

CORPORATE PARENTING SUB-COMMITTEE



Wednesday, 15 January 2020

Democratic and Members' Services

Fiona McMillan
Monitoring Officer

16:00

Shire Hall
Castle Hill
Cambridge
CB3 0AP

Room 128

Shire Hall, Castle Hill, Cambridge, CB3 0AP

AGENDA

Open to Public and Press

Meeting Theme: Health

- 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 20 November 2019** **5 - 14**
- 3. Action Log** **15 - 20**
- 4. Participation Report** **21 - 32**
- 5. Children in Care Health Assessments** **33 - 38**
- 6. Improving the Emotional Health and Well-being of Children Looked After and Young People Leaving Care** **39 - 50**

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| 7. | Virtual School - Children in Care Unvalidated End of Year Data | 51 - 60 |
| 8. | Draft Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee Annual Report 2018-19 | 61 - 100 |
| 9. | Agenda Plan | 101 - 108 |
| 10. | Sub-Committee Workshop and Training Plan | 109 - 112 |

The Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee comprises the following members:

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

Councillor Anna Bradnam Councillor Adela Costello and Councillor Elisa Meschini

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

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CORPORATE PARENTING SUB-COMMITTEE: MINUTES

Date: Wednesday 20 November 2019

Time: 4.00pm – 6.35pm

Venue: Room 128, Shire Hall, Cambridge

Present: Councillors L Every (Chairman), A Hay (Vice Chairman), A Bradnam, A Costello and E Meschini

Co-opted Member: S Day

MEETING THEME: STABILITY AND PERMANENCE

121. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no apologies for absence or declarations of interest.

122. MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 18 SEPTEMBER 2019

The minutes of the meeting on 18 September 2019 were approved as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

123. ACTION LOG

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

- i. Minute 92: A session on the emotional health and wellbeing of children in care to be included in a Members' Seminar in the new year.
- ii. Minute 113: A formal process to feedback on Members' work with relevant bodies and organisations was considered overly bureaucratic. Instead, Members would continue to provide informal feedback on relevant issues as these arose.

It was resolved to note the action log.

124. YOUNG PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION

The Participation Service was now fully staffed and a variety of participation events was on offer during the coming months. Attendance at the last 'Just Us' group had been low, but had provided some good ideas for work going forward. The first two care leavers' forums had been run in Wisbech and Cambridge.

The Chairman welcomed the energy and cohesion across the range of participation events which was now evident. She reiterated the importance of placing children in care and care leavers at the heart of the Council's business. All elected members were corporate parents with responsibilities towards each and every one of the children and

young people in the Council's care. Closer working arrangements with Peterborough City Council's Corporate Parenting Committee would support the sharing of learning and best practice. The recent Foster Carer Awards 2019 event had been a great success and Members had learned a lot from speaking to the foster carers who had attended.

Individual members raised the following issues in relation to the report:

- Whether local members were notified about 'Just Us' events in their divisions. Officers stated that this was not the case as these events were solely for children and officers from the Participation Team. Sub-Committee members were advised of events and activities which were open to a wider audience and their attendance at these events was warmly welcomed;
- The reasons for low attendance rates at some participation events. Officers stated that children and young people led busy lives with many calls on their time. Whilst actively working to encourage higher attendance the events still offered a positive experience to those who did attend and allowed officers to build relationships with these young people in a relaxed environment;
- The Co-opted member expressed the wish to encourage more young people to attend the Care Leavers' Forum. The Chairman stated that the Council would welcome any ideas he might have on encouraging higher attendance;
- The Co-opted member commented that he now had a personal advisor rather than a social worker. He welcomed this more informal approach which continued to provide support whenever it was needed

It was resolved to comment and provide feedback on the range of consultation events and activities the Participation Service provide for children in care and care leavers.

125. PERFORMANCE REPORT

Members reviewed the performance data and noted that as of 20 November 2019 there were 755 children in care. This represented a reduction of 13 since the report was published and reflected the continuing drive to support children to return home where this was appropriate and to find a permanent placement for them where it was not.

Individual Members raised the following issues in relation to the report:

- More detail was requested in relation to the number of children and young people who had gone missing in the period. Officers stated that the figures reflected every occasion on which a child was reported as missing, so more than one report might relate to a single child. Very tight procedures were in place to monitor every incident of a child going missing. This included an independent person seeing every child on their return in addition to visits by their own social worker to explore the causes. The MACE reporting process was in place to review the situation of any child who was considered to be at risk of exploitation. All absences, including times when they might be late getting home, were treated as cases of the child being missing. This created higher figures, but ensured that all absences were systematically recorded, monitored and addressed. Unauthorised absences from school were an educational matter and would be followed up by the school as an education welfare issue.

The Head of the Corporate Parenting Service stated that Dave Sergeant, a police officer who worked closely with council officers in this area, had offered to attend a future Members' Seminar to explore this issue further.

- Where the figures relating to adoptions came from. These were provided by the Adoption Service which was now delivered in-house by the Council. The process for approving a prospective adopter was quite long so this allowed forecasts for future numbers to be produced;
- Officers clarified that the six children who had been matched and were waiting for introductions and the 17 who had been linked and booked into the matching panel were in addition to the 26 children who had been placed for adoption in the period covered by the report.

The Chairman stated that the format and content of the performance report continued to improve. The numbers of children moving through the adoption process and the continuing programme to recruit more in-house foster carers demonstrated a positive momentum and real progress.

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

126. EDUCATION TRANSPORT FOR CHILDREN IN CARE AND CARE LEAVERS

The Chairman stated that the Sub-Committee was looking at all services provided by the Council and beyond to see how they catered for and impacted upon children in care and care leavers. The report on arrangements for education transport should be seen in that context.

Children in care aged under 16 were entitled to the same transport assistance as all under 16s. Post 16 children in care were eligible for free transport provided that the student was resident in Cambridgeshire, attended their nearest Post 16 provider and that this provider was located more than three miles from their home address. They would not be eligible for transport assistance if they chose to attend a provider more than three miles from home when a comparable course was offered closer to where they lived. This provision was not available to 16-18 year olds who were not in the Council's care and so represented an enhanced level of provision. The Council's policy did not currently extend to those beyond the age of 18 and the data available for this cohort was not yet robust enough to accurately cost such provision.

Individual Members raised the following issues in relation to the report:

- Welcomed the fact that Cambridgeshire County Council was already providing greater support to its 16-18 year old children in care with regards to education transport assistance than many local authorities;
- Asked whether the transport assistance to 16-18 year olds applied to those living outside of Cambridgeshire. Officers stated that this was not the case as those young people would be subject to the transport policy of the local authority in whose area they were resident;

- Asked whether a dialogue had been established with other local authorities with a view to establishing greater synergy and reciprocity of arrangements. Officers stated that enquiries had been made via the regional network and that none of the authorities contacted made provision for children previously in care. Pressures on education transport budgets meant that most authorities offered only statutory provision;
- Officers stated that individual circumstances were considered on a case by case basis for over 18s and that bus passes could be funded by the social care team where this was deemed appropriate;
- The Chairman stated that Members did not want any young person leaving care to be disadvantaged by transport costs. However, they also wanted to avoid additional work to officers which would not produce any further meaningful information. On this basis she asked how much work would be involved to cost out Post 18 education transport provision and whether this additional work would deliver any meaningful information. The Head of the Corporate Parenting Service suggested that whilst it would probably not be possible to extract the necessary information from existing data it should be possible to start collecting that information now to inform future decision-making. She proposed meeting with the Strategic Education Place Planning Manager and the Lead Corporate Parenting Manager to discuss how this should be taken forward.
(**Action:** Head of Corporate Parenting)

It was resolved to:

- a) note the arrangements for the provision of transport assistance for children in care and care leavers;
- b) note that the Council does not currently collect comprehensive data on children/ students who have previously been in care and, therefore, it is not possible to quantify the indicative cost if the transport assistance currently available to post-16 students who are in care/ care leavers, was to be extended to those who have previously been children in care.

127. CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL GUIDE TO CORPORATE PARENTING FOR ELECTED MEMBERS

The Guide to Corporate Parenting for Elected Members had been produced to set out in a single document councillors' responsibilities in relation to the county's children in care and care leavers. If approved, it was intended to distribute it electronically to all Members in addition to producing a small number of hard copies

Individual Members raised the following issues in relation to the report:

- Welcomed the guide as a useful tool for Members and in particular for clearly setting out the Council's commitments to children in care and care leavers;
- Welcomed the clear guidance on how and when contact was appropriate;

- The Chairman asked that officers made sure that Members were informed about any events or celebrations they could attend in their role as corporate parents to raise the profile of their role.
(**Action:** Head of the Corporate Parenting Service)
- Asked whether the guide could signpost Members to the right officer to speak to if constituents raised queries with them about specific cases. The Head of Corporate Parenting stated that there was a clear process around enquiries received from councillors or MPs and that she would reflect on how best this might be presented in the guide.
(**Action:** Head of the Corporate Parenting Service)

It was resolved to:

- a) review the content of the guide;
- b) endorse the content of the guide;
- c) support distribution of the guide.

128. INDEPENDENT REVIEWING OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT 2018/19

The Sub-Committee reviewed the Independent Reviewing Officer's statutory annual report for 2018/19 which covered the period 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019. During the period there were 16 Independent Reviewing Officers (IROs) in Cambridgeshire. Their role was to ensure purpose and progress with care plans for children in care and to ensure that the local authority gave due consideration to the views expressed by the child within the care planning process. During the period covered by the report 2022 child in care reviews were held and the timeliness of reviews continued to be assessed as very good. Children's participation in their reviews remained good, but it was judged that there was still room for improvement. The IRO's Escalation Protocol provided a mechanism to progress any issues raised within the review process. This Protocol had been reviewed in November 2018 and the new arrangements were becoming embedded. Staffing within the IRO team was stable which enabled them to offer a consistent figure of support to the children and young people with whom they worked and to build relationships with them over time.

Individual Members raised the following issues in relation to the report:

- Following the revision of the Escalation Protocol the number of escalations had doubled from the previous year. The reasons behind this were sought. Officers stated that the new Escalation Protocol simplified the process for escalating concerns and also allowed for a wider range of issues to be escalated. This had led to an increase in reporting. It was anticipated that the figures would continue to increase during the 2019/20 reporting period as the new arrangements continued to be embedded. The number of escalations was reviewed on a monthly and quarterly basis to ensure that the issues raised were being addressed. However, until the new arrangements became fully embedded it would not be possible to judge what would be an appropriate level of escalations as there was not enough comparative data to inform a meaningful analysis;

- The Co-opted Member described the example of an IRO's letter included in the report as really good as it was clear and informative without providing excessive detail. Members welcomed this endorsement;
- The Chairman stated that placing the voice of the child at the heart of care planning remained key. She asked for more information about why some children did not engage with the review process and what could be done to encourage and support them to do so. Officers stated that some young people were non-verbal so their views were sought through alternative methods of communication or through their advocates. Some older children and teenagers were reluctant to engage, so work was going into ways of showing the positive support which the IRO team was able to offer. Language could be a barrier to some children understanding the role of the IRO and the support which they could offer. Ways of addressing this were being considered within the service;
- The Chairman asked what IRO support was offered to children and young people accommodated outside of Cambridgeshire. Officers stated that IROs would travel to meet with them. They also used FaceTime or Skype to keep in touch where appropriate, but this did not replace face to face meetings;

Summing up, the Chairman stated that it was good to see evidence of the checks and balances in place. She welcomed the work which was being done to build lasting and secure relationships with young people over time and thanked the IRO team for the good work which they were doing.

It was resolved to note the report.

129. SIBLINGS FOREVER

The Siblings Forever project was established in 2013 and was designed to bring together brothers and sisters who had been separated through at least one of them being taken into care. The children were brought together for a short residential trip of two or three nights at Grafham Water activity centre. Ten trips had been arranged since 2013 and a total of 97 children had participated so far. This included children accommodated outside of the county and those with additional needs. Some children had attended more than one trip and almost all of them had asked to go again. 2019 saw the establishment of a team of volunteers to staff the project on site. This comprised Cambridgeshire County Council staff including social workers, a team manager, a clinician and a child practitioner. Feedback from the children involved was both positive and moving. The project had initially been funded through the Troubled Families initiative and as this funding wound down it would continue to be funded through the Corporate Parenting budget.

The Chairman commended the great work being done by officers and volunteers in support of this project. She suggested that it might be possible to attract some external funding for such valuable and inspirational work. If it could be made sustainable through external funding this would free up funds within the Corporate Parenting Service budget for other purposes in support of the Council's children in care.

It was resolved to note the report.

130. FOSTERING SERVICE UPDATE

Work to attract more in-house foster carers was continuing, financed through the successful Transformation Bid approved by the General Purposes Committee in 2018. Eleven new fostering households had been approved in the first six months of the year offering up to 15 new fostering places with a further 22 households currently in assessment.

The Chairman invited John Priest, Chair of Cambridgeshire Foster Carers' Association, to join the discussion of this report.

Individual Members raised the following issues in relation to the report:

- Asked what elements of the foster carers' recruitment campaign had been most successful and what was being done to capitalise on this. Officers stated that the highest response rate had been to social media and web-based advertising. The Council's Communications Team were providing professional support to the marketing campaign. Tools used included search engine optimisation, corporate campaign partners including information and links on their own websites and officers including links to information on their corporate correspondence;
- The Chairman asked about the requirements for potential foster caring couples in relation to work and whether there was any requirement that one partner should not be in employment. Officers stated that this had been the case at one time, but that it was no longer required provided that the couple were able to respond during the working day in the case of an emergency. If there was a need for an adult carer to be available throughout the day to respond to a particular child's needs this would be addressed during the place planning process. Officers would not expect this to be a consideration when prospective foster carers were assessed at the Fostering Panel;
- Asked whether there was any right of appeal to prospective foster carers' whose applications were turned down by the Fostering Panel. Officers stated that there was an open and honest dialogue with prospective foster carers throughout the recruitment process. This included being honest in cases where they were not considered suitable. If an applicant was turned down by the Fostering Panel they had the right to go back to the Panel to request a further review or to take their case through the Independent Review mechanism. The Independent Review would make recommendations to the Fostering Panel and the local authority and, whilst they were not obliged to change their decision, they were required to take the Independent Review recommendations into account in reaching a decision;
- During the period since the last report no in-house foster carers had left to join independent fostering agencies, but some independent fostering households had joined the local authority team;
- Mr Priest explained that the Cambridgeshire Foster Carers' Association had been running for about a year. It was open to all foster carers and currently had around 115 members. The Association was working in partnership with the Council's Foster Carers Service and wished to be considered as fellow professionals. The Chairman stated that members of the Sub-Committee represented all of the districts in Cambridgeshire and would be happy to be involved in events or activities arranged

by the Association if requested. Officers would also be happy to help publicise the meet ups being arranged for single foster carers in Huntingdon and March;
(**Action:** Consultant Lead Manager – Fostering)

It was resolved to note the report.

