

CORPORATE PARENTING SUB-COMMITTEE



Date: Wednesday, 25 April 2018

Democratic and Members' Services
Quentin Baker
LGSS Director: Lawand Governance

16:30hr

Shire Hall
Castle Hill
Cambridge
CB3 0AP

Room 128

Shire Hall, Castle Hill, Cambridge, CB3 0AP

AGENDA

Open to Public and Press

- 1 Apologies for absence and declarations of interest**
Guidance on declaring interests is available at <http://tinyurl.com/ccc-conduct-code>
- 2 Minutes of the Meeting on 21 February 2018** **5 - 12**
- 3 Action Log** **13 - 20**
- 4 Co-option of Young People's Representatives**
Verbal item. To co-opt up to two young people with recent (within the last five years) direct experience of being Looked After by or receiving services as a care leaver from Cambridgeshire County Council. Appointments will be for a period of two years with the possibility of a one year extension by mutual consent.
- 5 Young People's Participation** **21 - 24**
- 6 Performance Report** **25 - 38**

7	Virtual School	39 - 44
8	Looked After Children Reducing Number Not in Education, Employment and Training (NEET) - Refreshed Strategy	45 - 48
9	Foster Care Recruitment Update	49 - 52
10	Agenda Plan	53 - 58
11	Sub-Committee Workshop and Training Plan	59 - 60
12	Date of Next Meeting	

The Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee will meet next on Wednesday 13 June at 4.00pm, venue to be confirmed.

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: 21 FEBRUARY 2018

Date: 21 February 2018

Time: 4.45pm-6.50pm

Venue: Meeting Room 2, Huntingdon Library, Huntingdon

Present: Councillors L Every (Chairman), A Bradnam (from 5.05pm to 6.45pm), K Cuffley, L Joseph and C Richards

Observers: P Asker, S Day and M Davis

Apologies: Councillor A Costello (substituted by Councillor K Cuffley) and Councillor A Hay (substituted by Councillor L Joseph)

12. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Apologies were received from Councillor A Costello (substituted by Councillor K Cuffley) and Councillor A Hay (substituted by Councillor L Joseph).

There were no declarations of interest.

13. MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 13 DECEMBER 2017

The minutes were approved as an accurate record.

14. ACTION LOG

The Action Log was reviewed and the following updates and comments noted:

Minutes of the meeting on 13 December 1017:

- i. Minute 3: Co-option of Young People's Representatives: Officers would advise the Chairman of future dates for meetings of the Voices Matter Panel when these had been arranged.
(**Action:** Service Development and Commissioning Manager, Looked After Children)
- ii. Minute 8: Fostering Service Annual Report: The Interim Foster Care Manager stated that 40 new sets of foster carers had been approved in the current year with a further 23 in assessment and 21 having expressed interest. This positive position was attributed to a combination of factors including a specific focus on foster carer recruitment within the Council and boosting the online element of the recruitment campaign. The average time taken from an initial expression of interest in fostering to approval as a foster carer was around four and a half to five months.

A Member emphasised the value of word of mouth in promoting the work of foster carers and the opportunities available. They also stressed the important

role to be played by all County Councillors in raising awareness of the fostering opportunities and of engaging with local groups such as Parish, District and City Councils, LGBT organisations and faith and community groups to make them aware of the opportunities available. The Interim Foster Care Manager stated that he was exploring with the Communications team the possibility of providing councillors and officers who worked directly with the public with badges prompting the public to ask them about fostering. He also thanked councillors for including County Council social media posts about fostering on their own accounts which helped spread the information to the largest possible audience. The Chairman stated that Members were very supportive of the drive to raise awareness of the in-house fostering opportunities offered by the County Council and asked that officers should keep them informed of anything they could do to support this.

(Action: Interim Head of Foster Care/ Communications Team)

- iii. Minute 9: Young People's Participation: The Chairman stated that she would be meeting informally with officers and the young people who had expressed interest in being co-opted to the Sub-Committee as Young People's Representatives to discuss what would work best for them to support their attendance and participation in meetings.

15. VIRTUAL SCHOOL

The Chairman stated that Members had asked that the Virtual School should be a standing item on the agenda, but that this did not mean that a report should be submitted to each meeting. Their wish was that reports should be submitted at key points in the school year or relate to specific areas of interest to Members. She noted that three young people with experience of having been Looked After were attending the meeting as Observers and invited them to comment and ask questions about any items on the agenda.

The following comments arose in discussion of the report and in response to questions:

- In relation to the summary at the top of the report the Head of the Virtual School clarified that the Virtual School supported Looked After Children within Cambridgeshire County Council's care and not all Looked After Children living within Cambridgeshire;
- Members confirmed that the core set of factual data should include numbers on roll, the number of children in county and out of county, the age profile of the children, how many had special educational needs and the number and age range of Looked After Children within each District Council area and the City. This would be followed by an examination of a specific issue. Possible topics included:
 - Post 16s not in education, employment or training (NEET);
 - Post 16 extension to engage with universities;
 - Early Years, including early identification of need and support;
 - school admission requests including timescales and refusals;
 - transition from school to college, apprenticeships, work or university and building bridges with business and further and higher education providers.

It was agreed that officers would include a brief overview of each of these topics and any others which they might wish to draw to Members' attention for inclusion in a report to the next meeting. Members would then identify and prioritise those subjects for more detailed consideration.

(Action: Head of the Virtual School)

- Members asked for a six month update on the information contained in the report brought to the Sub-Committee's first meeting in December 2017 so that they could review the comparative data;
(Action: Head of the Virtual School/ Democratic Services Officer)
- Officers confirmed that transport would be provided to enable children to remain at their current school where this was needed;
- Officers acknowledged that a change in school during Years 10 to 13 could have a significant negative impact for even for the most motivated of students, and as such it would have to be approved at senior officer level within the Council. Officers worked hard to keep children in their existing school when they were taken into care, but sometimes this was just not possible. If it was not possible to get them on roll at an appropriate school the Virtual School had tutors who could provide individual support to enable them to access an appropriate curriculum.

An Observer acknowledged that providing transport could enable students to continue attending the same school following a change in living arrangements. However, a long taxi journey to and from school each day reduced home study time, access to extra-curricular activities and free time and could leave students geographically isolated from their friends.

- Members noted an Observer's comment that they did not know if there were any other Looked After young people at their school and asked if there was an appropriate way to put Looked After Young people at the same school in touch with each other if they wished. Officers advised that this happened in some schools via the Designated Teacher for Looked After Children, but not in all. They undertook to reflect this in future training for Designated Teachers;
(Action: Head of the Virtual School)
- Members stated that Looked After young people were their own best advocates. It was important to engage with business and further and higher education providers to make them aware of the wider skills and attributes of these young people which might not be readily apparent from a standard CV or job application.

Officers advised that all Looked After Children received careers advice, had a link person at the Virtual School, termly Personal Education Plan (PEP) reviews and transition support and that there was a Working Group with industry. They could though look again at this area to see what more could be done.

(Action: Head of the Virtual School)

- An Observer commented that most of their PEP reviews the previous year had been cancelled and that there seemed to be a lack of understanding at their school about who was responsible for organising the review and making sure it happened. Officers stated that PEP reviews for Post 16s had only been introduced two years

previously and that there had been some problems embedding them with providers. In the previous year only 40% of Post 16 PEP reviews had taken place, but training with providers was continuing and Pupil Premium Plus payments were now linked to the completion of PEPs. The Assistant Director stated that she received a weekly list of PEP reviews and that the position for under 16s was much more positive. Officers were though continuing to press for improvement in relation to reviews for Post 16s. Figure for PEP reviews would be included in the core data in future reports.

(Action: Head of the Virtual School)

16. PERFORMANCE REPORT

The Chairman and Members thanked the report authors and officers in the Business Intelligence team for taking on board their comments on the content and presentation of data in the report which was now far clearer.

The following comments arose in discussion of the report and in response to questions:

- Officers confirmed that the cost of independent foster care placements was roughly double the cost of comparable in-house provision at around £800 per week, although commissioners were constantly working to negotiate the best price from providers;
- Feedback from foster carers indicated that they valued the total package of support offered by the Council and that whilst the financial element of this was significant it was not the only factor influencing their choices. Officers constantly monitored the support packages offered by independent foster care providers to make sure that the Council's offer remained competitive;
- Quite a high proportion of Cambridgeshire's unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC) were accommodated in Peterborough as the city offered some services and cultural support networks which were not readily available elsewhere. The Joint Commissioning Board looked at provision across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough including opportunities for collaborative cross-border working where appropriate to ensure that placements met the particular needs of each child or young person;
- Officers confirmed that there was a good working relationship with neighbouring local authorities which supported conversations about the provision of placements when needed, but in practice most local authorities preferred to keep their Looked After Children within their own geographic borders where this was possible;
- Officers stated that all forms of potentially abusive, coercive or exploitative behaviour were badged under the heading of child sexual exploitation (CSE) for the purposes of review. This included potential risks both from peers and adults. Support was available through a variety of routes including youth workers specialising in supporting healthy and safe peer relationships;

Summing up, the Chairman asked that a Performance Report should be brought to each meeting to enable Members to build their knowledge of the data over time and to support the identification of trends.

(Action: Democratic Services Officer/ Head of Partnerships and Quality Assurance)

It was resolved to:

- a) review performance for Looked After Children and comment on the themes and trends identified in the report.

17. YOUNG PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION: CO-OPTION OF TWO YOUNG PEOPLE'S REPRESENTATIVES

The Chairman thanked the three young people who had attended the meeting as Observers for their interest in getting involved in the Sub-Committee's work, either through co-option to the Sub-Committee or another form of engagement. Expressions of interest had also been received from a number of other young people and all of these would be followed up. It was essential that the voice of Looked After Children and care leavers was placed at the core of the Sub-Committee's work and that young people helped both shape and inform the business it considered.

