people and then not being sent. During January and February 2019, there was a total of 56 statements were created which have not been sent from the workers account to the Mind of My Own dashboard.

We have been asked by Mind of My Own to co-facilitate a workshop at their conference in May 2019 with another local authority as we have been consistently been using the APP for foster carer reviews and therefore Mind of My Own are keen to share this practice with others as to how this has been of benefit to our fostering service so others might follow suit.

Further information about the usage of Mind of My Own for January and February 2019 is included at Appendix 2.

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	

Top Ten Tips for Social Workers - Be Respectful: Please don't judge us





MOMO STATISTICS JAN and FEB 2019

Number of worker accounts	Number of young people with accounts			
344	195			
	JAN 2019	FEB 2019	MARCH 2019	Total
Number of statements per month from YP	6	4		
Number of statements per month via worker	29	25		
MOMO Express Statements per month	19	4		
Any statements not assigned	0	1 (received a fake statement due to the age and content received)		
Statements created but not sent	30	26		
Top 3 subject matters each month MOMO ONE	35% Worker Visit 19% Problem 14% Foster Care Review 14% Share Good News	41% Foster Carer Review 26% Worker Visit 20% Preparation		
Top 3 subject matters each month MOMO	All about Me My Life My Day	All about me My Education		

EXPRESS				
Top 3 workers each month MOMO ONE	Thomas Heffer (8) Heather Murray (3) Dibs Fletcher (3) Victoria Batterham (3)	Terri wright (3) Adrian Bloxham (3)		
Top 3 workers each month MOMO EXPRESS	Elizabeth Allen (3) Zoe Holland (3) Sian Talbott (2) Sophie Daynes (2) Gerald Cleary (2)	Gerald Cleary (3) Mia Ross (3)		

VIRTUAL SCHOOL

To: **Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee**

Meeting Date: **20.03.19**

From: **Claire Hiorns
Interim Virtual School Head Teacher**

Electoral division(s): **All**

Purpose: **This report provides:**

- a) an update on the Virtual School developments
- b) a six month update on the issues explored in relation to the Virtual School at the meeting on 19 September 2018;
- c) Comment on the Virtual School response to the Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services (ILACS) inspection

Recommendation: **The Sub-Committee is asked to note and comment on the report, offering support and challenge as necessary.**

<i>Officer contact:</i>		<i>Member contact:</i>	
Name:	Claire Hiorns	Names:	Councillor Lis Every
Post:	Interim Virtual School Head Teacher	Role:	Chairman, Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee
Email:	Claire.hiorns@cambridgeshire.gov.uk	Email:	Lis.Every@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
Tel:	01223 743850	Tel:	(office) 01223 706398

Summary:

This report provides an update on the progress towards the development priorities within the Virtual School. Members were provided with a copy of the development plan at the previous meeting on 30 January 2019. There is also an update on the issues arising from the report produced in September 2018. The September report was written by the previous Virtual School Head Teacher. Comment is also provided on the Virtual School response to the recent Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services (ILACS) inspection

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Virtual School is a statutory requirement for the Local Authority. The current arrangements for the Virtual Head Teacher are interim. The substantive post will be advertised and appointed to for a September 2019 start.

2. MAIN ISSUES

2.1 Priority 1: Strengthen the collection of data, use of data analysis to inform strategy and interventions to drive improvement and maximise impact

The Virtual School has been working with the Data Intelligence Team and Welfare Call (the Personal Education Plans (PEP) and attendance service that Cambridgeshire Virtual School buy into) to facilitate the building of data toolkits. This will enable the key performance indicators to be tracked and used, to inform the work of the Virtual School. The first build should be completed by 15th April 2019. The toolkit will continue to evolve beyond this.

The Service Director for Education is continuing to explore the possibility of a shared role with Peterborough to create capacity and resilience around data for both local authorities.

2.2 Priority 2: Create a school improvement approach to improving outcomes for children in care and children previously looked after

Cambridgeshire Virtual School have strengthened links with Suffolk and Peterborough Virtual School. A joint development plan has been written with Peterborough. A visit has taken place to Hertfordshire Virtual School. An initial meeting has taken place with Cambridgeshire's Head of Service for School Intervention. Cambridgeshire Virtual School has a development week planned for the end of March, one of the priorities within this week, is to use the knowledge and information gained from these visits to develop processes and systems for Virtual School, school improvement work.

The Virtual School Educational Psychologist role has now been advertised, with a view to appoint, for an April 2019 start.

2.3 Priority 3: Create a Virtual School Inclusion Team who will take the lead in supporting individuals to access high quality education provision and ensure that the children and young people's experience of education is positive, aspirational and meets all needs

The Virtual School offer has been drafted. As meetings have taken place with key partners, the offer has been shared. The aim of the meetings has been to share with other teams the remit of the Virtual School, to understand their remit, to strengthen relationships and look at collaborative working in the future. So far meetings have taken place with:

- Social Care Managers
- Independent Reviewing Officers (IROs)
- 0-25 SEND Service
- Alternative Provisions Manager
- Admissions
- Education Inclusion Officers
- Business Intelligence
- Head of Service for School Improvement
- Head of Service for Early Help
- Clinician Team

Some of the key outcomes from these meetings have been:

- Monthly meetings with social care to develop systems and processes to resolve issues and strengthen working practice
- Input into the review of the PEP
- Start and finish task group being established to look at processes around children in care with Education, Health and Care Plans, with the aim of minimising drift
- A developing plan as to when to involve the Admissions Team, to direct schools who are who are showing resistance to the swift admission of Children in Care
- Data toolkits under development for the Virtual School
- Access to information held by School Improvement Service

2.4 Priority 4: Realign processes and procedures, to fit with the new model, whilst maintaining compliance with statutory guidance

Welfare Call (the company used for Cambridgeshire PEPs) have attended a team meeting to share developments within their service around PEPs. A review has taken place of the statutory requirements of the PEP. The Virtual School is in the process of consulting with children and young people, designated teachers, Independent Reviewing Officers, carers and

social workers to gain their views on the PEP.

The allocation of and use of pupil premium plus is an area of focus for the Virtual School during the development week, at the end of March. By the end of the week, systems, processes and criteria will have been revised and the policy updated to reflect this.

The Transformation Team have been engaged to support the Virtual School in the communication strategy for the launch of the new model.

2.5 Six month update on the issues explored in relation to the Virtual School at the meeting on 19 September 2018

Data

The validated data for Children in Care will be available by the end of March. This information will be used as the basis for the head teacher's report and shared with members in May 2019. This is in line with the reporting used in both Peterborough and Suffolk Virtual Schools to their members.

Year 5 / 6 Project

In the summer term 2018, 16 out of 29, Year 5 pupils were identified to take part in Tute (an online learning programme), however schools were unresponsive and additional technical difficulties resulted in the decision being made not to proceed with this project at this time. The focus of the Virtual School for the spring and summer term is shown through the development plan, and progress towards this is detailed above.

2.6 Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services (ILACS)

In relation to the Virtual School, the ILACS inspection reported:

- *A review of the work of the virtual school has taken place but that it is too early to see the impact of this work.*

There is recognition that the development plan seeks to address the areas of weakness within the Virtual School.

- *Too little strategic overview of the progress that pupils make*

The improvement of data underpins all changes within the development plan. This will promote a strategic overview of progress and enable a thorough response through the school improvement model

- *The impact of personal education plans and quality assurance of the plans is inconsistent*

The PEP will be simplified to ensure that key areas such as pupil voice,

attainment and progress data, targets and the use of pupil premium plus, are given the priority needed. The quality assurance process will be reviewed alongside this.

3. ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PRIORITIES

3.1 A good quality of life for everyone

The report above sets out the implications for this priority in section 2.1-2.4.

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 report above sets out the implications for this priority in section 2.1-2.4.

4. SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Resource Implications

The Local Authority need to increase resources to develop capacity around data collection and analysis within the Virtual School. The LA are currently exploring the possibility of a shared role with Peterborough to create capacity and resilience for both local authorities. This will be funded within existing resources.

4.2 Procurement/Contractual/Council Contract Procedure Rules Implications

N/A

4.3 Statutory, Legal and Risk Implications

All statutory requirements are being adhered to when looking at the development of the Virtual School

4.4 Equality and Diversity Implications

N/A

4.5 Engagement and Communications Implications

Clear communication in order to engage key partners in the new model will be critical to its success. The Transformation Team have been engaged to support this. The Virtual School Management Board will also be involved.

4.6 Localism and Local Member Involvement

N/A

4.7 Public Health Implications

N/A

Source Documents	Location
Peterborough and Cambridgeshire Virtual School joint development plan	Available from Claire.hiorns@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
Cambridgeshire Virtual School offer	Available from Claire.hiorns@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee reports and minutes: 19 September 2018	https://cambridgeshire.cmis.uk.com/ccclive/Meetings/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/959/Committee/46/Default.aspx

PERFORMANCE REPORT

To: **Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee**

Meeting Date: **20 March 2019**

From: **Aidan O'Reilly
Service Manager Corporate Parenting**

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 asked 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	Names:	Councillor Lis Every
Post:	Service Manager Corporate Parenting	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 January 2019.