131. LOCAL OFFER FOR CARE LEAVERS

A new post of Local Offer Lead had been financed through the Transformation Fund and an officer had been appointed. There were also now three specialist Personal Advisors to offer enhanced support and advice to any young people needing this in their transition to Post 16 services. A pilot mentorship programme for young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) was being run with a focus on those young people who would benefit from some additional support as they entered employment. The Reablement Service was also involved in a pilot project.

The Chairman offered her congratulations to those care leavers who were already realising their potential through further and higher education and employment and welcomed the new momentum which was being established around the Local Offer. Changes in service structure were already beginning to demonstrate results and placed the Council in a strong position in comparison to some local authorities. There was already much to be proud of, but the aspiration remained to become a beacon authority for support to care leavers. This would be achieved in part by building relationships with those authorities already delivering exceptional support to care leavers and learning from their experience.

Individual Members raised the following issues in relation to the report:

- The Co-opted Member commented that he felt that there had been a real step forward in the offer to care leavers and that the Local Offer now clearly set out what was available;
- What elected Members could do to become more involved in championing the offer to Cambridgeshire's care leavers. Officers stated that the planned Members' Seminar on the role of corporate parents would provide a good starting point. This could be followed by looking at ways in which Members could get involved in raising the profile of care leavers within their divisions, districts and the many local organisations with which they were involved. Elected Members could also help support efforts to make the Council more 'care aware' by taking account of the impact on care leavers across its entire portfolio of business;
- Asked what the Council currently did in its role as an employer to support care leavers and what more could potentially be done in the future. Members also wanted to know the Council's current policy in relation to employing care leavers and what allowances, if any, were or could properly be made in relation to employing care leavers who might not hold comparable formal qualifications to their peers. Officers undertook to consult the Human Resources team and report back.

(**Action:** Senior Learning and Development Adviser)

It was resolved to:

- a) note the implementation and development of Cambridgeshire's Local Offer to Care Leavers and support awareness and implementation of the offer within and with the partners of the Council;
- b) consider how Elected Members might wish to be involved and/or champion the offer for Cambridgeshire's care leavers;
- c) encourage partners to continue to engage with the development and implementation of Cambridgeshire's Local Offer to Care Leavers.

132. WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Work was continuing to support workforce development across the range of children's services. This included the re-alignment of Assistant Director roles across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and a closer working relationship with Peterborough City Council to support the sharing of learning and good practice. New training was being developed to support the introduction of the Family Safeguarding model and this would be made available to officers outside of the delivery team to enhance understanding and buy-in. A learning and development pathway within corporate parenting was being considered and officers were involved in a national group looking at the potential for creating a personal adviser apprenticeship.

Individual Members raised the following issues in relation to the report:

- Asked for more information about the Liquid Logic project. Officers stated that this was a new social care database which would be introduced in January 2020. The current model was no longer fit for purpose and Liquid Logic would provide a more intuitive database and allow easier extraction of data. It was already used by Peterborough City Council's children's services. Adult social care would continue to use the Mosaic system and, as the two systems did not interact, young people would be transferred to the Mosaic system Post-18;
- City College, Peterborough was offering free training to level 1 as part of its health and care academy and had just been approved to deliver training to level 2. The Chairman undertook to share details with officers.
(**Action:** Chairman)

The Chairman stated that this was the most encouraging report on workforce development to date and welcomed the energy and enthusiasm being shown.

It was resolved to note and comment on the report.

133. AGENDA PLAN

The agenda plan was reviewed. The Chairman noted that the Sub-Committee would be receiving a report on Emotional Health and Wellbeing of Children in Care and Care Leavers in January and stated that she would want to see this include details of the support available to those young people with emotional and mental health issues as well as what could be done to prevent such issues developing. She was sorry that Pam

Parker, Clinical Lead for Psychology, would be leaving and emphasised the need to ensure that the existing level and quality of support on offer was maintained.

(**Action**: Assistant Director, Children and Safeguarding)

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

131. WORKSHOP/ TRAINING PLAN

The workshop and training plan was reviewed and possible future training dates were discussed.

It was resolved to note the report.

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 **7 January 2020**.

Minutes of the meeting on 20 March 2019

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| 92. | Children in Care: Emotional Health and Wellbeing | Sarah-Jane Smedmor | The Chairman suggested that this topic should be included as part of a future Corporate Parenting item at a Members' Seminar. | 20.11.19: To be included in a Members' Seminar in early 2020. | |
| 93. | Actions taken by the Council in response to Child Sexual Exploitation and County Lines Gang Exploitation | Fiona van den Hout | To invite Dave Sargeant, an ex-police officer working with the Local Safeguarding Children Board, to help co-ordinate thinking on this issue and to deliver a training session. This might also be opened to members of the Children and Young People Committee. | 23.10.19: Mr Sargeant has confirmed his availability for February 2020 to delivery Members training on this topic to tie into Sub - Committee theme of being and feeling safe in March 2020. Members are requested to bring available dates to the Sub-Committee in November. | Date to be arranged at January Sub- Committee meeting |

Minutes of the meeting on 17 July 2019

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| 111. | Performance Report | Sarah-Jane Smedmor/ Mandy Mayes, CCS | CCS to let officers know which local authorities were consistently slow to process health assessments for Cambridgeshire children in care placed within their areas so that the Council could take this up with them. | <p>06.09.19: Establishing those local authorities which are consistently slow to process health assessments for Cambridgeshire children in care placed within their areas has proved complicated. The Sub-Committee will be kept updated.</p> <p>18.09.19: The Chairman and the Assistant Director for Children's Services stated that this would be brought to the Sub-Committee in November as part of the Performance Report.</p> <p>23.10.19: A report providing an overview of impact of delayed health assessments for children living outside of Cambridgeshire will be brought to the Sub-Committee in January 2020, to tie into the theme for January's Sub-Committee 'Being healthy and leading a healthy lifestyle'. This has been added to the Sub-Committee agenda plan.</p> <p>07.01.20: Report on health assessments for children in care submitted to the January meeting.</p> | Completed |
| 113. | Sub-Committee Workshop and Training Plan | Fiona van den Hout | <p>To send out meeting invitations confirming the dates and venues of the workshop and training sessions for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Case studies for wraparound care ii. Annual Corporate Parenting Report (two sessions) | <p>23.10.19:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. The Reunification and Placement Stability Service will deliver Members' training on the work they do to reunify children with their birth family where it is safe to do so. This training will include an overview of research that has been commissioned by the Corporate Parenting Service on this topic and will also include case | Date to be arranged at January Sub-Committee meeting |

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| | | | | studies, with specific focus on Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH). This training will take place in December 2019 to tie into the tie into the theme for January's Sub-Committee 'Being healthy and leading a healthy lifestyle'. Members are requested to bring available dates to the Sub-Committee in | |
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Minutes of the meeting on 18 September 2019

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| 117. | Young People's Participation | Sarah-Jane Smedmor | The Assistant Director, Children's Services stated that an Instagram Story could be produced which would outline the topics that had been discussed at the Sub-Committee meeting. The Chairman supported this as an approach. | 07.11.19: The Assistant Director is taking a request to the next Voices Matter panel for them to help officers think through how we can make an Instagram story of the Committee purposeful for them. Tony Darnell from CCC communications team is involved with this work. A further update will be provided after the discussions with Voices Matter. | On-going |
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Meeting on 20 November 2019