An Observer who had attended the previous meeting commented that they found the summaries now included in each report and the data explanations contained in the performance report helpful.

It was resolved to:

- a) note that three young people would be attending the meeting as observers with a view to joining as co-opted members in April 2018.

18. WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

The Assistant Director for Children introduced the report which provided an overview of development opportunities for social workers. This included a formal offer together with a number of additional opportunities designed to help social workers develop their practice in more depth and through a variety of learning styles. Training was also developed to address any issues raised through the Voices Matter Panel. All of the County's Looked After children had an allocated social worker, but the organisation of this support was one of the areas being explored by the current Oxford Brookes research project.

The following comments arose in discussion of the report and in response to questions:

- An Observer commented that they found that less experienced social workers could sometimes seem more involved than more experienced practitioners who might appear more relaxed;
- An Observer commented that they had been supported by lots of different social workers during a relatively short period and asked about the support that was in place for them. Officers stated that Cambridgeshire was more successful than many local authorities in retaining social workers. Some change arose from social workers moving to different roles which was good for their professional development, but it was acknowledged that the Children's Change programme had led to increased change. The offer to social workers in neighbouring counties was being considered as part of the research project being carried out by Oxford Brookes University.

It was resolved:

- a) note and comment on the report.

19. COUNCIL TAX DISCOUNTS AND EXEMPTIONS FOR CARE LEAVERS: UPDATE

The Chairman stated that the question of possible council tax discounts or exemptions for care leavers had originally been raised at the Voices Matter Panel. An Observer had raised this at the last Sub-committee meeting and as a result both Members and officers had been in touch informally with their counterparts in Cambridgeshire's District and City Councils to take their views.

The Head of Countywide and Looked After Children's Services stated that initial work had focused on the legal and decision making process relating to council tax discounts and exemptions. The Children and Social Work Act 2017 would come into effect in April 2018 and included a requirement for all authorities to demonstrate consideration of their corporate parenting responsibilities. Providing relief on council tax was one way in which they might evidence this. Any decision to grant relief from council tax had to be applied by the collection authority which in Cambridgeshire would mean the District and City Councils. It would be open to the County Council to consider whether to provide support to any young people living outside of Cambridgeshire or within the county in any areas where no discount or exemption was offered. East Cambridgeshire District Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council had expressed interest in knowing more about the potential number of young people involved and the likely costs. Cambridge City Council was taking forward a proposal which would make care leavers exempt from council tax from April 2019 onward and officers thanked their counterparts at the City Council who had very helpfully shared their learning on this. A Member noted that whilst District and City Councils worked out council tax precepts and gathered payments they were only responsible for the expenditure of a small proportion of the money raised.

It was resolved to:

- a) note and comment on the report.

It was further moved by Councillor Bradnam, seconded by Councillor Cuffley to:

- b) request that the Chairman of the Children And Young People Committee and Executive Director for People and Communities consider adding this issue to the Forward Agenda Plan for the Children and Young People Committee for further consideration.

On being put to the vote the motion was passed.

20. HEALTH ASSESSMENTS FOR LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN

The Chairman welcomed the Designated Nurse for Looked After Children in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough to the meeting and thanked her for attending and for her report.

The Designated Nurse stated that every Looked After Child under the age of five had two health assessments per year whilst over the age of five they had one health

assessment per year. Every effort was made to meet the target for conducting initial health assessments (IHAs) on children coming into care within 20 days but this remained a challenge, particularly in relation to children placed out of area. Where children lived fairly close to Cambridgeshire's borders the county's own health professionals would carry out the assessments where possible, but the position was more difficult with children accommodated further away. Obtaining the necessary consent from parents or parents and social workers to carry out IHAs could also take time and health professionals were working hard with officers to address this. Some delays occurred in relation to review health assessments when carers were unable to make the dates offered or a young person declined the offer of a review. In the latter case health professionals would try to speak to the young person by phone. Review health assessments were mainly carried out by specialist nurses and should take place annually to within 15 days of the previous review. Staffing capacity issues within the nursing team had impacted negatively on the number of review health assessments completed within this timescale, but a new Lead Nurse was now in post and an improving position was reported in the two months previously. The Lead Nurse was also reviewing arrangements going forward, including possible future work with the Peterborough team.

The following comments arose in discussion of the report and in response to questions:

- Two of the observers present commented that they personally did not find the review health assessments useful and felt that they could feel intrusive and judgemental. The Designated Nurse acknowledged these views, but commented that many younger children had issues which needed to be explored;
- Officers highlighted the need to work with children and young people to give them the confidence to access health services and noted the important role played by foster carers in developing this confidence.

It was resolved to:

- a) note and comment on the content of the report.

21. SUB-COMMITTEE WORKSHOP AND TRAINING PLAN

Members reviewed the Sub-Committee Workshop and Training Plan and commented that they would welcome a training session on foster care.

(**Action:** Interim Foster Care Manager/ Democratic Services Officer)

Officers were invited to suggest areas of training and development which they felt would be of value both to elected and co-opted members of the Sub-Committee.

(**Action:** Democratic Services Officer/ Service Development and Commissioning Manager)

It was resolved to:

- a) note and comment on the Sub-Committee workshop and training plan.

22. AGENDA PLAN

Members reviewed the Sub-Committee agenda plan and the Chairman stated that co-opted members would be invited to suggest items which they felt the Sub-Committee should be considering.

It was resolved to:

- a) note the Sub-Committee agenda plan. .

23. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Provisional dates for future bi-monthly meetings would be submitted to the Chairman for approval and circulated to all elected and co-opted members and substitute members.

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 **16 April 2018**

Minutes of 13 December 2017

5.	Performance Report	Tom Barden	Members asked that the table of information on LAC accommodated out of county should also show the number of LAC accommodated in-county and that the total LAC population figure should also be included. They would also like an indication of how the out of county were accommodated, for example with foster carers, in children's homes or living independently.	<p>12/02/18: Information on the number of LAC accommodated in-county and the total figure for in-county and out of county placements included in February's report.</p> <p>15/04/18: Information on numbers of LAC accommodated in and out of county will be included in all Performance Reports going forward.</p>	Completed
		Jacqui Barry	Figures for numbers of foster carers to be included in the report each month, including recruitment figures.	15/02/18: As of the 31 January 2018 there were 127 Foster placements/supported lodgings, providing a total of 207 placements. Updated information will be included in future Performance Reports.	Completed
7.	Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee Workshop/ Training Plan	Sarah-Jane Smedmor/ Jacqui Barry	To arrange visits for Sub-Committee members to the spaces where decisions were made, such as LAC reviews, to see and talk directly to the officers involved in this work.	<p>02/01/17: JB contacted Olly Grant in respect of LAC reviews and Sarah-Jane regarding attendance at the Threshold and Resources Panel and Children and Families Leadership Team for dates for Members to attend.</p> <p>11/04/18: Awaiting Members confirming which meetings they would like to attend with the relevant administrator.</p>	On-going

		Jacqui Barry	To arrange either a single initial training session between 10.00-4.00pm or two half day sessions to cover the items described at paragraph 2.1 of the report. Members' availability should be canvassed by doodle poll.	<p>05/02/18: Doodle poll sent to all members to canvass dates.</p> <p>13/03/18: The possibility of combining a training session with a visit to the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub on 10 April 2018 being explored.</p> <p>10/04/18: A two hour training session held on 10 April 2018. Further two hour workshops to be scheduled, based on Members identifying training areas.</p>	Completed
8.	Fostering Service Annual Report	Sarah-Jane Smedmor	To keep members of the Sub-Committee informed about ways in which they can help spread the message within their communities that the Council was actively seeking to recruit new in-house foster carers and to make people more aware of the opportunities and support packages on offer. <i>(Minute 14 below also refers)</i>	11/04/18: A Foster Care Update report at the Sub-Committee on 25 th April 2018 presented by John Heron, Placements Provision Manager will cover this issue.	On-going
		Sarah-Jane Smedmor	Officers to liaise with Helen Manley about the work being done by her team on identifying accommodation for teachers.	15/02/18: Contact made with Helen Manley. A business case is being developed and this is awaited.	On-going

9.	Young People's Participation	Jacqui Barry	To reflect collectively on how to establish an appropriate mechanism to ensure that the voices of younger Looked After Children and those who chose not to engage with representative groups like Voices Matter should still be heard and how to most effectively communicate the Sub-Committees' discussions and decisions to young people.	11/04/18: This will be explored as part of the work that the new managers as strategic leads for participation will be taking forward. The outcome of this will be shared with Sub-Committee Members. In recent weeks a letter has been sent to all Looked After Children advising them of changes in the service and inviting them to become involved.	Completed
		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.	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. 09/04/18: To be processed by Democratic Services.	On-going

Minutes of the meeting on 21 February 2018					
14.	Action Log	Jacqui Barry	To advise the Chairman of future dates for meetings of the Voices Matter Panel when these had been arranged.	21/03/18: Future to dates to be arranged once Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee meeting dates are set to align them where possible.	On-going
		John Heron/ Communications Team	To keep Members of the Sub-Committee informed of anything they could do to support raising awareness of fostering opportunities offered by the County Council. <i>(Minute 8 above also refers)</i>	11/04/18: This issue will be covered in the Foster Care Update report to the Sub-Committee on 25 April 2018.	On-going
15.	Virtual School	Jo Pallett	To include a brief overview of the topics discussed at the meeting on 21 February 2018 and any others which officers might wish to draw to Members' attention for inclusion in a report to the next meeting. Members would then identify and prioritise those subjects for more detailed consideration.	20/03/18: Included in the Virtual School report to the Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee meeting on 25 April 2018.	Completed