- As of 31 January 2019, 759 Children in Care are supported by the Council.
- 43% of Children in Care are male, 57% are female.
- 8% have a disability.
- At the end of January 2019, 50.6% of children (excluding non-unaccompanied asylum seekers) were placed out of County and of those 39.2% were placed more than 20 miles over Cambridgeshire borders.
- 80.7% of unaccompanied asylum seeking young people are placed out of county.
- The proportion of Children in Care being visited within the statutory timescales is 89.8% in January 2019 having risen by 2-3% per month since the last reported data (November 2018).
- The number of Children in Care reported as going missing has been as follows; 22 in December 2018 and 26 in January 2019.
- There were 5 children adopted in this 2 month period (there were 25 adoptions completed in the previous 8 months).

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 December 2018 and January 2019. The full performance report can be found in Appendix A.

2. MAIN ISSUES

- 2.1 As noted in the performance dashboard (Annexe A) there have been ongoing difficulties with securing the required data in regards to the percentage of Initial Health Assessments (IHA) that have been completed in timescale. This has resulted with no data being available for December 2018 and January 2019. There is ongoing joint agency work to resolve this issue and to agree and implement an effective mechanism for reporting.
- 2.2 Adoption Activity; Routinely December is a month where fewer Adoption Orders are made and this was the case in December 2018 with only one Adoption Order being granted. In respect of children waiting for less than 14 months to be adopted, the reason for the drop in performance from 100% to 25% in January 2019 was as a result of the adoption of three siblings during this month. All of these children had complex needs and required extensive searching and additional support before adoption could be secured.

- 2.3 The percentage of children who have been visited within statutory timescales has risen month on month since November 2018. This aligns with services stabilising after structural change and it is anticipated that this improvement will be sustained.

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

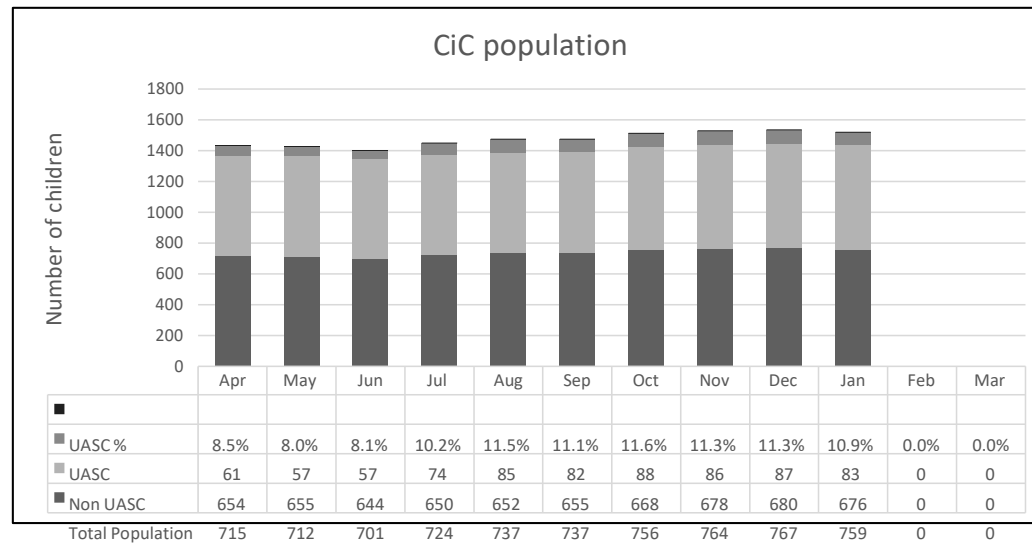
n/a

3.7 Public Health Implications

Source Documents	Location
None	

Children in Care - Population

Children in Care	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Trend	Average
Total Population	715	712	701	724	737	737	756	764	767	759				737
Non UASC	654	655	644	650	652	655	668	678	680	676				661
UASC	61	57	57	74	85	82	88	86	87	83				76
UASC %	8.5%	8.0%	8.1%	10.2%	11.5%	11.1%	11.6%	11.3%	11.3%	10.9%				10.3%
Rate per 10,000	53.2	53.0	52.2	53.9	54.9	54.9	56.3	56.8	57.0	56.4				54.9
Became Looked After	32	23	14	30	30	17	34	20	17	10				23
Ceased Looked After	19	26	24	14	17	17	14	18	19	16				18



Commentary:

There has been a small increase in the number of Children in Care (CiC) since reporting to the last Corporate Parenting Sub Committee. The last four months show little change in the overall figure, this is unlike earlier data which showed a steadily rising number of Children in Care over time. This stable numbers are equally reflected in the UASC cohort.