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| 126. | Education transport for children in care and care leavers | Fiona van den Hout | To meet with the Strategic Education Place Planning Manager and the Lead Corporate Parenting Manager to discuss how to start collecting the necessary information now to inform future decision-making on Post-18 education transport provision. | | |
| 127. | CCC Guide to Corporate Parenting | Fiona van den Hout | The Chairman asked that officers made sure that Members were informed about any events or celebrations they could | | |

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| | for Elected Members | | attend in their role as corporate parents to raise the profile of their role. | | |
| | | | The Head of Corporate Parenting stated that there was a clear process around enquiries received from councillors or MPs and that she would reflect on how best this might be presented in the guide. | | |
| 130. | Fostering Service Update | John Heron | Officers would be happy to help publicise the meet ups being arranged for single foster carers in Huntingdon and March. | 29.11.19: Details circulated to all single foster carers working with CCC. | Completed |
| 131. | Local Offer for Care Leavers | Lesley Liston | To establish with HR what the Council currently did in its role as an employer to support care leavers and what more could potentially be done in the future. Members also wanted to know the Council's current policy in relation to employing care leavers and what allowances, if any, were or could properly be made in relation to employing care leavers who might not hold comparable formal qualifications to their peers. | 09.12.19: Raised with HR. There is not currently a policy specifically looking at this. A meeting will be arranged to update them on the discussions at the Sub-Committee meeting on 20 November 2019 and so HR can look potential processes to encourage managers to consider Care Leavers when recruiting. Discussions have also taken place with the LGSS Apprenticeship Team and this is something that they are looking at in relation to National Apprenticeship week in February 2020. A further update will be provided. | On-going |
| 132. | Workforce Development | Cllr Every | To share with officers details of the free training offered by the health and care academy at City College, Peterborough. | | |
| 133. | Agenda Plan | Sarah-Jane Smedmor | The Chairman noted that the Sub-Committee would be receiving a report on Emotional Health and Wellbeing of Children in Care and Care Leavers in | 07.01.20: Report submitted to the January meeting of the Sub-Committee. | |

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| | | | January and stated that she would want to see this include details of the support available to those young people with emotional and mental health issues as well as what could be done to prevent such issues developing. | | |
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PARTICIPATION REPORT

To: Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee

Meeting Date: 15 January 2020

From: Claire Betteridge - Service Development Manager

Electoral division(s): All

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

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

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

Summary:

- There is a plan for participation activities throughout 2019/20.
- The team continue to promote the use of the Mind of My Own APP offering individual and group training.
- The Participation Team hosted a Christmas Create and Make event.
- The Participation and colleagues in the leaving care teams re-launched a care leaver forum and hosted a new event which consisted of a Christmas meal for care leavers.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee requested an update on the work of the Participation Service at each of its meetings.

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

We are committed to ensuring that the links between the Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee and the Voices Matter (children in care council) are as robust as possible and we remain focussed on encouraging and supporting the young people who attend the committee as co-opted members to attend the Voices Matter meetings to feedback to other young people about the issues that are discussed at the corporate parenting sub-committee and also share any issues or feedback they might want to highlight on behalf of other young people with elected members.

The participation team is in dialogue with young people who might be interested in being substitutes for the co-opted member of the corporate parenting sub-committee, to ensure optimum attendance by young people at each meeting. One young person attended as an observer to the November committee meeting and whilst she does not feel she would want to become a co-opted committee member, she has expressed a wish to engage with other events and opportunities available through the participation team.

Voices Matter

The next meeting of Voices Matter is planned for the 17 February 2020, and we have had contact with some members of Voices Matter during the October half term at the Just Us Meeting and at the Christmas Create and Make event on the 20 December 2019.

We will be taking some young people to see the Wind in the Willows Pantomime in early January, after being given 15 free tickets by The Junction. We are using this event to say a thank you to a group of young people who have been regular attendees at Voices Matter meetings.

In 2020/21 we plan to move to a schedule of Voices Matter meetings at least six times per year in order to further enhance the work of this meeting and provide more opportunities for consultation and co-production work.

14 February 2020 is Care Day, which is a celebration of children and young people with care experience. It is an opportunity to celebrate the rights of care experienced children and young people and is a joint initiative between five children's rights charities across the U.K. and Ireland, under the 5 Nations 1 Voice alliance. Become Charity in England, EPIC in Ireland, VOYPIC in Northern Ireland, Voices from Care in Wales and Who Cares? Scotland. The alliance wants a world where the childhoods of these children and young people allow them to thrive and achieve their dreams so that they go on to have a future that is fulfilled, and they are proud of. Those who care for and support these children and young people are also asked to celebrate. It is also an opportunity to illustrate how care experienced people can feel different to others and why. So, this Care Day, everyone has the chance to get vocal, get social, or to get together in celebration of the care experienced community.

We are planning to celebrate this with a Voices Matter meeting that will include a session with Xidus Pain (Becomecharity.com). Xidus specialises in delivering Lyric Writing workshops. The plan is for children and young people to express their views about being in care or leaving care and later in the week the lyrics that are captured on the day with Xidus will be used and set to music during a workshop in a Samba drumming session. This will culminate in another useful resource to support training for social workers; social care staff, carers and commissioners.

Just Us Groups

Linked to the Care Day events noted above, the next Just Us Group is also planned for February half term and will be a joint session with colleagues from the 'library presents' team, which will include Samba drumming. The Voices Matter meeting will take place at the beginning of the half term week with a workshop with Xidus Pain and later in the week the lyrics that are captured on the day with Xidus will be used and set to music during a workshop in a Samba drumming session

Care Leavers Forum

Up until February 2019 the service ran a small but regular group of care leavers who met on a monthly basis in Cambridge city. After a break, we relaunched the forum in November 2019. We ran two groups for care leavers in November as planned, the meetings took place in Cambridge city and the Wisbech area. Five care leavers came along to the launch sessions, and following feedback, we are working to establish regular forum meetings to take place in four different locations across the county, from January 2020 onwards. The forum will be a platform to consult with

care leavers about their experiences and give them the opportunity to engage in wider participation and co-production activities.

Other Activities

Christmas Create and Make

The participation team hosted the annual Christmas Create and Make event on the 20 December 2019, where various Christmas themed crafts were available for children. Approximately 30 children and their carers joined us for a lovely afternoon making various Christmas crafts which included pebble painting, cone elves and decorating gingerbread.

The event was well supported by county councillors and colleagues from fostering, (specialist team, kinship and fostering support team), commissioning, the children in care health team, children's centres, the supervised contact service, and a specialist PA from the leaving care team.

During the event we had two consultation events for children and young people to offer feedback on, the first was based on the Queen's Christmas Message and what would their message be to their corporate parents and the other was based on the New Year's Honours list and who would they nominate for such an award.

We are in the process of collating this feedback and will provide more information for the next Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee meeting in March 2020.





Impact

- We continue to see a core group of children and young people with their foster carers engage in the events we are hosting.
- These events are providing valuable opportunities for children and young people to share their views in a relaxed environment with adults who understand the issues that arise when a child or young person is looked after.
- We are well supported by colleagues at these events including the fostering teams, commissioning, supervised contact and the Children Looked After health team.