		Jo Pallett/ Richenda Greenhill	A six month update report on the information contained in the report brought to the Sub-Committee's first meeting in December 2017 so that Members could review the comparative data.	10/03/18: Added to the Forward Agenda Plan for June 2018.	Completed
		Jo Pallett	To reflect the need to explore appropriate ways to put Looked After children and young people at the same school in touch with each other if they wished in future training for Designated Teachers.	20/03/18: Advice on this to be included in the Designated Teacher training, suggesting it particularly at transition to new schools or for newly Looked After Children.	Completed
		Jo Pallett	To explore additional ways to engage with business and further and higher education providers to make them aware of the wider skills and attributes of Looked After young people and care leavers which might not be readily apparent from a standard CV or job application.	20/03/18: An additional worker has been appointed for post 16s to support engagement and further reduce the number of those not in education, employment or training (NEET). This is in addition to the post 18 worker already seconded to the Virtual School team. The aim is to improve progression from pre-16 to lifelong learning. Further discussion on industry links to be developed as part of the School Development Plan.	Completed
		Jo Pallett	To include figures for Personal Education Plan (PEP) reviews in the core data in future reports.	20/03/18: To be included routinely in future reports.	On-going

16.	Performance Report	Lisa Reid/ Richenda Greenhill	To bring a Performance Report to each meeting to enable Members to build their knowledge of the data over time and to support the identification of trends.	10/03/18: Included on the Forward Agenda Plan as a standing item.	Completed
21.	Sub-Committee Workshop and Training Plan	John Heron/ Richenda Greenhill	To arrange a training session on foster care.	11/04/18: To be timetabled as part of the discussion of the Sub-Committee Training Plan on 25 April 2018.	On-going
		Sarah-Jane Smedmor, Fiona MacKirdy, Lisa Reid, Jo Pallett, Jacqui Barry	To suggest areas of training and development which they felt would be of value both to elected and co-opted members of the Sub-Committee.	11/04/18: To be covered by discussion of the Sub-Committee Training Plan on 25 April 2018.	On-going

YOUNG PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION

To: Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee

Meeting Date: 27 April 2018

From: Claire Betteridge and Jacqui Barry
Service Development Managers

Electoral division(s): All

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

Recommendation: Note the update regarding the Participation Team and steps to involve young people within the Sub-Committee (young people to be co-opted at start of meeting on 27th April 2018)

<i>Officer contact:</i>	<i>Member contact:</i>
Name: Claire Betteridge and Jacqui Barry Post: Service Development Managers Email: CSC.Participation@cambridgeshire.gov.uk Tel: 01480 372493 / 01223 715530	Names: Councillor Lis Every Role: Chairman, Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee Email: Lis.Every@cambridgeshire.gov.uk Tel: (office) 01223 706398

Summary:

- Three Looked After young people have said that they would like to be part of the Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee. Two of them will become co-opted members and the third will be a substitute member. This means that they will go to meetings if one of the two co-opted members can't go. We will also look for another young person to be a substitute member to help make sure there are always young people able to come to meetings.
- The young people will write to other Looked After children after each Sub-Committee meeting to tell them what happened.
- All of the young people who are co-opted members or substitute members will be part of the Children in Care Council. They will find out what other Looked After children and young people think and tell councillors about this.
- The Participation Service has two new managers, Jacqui Barry and Claire Betteridge, and two new participation workers jobs are being advertised.
- The Participation groups 'Just Us' will start running again when the two new participation workers arrive.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 It was agreed by the Sub-Committee that they should involve young people directly in order to facilitate exchange of views. In addition the Committee requested an update on wider participation activities.

2. MAIN ISSUES

2.1 Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee

Following a request by the Sub-Committee, all Looked After young people and care leavers were written to asking for expressions of interest in being part of the Sub-Committee's work. Four responded and three chose to attend a previous meeting and met with Councillor Every (Chairman of the Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee) on 9th April 2018, to discuss, plan and agree their involvement and co-option to the committee.

It was agreed that two young people would be co-opted at the April meeting and that the third young person will be a substitute in accordance with the Terms of Reference. A fourth young person would also be sought to allow the young people to share the workload with two young people attending each meeting. Support with preparing for meetings will be provided through the Participation Team. The young people will write to all children in care and care leavers following every Sub-Committee meeting to keep them informed about the issues discussed and actions agreed.

These young people will also be members of the Voices Matter Group (Children in Care Council) and act as champions to take views to and from other young people. The group will have an agreed work plan and link with the work of the Committee. Councillor Every will be invited to attend these meetings.

2.2 Update on Participation Service

The Participation Service which involves young people in services has recently had a change in management. The Manager, Michelle Dean, has left and Steph Killick (Participation Worker) is now on maternity leave. Jacqui Barry and Claire Betteridge are now the strategic leads for the service.

Recruitment of two participation workers is underway. Until this recruitment is complete, 'Just Us' groups for young people will be paused. A letter has gone out to all Looked After Children and will shortly go to all Care Leavers to update them as above and also to let them know about opportunities to be part of Voices Matter – the Children in Care Council and a project called 'Staying Close Staying Connected' with a Charity called 'Break' which is looking at how young people who have been living in residential care are supported to move on when they reach 18 and their views on this.

As part of these changes, plans for the future role of the service will be developed with young people, senior managers and Sub-Committee members over the next few months.

3. **SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS**

3.1 **Resource Implications**

NA

3.2 **Procurement/Contractual/Council Contract Procedure Rules Implications**

NA

3.3 **Statutory, Legal and Risk Implications**

N/A

3.4 **Equality and Diversity Implications**

Not immediately but there will be a need to ensure equitable representation.

3.5 **Engagement and Communications Implications**

Not immediately but we will need to communicate and engage as the work develops.

3.6 **Localism and Local Member Involvement**

At this point Member involvement will be via the Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee but there may be more specific projects that emerge as the work develops.

3.7 **Public Health Implications**

N/A

Source Documents	Location
None	

CORPORATE PARENTING SUB-COMMITTEE PERFORMANCE REPORT

To: **Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee**

Meeting Date: **25th April 2018**

From: **Lisa Reid
Head of Partnerships and Quality Assurance**

Electoral division(s): **All**

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

Recommendation: **The Sub-Committee is asked to:**

- a) review performance in relation to Looked after Children;**
- b) comment on the themes and trends identified in this report.**

<i>Officer contact:</i>		<i>Member contact:</i>	
Name:	Lisa Reid	Names:	Councillor Lis Every
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Summary:

- As of the 28 February 2018 there are 697 looked after children supported by the Council
- 57% of looked after children are male, 43% are female
- 8% have a disability
- 52% of the current placements are in-county, with 48% of placements out of county
- Almost 84% of unaccompanied asylum seeking young people are placed out of county
- The proportion of looked after children being visited within the statutory timescales has been improving through the year, from 70.3% in April 2017 to 92.5% in February 2018
- The number of looked after children who were reported missing within the month, and the number of individual instances where a looked after child went missing has continued to fall since November 2017.

1. BACKGROUND

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

2. MAIN ISSUES

- 2.1 This report has been re-designed since the previous meeting to include a breakdown of the placement type for children in and out of County.
- 2.2 Further improvements to this report are currently being worked on. These will include:
- Information on foster carers, including recruitment figures
 - Further information on education of Looked After Children
- 2.4 As of the 28 February 2018 there are 697 looked after children supported by the Council. 57% of these children are male, 43% are female. 8% have a disability.
- 2.5 Although there has been a 1.75% increase in the number of looked after children since April 2017, this equates to a rate of 51 per 10,000 of population. The national average is 60.0 per 10,000 of population, meaning Cambridgeshire is performing favourably compared to nationally.
- 2.6 52% of the current placements are in-county, with 48% of placements out of county. 83.9% of unaccompanied asylum seeking young people are placed

out of county and this is due to lack of availability of accommodation in Cambridgeshire. These placements are mostly in Peterborough. This area is better placed to serve some of the cultural needs of this cohort of young people and it is relatively close to our borders, making statutory visits and keeping in touch manageable.

- 2.7 The proportion of Looked After children being visited within the statutory timescales has been improving through the year, from 70.3% in April 2017 to 92.5% in February 2018. Capacity issues are the largest contributing factor to late visits. Individual cases have management oversight and where there are capacity issues, the priority is given to the most vulnerable children. Performance on children having their Looked After review in timescales fell in February and this was around adverse weather conditions and meetings needing to be rescheduled.
- 2.8 Performance around newly Looked After children having their health assessment in 20 days of becoming looked after has fallen in February to 43%. This is around the late notification from children's social care to health. There were also a number of large sibling groups arriving in care, impacting on clinic time and Nurse availability. Six of the children placed out of County did not have their health assessments within the 20 day timescale. Their health assessments are organised by the hosting Primary Care Trust and Cambridgeshire cannot specifically determine when their assessment takes place. The 20 day timescale is national guidance so all Health trusts do work to the same arrangements, but it is important to highlight that Health authorities will prioritise seeing children from their local area, before assessing the needs of children placed in their area by other authorities.
- 2.9 7% of children are placed in children's homes. Some of these children will have disabilities and will require specially equipped settings to meet their needs. 73% of all looked after children are placed with foster carers.
- 2.10 The number of Looked After children who were reported missing within the month, and the number of individual instances where a Looked After child went missing has continued to fall since November. In the month of February, 14 children went missing 15 times. This means that these children went missing once each during the month (with 1 child going missing twice). This is a significant figure because it means that these children were being worked with positively for missing behaviours not to become a pattern as is a common feature within this cohort.

3. SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS

3.1 Resource Implications

The number of children who are Looked After increased by 1.75% since April. Social workers and other staff are travelling distances to visit children placed out of County. Many of these children are in Independent Fostering Agency placements.

3.2 Procurement/Contractual/Council Contract Procedure Rules Implications

None

3.3 Statutory, Legal and Risk Implications

Ofsted will consider the data and analysis available to the Sub-Committee when considering the effectiveness off the council’s Corporate Parenting Function.

3.4 Equality and Diversity Implications

All children who become Looked After have access to the same service provision irrespective of their age, gender and ethnicity. There is a gap in suitable in-County provision for children and young people seeking asylum, with the majority of placements located in Peterborough.

3.5 Engagement and Communications Implications

None

3.6 Localism and Local Member Involvement

Relevant to all Members in the role as corporate parents.

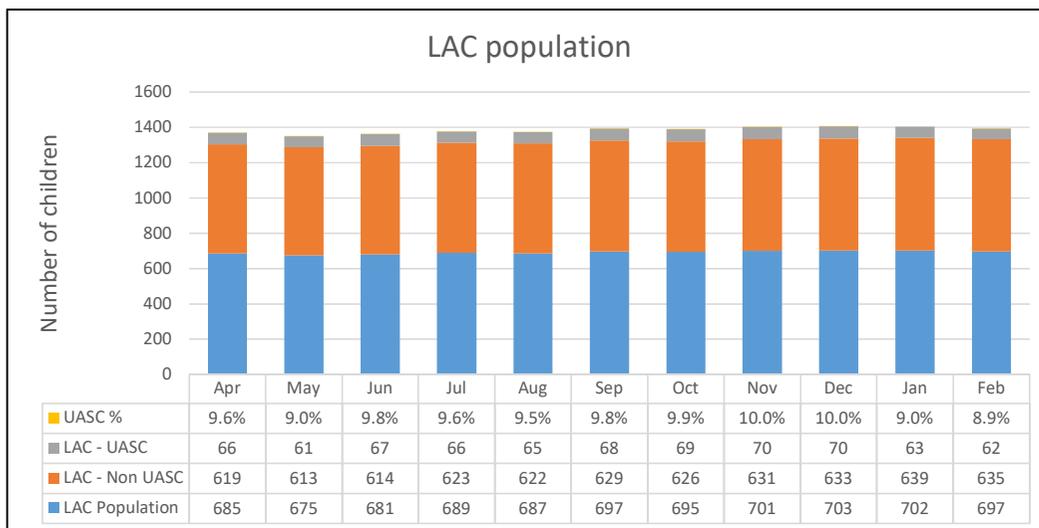
3.7 Public Health Implications

None

Source Documents	Location
None	

Looked After Children - Population

Looked After Children (LAC)	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Trend	Average
LAC Population	685	675	681	689	687	697	695	701	703	702	697			692
LAC - Non UASC	619	613	614	623	622	629	626	631	633	639	635			626
LAC - UASC	66	61	67	66	65	68	69	70	70	63	62			66
UASC %	9.6%	9.0%	9.8%	9.6%	9.5%	9.8%	9.9%	10.0%	10.0%	9.0%	8.9%			9.5%
Rate per 10,000	51.0	50.2	50.7	51.3	51.1	51.9	51.7	52.2	52.3	52.3	51.9			51.5
Became Looked After	21	17	13	36	38	32	23	22	26	24	23			25
Ceased Looked After	17	26	19	38	22	23	26	17	21	28	24			24



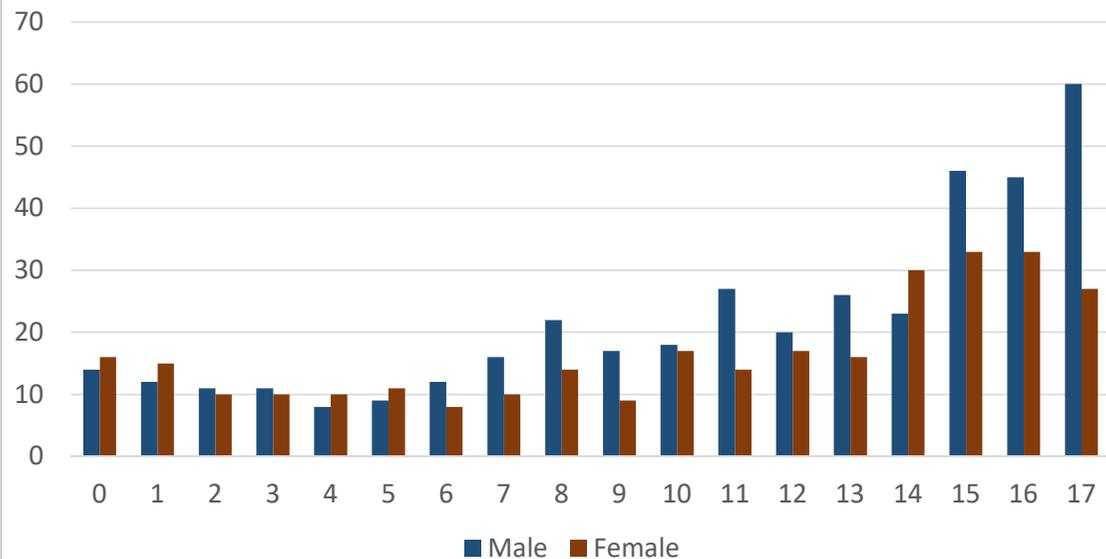
Commentary:

There has been a small reduction in the number of looked after children since reporting to the last Corporate Parenting Committee, but this can occasionally happen as can be seen from the data earlier in this reporting year. As a result the rate of looked after children per 10,000 has also decreased by 0.4 from January, but an increase of 0.9 compared to April 2017. However, Cambridgeshire continues to perform favourably, when compared to the figures for England which are 60 children per 10,000 are looked after.

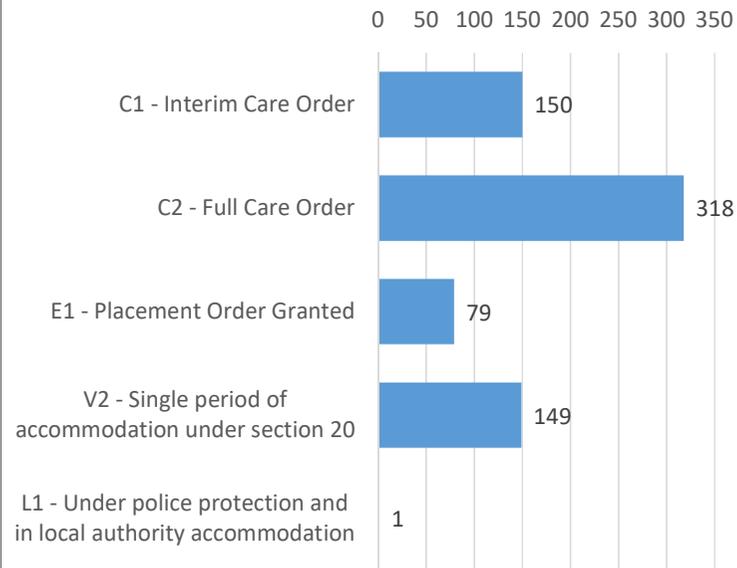
Notes on data and definitions:

- The 'LAC 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. The cost 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.