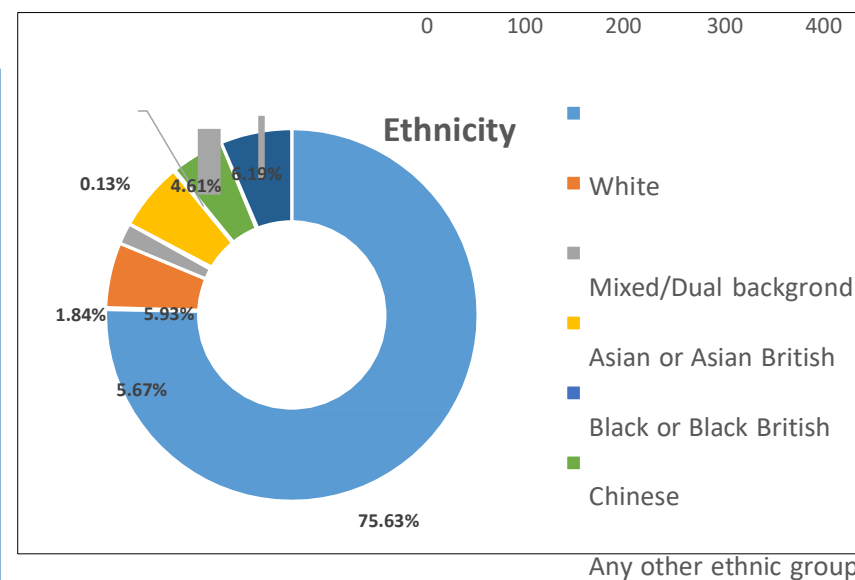
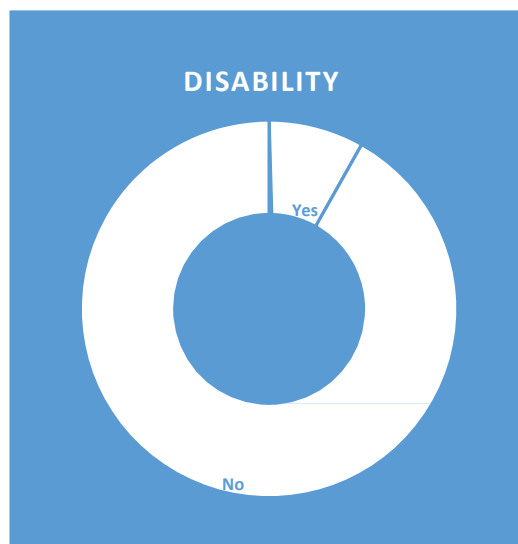
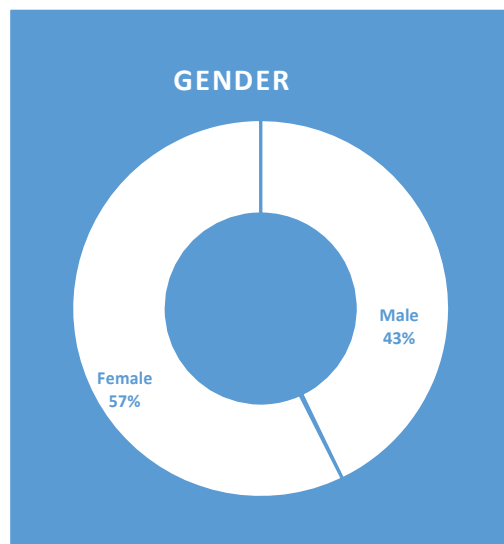
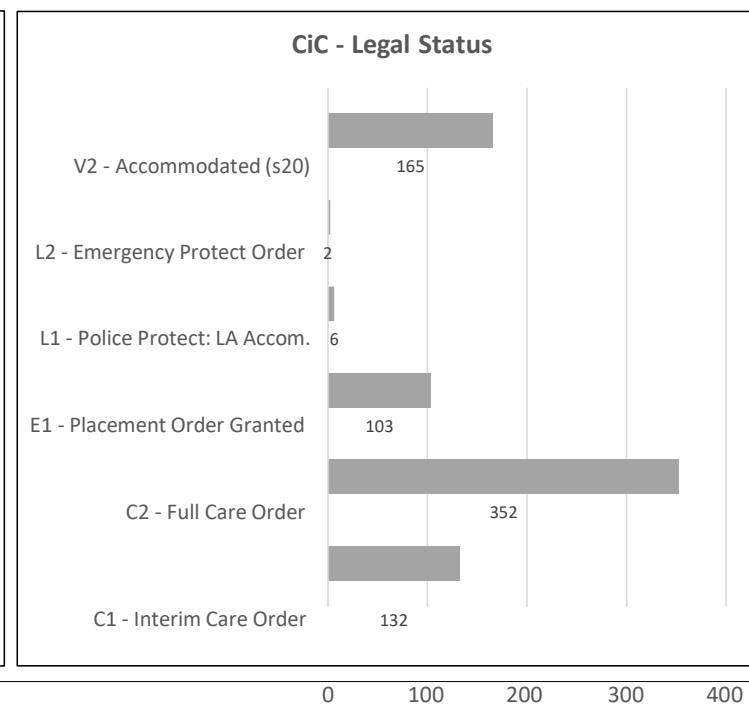
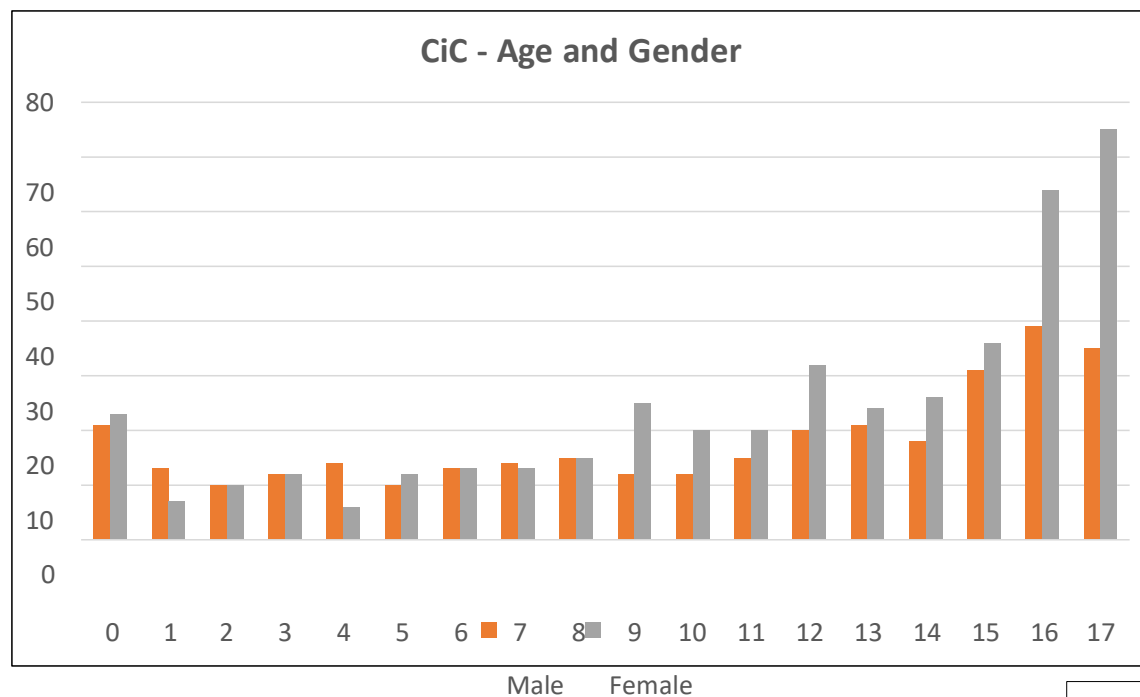
Notes on data and definitions:

- 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 'UASC' is an Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Child. A contribution of

accommodating UASCs is met by the Government.

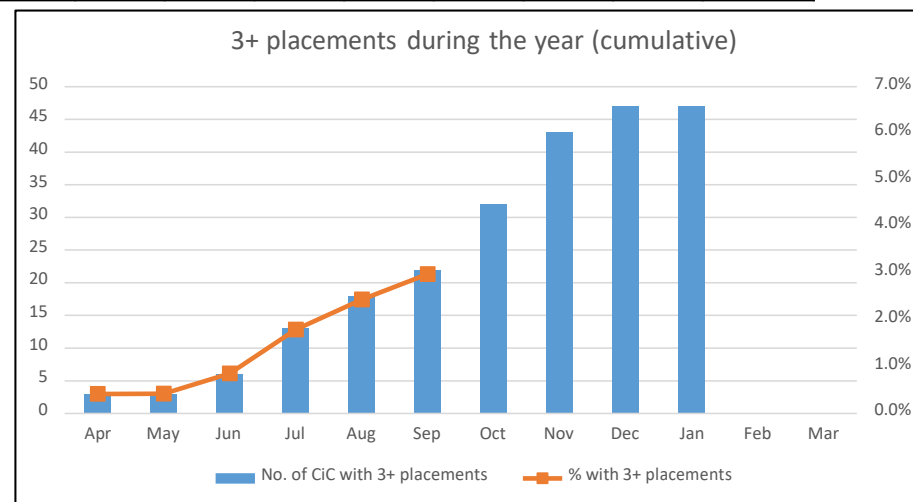
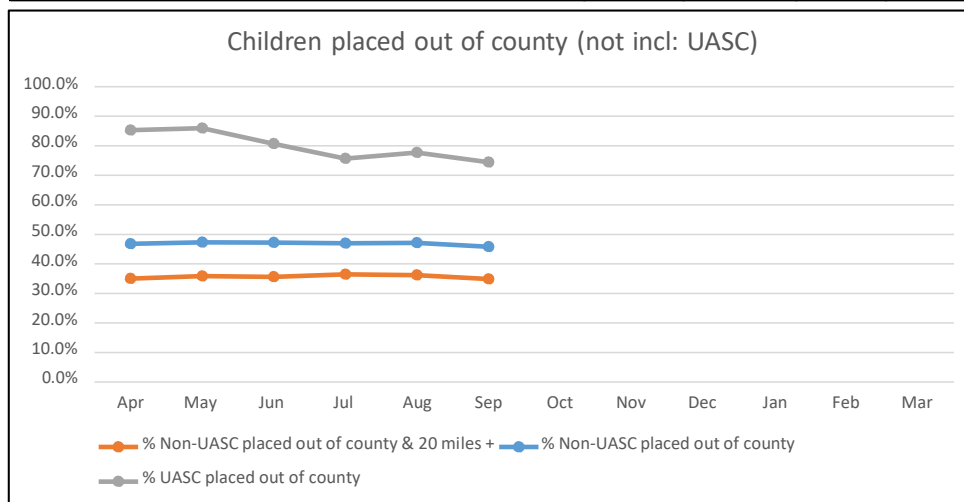
- The 'Became Looked After' and 'Ceased Looked After' are the numbers of children who entered and left care in the month.

Children in Care - Demographics as at 31 January 2019



All CiC children placed IN county	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Trend	Average
LAC placed In county	357	353	351	363	364	376	363	362	368	350				361
Children placed out of county (not incl: UASC)	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Trend	Average
CiC placed out of county	306	312	304	305	307	300	322	331	327	342				316
% Non-UASC placed out of county	46.8%	47.3%	47.2%	46.9%	47.1%	45.8%	48.2%	48.8%	48.1%	50.6%				47.7%
CiC placed out of county & 20 miles +	229	239	228	237	236	228	250	256	257	265				243
% Non-UASC placed out of county & 20 miles +	35.0%	35.9%	35.6%	36.5%	36.2%	34.8%	37.4%	37.8%	37.8%	39.2%				36.6%
UASC placed out of county	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Trend	Average
UASC placed out of county	52	49	46	56	66	61	71	71	72	67				61
% UASC placed out of county	85.2%	86.0%	80.7%	75.7%	77.6%	74.4%	80.7%	82.6%	82.8%	80.7%				80.6%

3+ placements during the year (cumulative)	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Trend
No. of CiC with 3+ placements	3	3	6	13	18	22	32	43	47	47			
% with 3+ placements	0.4%	0.4%	0.9%	1.8%	2.4%	3.0%	4.2%	5.6%	6.1%	6.2%			
Target	0.4%	0.8%	1.3%	1.7%	2.1%	2.5%	2.9%	3.4%	3.8%	4.2%	4.6%	5.0%	



Commentary:

50% of non asylum seeking Children in Care are living in County whereas 80% of unaccompanied asylum seeking children are living out of County. A high proportion of these young people are placed out of County which is due to the lack of suitable accommodation in Cambridgeshire. 6% of Cambridgeshire's Children in Care have had three or more changes of placement and of this cohort 67% are now deemed to be stable and settled in their current placement.