Care Leavers Christmas Meal

For the first year, we hosted along with colleagues in the leaving care teams two Christmas meals for care leavers who were going to be isolated over the festive period. The meals took place on the 23 December at Nines Buffet in Cambridge and the Embe Restaurant in

Peterborough and we used it as an opportunity to promote the work of the participation team and how they could become involved. 10 young people came and enjoyed the meal, and some expressed an interest in getting involved in future activities. There were two young people who were not able to come along but have expressed an interest in hearing how they can get more involved with the participation team, so we will be in touch with them.



Impact

- From the discussions over the meal it was evident that they benefited from the social opportunity to meet other care leavers and it was evident that they all had some valuable contributions to make from the discussions we had over the meal, and some of the young people have expressed an interest in getting involved in other activities.
- These events provide valuable opportunities for young people to share their views in a relaxed environment with adults who understand the issues that arise when a child or young person has been looked after and the challenges that they can sometimes face when leaving care.

Networking and embedding participation

We have attended the corporate parenting management away day at the end of October 2019 and to other operational based team meetings in the past couple of months to share feedback from the children and young people who have engaged in the different activities and events we have hosted. This also provided us with the opportunity to share the plans we are progressing in the participation team and how practitioners can support young people getting involved. We have dates to meet with other colleagues over the next couple of months including a co-hort of social work students.

We have established a bi-monthly meeting with key senior managers across children's social care to support the participation communication strategy and increase the number of children and young people engaging in and contributing to the participation strategy. We have met on two occasions thus far and have agreed our terms of reference and work plan which includes identifying areas of our work which we need young people to get involved with such as foster carer training and recruitment

2.2. Events from other organisations we have supported

No updates to report.

2.3 Activities and Work Planned

- A schedule of events based participation activities are planned for 2019 and into 2020. All children including those residing out of County are invited to attend.
- We are working with colleagues in the commissioning team to explore how we can support children and young people get involved in the commissioning and contract monitoring process. The next step is to identify a group of young people who are interested in getting involved with this work and offer a training session at the beginning of February 2020 to take this forward.
- We are planning events over the February 2020 half term which includes the Voices Matter meeting which will include a session with Xidus Pain to coincide with care day (Becomecharity.com). Xidus specialises in delivering Lyric Writing workshops. The plan is for children and young people to express their views about being in care or leaving care. Later in the week the lyrics that are captured on the day with Xidus will be used and set to music during a workshop in a Samba drumming session.
- We are liaising with Peterborough environment trust and PCVS to explore getting some of our young people who are living in the Peterborough area involved in a project with these organisations. The project is open to the age ranges of 11-18 will be tree and shrub planting around a green space hopefully in the community that our young people live in or near to, so they can see the benefit to the community as well as learn new skills.
- We are in the final stages of planning the annual awards ceremony which will be held on the 3 April 2019. Young people have informed the theme for the event - a night at the movies - where everyone will be encouraged to come dressed as their favourite movie star. An invitation has been sent out for the date to be saved in diaries.
- We are developing a protocol and toolkit for how we involve children and young people in work such as meetings with inspectors; staff recruitment; commissioning and contract management; and being involved in the delivery of training to staff and foster carers through the development of a young ambassadors programme. We are in the process

of drafting job descriptions for these roles to assist young people's understanding of what is involved in these activities and what the benefits will be for them in getting involved.

- We continue to meet with social care teams, foster carer support and other stakeholders to promote support and encouragement for children and young people getting involved in our participation activities and promote the use of the APP Mind of My Own.
- The participation team continue to promote The Promise with operational teams as part of the team visits we are currently undertaking. We have included a copy of The Promise in the correspondence we are sending to all new children in care along with our newsletter, to inform them about the participation team and how they can get involved. We will also ensure that we have discussions in the groups we are running over the coming months with young people to ensure that they know about The Promise and how they being supported with this in mind.

2.4 Participation Service

Staffing

The Participation Team currently has a manager, two participation workers and some support from a business support assistant and an apprentice leading on Mind of My Own.

Mind of My Own

The team 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.

The information in Appendix 1 summarises Mind of My Own activity for October, November and December 2019. Information is only available until the 19 December 2019 due to the deadlines for this report and mandatory leave over the festive period.

CONCLUSION

We are committed to promote and encourage our children in care and care leavers access and attend the various opportunities that are being made available to them which not only include the events and meetings we host, where their voices can be heard but also those enrichment opportunities that are being offered by other organisations which we can use for consultations and feedback. There is a growing group of children and young people showing an interest in getting involved in shaping as well as participating in our participation events and making their voices heard.

We are committed to ensuring that the links between the corporate parenting sub-committee and the Voices Matter (children in care council) are as robust as possible and we remain focussed on encouraging and supporting the young people who attend the committee as co-opted members to attend the Voices Matter meetings to feedback to other young people about the issues that are discussed at the corporate parenting sub-committee and also share any issues or feedback they might want to highlight on behalf of other young people with elected members.

3.0 SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS

None identified

| Source Documents | Location |
|------------------|----------|
| None | |

Item 4 - Appendix 1

Overview of Mind of My Own

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

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

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

Mind of My Own Summary

The Participation team continue to offer team training and one to one support.

| | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| Worker Accounts – 412 | | | |
| Young People (YP) Accounts - 125 | | | |
| | OCTOBER 2019 | NOVEMBER 2019 | Up to 19 DECEMBER 2019 |
| Number of statements per month from YP | 8 | 3 | 4 |
| Number of statements per month via worker | 10 | 9 | 12 |
| MOMO Express Statements per month | 14 | 31 | 10 |
| Top three subject matters each month MOMO ONE | My Wellbeing - 56% Foster Care Review – 17% Preparation -17% | My Wellbeing - 33% Worker Visit 33% Foster Carer Review - 25% | 38% Worker Visit 31% Foster Carer Review 19% My Well Being |
| Top three subject matters each month MOMO EXPRESS | About Me – 47% My Life – 18% My Education – 12% My Day – 12% My Health – 12% | About Me – 32% My Life – 19% My Day – 19% | 27% My Day 27% About Me 18% My Life |

CHILDREN IN CARE HEALTH ASSESSMENTS

To: Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee

Meeting Date: 15th January 2020

From: John Peberdy – Service Director, Cambridgeshire
Community Services NHS Trust
Deborah Spencer – Designated Nurse Looked After
Children, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Clinical
Commissioning Group

Electoral division(s): All

Purpose: To update the Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee on
Health Assessments for Children in Care’

Recommendation: The Sub-Committee is recommended to:

a) Note the content of the report
b) Raise any queries with the lead officers

| <i>Officer contact:</i> | | <i>Member contact:</i> | |
|--------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|--|
| Name: | John Peberdy/ Deborah Spencer | Names: | Councillor Lis Every |
| Post: | Service Director CCS, NHS Trust/ Designated Nurse CIC CPCCG | Role: | Chairman, Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee |
| Email: | jpeberdy@nhs.net deborahspencer1@nhs.net | Email: | Lis.Every@cambridgeshire.gov.uk |
| Tel: | 01480 822 022 | Tel: | (office) 01223 706398 |

Summary:

- Background to the report
- Statutory guidance for health assessments for Children in Care
- Current issues preventing timely health assessments
- Improved joint working between health and social care
- Consent
- Latest data regarding health assessments

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The corporate parenting responsibilities of local authorities include having a duty under section 22(3)(a) of the Children Act 1989 to safeguard and promote the welfare of the children they look after, including eligible children and those placed for adoption, regardless of whether they are placed in or out of authority or the type of placement. This includes the promotion of the child's physical, emotional and mental health and acting on any early signs of health issues.
- 1.2 Clinical Commissioning Groups and NHS England have a duty to cooperate with requests from Local Authorities to undertake health assessments and help them ensure support and services to looked-after children are provided without undue delay.
- 1.3 The 20-working day target for Initial Health Assessments (IHA's) has consistently proved difficult to achieve for children in care; either for children placed in Cambridgeshire or out-of-county. The two main barriers are the timeliness of consent and children placed out-of-county.
- 1.4 If the child is moved in an emergency, notifications should happen within five working days. Prompt notifications are essential if Initial Health Assessments are to be completed in good time
- 1.5 It is worthy of note that this issue is also seen nationally, and work is on-going to resolve it.