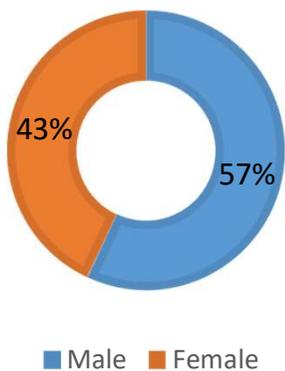
LAC - Age and Gender



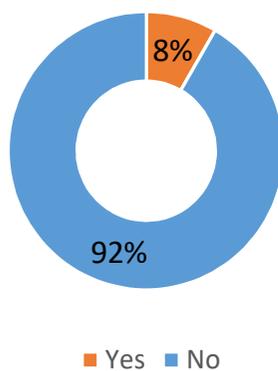
LAC - Legal Status



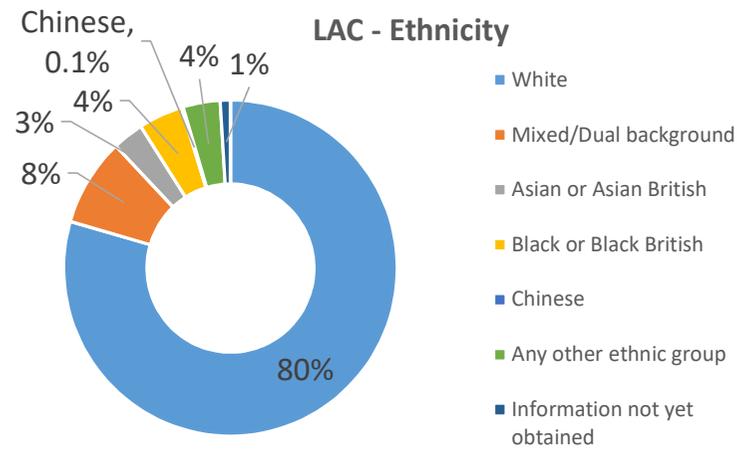
GENDER



Disability



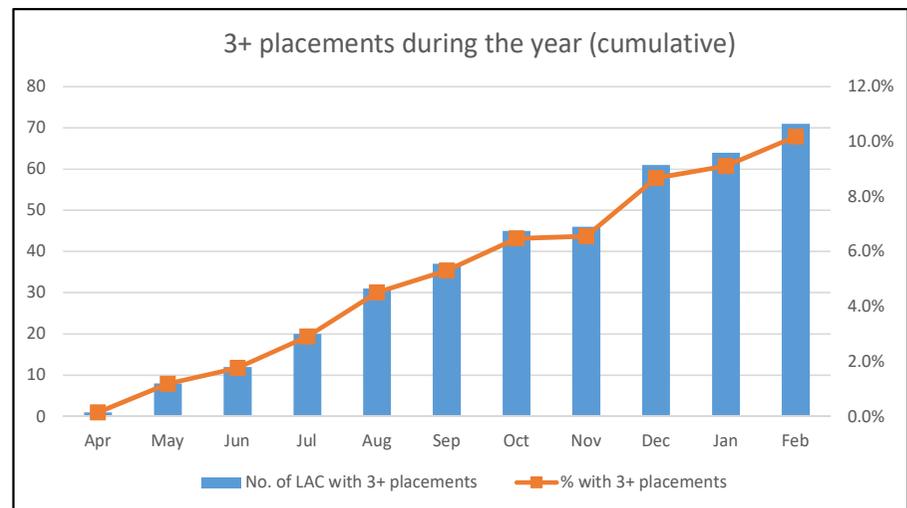
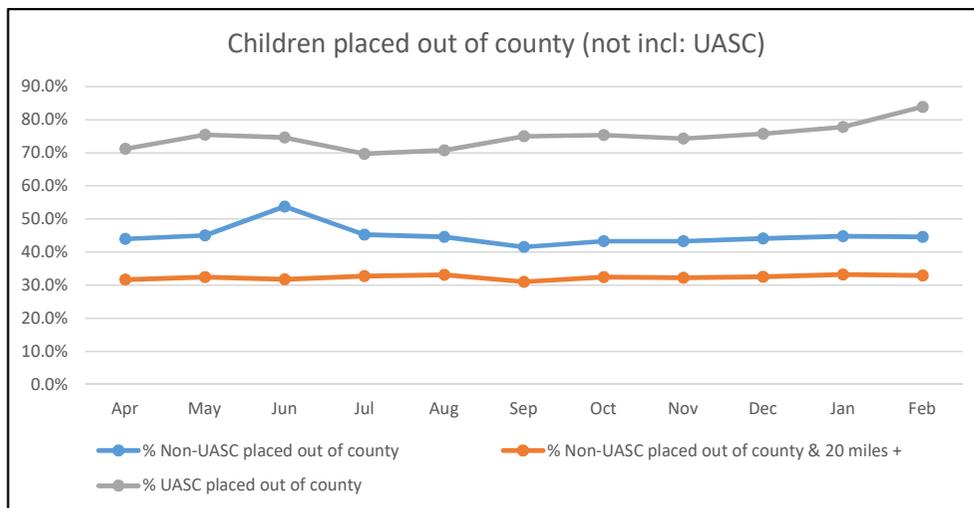
LAC - Ethnicity



Looked After Children - Placements

All LAC children placed IN county	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Trend	Average
LAC placed In county	366	353	301	361	364	385	372	376	371	367	362			362
Children placed out of county (not incl: UASC)	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Trend	Average
LAC placed out of county	272	276	330	282	277	261	271	273	279	286	283			281
% Non-UASC placed out of county	43.9%	45.0%	53.7%	45.3%	44.5%	41.5%	43.3%	43.3%	44.1%	44.8%	44.6%			44.9%
LAC placed out of county & 20 miles +	196	199	195	204	206	195	203	203	206	212	209			203
% Non-UASC placed out of county & 20 miles +	31.7%	32.5%	31.8%	32.7%	33.1%	31.0%	32.4%	32.2%	32.5%	33.2%	32.9%			32.4%
UASC placed out of county	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Trend	Average
UASC placed out of county	47	46	50	46	46	51	52	52	53	49	52			49
% UASC placed out of county	71.2%	75.4%	74.6%	69.7%	70.8%	75.0%	75.4%	74.3%	75.7%	77.8%	83.9%			74.9%

3+ placements during the year (cumulative)	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Trend
No. of LAC with 3+ placements	1	8	12	20	31	37	45	46	61	64	71		
% with 3+ placements	0.1%	1.2%	1.8%	2.9%	4.5%	5.3%	6.5%	6.6%	8.7%	9.1%	10.2%		
Target	0.4%	0.8%	1.3%	1.7%	2.1%	2.5%	2.9%	3.4%	3.8%	4.2%	4.6%		



Commentary:

52% of the looked after population have placements in County. 10% of Cambridgeshire's looked after children have had 3 or more changes in placement. There may be a number of reasons for this for example, a 3rd placement change may be to a child's permanent placement while another may be as a result placement breakdown. We are looking at the details behinds these to better understand the reasons for placement changes. A high proportion of unaccompanied asylum seeking young people are placed out of County and this is due to lack of availability of accommodation in

Notes on data and definitions:

- LAC placed In county - Children who have been placed into care within the Cambridgeshire.
- 'Looked After Children 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 looked after child 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.

Looked After Children - Placement Types In and Out of County as at end of February 2018

Placement Type	In	Out
A4 - Placed for adoption with consent not with current foster carer	2	0
A5 - Placed for adoption with placement order with current foster carer	1	3
A6 - Placed for adoption with placement order not with current foster carer	20	17
H5 - Residential accommodation not subject to Children's homes regulations	24	28
K1 - Secure Unit	0	1
K2 - Homes and Hostels	24	38
M3 - Whereabouts unknown	0	1
P1 - Placed with own Parents or Those with Parental Responsibility	9	3
P2 - Independent Living	0	1
Q1 - Foster Placement with Relative or Friend	4	5
Q2 - Placement with other Foster Carer	39	46
R1 - Residential Care Home	1	2
R3 - Family Centre/Mother and Baby Unit	1	0
S1 - All Residential Schools, except where dual-registered as a school and Children's Home	3	4
T0 - All types of temporary move	0	1
T4 - Temporary accommodation of seven days or less, for any reason, not covered by codes T1 to T3	2	0
U1 Foster placement with relative or friend- long term fostering	13	7
U3 Foster placement with relative or friend- not long term or FFA	8	5
U4 Placement with other foster carer- long term fostering	81	73
U5 Placement with other foster carer who is also an approved adopter- FFA	6	2
U6 Placement with other foster carer - not long term or FFA	123	95
Z1 - Other Placement	1	1
Unknown		2
Total	362	335

Commentary:

This set of data is presented for the month of February only, due to changes in reporting requirements from that month. This is how all of the data relating to placement type and whether children are placed in or out of county will be presented going forward.

The location of adopters is always based on securing the best possible match for children so it is expected that children be in and out of county based on the best adopters to meet their needs. 7% of children are placed in children's homes. Some of these children will have disabilities and will require specially equipped settings to meet their needs. 73% of all looked after children are placed with foster carers.

Notes on data and definitions:

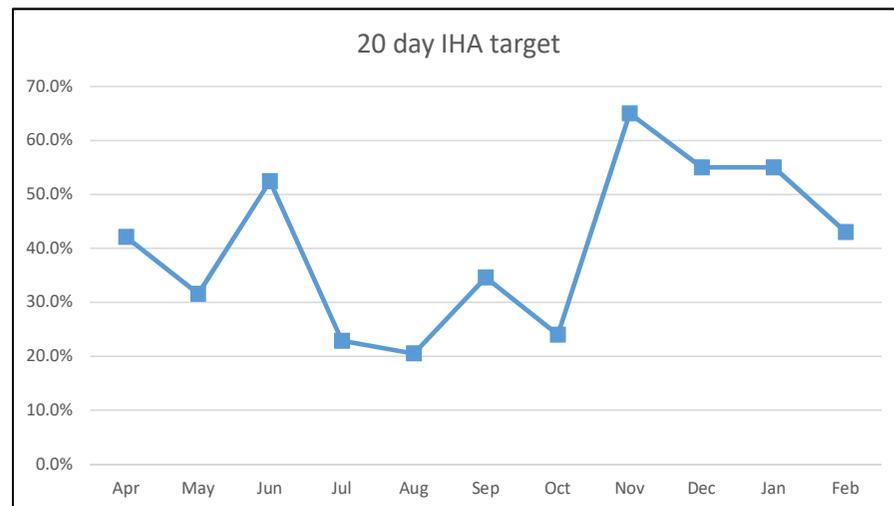
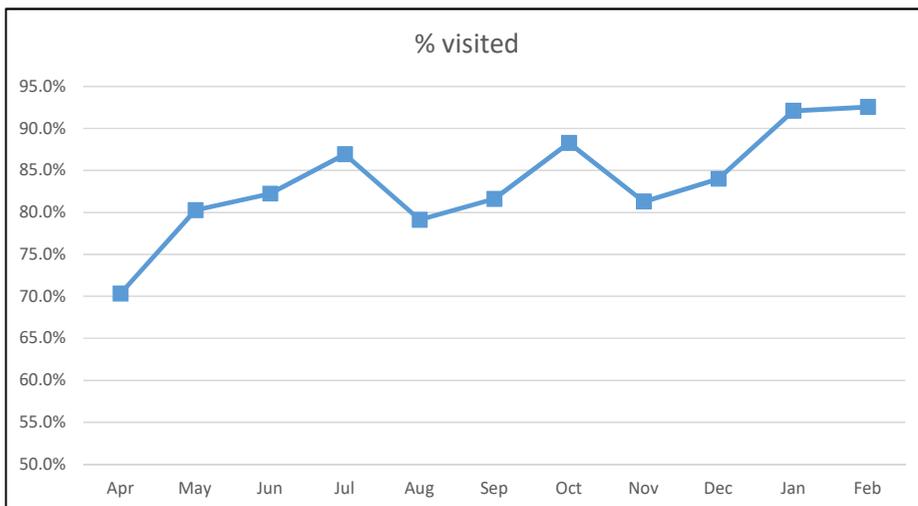
The table compares all Looked After Children placed in care within Cambridgeshire and outside the Cambridgeshire county area.