Notes on data and definitions:

- CiC placed In county - Children who have been placed into care within the Cambridgeshire.
- '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 became a looked after child.
- We count separately the number of UASC 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 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 In and Out of County as at end of January 2019

Placement Type	In	Out
A4 - Placed for adoption with consent not with current foster carer		
A5 - Placed for adoption with placement order with current foster carer		2
A6 - Placed for adoption with placement order not with current foster carer	16	16
H5 - Residential accommodation not subject to Children's homes regulations	27	50
K1 - Secure Unit		2
K2 - Homes and Hostels	27	31
M3 - Whereabouts unknown		
P1 - Placed with own Parents or Those with Parental Responsibility	6	5
P2 - Independent Living	1	
Q1 - Foster Placement with Relative or Friend	4	3
Q2 - Placement with other Foster Carer	36	42
R1 - Residential Care Home		2
R2 - NHS/Health trust or other establishment providing medical or nursing care	1	
R3 - Family Centre/Mother and Baby Unit	1	
R5 - Young Offender Institution or Prison		2
S1 - All Residential Schools, except where dual-registered as a school and Children's Home	4	5
T0 - All types of temporary move		
T4 - Temporary accommodation of seven days or less, for any reason, not covered by codes T1 to T3	2	
U1 Foster placement with relative or friend- long term fostering	10	8
U2 Foster placement with relative or friend who is also an approved adopter- FFA	2	1
U3 Foster placement with relative or friend- not long term or FFA	11	3
U4 Placement with other foster carer- long term fostering	91	84
U5 Placement with other foster carer who is also an approved adopter- FFA	8	3
U6 Placement with other foster carer - not long term or FFA	117	108
Z1 - Other Placement		2
Unknown		4
Total	364	373

Commentary:

The location of adopters is always based on securing the best possible match for children so it is expected that children will move to live both in and out of county to adoptive parents who are best able to meet their needs. 10% of children are living in children's home and some of these children will have a disability and will require specially equipped settings to meet their needs. 69% of all looked after children are living with foster carers and a number of these children will have been matched with their long term foster carer.

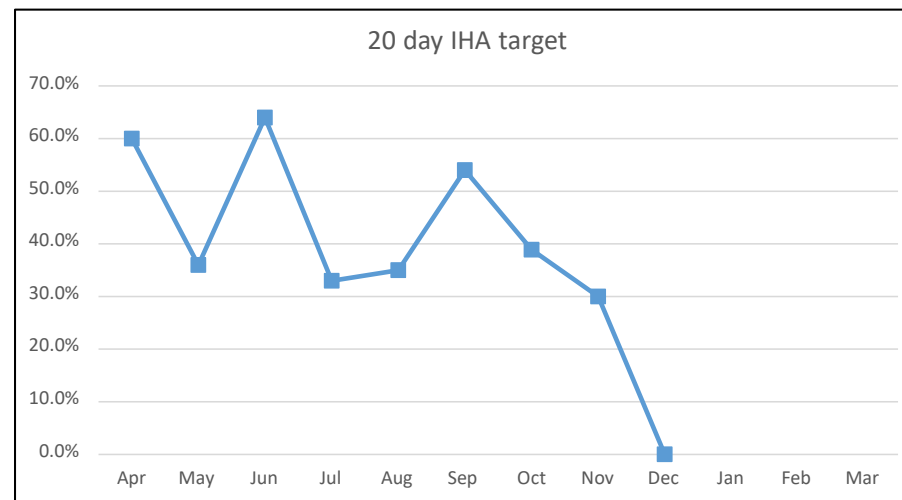
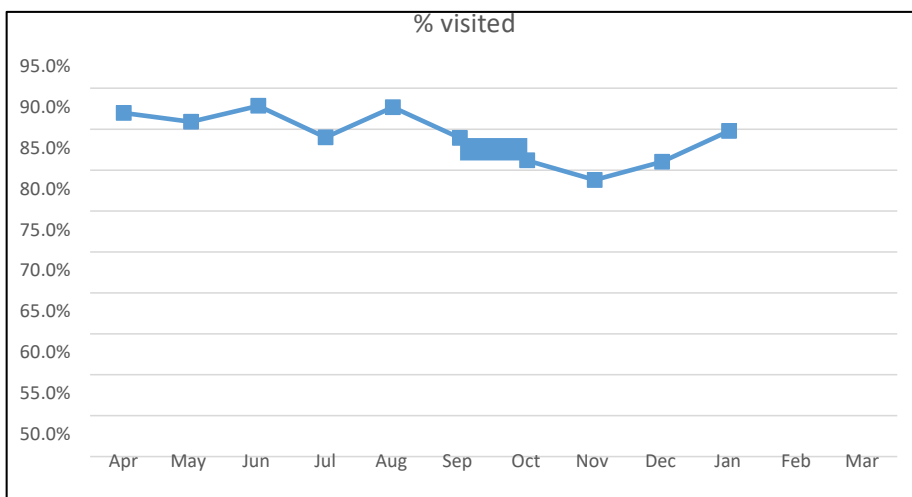
Notes on data and definitions:

The table compares all Looked After Children placed in care within Cambridgeshire and outside the Cambridgeshire county area.

The codes and descriptions of the Placement Types are defined by the Department for Education which are used in the Looked After Children Statutory Data Returns each year.

Visits and Reviews	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Trend	Average
Children to be visited	512	505	503	509	533	505	564	605	544	665				545
No. not seen in timescale	41	46	36	56	39	56	78	98	76	68				59
% visited	92.0%	90.9%	92.8%	89.0%	92.7%	88.9%	86.2%	83.8%	86.0%	89.8%				89.2%
Late Reviews this month	23	25	9	12	7	1	9	10	3	14				11
Cumulative late reviews	23	48	57	69	76	77	86	96	99	113				
% reviews in timescale	81.6%	73.4%	85.7%	81.8%	94.0%	99.0%	92.9%	84.6%	96.1%	82.3%				87.2%

Health	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Trend	Average
20 day IHA target	60.0%	36.0%	64.0%	33.0%	35.0%	54.0%	38.9%	30.0%	0.0%					



Commentary:









January saw an increase in the number of children being visited by their social worker within timescale than in previous months. The decrease in this performance, which peaked in November 2018, is most likely linked to systemic structural changes within the wider service. It is anticipated that the positive trend shown in December and January will continue moving forward.





The month of January saw a dip in the timeliness of Looked After reviews and this can be linked to limited service capacity due to staff vacancies.

Data for the 20 day IHA target (initial health assessments completed within 20 days of child entering care) for county level is collated from data sent by colleagues in the health service. Data has not been available since early January so it is likely the 0% reported for December is not a reflection of practice as any health assessments completed after the beginning of January are not included. Work is being undertaken to liaise with health colleagues to be able to report on this data in a regular and timely manner.

Notes on data and definitions:

- The 'Children to be visited' measures the number of children who are due a visit in the reporting month.
- **CiC Visits:** The number of children not seen in timescale are those who were due a visit in the reporting month, but were not seen in timescale.
- **CiC Reviews:** The 'Late Reviews this month' are those children whose Review did not take place. We also record the cumulative late reviews throughout the year as well as the % of reviews in timescale each month.
- An Initial Health Assessments (IHA) for all children must take place within 20 working days of them becoming looked after. The NHS provide the percentage of children who had their IHA within 20 working days.

Care Leavers	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Trend	Average
Care leaver cohort	33	32	31	44	20	23	33	17	30	35				30
Care leavers in suitable accommodation - Yes	26	29	29	42	15	19	25	14	27	34				26
Care leavers in suitable accommodation - Unknown	7	3	2	2	5	4	8	3	3	1				4
Care leavers who are EET -Yes	18	19	17	27	10	12	17	12	16	22				17
Care leavers who are EET - Unknown	15	13	14	17	10	11	16	5	14	13				13
Care leavers in touch - Yes	28	29	28	41	16	19	27	14	26	33				26
Care leavers in touch - Returned Home	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	0	0				1
Care leavers in touch - No Longer Required	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0				0

Coram Cambridge Adoption	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Trend	Average
Number of adoptions per month	3	3	4	0	3	6	1	5	1	4				3
Average time between child entering care and moving in with its adoptive family (days)	244	226	437	0	N/A	321	225	297.8	469	644				318
Average time between an LA receiving court authority to place a child and the LA deciding on a match	102	61	213	0	N/A	96	42	94.4	129	348				121
Children who wait less than 14 months between entering care and moving in with their adoptive family	100%	100%	75%	0%	N/A	100%	100%	100%	100.0%	25.0%				77.8%

Commentary:

The data relating to care leavers is presented in the same format that all Local Authorities are required to report to the Department for Education.