2.0 MAIN ISSUES

- 2.1 Health and social care continue to work closely together to ensure health assessments and health needs are met in a timely way. There is weekly tracking in place and escalation to the Heads of Service and Assistant Director. There is also good communication through the 'single point of access'.

- 2.2 A joint away morning was held in December 2019 facilitated by the Designated Nurse for Children in Care (CIC) and the Lead Corporate Parenting Manager. Task and finish groups are currently working on the joint protocol and standard operating procedures between health and social care. This includes new proformas for Liquid Logic. There is excellent communication in place between health and social care. Provision of referrals and consent from social care has improved from 45% of in county and 50% of out of county having consent within 20 days in June 2019 to 83% in county and 75% out of county in October 2019. It is important to note that some children remain in Safeguarding teams until a plan for permanency is made, so ongoing education of all social care teams in providing correct documentation is essential. Following the away morning the Specialist Nurses will be linking with social care teams for ongoing education regarding health needs
- 2.3 All Initial Health Assessments (IHA) are conducted by paediatricians as specified in the statutory guidance. Unfortunately, there were significant issues with capacity in August 2019 due to staff sickness which also led to a backlog in September. This is no longer an issue and the team are back to full capacity. Other factors affecting compliance with the target include: children and young people not attending their assessment on the day, as high as 25% in June 2019 and carers declining the first appointment offered to them, as high as 46% in September. Liaison with social workers and fostering is in place to address these issues
- 2.4 Review Health Assessments are conducted by the Specialist Nurses and during June 2019 there was an issue with capacity due to one of the nurses leaving (this is a small team of three Specialist Nurses). The team are now back to establishment and an average of 80% of in county assessments have been completed within timescale over the last three months. The percentage of children / young people not attending review assessments is much lower than previously, with the highest being 7% in June 2019. Carers declining the first appointment for review assessment has been as high as 10% in August 2019.
- 2.5 There continues to be an issue with timely out of county health assessments, although health and social care are being proactive in providing consent and requesting the health assessment two months in advance. This is a national issue which has been highlighted to the National 'Looked After Children's Working Group'. Where a child is placed in a neighbouring county consideration is given to bringing that child back to Cambridgeshire for a health assessment. The Specialist Nurses are also travelling 20 miles outside the Cambridgeshire border to conduct review health assessments
- 2.6 Consent - Guidance recently produced by the National Clinical Reference Group, with review by the legal team, is that enduring consent can be used for health assessments. This will mean that the health team can use the initial consent provided and will not be waiting for a yearly updated consent before requesting an assessment from another county. Other counties have had varying requirements for consent, in the past, and this guidance has been

provided to prevent variation. This guidance does not apply to consent to medical treatment. The Designated Nurse will be providing a standard letter to other counties that the health team can send with the assessment request

- 2.7 The Business Intelligence team within Cambridgeshire Community Services NHS Trust are now providing robust data to the Clinical Commissioning Group on a monthly basis

Compliance with statutory targets for health assessments

| CAMBRIDGESHIRE COMMUNITY SERVICES | | April 2019 | May 2019 | June 2019 | July 2019 | August 2019 | September 2019 | October 2019 |
|-----------------------------------|--|------------|----------|-----------|-----------|-------------|----------------|--------------|
| No. Children Entered Care | No. Placed in area | 19 | 15 | 9 | 15 | 8 | 11 | 10 |
| | No. Placed out of area | 15 | 10 | 8 | 11 | 4 | 2 | 4 |
| IHA Completed within 20 days | No. in area completed within 20 days | 1 | 6 | 5 | 6 | 0 | 4 | 6 |
| | % in area completed within 20 days | 6% | 43% | 56% | 40% | 0% | 36% | 60% |
| | No. OOA completed within 20 days | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| | % OOA completed within 20 days | 0% | 10% | 25% | 0% | 50% | 0% | 0% |
| | % All IHA completed within 20 days | 3% | 29% | 41% | 23% | 17% | 31% | 43% |
| Annual Health Review Assessments | No. In area Annual Review Assessments required | 41 | 50 | 23 | 30 | 29 | 27 | 42 |
| | No. OOA Annual Review Assessments required | 20 | 19 | 19 | 32 | 12 | 20 | 25 |
| | No. In area completed within 15 days | 38 | 41 | 9 | 26 | 26 | 18 | 33 |
| | % in area completed within 15 days | 93% | 82% | 39% | 87% | 90% | 67% | 79% |
| | No. OOA completed within 15 days | 1 | 6 | 3 | 15 | 2 | 12 | 6 |
| | % OOA completed within 15 days | 5% | 32% | 16% | 47% | 17% | 60% | 24% |
| | % All AHR completed within 15 days | 64% | 68% | 29% | 66% | 68% | 64% | 58.00% |

3.0 ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PRIORITIES

3.1 A good quality of life for everyone

The promotion of the child's physical, emotional and mental health and acting on any early signs of health issues is relevant to this priority

3.2 Thriving places for people to live

There are no significant implications for this priority.

3.3 The best start for Cambridgeshire's children

The promotion of the child's physical, emotional and mental health and acting on any early signs of health issues is relevant to this priority

4. SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS

4.1 None.

| Source Documents | Location |
|--|--|
| <p>Promoting the Health and Well-Being of Looked-After Children - Statutory guidance for local authorities, clinical commissioning groups and NHS England.</p> <p>DFE March 2015</p> | <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/promoting-the-health-and-wellbeing-of-looked-after-children--2</p> |

IMPROVING THE EMOTIONAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER AND YOUNG PEOPLE LEAVING CARE

To: **Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee**

Meeting Date:

From: **Dr Pam Parker
Professional Lead for Psychology**

Electoral division(s): **All**

Purpose: **To provide the Committee with an update on work to improve clinical services for children and young people who are looked after**

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

| <i>Officer contact:</i> | | <i>Member contact:</i> | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| Name: | Sarah Jane Smedmor | Names: | Councillor Lis Every |
| Post: | Assistant Director | 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 attached report summarises recommendations from the multi-agency Task & Finish group regarding services to improve the Emotional Health and Wellbeing of Children and Young People who are Looked After.

1. BACKGROUND

Cambridgeshire Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee requested a Task and Finish group be established to consider what improvements could be made in services going forward. The group focused on working within existing resources using a “Transforming Care” model. This was informed by national guidance which clearly states that improving the emotional health and wellbeing of children and young people who are looked after requires a multi-agency response. This responsibility cannot be split off into any one service or organisation. The purpose of this group was for members to effect changes within their own services where possible, and then summarise recommendations for the Joint Commissioning Unit (JCU) and Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee to inform wider strategic developments.

2. MAIN ISSUES

To achieve the above aims, the following work was undertaken:

Shared review of recent relevant national guidance, legislation, research and policy

Case studies were shared and discussed to develop a greater understanding of what is currently available from key partners and where the gaps in services are most problematic

Consultation was undertaken with young people from the Corporate Parenting sub-committee and Cambridgeshire Foster Care Association.