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.

Looked After Children -Visits, Reviews and Health

Visits and Reviews	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Trend	Average
Children to be visited	465	471	495	466	503	462	477	470	437	519	429			472
No. not seen in timescale	138	93	88	61	105	85	56	88	70	41	32			78
% visited	70.3%	80.3%	82.2%	86.9%	79.1%	81.6%	88.3%	81.3%	84.0%	92.1%	92.5%			83.5%
Late Reviews this month	4	0	7	1	3	9	5	3	1		8			4
Cumulative late reviews	4	4	11	12	15	24	29	32	33	37	45			
% reviews in timescale	97.3%	100.0%	95.3%	99.3%	98.2%	93.7%	97.3%	98.3%	99.5%	97.8%	93.9%			97.3%

Health	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Trend	Average
20 day IHA target	42.1%	31.6%	52.4%	22.9%	20.5%	34.6%	24.0%	65.0%	55.0%	55.0%	43.0%			



Commentary: Performance around children being visited has risen by 22 percentage points since April 2017. The month of February saw a dip in the timeliness of Looked After reviews and this was around adverse weather conditions in that month causing meetings to need to be rescheduled. Performance around newly looked after children having their health assessment in 20 days of becoming looked after has fallen in February to 43%. This is around the late notification from children's social care to health. There were also a number of large sibling groups arriving in care, impacting on clinic time and Nurse availability. 6 of the children placed out of County did not have their health assessments within the 20 day timescale. Their health assessments are organised by the hosting Primary Care Trust and Cambridgeshire can not specifically determine when their assessment takes place. The 20 day timescale is national guidance so all Health trusts do work to the same arrangements, but it is important to highlight that Health authorities will prioritise seeing children from their local area, before assessing the needs of children placed in their area by other authorities.

Notes on data and definitions:

- The 'Children to be visited' measures the number of children who are due a visit in the reporting month.
- **LAC 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.
- **LAC Reviews:** The 'Late Reviews this month' are those LAC children whose LAC 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.

Looked After Children - Care Leavers and Adoption

Care Leavers	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Trend	Average
Care leaver cohort	27	30	21	27	20	15	29	12	19	39	26			24
Care leavers in suitable accommodation - Yes	15	16	16	14	10	13	26	12	15	35	23			18
Care leavers in suitable accommodation - Unknown	10	12	3	3	1	0	1	0	0	0	0			3
Care leavers who are EET -Yes	6	5	9	13	8	9	23	8	12	25	15			12
Care leavers who are EET - Unknown	10	12	3	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0			3
Care leavers in touch - Yes	23	21	21	23	18	12	24	11	14	37	24			21
Care leavers in touch - Returned Home	2	2	0	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	1			1
Care leavers in touch - No Longer Required	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			0

Corum Cambridge Adoption	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Trend	Average
Number of adoptions per month	2	6	1	4	0	1	2	4	3	6	2			3
Average time between child entering care and moving in with its adoptive family (days)	365	310	938	352	N/A	168	381	284	617	417	210			404
Average time between an LA receiving court authority to place a child and the LA deciding on a match	146	127	757	132	N/A	46	179	111	226	223	52			200
Children who wait less than 14 months between entering care and moving in with their adoptive family	100%	100%	0%	100%	N/A	100%	100%	100%	66.7%	83.3%	100%			85.0%

Commentary:

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

In January the cohort for Care Leavers is higher than average. This is due to 12 of the children being UASC with the 1st January recorded as their birth date 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 15-25 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 December.

In January and February 2018, 8 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.

Looked After Children - Education

Education	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Trend	Average
% yr 12s who are in learning	93.9%	93.9%	93.8%	93.8%	92.8%	89.7%	94.6%	96.2%	96.1%	95.6%	95.5%			
% yr 13s who are in learning	90.7%	90.7%	90.8%	90.8%	90.6%	88.9%	90.6%	91.7%	91.6%	91.3%	91.0%			
% of 16-18 yr olds who are NEET	3.0%	3.0%	2.9%	2.9%	3.1%	2.0%	2.3%	2.4%	2.4%	2.5%	2.4%			

Commentary:

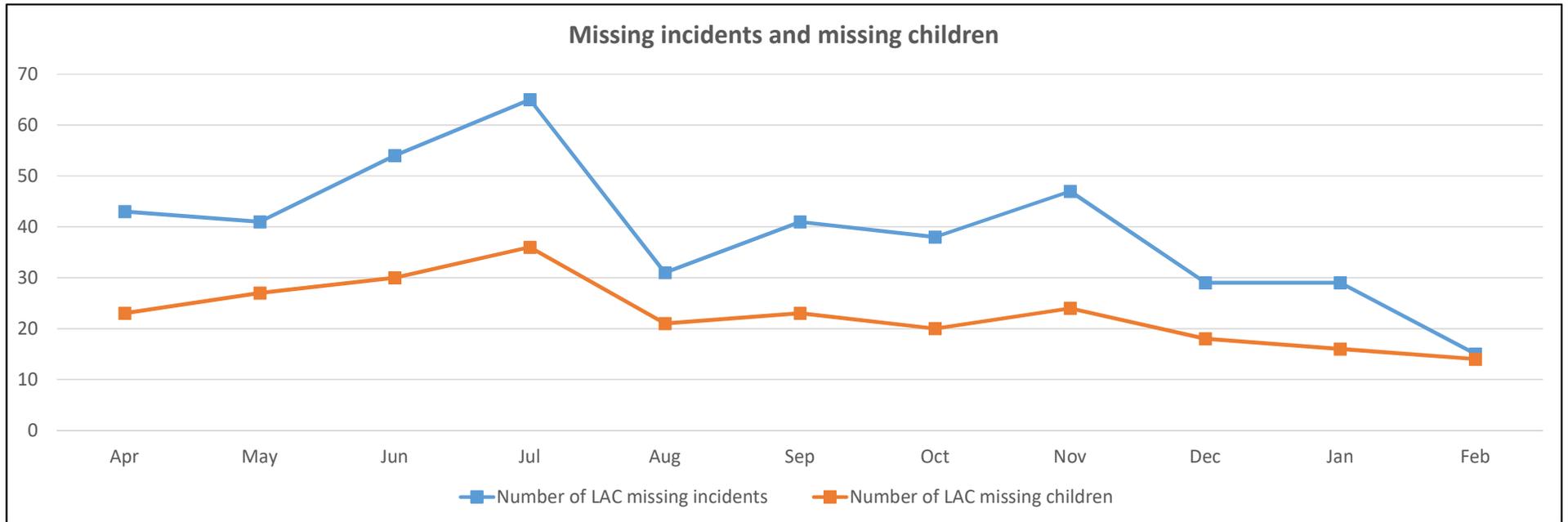
There has been an improvement in the number of year 12 and 13 children in learning since April 2017.

Notes on data and definitions:

- Measures of the percentage of year 12s and 13s currently in some form of learning.
- NEET - Not in Education, Employment or Training.

Looked After Children - Missing

LAC - Missing	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Trend	Average
Number of LAC missing incidents	43	41	54	65	31	41	38	47	29	29	15			39.4
Number of LAC missing children	23	27	30	36	21	23	20	24	18	16	14			22.9



Commentary:

The number of missing children and missing incidents has decreased over the course of this reporting year. There is a multi-agency network around children missing who work hard together to support this extremely vulnerable group. It is considered that the reduction in figures is a result of a strong multi-agency approach and positive interventions.

Notes on data and definitions:

- Each episode of a child going missing is recorded as a missing incident
- A Looked After 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.

All Children - Child Sexual Exploitation and Gang Exploitation

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) (All Children)	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Trend	Average
Gender														
Male	11	13	12	6	25	27	26	25	21	26	40			21.1
Female	49	60	56	60	69	81	88	84	83	89	88			73.4
Age of children														
0-8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			0.0
9-12	4	4	4	5	4	5	5	4	2	2	2			3.7
13-16	48	53	54	51	69	81	82	73	73	81	93			68.9
17+	8	3	10	10	21	22	27	32	29	32	33			20.6

Gang Exploitation (All Children)	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Trend	Average
Gender														
Male	27	25	22	25	27	23	22	22	19	21	28			23.7
Female	2	3	1	1	2	3	4	4	5	5	4			3.1
Age of children														
0-8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			0.0
9-12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1			0.1
13-16	19	18	13	13	14	12	12	11	11	13	23			14.5
17+	10	10	10	13	15	14	14	15	13	13	8			12.3

Commentary:

February saw a sharp increase in the number of boys at risk of Child Sexual Exploitation and local intelligence will be being used to look at what is happening to safeguard children. The number of children with gang involvement has remained relatively stable during 2017-18.

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'.

VIRTUAL SCHOOL

To: Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee

Meeting Date: 25 April 2018

From: Jo Pallett
Learning Directorate Lead for Vulnerable Groups
Head of the Virtual School

Electoral division(s): All

Purpose: To inform the committee of future topics for discussion relating to the Virtual School.

Recommendation: The Committee is asked to identify and prioritise items for future agendas.

<i>Officer contact:</i>		<i>Member contact:</i>	
Name:	Jo Pallett	Names:	Councillor Lis Every
Post:	Learning Directorate Lead for Vulnerable Groups Head of the Virtual School	Role:	Chairman, Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee
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Summary:

This report shows the number of Looked After Children in each school year from nursery to Year 13, how many have special educational needs or disabilities and the number who go to nursery, school or college outside of Cambridgeshire. It also suggests some parts of the Virtual School's work that the members of the Sub-Committee might like to learn more about.