In January the cohort for Care Leavers is higher than average. This is due to a number of unaccompanied young people turning 18 years, these young adults have a documented birth date of 1st January when their actual birth date is unknown.

The Care Leaver Cohort are the Care Leavers whose 17th, 18th 19th, 20th and 21st birthdays fell within the reporting month. There are approximately 275 care leavers within the Corporate Parenting service in total.

Performance in relation to children waiting less than 14 months to be adopted has been 100% with the exception being in the month of January. In January 2019, four children were adopted.

Notes on data and definitions:

- Care Leaver Cohort - the Care Leavers whose 17th, 18th 19th, 20th and 21st birthdays fell within the reporting month.
- 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.
- We measure main activity for Care Leavers on or around their 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th or 21st birthday when we are in touch with them. This is reflected in the Education, Employment and Training (EET) numbers.



Education	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Trend	Average
% of CiC Young People Post 16 In Learning	70.2%	70.5%	69.4%	65.3%		68.2%	71.2%	79.0%	85.1%	80.6%				
% of CiC Young People Post 16 in Employment	5.6%	5.7%	7.4%	6.6%		3.2%	3.1%	1.8%	0.5%	1.2%				
% of CiC Young People Post 16 NEET	24.2%	23.8%	23.1%	28.1%		28.6%	25.8%	19.2%	14.4%	18.2%				
% of Care Leavers In Learning	41.6%	41.3%	40.4%	40.1%		36.1%	35.5%	34.4%	35.8%	33.5%				
% of Care Leavers in Employment	19.2%	18.1%	19.7%	20.5%		18.9%	19.0%	18.8%	21.0%	22.9%				
% of Care Leavers NEET	39.1%	40.6%	39.8%	39.4%		45.1%	45.5%	46.8%	43.2%	43.6%				



Commentary:

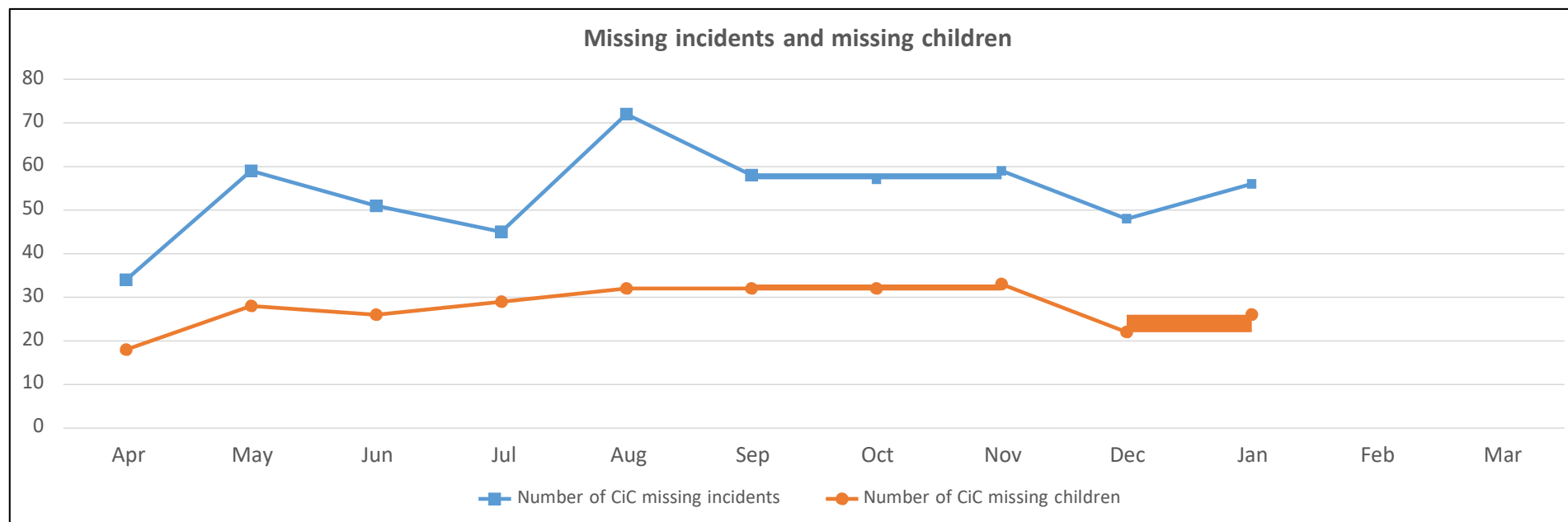
The 'not in education, employment and training' figures for both Children in Care Post 16 and Care Leavers have increased slightly. This is a seasonal trend seen in previous years and has been linked to young people who are not happy in their Further Education College courses starting to drop out. Unfortunately it can be difficult to find them alternatives until September, 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)
- Measures of Care Leavers who are in Learning, In Employment or NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training)

Children in Care - Missing

CiC - Missing	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Trend	Average
Number of CiC missing incidents	34	59	51	45	72	58	57	59	48	56				53.9
Number of CiC missing children	18	28	26	29	32	32	32	33	22	26				27.8















Commentary:

The total number of missing children and missing incidents has increased over the course of this reporting year. When taking the rise in the total number of Children in Care this represents just under a 1% increase. There is a multi-agency network around children who have been reported as missing who work hard together to support this extremely vulnerable group.

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 (CSE) (All Children)	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Trend	Average
Gender														
Male	29	29	29	44	42	40	40	38	37	46				37.4
Female	67	67	63	87	86	85	92	98	98	99				84.2
Age of children														
0-8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				0.0
9-12	1	1	1	3	2	1	1	3	2	4				1.9
13-16	73	73	69	103	103	100	106	110	108	116				96.1
17+	22	22	22	25	23	24	25	23	25	25				23.6

Gang Exploitation (All Children)	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb		Trend	Average
Gender														
Male	22	22	23	34	31	31	39	39	41	45				32.7
Female	4	4	4	7	7	7	10	12	12	12				7.9
Age of children														
0-8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				0.0
9-12	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1				1.1
13-16	18	18	19	30	30	30	36	37	39	43				30.0
17+	7	7	7	9	7	7	12	13	13	13				9.5

Commentary:

January saw a 20% increase in the number of boys assessed as at risk of Child Sexual Exploitation and local intelligence will be being used to support safeguarding. The number of children with gang involvement has increased steadily since April 2018 with almost every child involved being aged 13 or over.

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'.

Workforce Development: Recruitment, Retention and Training

To: **Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee**

Meeting Date: **20 March 2019**

From: **Jitka Kohoutova
Head of Safeguarding, Huntingdon & Fenland**

Electoral division(s): **All**

Purpose: **The Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee requested bi-meeting reports on workforce development issues.**

Recommendation: **The Sub-Committee is recommended to review and comment on the update provided.**

<i>Officer contact:</i>		<i>Member contact:</i>	
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Post:	Head of Service Safeguarding North	Role:	Chairman, Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee
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Summary:

In recognition of our current recruitment challenges and in reflection of our organisational development, we have rewritten our Workforce Development Strategy and created an action plan to ensure that everyone who works with children and young people – whatever their role – has the knowledge, skills, and motivation to do the best job they possibly can. The Workforce Development Strategy action plan is monitored through the Workforce Development Group that meets on a regular basis (at least four times a year) and is overseen by the Children and Safeguarding Assistant Director, Sarah-Jane Smedmor.

This document expands on the previous Learning and Development Pathway 2017/2018 and incorporates the changes that the Change for Children Programme introduced to service delivery in 2018. The Change for Children Programme led to a transformation of Children Services in 2018 and a re-evaluation of the support available to staff. A service-level Training Needs Analysis and staff survey gave us a strong steer as to what was needed and a specific project plan was put in place to support all managers and their teams to manage change and transition safely and productively.

The summarised points of our new strategy are in this report.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1. Previously the Committee was provided with the proposed plan of supporting staff through transition into a new structure in September 2018.
- 1.2. The Change for Children Programme led to a transformation of Children Services being launched in November 2018.
- 1.3. The new structure of service delivery has been designed to provide focused specialist services, including specialist assessment teams, long term teams, adolescent teams, Children in Care and Care Leaver teams.
- 1.4. Children and families now move through the structure in a timely and targeted way and Children in Care and Care Leavers are now able to build the long-term stable relationships with their worker that we know is crucial for them.
- 1.5. We are now four months into the new structure and are embedding delivery of our statutory services.