This resulted in five key themes for consideration:

Oversight of universal and specialist services

Use of data to inform county wide service developments and assess impact

Clarity about service pathways and accessible, reliable, information for foster carers

Shared models of practice across services and application of evidence

based practice

Children and Young People's experience of services

3. ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PRIORITIES

Report authors should evaluate the proposal(s) in light of their alignment with the following three Corporate Priorities.

3.1 A good quality of life for everyone

Address health inequalities and improve outcomes for children and young people

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

Address health inequalities and improve outcomes for children and young people.

4. SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS

3.1 Resource Implications

There are no additional resource implications from the strategy

3.2 Procurement/Contractual/Council Contract Procedure Rules Implications

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 | . |

Improving Emotional Health and Wellbeing for Children Looked After and Young People Leaving Care

Recommendations from a Multi-Agency Task & Finish Group

Context and Purpose

Cambridgeshire Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee requested a Task and Finish group be established to consider what improvements could be made in services going forward. The group focused on working within existing resources using a “Transforming Care” model. This was informed by national guidance which clearly states that improving the emotional health and wellbeing of children and young people who are looked after, requires a multi-agency response. This responsibility cannot be split off into any one service or organisation. The purpose of this group was for members to effect changes within their own services where possible, and then summarise recommendations for the Joint Commissioning Unit and Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee to inform wider strategic developments.

Participating Agencies

This was a multi-agency venture between the following Cambridgeshire services:

- Cambridgeshire Virtual School (CVS)
 - CPFT Adult Mental Health Primary Care (AMH)
 - Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)
 - CPFT Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMH)
 - Emotional Health and Wellbeing Service (EHWB)
 - Cambridgeshire Clinical Team (CCT)
 - Cambridgeshire Social Care (CSC)
 - Special Education Needs and Disability (SEND)
-
- Centre 33 contributed to discussions about services for young people leaving care.

Tasks and activities

To achieve the above aims, the following work was undertaken:

- Shared review of recent relevant national guidance, legislation, research and policy
- Case studies were shared and discussed to develop a greater understanding of what is currently available from key partners and where the gaps in services are most problematic

- Consultation was undertaken with young people from the Corporate Parenting sub-committee and Cambridgeshire Foster Care Association.

This resulted in five key themes for consideration:

1. Oversight of universal and specialist services
2. Use of data to inform county wide service developments and assess impact
3. Clarity about service pathways and accessible, reliable, information for foster carers
4. Shared models of practice across services and application of evidence based practice
5. Children and Young People's experience of services

1. Oversight of universal and specialist services

| Areas for development | Recommendations |
|---|--|
| <p>It was unclear to the group whether a single agency or position within Cambridgeshire keeps oversight of all services within county working to address the emotional wellbeing and mental health needs of care experienced children and young people.</p> | <p>National Guidance has recommended a Virtual Mental Health Lead post to sit within commissioning to ensure robust clinical governance of both specialist and generic services who work with our children and young people.</p> <p>This could help to ensure that we only commission and use services that work from an evidence base, using an approach that is coherent with relevant NICE guidelines.</p> <p>It would allow corporate parents to set clear expectations about assessment, consent and confidentiality, prior to any therapeutic work taking place.</p> <p>It would be reasonable to ask services to report to a Virtual Mental Health Lead (or equivalent) using the same routine outcome measures and specific markers (e.g. placement stability and time in education) which would then allow us to make an assessment of impact in a much more coherent way.</p> |
| <p>There is an issue currently with children in care who have experienced developmental trauma being offered individual play therapy, often in school, without a full clinical assessment. This is well intentioned but potentially very unhelpful for children and not a good use of resource. It is also not in any way</p> | <p>It would be most efficient to address this broadly rather than continuing to work on a case by case basis.</p> |

| | |
|---|--|
| coherent with what the evidence base indicates. | |
|---|--|

2. Use of data to inform service developments

| Areas for development | Recommendations |
|--|---|
| There was no coherent approach across agencies regarding data collection. Some services use routine outcome measures but different agencies take different approaches and the data is not shared in an effective way. | <p>It would be helpful to use the SDQ/IHA and RHA information as a prompt for further clinical assessment and/or intervention in a proactive way. At present the wider data set is shared annually between CCS and CCC but changes in scores or trends in the data are not tracked.</p> <p>There may be opportunities to address this in the re-structure of a clinical team for corporate parenting in CCC and as part of reviewing the joint protocol with ChiC Health. ChiC health are currently looking at incorporating more detailed measures such as RCADS to support their assessment process.</p> |
| At present children and young people who are on the CPFT Child and Adolescent Mental Health (CAMH) waiting list are not easily identified as being looked after or “edge of care”. They are prioritised at the Single Point of Access by being rated “moderate risk” or higher. However, once they are in services it is not always apparent to the staff, when they are reviewing the waiting list, whether a child is in care (or on a Child Protection plan). | CAMH representatives were interested in finding ways to address this so that they can meet the needs of those children who are most vulnerable. They also suggested trialling a fast track system for children and young people who are looked after, as part of plans to address health inequalities. Further discussions about this between CCC and CPFT are planned for the New Year. It may be possible to track costs avoided if this contributes to stabilising some local foster placements or preventing escalation of need. When foster carers were consulted as part of this work they felt strongly that reduced waiting times and more contact during the waiting period, would be very helpful for them. |

3. Clarity of Available Services

| Areas for development | Recommendations |
|---|--|
| <p>Professionals and carers consistently reported that they were unclear about what services are available, how to make referrals, what to expect from services, who is responsible for monitoring these, who can give consent for treatment, and how to know which of the available options are most appropriate. This is even more complex for young people placed out of county.</p> | <p>It would be extremely helpful to have an online resource specifically for children and young people who are looked after, that sets out detailed information about service criteria, pathways, referral processes, what children and young people can expect, and who to contact in a crisis. The local offer website contains some of this currently but there is much scope to develop this into a really rich resource. For example, it could include webinar trainings for carers, host online support groups facilitated by a clinician, and helpful video and written resources about some of the every-day challenges foster carers experience. This could be co-constructed with carers and young people and updated every three months. The clinical lead in CCC might be well placed to develop this in partnership with CCG, health and third sector colleagues.</p> <p>Foster carers requested a “decision tree” guide to services that would help social workers and professionals more quickly determine which support route they should be trying to access. This could potentially be built into the online resource or could form part of practice guidance that is shared within CCC if it can be updated regularly enough.</p> <p>In relation to Children and Young People living outside of Cambridgeshire, the Standard Operating Procedure for out of County Therapies has worked well to improve governance, communication and partnership working. It would be helpful to review this as part of developing the new clinical team structure for corporate parenting and joint working protocol with health.</p> |