1 Background

1.1 The Virtual School is a statutory requirement of the Local Authority. Members asked for information on current key data relating to the Virtual School and possible areas for future discussion.

2 Main Issues

2.1 Current Data from the Virtual School

Year Group	Total	Male	Female	Number with Special Educational Needs	% with Special Educational Needs	Educated Out of County
<i>Pre-Early Years</i>	58	28	30	1	1.7%	11
EY	63	31	32	0	-	20
R	26	11	15	1	3.8%	7
1	22	10	12	2	9%	5
2	38	19	19	3	7.8%	8
3	35	22	13	4	11.4%	7
4	42	27	15	7	16.6%	16
5	32	19	13	7	21.8%	7
6	39	22	17	9	23%	13
7	39	27	12	8	20.5%	19
8	38	22	16	9	23.6%	21
9	50	26	24	19	38%	25
10	73	39	34	22	30.1%	36
11	74	42	32	22	29.7%	46
12	82	51	31	19	23.1%	41
13	76	53	23	15	19.7%	37
Total	729 (787)	421 (449)	308 (338)	147 (148)		308 (319)

2.2 **Cambridgeshire Virtual School Discussion Points**

Post 16, Not in Education, Employment and Training (NEET) progression.

As identified at the last meeting, Post 16 support is an area requiring further development and embedding of current interventions. The Virtual School started to work with Post 16 pupils in September 2015, focussing initially on Year 12. From September 2016 we have worked with both year 12 and year 13. From September 2017 we have also had a seconded staff member supporting Post 18 young people.

Areas being developed/requiring further development include;

Transition planning, when do schools start to identify options, do they have an additional focus on Looked After Children (LAC) pupils, do they prioritise LAC pupils for careers advice and guidance, are schools aware of support for LAC post 16.

Raising awareness of opportunities Post 16, this would include liaising with local employers and education providers. Ensuring they have an understanding of the needs of LAC young people, their views and experiences. Ensuring young people are aware of the opportunities and how to access them.

Liaising with Post 18 education provision, further developing relations with University and Colleges, awareness of 52 week placements, programmes to support LAC.

Personal Education Plans, these are a statutory requirement but have only been undertaken since September 2016. Completion has not been at the required level as they are new for Post 16 providers who have required a lot of training and support to engage.

Reengagement of NEET young people, including advice, home visits and application support is not always successful as young people can be disengaged from education or work. This is a broader debate about aspiration and expectation from a young age.

2.3 **Early Years**

The Virtual School has, for some time, worked with Looked After Children in the year before they started school. In September 2015 we employed an Early Years specialist on a 0.5 full-time equivalent (FTE) contract. This contract has been extended to 0.8 FTE since the outset due to demand for support. The Early Years specialist works with children from the term before they turn two. There is no doubt that Early Years education is fundamental for the long term development of LAC pupils.

Issues for discussion could include:

Numbers of children who come into and leave care. Early Years children are likely to be adopted or moved quickly to family members. This 'churn' makes it difficult to build relationships and have a positive impact.

Funding for LAC early years is £300 a year. Potential impact is limited by the interventions this may afford.

Many placements are small scale, single staff member placements. This limits time for

training and discussion for LAC pupils and adds a disproportionate pressure to settings.

2.4 Year 6 intervention project

The results for the 2017 Year 6 cohort were disappointing. We have therefore developed a project for year 6 pupils identified as potentially able to gain the national expected level. This project includes bespoke on line lessons, 'holiday school', and monitoring/support.

This project was funded by a successful Cambridgeshire School Improvement Board bid.

We have now extended this project to year 5 pupils and are planning a progression to a 'primary age' project.

Discussions regarding impact, participation, school engagement levels are all something the board may want to discuss as well as possible further intervention options.

2.5 Previously Looked After Children (LAC)

From September 2018 the Virtual School will have a statutory responsibility to offer advice and guidance relating to the majority of Post LAC young people. There is no requirement for a Personal Education Plan (PEP) and funding of the Pupil Premium Plus for Post LAC comes via the school census rather than the Virtual School.

Training is already underway for schools to understand their new statutory responsibilities. Data is being collated about support provided by the Virtual School to date to begin to estimate the volume of work this new requirement may produce.

This is a major development within the Virtual School and would provide a discussion opportunity to identify the LA response to this development.

2.6 Admissions, Refusals and Alternative Provision.

There are a number of emerging discussion points regarding Admissions, refusal and Alternative Provision (AP) including:

There have been increasing numbers of schools both within and out of county refusing to accept LAC pupils. LAC pupils should be placed in schools which are rated good or better by OFSTED, they do not link to catchment area or pan numbers. Some schools however are concerned by the numbers of LAC they are being asked to take. We have engaged the Regional Schools Commissioner and the Chief Executives of some academy chains in this discussion, but, while the discussions take place or direction is sought a child may be out of school.

For Key Stage 4 (KS4) pupils this is a particular difficulty as it relates to Alternative Provision Placement. As this can only be accessed via a school roll we are effectively asking schools to take a child on roll and pay for them to immediately access AP.

Limited placements for those aged pre KS4 is also an issue for LAC pupils.

There has been an increase in the number of out of county (OOC) pupils requesting placements in Cambridgeshire schools. This is a particular issue in the Fenland area where large cheap housing has established a number of private homes/fostering placements used by other LAs.

LAC pupils are more likely to be in AP than other LAC pupils. This has an impact on their education opportunities and limits the options available Post 16.

2.7 Special Educational Needs And Disability (SEND)

LAC pupils are significantly more likely to have SEND than non LAC pupils. This creates issues of appropriate admission and support, Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) application and maintenance, prioritisation of LAC pupils for assessment and support and identification of who is the lead officer to challenge and support.

LAC pupils who are also SEND are amongst the most vulnerable children in our society and this may also be an issue for discussion.

3.0 Alignment with Corporate Priorities

3.1 Developing the local economy for the benefit of all

3.1.1 An appropriately skilled workforce is essential to Cambridgeshire's economic prosperity. Our aim is that all children achieve their potential, including LAC. High quality provision for this group of vulnerable students reduces the risk of them becoming NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training).

3.2 Helping people live healthy and independent lives

3.2.1 A quality education and the acquisition of appropriate qualifications is one of the best ways of ensuring that LAC are able to lead healthy and independent lives.

3.3 Supporting and protecting vulnerable people

3.3.1 A key purpose of the Virtual School is to ensure that this group of vulnerable children and young people who are at risk of failing to achieve have access to a relevant curriculum that is appropriate for their needs and meets statutory and legal requirements

4 Significant Implications

4.1 Resource Implications, none within this paper

4.2 Procurement/ Contractual/ Council Contract Procedure Rules implications. Not stated

4.3 Statutory Legal and Risk Implications, none within this paper

4.4 Equality and Diversity Implications, none within this paper

- 4.5 Engagement and Communication Implications, none within this paper
- 4.6 Localism and Local Member Involvement.
- 4.7 Public Health Implications, none within this paper

Source Documents	Location
None	

LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN: REDUCING NUMBER 'NOT IN EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING' (NEET): REFRESHED STRATEGY

To: Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee

Meeting Date: 25 April 2018

From: Fiona Mackirdy
Head of Countywide and Looked After Children's Services

Electoral division(s): All

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

Recommendation: The Committee is asked to note the report.

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

Summary:

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

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

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

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The numbers of young people in education, employment and training (EET) is a key positive outcome measure for Looked After young people and care leavers so measurement of those in EET and those not in education, employment and training (NEET) is carefully monitored.
- 1.2 A NEET reduction strategy was developed in 2015 to sit underneath the Corporate Parenting Strategy: Outcome Area 2 – ‘Care Leavers successfully gain employment’.
- 1.3 The strategy has recently been reviewed and is due to be presented to the Children and Families Leadership Team Meeting for sign off in May 2018. This report advises members of the Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee about the process so far.
- 1.4 The strategy describes actions required and planned to help reduce the number of care leavers that are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET).

2. MAIN ISSUES

- 2.1 The current NEET figure for Looked After children and care leavers aged 16 to 21 is 38.0% (119 young people). Within this overall performance figure, more specific detail about the reasons for young people’s NEET status is kept and monitored. We do not have figures for the general 16-21 Cambridgeshire cohort available as a direct comparison, but we do capture the 16-18 Cambridgeshire cohort and the current NEET result for this group is 2.63% plus 0.67% of not knowns. This gives a total figure of 3.3% for NEET and Not Known which is the Department for Education key performance indicator for Raising Participation Age.
- 2.2 A monthly tracking meeting is held involving young people’s social workers, personal advisors and NEET reduction manager to look in detail what support is needed for individual young people to assist them to achieve and maintain engagement in EET.
- 2.3 The strategy details four areas of focus:
 - Support for young people prior to finishing Year 11 and planning for their transition into EET
 - Post Year 11 transition support

- Support for young people into employment and in relation to benefits
- Data/Quality Assurance/Workforce Development

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

3. SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS

3.1 Resource Implications

There are no additional resource implications from the strategy

3.2 Procurement/Contractual/Council Contract Procedure Rules Implications

None

3.3 Statutory, Legal and Risk Implications

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

3.4 Equality and Diversity Implications

None

3.5 Engagement and Communications Implications

None

3.6 Localism and Local Member Involvement

N/A.