2. MAIN ISSUES

- 2.1. Every Local Authority is required to provide information annually to the Department for Education about the numbers of social workers, vacancies and agency worker rates, which can then be compared with neighbouring authorities. For Cambridgeshire in 2017 (last set of available figures), we had a staff turnover rate of 15%, a vacancy rate of 17% and an agency worker rate of 16%.
- 2.2. Currently, the workforce within the safeguarding teams in the north of the county consists of 91.7% permanent staff with 3 vacancies that are covered by agency workers and permanent workers have already been recruited into these posts. The workforce within the safeguarding teams in the south of the county consists of 66.7% permanent staff with 13 vacant posts currently covered by 12 agency workers. The workforce within our Corporate Parenting Teams consists of 75.5% permanent staff with 10.5 vacant posts, 6 of which are covered by agency workers.
- 2.3. Across the whole of the service (including the Children with Disability Team) we employ 230 workers, both qualified social workers and alternatively qualified staff. We currently have 26 vacancies (11.3%) and we have 22 agency staff (9.6%) covering these whilst waiting for our new starters to arrive with us.
- 2.4. In recognition of our current recruitment challenges, specifically to teams in the south of the county, our recruitment team is in the process of redesigning our recruitment strategy and shortening and simplifying the recruitment process for qualified social workers while using a modern approach to marketing via social media. We have also successfully completed an international recruitment campaign. The plan to repeat the success of our Recruitment Showcase Day, held in January 2018 is underway and we have also planned an internal good practice celebration day for 1 May 2019.
- 2.5. We now also have a more up to date, innovative recruitment website, Cambridgeshire Social Care Jobs, which provides a wealth of information for potential applicants of what Cambridgeshire has to offer. Prospective candidates are able to register interest and have direct conversations with the specialist social work recruitment and retention service.
- 2.6. Newly Qualified Social Worker recruitment remains successful and our workforce consists of between 10 -15% of newly qualified staff. This has formed a crucial part of our recruitment strategy in recent years and will continue to do so. Our Assessed Supported Year of Employment (ASYE) programme is well established and seen as an essential part of workforce development.

- 2.7. As part of the service re-structure, we have now made alternatively qualified workers permanent members of our teams and these posts have been called Child Practitioners. The Child Practitioners are crucial in supporting our Social Work staff in their work with families and provide a valuable contribution to the department.
- 2.8. We also are continuing our well- established ASYE programme, Systemic training offer, Step up to Social Work offer, Practice Educator training, Apprenticeship programme, and Management Development pathway which includes the Frontline Social Work offer and Oxford Brookes Management training.
- 2.9. A specific project plan was put in place to support all managers and their teams to manage change and transition safely and productively. Feedback from the workforce confirmed that staff appreciated clarity around practice standards and a core toolkit to support the work we do was made available in advance of the new structure coming into place on our newly developed Children's Services Portal.
- 2.10. We are now in the process of developing one central training record database which would inform training needs for the future. A new learning and development pathway and leadership and management pathway are being updated. Our current offer for all staff continues to be available via our i-Learn portal, and our Workforce Development Team which is all complemented by bespoke bite-size workshops that are delivered on a District or county-wide basis.
- 2.11. All professionals have access to the Learning and Development pathway document for the Early Help and Social Work workforce. This document has been designed to provide a guide through the Learning Pathway for all staff working with Children, Young People and Families. It includes mandatory training, and specialist training opportunities as well as information about vocational qualifications and available learning resources.

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

There are no significant implications for this priority.

4. SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS

4.1. Resource Implications

n/a

4.2. Procurement/Contractual/Council Contract Procedure Rules Implications

n/a

4.3. Statutory, Legal and Risk Implications

n/a

4.4. Equality and Diversity Implications

n/a

4.5. Engagement and Communications Implications

n/a

4.6. Localism and Local Member Involvement

n/a

4.7. Public Health Implications

n/a

Source Documents	Location
None	

Children and Young People Looked After: Emotional Health and Wellbeing

To: Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee

Meeting Date: 20 March 2019

From: Pamela Parker
Professional Lead for Psychology

Electoral division(s): All

Purpose: To provide an update on multi-agency work.

Recommendation: The Sub-Committee is recommended to review the progress to date on multi-agency work regarding the emotional health and well being of children and young people looked after.

<i>Officer contact:</i>		<i>Member contact:</i>	
Name:	Pam Parker	Names:	Councillor Lis Every
Post:	Professional Lead for Psychology	Role:	Chairman, Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee
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Summary:

The Assistant Director for Children's Services and the Professional Lead for Psychology were asked to convene a multi-agency Task and Finish Group to address concerns regarding services to improve the emotional health and wellbeing of children and young people who are looked after by Cambridgeshire County Council. This followed agreement by the Sub-Committee to use the Expert Working Group Report "Improving mental health support for our children and young people" as a benchmark to assess local services.

It has taken time to establish membership of the group and commitment across agencies. The first full meeting took place on 28.02.2019.

The following aims were established:

1. Develop shared clarity within the group regarding the current offer from universal and specialist services
2. Review national best practice guidance and use this as a benchmark for services in Cambridgeshire
3. Identify key improvements that can be implemented within the services represented
4. Identify gaps in provision and/or issues with service delivery across all local universal and specialist services, and form clear recommendations in relation to these
5. Develop a clear action plan to present the recommendations to relevant decision makers across health, education, social care and the third sector.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Although there is a lack of recent national robust data, it is well established and accepted that the level of emotional distress and mental health difficulty experienced by children and young people in care is unacceptably high. Feedback from children and young people in care who engage with participation groups indicates there is scope to significantly improve local service by reducing fragmentation, reducing waiting times, clarifying pathways and increasing accessibility. There is also a clear theme in local and national feedback from young people regarding the importance of consistent relationships and compassionate services.

2. MAIN ISSUES

- 2.1 The multi-agency task and finish group has membership across services to address adult mental health, child and adolescent mental health, special educational needs, emotional health and wellbeing service for schools, social care, health services for children looked after and commissioning. This is

currently the only local multi-agency forum dedicated to the topic under consideration.

2.2 Priority actions for the group include the following:

Ascertaining what data is held by health, education and social care regarding the emotional health and wellbeing of children and young people looked after by Cambridgeshire Local Authority.

Clarify what is the current offer for this group of children and young people from existing services and seek to identify gaps either in provision or specialist knowledge through case examples.

Compare the service offer identified through the above process with national best practice guidance and statutory requirements.

The next meeting is to take place on 03.04.2019.

2.3 The following actions have been taken by the corporate parenting clinical team since the Sub-Committee meeting on November 21 2018 in response to the Expert Working Group report and service wide restructure.

- When Initial Health Assessments (IHA) or Review Health Assessments (RHA) identify concerns regarding emotional health and wellbeing, the health summary and data is shared with the Corporate Parenting clinical team for advice and/or consultation. This will ensure that specialist clinical oversight is available to ensure children and young people's needs are well understood and addressed in a timely manner. This process also allows for an additional route for children and young people to access clinical input if needed.
- A six week evidence based intervention group for foster parents will commence in April 2019 to enhance the current offer supporting carers to provide therapeutic parenting for children and young people who have experienced developmental trauma. The group has been proven to reduce externalising behaviours of children, whilst also providing additional expertise and support for carers. The group will be carefully evaluated and if successful in our local context form part of the routine offer for carers countywide. This will support the service aim to offer high quality local placements for children
- Investment has been made in specialist training to address developmental trauma and symptoms of post traumatic stress disorder. The clinical team continues to provide direct, evidence based therapeutic work for children and their carers, consultation to professional colleagues, support with the assessment and intervention for reunification work, training for foster carers and specialist assessment. Although capacity is currently limited we continue to seek opportunities to extend this work and use the clinical resource as effectively as possible.

3. ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PRIORITIES

3.1 A good quality of life for everyone

The report above sets out the implications for this priority in paragraph 1.1

3.2 Thriving places for people to live

N/A

3.3 The best start for Cambridgeshire's children

The report above sets out the implications for this priority in paragraph 1.1

4. SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Resource Implications

n/a

4.2 Procurement/Contractual/Council Contract Procedure Rules Implications

n/a

4.3 Statutory, Legal and Risk Implications

n/a

4.4 Equality and Diversity Implications

n/a

4.5 Engagement and Communications Implications

n/a

4.6 Localism and Local Member Involvement

n/a

4.7 Public Health Implications

n/a

Source Documents	Location
Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee reports and minutes November 21 2018	https://cambridgeshire.cmis.uk.com/ccclive/Meetings/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/960/Committee/46/Default.aspx

**ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE COUNCIL IN RESPONSE TO CHILD SEXUAL
EXPLOITATION AND COUNTY LINES /GANG EXPLOITATION**

To: **Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee**

Meeting Date: **20th March 2019**

From: **Name: Jenny Goodes
Title: Head of Service Integrated Front Door**

Electoral division(s): **All**

Purpose: **The Children and Young People Committee requested that these issues be followed up by the Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee at its meeting on 13 November 2018.**

Recommendation: **The Sub-Committee is recommended to note and comment on the report.**

<i>Officer contact:</i>		<i>Member contact:</i>	
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Summary:

- The Local Authority has a system in place to co-ordinate the information about those children and young people who are at risk of being exploited
- There are multi agency meetings that provide opportunities to review the intelligence around the exploitation picture in Cambridgeshire and to take action to reduce risks for individual and groups of young people at risk of/being exploited
- There is a dedicated police team working with young people to enable them to make statements about what is happening and to ensure that appropriate action is taken.
- There is a dedicated team, the Missing Exploited Trafficked Hub (MET Hub), within the Local Authority to undertake Return Home Interviews and to co-ordinate information on those children and young people who are at risk of exploitation
- Mapping exercises are well used to co-ordinate local information on risk areas/offenders to disrupt activity and reduce risks
- Work is ongoing with hotels/the night economy and transport agencies to increase awareness of child exploitation and to ensure that they are responding appropriately to situation where they suspect that this may be happening
- There is a proactive response to securing any available funding to support work around exploitation

1. BACKGROUND**1.1**

Within Cambridgeshire, we are aware that some exploitation of children and young people is taking place. There is evidence that small numbers of young people are involved in county lines and are drug running significant amounts of Class A drugs both within the county and to neighbouring counties. There is evidence that some of these young people are being sexually exploited as a way of controlling them both within county lines, criminal exploitation cases and gang related crime. We know that a small number of our young people are experiencing high levels of violence and assault and that the threats made are often carried out as a means of warning, punishment and to maintain control. Their families can feel powerless to challenge and protect their children, and occasionally may be threatened and harmed if they try. Sexual exploitation of some young people is occurring as part of gang membership acceptance rituals, as a result of criminal exploitation and by adult males who target underage females grooming them, supplying alcohol/drugs and then exploiting them sexually.

Criminal exploitation creates a particularly demanding context, and police acknowledge nationally that the investigation of these crimes and targeting of

offenders is extremely challenging. This is in part due to the speed at which the perpetrators work and change locations, the fact that victims do not often recognise themselves as victims, or when they do they are in fear of violence to them or family members if they withdraw from the behaviour / speak to the police.

1.2

Local Context

The Local Authority is working hard with other professionals to understand, respond to and reduce the risks to children in Cambridgeshire from all forms of exploitation. There is a clear multi agency structure in place to do this with a strategic group that has responsibility for the exploitation action plan.

Included in the action plan are the following:

- Work with key sectors of the night time economy (licensed premises / door staff / taxi drivers) to raise awareness of child sexual exploitation (CSE) and county line exploitation, modern slavery and trafficking.
- Work with hotels across the county to raise awareness of CSE and county line exploitation, modern slavery and trafficking.
- Work with key partners in the transport industry (bus companies / train companies / British Transport police) to raise awareness of CSE and county line exploitation, modern slavery and trafficking.
- Implement and use the national CSE disruption tool kit
- Use the National referral Mechanism (NRM) process for ALL children who have been trafficked for exploitation purposes.

Underneath this sits the operational MACE (Missing and Child Exploitation) meeting. The monthly MACE meeting is a multi- agency forum that reviews and updates on any emerging or significant concerns about individual children, groups of children or areas that are giving cause for concern in respect of possible exploitation taking place. A themes and trends report is produced by the MET HUB and individual children are discussed to ensure that there are appropriate safety plans in place and that any appropriate disruption action has been taken.

The police present a report which identifies the children most at risk of exploitation (initially this was solely focussed on CSE but has been widened to cover criminal exploitation), any alleged perpetrators that are coming to their attention and any “hot spots” in the county where there is intelligence to suggest that sexual or criminal exploitation is taking place. The report is produced as a result of the collation of information gathered from Return Home Interviews, police intelligence and information received from all professionals who work with children in Cambridgeshire. This is achieved through a monthly multi agency Operation Makesafe cohort setting meeting which is chaired by the police to set actions around disruption and risk reduction.

Mapping meetings are used to investigate exploitation issues affecting a specific district or area highlighted at the Missing and Child Exploitation (MACE) meeting or emerging themes and trends identified by District Leads/MET hub. The multi-agency group looks at available information and intelligence and formulates an appropriate response plan specifically to tackle emerging issues of gangs and county lines, on behalf of the Chair. Updates on progress are reported back to the MACE meeting.

The mapping has been seen as best practice at Local Government Association level with numerous presentations being given to peers and regional colleagues, but would benefit from dedicated pathways of intervention forming part of the overall plan.

2. MAIN ISSUES

- 2.1 The MET Hub (Missing, Exploited and Trafficked Hub) is co-located with the CSE MET Police Team and has responsibility for undertaking Return Home interviews on children who go missing either from home or from care. These interviews should be held within 72 hours of a child being found and are undertaken by MET Hub workers. All information obtained is reviewed and key information is presented in a monthly report to the MACE meeting. There is clear evidence that going missing can increase vulnerability to being exploited and frequent missing episodes can be an indicator that a child is a victim of exploitation.

The following chart shows the performance over the last 6 months in respect of Return Home Interviews:

	August	September	October	November	December	January
CCC Episodes	99	74	85	96	75	109
CCC RHI Completed	98	72	74	85	66	95 (87%)
CCC Not Completed	1	2	11	11	9	14 (13%)
Within 72 hours	53(54 %)	39(53 %)	40(47 %)	53(55 %)	37(56 %)	68 (62%)
Within 72 hours of MET notification	75(76 %)	60(81 %)	64(75 %)	73(76 %)	22(34 %)	21 (19%)

Within Cambridgeshire currently, there are a number of drug operations that may be exploiting children and young people. It is difficult to provide data on this as the picture is ever changing but latest police information advises that there are 25 actively being investigated.

The MET Hub collates all information on children and young people who are identified within Cambridgeshire as being at risk of exploitation or of actually being exploited.

Any child who is deemed to be at risk has an exploitation risk assessment completed and this enables us through analysis of all available information and intelligence to establish whether the child is at emerging, moderate or significant risk of exploitation and whether the risk comes from sexual exploitation, criminal exploitation, or gang related exploitation.

At the time of writing this report within Cambridgeshire there were 196 children on the exploitation tracker. These children will have had a completed risk assessment and have been identified as at some risk of Child Sexual Exploitation CSE (158) /Criminal Exploitation CCE (64) or in some cases both.

The Exploitation Risk Assessment categorises whether a child is assessed as being at Significant, moderate or emerging risk which then informs the level of intervention required.

LEVEL	Emerging	Moderate	Significant
CSE	78	65	15
CCE	20	35	9

Some of the children and young people who are vulnerable to criminal exploitation or who are being criminally exploited/exploited by gangs or involved in county lines are known to the Youth Offending Service.

The Youth Offending Service (YOS) run Risk Management Panels which are multi agency in make up to ensure that high risk cases are well tracked and managed. At the lower end of the scale there is the offer of a preventative programme of intervention to children called "Which Way" which is delivered in YOS, the Early Help District Teams and the newly formed Adolescent Teams to support children and young people to move away from gang affiliations and criminal behaviour.

Various funding bid applications have been made such as Trusted Relationships and Early Intervention Fund which were unfortunately unsuccessful, but YOS are currently preparing a Youth Endowment Fund Bid which would enable the service to develop services to meet identified need for particular cohorts of children most at risk.

Funding for a post in Huntingdon through the Freeman Society has been secured. This worker will work alongside YOS, Early Help, Social Care and the MET Hub to engage young people who are at moderate or significant risk of exploitation to offer intensive support to young people, undertake safety checks and ensure that there is effective risk planning in place. This worker will also work with schools around prevention and support where there are young people identified as at emerging risk of exploitation.

Recognising the challenge of engaging with children and young people who are potentially immersed in county lines/ criminal exploitation/gang violence, the service is trying to develop a more responsive approach to include daily safe and well

checks for those at significant and moderate risk, and to develop with education more activity based timetables to reduce time available and offer a more positive alternative.

With our moderate and substantive cases, the biggest challenges are disclosure; managing engagement and disengagement; managing the balance of victim and perpetrator; diverting them into positive education and employment; responding to missing episodes; and conducting safe and well checks both during the day and out of hours. Further work needs to be undertaken to look at whether a voluntary involvement for this group of young people with an intensive diversionary timetable, daily contact and out of hours contact would offer improved outcomes in terms of diversion from exploitation and engagement with employment and/or education.

In April 2018 a new Police team was formed, also called the Missing Exploited Trafficked Hub that works jointly alongside the social care MET Hub team. This team contains 5 police officers, a police sergeant and other members of staff. They work closely alongside social care to share information to enable children to be engaged with and risks reduced / managed. The officers within the team are specialists and are plain clothes officers. They will often make contact with children after receiving intelligence or concerns from other agencies to provide a child and the family with knowledge around exploitation and what we (police) and other agencies can do to support them.