3.7 Public Health Implications

None

Source Documents	Location
None	

FOSTER CARE RECRUITMENT UPDATE

To: **Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee**

Meeting Date: **25 April 2018**

From: **John Heron
Residential and Placements Provisions Manager**

Electoral division(s): **All**

Purpose: **This report provides an update to the Sub-Committee on foster carer recruitment activity.**

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

<i>Officer contact:</i>		<i>Member contact:</i>	
Name:	John Heron	Names:	Councillor Lis Every
Post:	Residential and Placements Provisions Manager	Role:	Chairman, Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee
Email:	John.Heron@cambridgeshire.gov.uk	Email:	Lis.Every@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
Tel:		Tel:	(office) 01223 706398

Summary:

The Council needs to make sure it has enough foster carers for children who are Looked After. To do this we use publicity to let people know what it might be like to be a foster carer.

The Council has recently agreed to spend more money to help us have really good publicity and to make sure we have more staff to support foster carers. This report gives information about how some of the money will be spent.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Provision of fostering services is a key statutory requirement of the local authority and is essential to enabling children living away from home to receive good quality family care.
- 1.2 A good in-house fostering service is essential to provide quality placements for children, and to enable management of placement costs.
- 1.3 In Cambridgeshire there is a need to increase the recruitment of in-house carers to ensure that there is a choice of placements to meet the numbers and needs of young people and to manage placement budget spend.
- 1.4 On 28 November 2017 the General Purposes Committee (GPC) agreed investment in this area from the Transformation Fund over a 3-year period.

2. MAIN ISSUES

- 2.1 GPC have agreed additional investment for 2018-19 as follows:

• Up-front marketing investment through three years tender; up to:	£225,000
• Additional capacity – marketing officers:	£80,000
• Staffing capacity – recruitment, support and business support:	£210,000
• Marketing – direct campaign costs	£20,000
• Other recruitment incentives including introduction fees and golden hellos:	£70,000
• Additional funds to improve support for foster carers:	£100,000
Total:	£705,000

On-going investment in future years is to be met from savings in the placement budget from increased in-house provision and anticipated reductions in the number of Looked After children.

- 2.2 A three year fostering recruitment strategy is being devised in conjunction with a local media company, the corporate Communications Team, the Fostering Service and a focus group consisting of Foster Carers, Councillor Simon Bywater (Chairman of the Children and Young People Committee) and Cambridgeshire County Council staff. The strategy will include;
 - Concept and branding

- Development and production of creative media including videos and an improved web presence
- Social media input and advertising materials
- Engagement with media organisations and generation of publicity for the service

2.3 Additional staffing for the fostering service is being identified to ensure an efficient recruitment pipeline, including additional marketing, training and business support capacity as well as social work assessment

2.4 The support offer to foster carers is being reviewed to ensure appropriate clinical support and effective engagement through a foster carer association.

3. SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS

3.1 Resource Implications

The fostering service is delivered within the available budget. There are no significant implications from this report.

3.2 Procurement/Contractual/Council Contract Procedure Rules Implications

The media company engaged is on the council procurement framework

3.3 Statutory, Legal and Risk Implications

None

3.4 Equality and Diversity Implications

None

3.5 Engagement and Communications Implications

The Corporate Communications team are part of the focus group and will assist with oversight of any proposed communication and engagement activity.

3.6 Localism and Local Member Involvement

None

3.7 Public Health Implications

None

Source Documents	Location
General Purposes Committee report re: Transforming Outcomes for Children and Young People in Care (Item 6a refers)	https://cmis.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/ccclive/Meetings/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/585/Committee/2/Default.aspx

**CORPORATE PARENTING
SUB-COMMITTEE
FORWARD
AGENDA PLAN**

Updated 11.04.18

Agenda Item No: 10

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	Agenda despatch date
25.04.18 4.30pm Room 128, Shire Hall, Cambridge	Co-option of young people's representatives	Democratic Services	Not applicable	12 April 2018	
	Minutes of the meeting on 21 February 2018	Democratic Services	Not applicable		
	Action Log	Democratic Services	Not applicable		
	Virtual School <i>(Standing item)</i>	J Pallett	Not applicable		
	Performance Report <i>(standing item)</i>	L Reid / T Barden	Not applicable		
	Sub-Committee Workshop/ Training Plan <i>(standing item)</i>	F van den Hout/ J Barry	Not applicable		
	Young People's Participation <i>(standing item)</i>	M Dean	Not applicable		

Committee date	Agenda item	Lead officer	Reference if key decision	Deadline for draft reports	Agenda despatch date
	Looked After Children Reducing 'Not in Education, Employment and Training' (NEET): Refreshed Strategy	F van den Hout	Not applicable		
	Foster Care Update	F van den Hout	Not applicable		
	Forward Agenda Plan	R Greenhill	Not applicable		
13 June 2018	Minutes and Action Log	Democratic Services	Not applicable		
	Virtual School <i>Standing item</i>)	J Pallett	Not applicable		
	Performance Report <i>(standing item)</i>	L Reid/ T Barden	Not applicable		
	Sub-Committee Workshop/ Training Plan <i>(standing item)</i>	F van den Hout/ J Barry	Not applicable		
	Young People's Participation <i>(standing item)</i>	M Dean	Not applicable		
	Workforce Development <i>(quarterly standing item)</i>	S-J Smedmor	Not applicable		
	Mental Health/ Child and Adolescent Mental Health (CAMH), including information on criteria and thresholds	tbc, CPFT	Not applicable		
	Suitable Accommodation for Care Leavers	F van den Hout	Not applicable		
	Forward Agenda Plan	R Greenhill	Not applicable		

Committee date	Agenda item	Lead officer	Reference if key decision	Deadline for draft reports	Agenda despatch date
19 September 2018	Minutes and Action Log	Democratic Services	Not applicable		
	Virtual School <i>Standing item</i>	J Pallett	Not applicable		
	Performance Report <i>(standing item)</i>	L Reid / T Barden	Not applicable		
	Sub-Committee Workshop/ Training Plan <i>(standing item)</i>	F van den Hout/ J Barry	Not applicable		
	Young People's Participation <i>(standing item)</i>	M Dean	Not applicable		
	Workforce Development <i>(quarterly standing item)</i>	S-J Smedmor	Not applicable		
NEW ITEM	Coram Cambridgeshire Adoption Annual Report	F van den Hout	Not applicable		
	Forward Agenda Plan	R Greenhill	Not applicable		
21 November 2018	Minutes and Action Log	Democratic Services	Not applicable		
	Virtual School <i>Standing item</i>	J Pallett	Not applicable		
	Performance Report <i>(standing item)</i>	L Reid/ T Barden	Not applicable		

Committee date	Agenda item	Lead officer	Reference if key decision	Deadline for draft reports	Agenda despatch date
	Sub-Committee Workshop/ Training Plan <i>(standing item)</i>	F van den Hout/ J Barry	Not applicable		
	Young People's Participation <i>(standing item)</i>	M Dean	Not applicable		
	Fostering Service Annual Report	F van den Hout	Not applicable		
	Forward Agenda Plan	R Greenhill	Not applicable		
20 January 2019	Minutes and Action Log	Democratic Services	Not applicable		
	Virtual School <i>Standing item)</i>	J Pallett	Not applicable		
	Performance Report <i>(standing item)</i>	L Reid/ T Barden	Not applicable		
	Sub-Committee Workshop/ Training Plan <i>(standing item)</i>	F van den Hout/ J Barry	Not applicable		
	Young People's Participation <i>(standing item)</i>	M Dean	Not applicable		
	Workforce Development <i>(quarterly standing item)</i>	S-J Smedmor	Not applicable		
NEW ITEM	Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee Annual Report	R Greenhill	Not applicable		
	Forward Agenda Plan	R Greenhill	Not applicable		
20 March 2019	Minutes and Action Log	Democratic Services	Not applicable		
	Virtual School <i>Standing item)</i>	J Pallett	Not applicable		

Committee date	Agenda item	Lead officer	Reference if key decision	Deadline for draft reports	Agenda despatch date
	Performance Report <i>(standing item)</i>	L Reid/ T Barden	Not applicable		
	Sub-Committee Workshop/ Training Plan <i>(standing item)</i>	F van den Hout/ J Barry	Not applicable		
	Young People's Participation <i>(standing item)</i>	M Dean	Not applicable		
	Workforce Development <i>(standing item)</i>	S-J Smedmor	Not applicable		
	Forward Agenda Plan	R Greenhill	Not applicable		

Items to be included:

- Bright Spots report (produced bi-annually): developed by Coram Voice with the aim of improving the wellbeing of children and young people in care by identifying and promoting practices that have a positive influence on them
- Youth offending (going to the Children and Young People Committee in May 2018 – any follow-up issues)

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.

- 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)

- 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.
- Compliance with the requirements for the giving of public notice has been impracticable in relation to the business detailed below.
- 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 Quentin Baker on 01223 727961 or Quentin.Baker@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

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.

April 2018

	Subject	Desired Learning Outcome/ Success Measures	Priority	Date	Responsibility	Nature of Training	Audience	Attendance by:	% of Committee 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-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)	To refresh and update Members' safeguarding training and offer them the chance to see first-hand the work being done at the MASH.	High	11.04.18	<i>Lou Williams, Service Director, Jenny Goodes, Head of Service – Integrated Front Door</i>	Presentation, tour of facilities and discussions with staff	Children and Young People Committee and Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee members and substitute members	Cllr Every Cllr Hay Cllr Bradnam Cllr Cuffley	60%
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To be arranged:

- A visit to observe the Threshold and Resources Panel
- A visit to observe a Children and Families Leadership Team meeting.
- Meeting with Voices Matter (Young People's Council) (Jacqui Barry / Sarah-Jane Smedmor) – open to all members and substitute members of the Children and Young People (CYP) Committee