Appropriate legislation is used to disrupt exploitation of children and a number of CAWNs (Child Abduction Warning Notice) have been issued to alleged perpetrators to prevent them having contact or harbouring a minor.

Cambridgeshire Police also chair regular meetings with Care Home / Supported Living providers to discuss missing/exploitation and make them aware of any local concerns that they need to know about in order to assist them in looking after children within their care.

Unaccompanied young people are identified as being at particular risk of exploitation and trafficking. From April 2019 the police are introducing a new welfare procedure which will see greater joined up working with Immigration and capturing of intelligence when these children are first found.

Cambridgeshire police also run mystery shopper exercises across the year which involves plain clothes officers visiting hotels and behaving as if they were “exploiting” children. This is to see / check if the hotel staff response is appropriate. The findings of these checks are passed to local council licensing teams in order that they can consider whether licences should be renewed/revoked.

The Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) have a dedicated officer with responsibility for exploitation who co-ordinates all awareness raising activity with businesses such as hotels and with night time economy providers such as taxi companies. Outreach work is undertaken with schools and programmes such as Chelsea’s Choice have been funded to raise awareness of sexual exploitation. A number of other on line resources such as “Sic Party” have been used by schools to reinforce this message.

The Early Help district teams are actively involved in working with young people and their families to intervene when there are emerging risks so that risk of harm is reduced. Family workers and Young Peoples Worker complete the exploitation risk assessment and management tool alongside the young person and send this to the Missing and Exploitation Team (MET) Hub for inclusion on the MACE tracker. Early Help and internal partners within the district teams review the tracker monthly and any assessments are updated as needed and sent to the MET Hub.

Early Help contribute to any district based exploitation/County Lines mapping meetings regarding identifying young people, cohorts and connections in local areas.

In Cambridgeshire each Community Safety Partnership operates a multi-agency Problem Solving Group where incidents of Anti-Social Behaviour are reported, identified and problem solved as a partnership. These groups include councils, schools, housing providers, police, youth offending and support agencies. Early Help attend and contribute to these meetings to support identification of and interventions for young people at risk.

Previously in Huntingdonshire a project called Transforming Lives was funded by the Huntingdonshire Community Safety Partnership via the Police and Crime Commissioner after areas of concern were identified in both St Ives and St Neots via the local Problem Solving Groups of young people at risk of exploitation. In St Neots this was regarding risk of criminal exploitation and anti-social behaviour of a group of young males and in St Ives and Huntingdon a group of young woman who were at risk of CSE.

Feedback from young people who attended was very positive. Here are some examples of what they said:

- “The project has been amazing. It has changed my life. Before I did not know all of the bad things which could happen to me with some of the things I was doing .It has helped me make better decisions”
- “A couple of weeks ago two of my friends went off with a man and spent the night with him. They took drugs and one of them had sex with him. They invited me to go with them but I said no because this project has given me the strength to say no”
- “It has helped me think about what I want to do. Before the project I wasn’t in school. I’m not back in full time but I have started going again and I want to achieve things in the future”
- “I didn’t have lot of time for the police, they always seen to be telling you off or getting you into trouble. I’ve got to know Rachel (PCSO) and would trust her in the future”

Alongside the work of the Early Help district teams we refer young people to Link to Change for ongoing intervention and support when they have experienced child

sexual exploitation. This voluntary agency also offers outreach and support sessions to schools.

3. 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
Reports and minutes of the Children and Young People Committee 13 November 2019	https://cambridgeshire.cmis.uk.com/ccclive/Meetings/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/832/Committee/4/Default.aspx

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		Medium	24.07.18 (To be rearranged)	John Heron, Residential and Placements Provision Manager		Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee members		
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		Medium	To be arranged	Kate Knight, Lead Corporate Parenting Manager	Added to the agenda for the Members' Seminar on 14 June 2019.	All Members		

8.	Skills Workshop	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 will 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.		To be arranged	Aidan O'Reilly, Corporate Parenting					
	Access to Universal Credit and benefits for care leavers	Training session. Involving a Personal Adviser or the Personal Adviser Coordinator would be of benefit.		To be arranged	Aidan O'Reilly, Corporate Parenting					

CORPORATE PARENTING SUB-COMMITTEE FORWARD AGENDA PLAN

Published 11 March 2019

Agenda Item No: 11

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 20 March 2019 – 4.15pm – Council Chamber, The Grange, Nutholt Lane, Ely CB7 4EE					
Meeting Theme: Health Issues					
	Minutes and Action Log	Democratic Services	Not applicable		7 March 2019
	Virtual School (<i>Standing item</i>)	J Lewis/ 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>)	J Barry & 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
	Workforce Development: Recruitment, Retention and Training (standing item)	S-J Smedmor	Not applicable		
	Children and Young People Looked After: Emotional Health and Wellbeing (bi-meeting update)	P Parker	Not applicable		
	Actions taken by the Council in response to child sexual exploitation and county lines/ gang exploitation	J Goodes	Not applicable		
	Forward Agenda Plan	R Greenhill	Not applicable		
Wednesday 22 May 2019 – 4.00pm - venue tbc					
Meeting theme: Education Issues					
	Minutes and Action Log	Democratic Services	Not applicable		
	Virtual School (Standing item)	C Hiorns	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)	J Barry & 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
	Workforce Development (quarterly standing item)	S-J Smedmor	Not applicable		
	Refreshed NEET Strategy: Reducing the number of Looked After Children who are Not in Education, Employment or Training	M Cowdell	Not applicable		
	Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee: Draft First Annual Report to the Children and Young People Committee	S-J Smedmor	Not applicable		
	Fostering Service Annual Report 2018/19 (including Early Permanence)	J Heron/ J-A Saunders/ A O'Reilly	Not applicable		
	Update on the Local Offer (bi-meeting update)	K Knight	Not applicable		
	Agenda Plan	Democratic Services	Not applicable		
Wednesday 17 July 2019 – 4.00pm – venue tbc					
	Minutes and Action Log	Democratic Services	Not applicable		
	Virtual School (Standing item)	C Hiorns	Not applicable		
	Performance Report (standing item)	A O'Reilly	Not applicable		
	Sub-Committee Workshop/ Training Plan (standing item)	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
	Young People's Participation (standing item)	J Barry & C Betteridge	Not applicable		
	Child and Adolescent Mental Health issues for Cambridgeshire's Looked After Children: Update (bi-meeting update)	P Parker	Not applicable		
	Independent Review Officers' Annual Report: April 2018-March 2019	Olly Grant	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 (Standing item)	C Hiorns	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)	J Barry & C Betteridge	Not applicable		
	Workforce Development (quarterly standing item)	S-J Smedmor	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 20 November 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		
	Sub-Committee Workshop/ Training Plan (<i>standing item</i>)	A O'Reilly	Not applicable		
	Young People's Participation (<i>standing item</i>)	J Barry & C Betteridge	Not applicable		
	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>)	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 <i>(standing item)</i>	A O'Reilly	Not applicable		
	Young People's Participation <i>(standing item)</i>	J Barry & C Betteridge	Not applicable		
	Workforce Development <i>(quarterly standing item)</i>	S-J Smedmor	Not applicable		
	Agenda Plan	Democratic Services	Not applicable		
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>	J Barry & C Betteridge	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 20 May 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>	J Barry & C Betteridge	Not applicable		
	Workforce Development <i>(quarterly standing item)</i>	S-J Smedmor	Not applicable		
	Agenda Plan	Democratic Services	Not applicable		

Notice made under the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 in compliance with Regulation 5(7)

1. At least 28 clear days before a private meeting of a decision-making body, public notice should be given which must include a statement of reasons for the meeting to be held in private.
2. At least 5 clear days before a private meeting of a decision-making body, further public notice must be given which must include a statement of reasons for the meeting to be held in private, details of any representations received by the decision-making body about why the meeting should be open to the public and a statement of the Council's response to such representations.

Forward plan reference	Intended date of decision	Matter in respect of which the decision is to be made	Decision maker	List of documents to be submitted to the decision maker	Reason for the meeting to be held in private

Decisions to be made in private as a matter of urgency in compliance with Regulation 5(6)

3. Where the date by which a meeting must be held makes compliance with the above requirements impracticable, the meeting may only be held in private where the decision-making body has obtained agreement from the Chairman of the Council.
4. Compliance with the requirements for the giving of public notice has been impracticable in relation to the business detailed below.
5. The Chairman of the Council has agreed that the Committee may hold a private meeting to consider the business referred to in paragraph 4 above because the meeting is urgent and cannot reasonably be deferred for the reasons stated below.

Date of Chairman's agreement	Matter in respect of which the decision is to be made	Reasons why meeting urgent and cannot reasonably be deferred

For further information, please contact Fiona McMillan, Monitoring Officer on 01733 452361 or at Fiona.McMillan@peterborough.gov.uk