4. Shared Models of Practice and Partnership Working

| Areas for development | Recommendations |
|--|---|
| <p>Overall there seemed few opportunities to build shared models of practice and exchange knowledge across agencies. This creates delay for children and unnecessary tensions between services.</p> <p>However, there were many good examples of partnership working across agencies and services when individual clinicians had particular knowledge and experience of working with children and young people who are looked after. When people had worked across local services for many years helpful relationships had often developed that meant conversations could happen in flexible and less fraught ways, resulting in better partnership working. Network Plus has been helpful in some of the case examples that were discussed.</p> | <p>Corporate Parenting Social Work practitioners and CAMH staff to have shared learning events to provide key information about their services and practice developments.</p> <p>CAMH staff could then more helpfully contribute to care planning, placement stability, review meetings, if they had a better understanding of these processes, were supported to prioritise them and invited in to consult actively by social care.</p> <p>There is a great deal of knowledge within systems that could be shared more effectively. For example, VS asked for a clinical contribution to designated teacher training to support looked after children in schools. This has been agreed, is easy to provide and has broad impact.</p> <p>Build greater links between third sector providers (e.g. Blue Smile, Acorn Project and Centre 33) so that communication between services is improved. Bi-annual community of practice events could be run to support this and promote evidence informed practice across agencies.</p> <p>Foster carers were keen to work in partnership with services to enhance the current offer and build on the existing skills and capacity within the service. They expressed an interest in co-facilitating evidence based groups (Nurturing Attachments) and delivering training alongside other professionals to increase impact and engagement. A review of the clinical contribution to training is currently being led by Lynne Milton (CCC clinical team). This will report to CCC HoS and AD in Feb 2020. This review has included stakeholders and partner agencies to ensure the approach is coherent between services (e.g. drawing on Trauma Informed Models in a way that is aligned with VS developments).</p> |

| | |
|--|---|
| | <p>Develop greater coherence between plans that should be supporting children and young people such as PEP, Reviews, EHC plans and Health care plans. At present these processes can be disjointed and would be much richer if they were joined up. This can be particularly problematic if “therapy” is provided through a PEP process in the absence of a broader formulation or knowledge about input from other clinical services. VS educational psychologist is working on an audit to inform next steps regarding this. CCC clinical team and VS have developed closer links to ensure consultation is available to education staff regarding therapeutic interventions.</p> |
|--|---|

5. Experience of Services

All of the recommendations should improve young people’s experience of accessing services and their effectiveness. National Guidance and feedback from young people locally highlighted repeatedly the importance of meaningful consultation to guide services. Young people said they have found themselves repeatedly explaining to health professionals important details such as what a CiC review is, or why their carer has a separate social worker to their own. They spoke about the importance of the language that is used and why it matters that people don’t use the terms “LAC” or “contact” for example when speaking about them/with them.

It was not clear to members of the T&F group how the voices of young people currently shape services that are commissioned to address mental health/emotional health and wellbeing. We noted examples of good practice in other local authorities such as children in care councils being able to develop “quick guides” for the professionals working with them addressing use of language and overall approach (for example, sensitivity to trust in relationships and genuine care). If this work is not already underway in Cambridgeshire there is scope to develop it in a way that could really have impact.

Conclusion

We would welcome feedback from the Joint Commissioning Unit as to whether these recommendations are in line with broader strategic and operational plans.

It seems timely to share the recommendations of the T&F group as the clinical team in corporate parenting is being re-structured, with a revised service specification and increased resource. If these recommendations are supported within CCC and partner agencies the Corporate Parenting Sub Committee could potentially oversee an action plan, owned by the members of the existing multi-agency group, to put these into action and assess impact.

Produced by:

Dr Pamela Parker

VIRTUAL SCHOOL: CHILDREN IN CARE UNVALIDATED END OF YEAR DATA

To: **Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee**

Meeting Date: **15th January 2020**

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

Electoral division(s): **All**

Purpose: **To report on the un-validated data (end of academic year 2018-2019) for children in care for more than one year**

Recommendation: **The Committee are 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: | 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 end of foundation stage data, phonics data, end of key stage 1, end of key stage 2 and end of key stage 4 data. It is important to note that as this data un-validated, caution is needed when drawing conclusions as it is likely that percentages will change. For this reason no analysis has been included. The validated data will be available in April-May 2020, and will be reported to the Sub-Committee with detailed analysis in the autumn term 2020.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to share the outcomes of the qualifying cohort (children in the care of Cambridgeshire County council for a year or more as of 31st March 2019). It is important to note that this is a proportion of the children the virtual school support rather than representative of all children in care.

2. MAIN ISSUES

2.1 Foundation Stage Data

GLD refers to Good Level of Development. This is the national benchmark for children at the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage (aged 5). Children are deemed to have met GLD if they have achieved the Early Learning Goals in the curriculum areas of Personal, Social and Emotional Development, Physical Development, Communication and Language Development, Literacy and Mathematics.

| Good Level of Development (GLD) | RECEPTION (EYFSP) | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|------|---------|
| | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
| Cambridgeshire - CiC Cohort* | x | 12 | 8 of 10 |
| Cambridgeshire - CiC | x | 42% | 38% |
| National - CiC | x | 47% | 49% |
| Cambridgeshire - All Pupils | 71% | 71% | 72% |
| National - All Pupils | 71% | 72% | 72% |

* CiC: Children in Care

- The information is based on 8 out of the 10 children in the cohort.

- When all 10 children's data is accounted for each child will equate to 10%
- There is no data for children in care in 2017 as data did not start to be collected nationally until 2018
- 1 of the recorded children missed GLD in just reading and writing

2.2 Phonics Data

Children in year 1 (aged 5-6 years) complete a phonics check. This consists of reading 40 words to a known adult. It includes a combination of 'real' words and 'alien' words. The reason 'alien' words are included is so that the only strategy available to the child is phonics. Children who don't pass the screening resit it towards the end of year 2 (aged 6-7 years).

| Phonics - Working at Expected (WA) | Year 1 | | |
|------------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
| Cambridgeshire - CiC Cohort | x | 10 | 14 of 16 |
| Cambridgeshire - CiC | x | 50% | 57% |
| National - CiC | x | 63% | 64% |
| <i>Cambridgeshire - All Pupils</i> | <i>80%</i> | <i>81%</i> | <i>80%</i> |
| <i>National - All Pupils</i> | <i>81%</i> | <i>82%</i> | <i>82%</i> |

- The data is available on 14 out of the cohort of 16 children.
- 3 of the 14 children attend special school and owing to their level of need were dis-applied. 1 further child also has an Education Health and Care plan and was dis-applied (25%).

2.3 End of Key Stage 1 and 2 Data

At the end of key stage 1 (aged 7) and key stage 2 (aged 11), children are assessed as:

- **Working towards the expected standard:** not yet reaching the standard expected for their school year
- **Working at expected standard:** at the level expected for their year group
- **Working at greater depth:** working more deeply within the expectations for their year.

Reading: Key Stage 1

| Reading | | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------|------|----------|
| Expected or Better (EXS or GDS) | KEY STAGE 1 | | |
| | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
| Cambridgeshire - CiC Cohort | 6 | 16 | 14 of 15 |
| Cambridgeshire - CiC | 33% | 56% | 43% |
| National - CiC | 51% | 51% | 52% |
| Cambridgeshire - All Pupils | 74% | 74% | 74% |
| National - All Pupils | 76% | 75% | 75% |

Writing: Key Stage 1

| Writing | | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------|------|----------|
| Expected or Better (EXS or GDS) | KEY STAGE 1 | | |
| | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
| Cambridgeshire - CiC Cohort | 6 | 16 | 14 of 15 |
| Cambridgeshire - CiC | 50% | 38% | 21% |
| National - CiC | 39% | 42% | 42% |
| Cambridgeshire - All Pupils | 65% | 68% | 67% |
| National - All Pupils | 68% | 70% | 69% |

Maths: Key Stage 1

| Maths | | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------|------|----------|
| Expected or Better (EXS or GDS) | KEY STAGE 1 | | |
| | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
| Cambridgeshire - CiC Cohort | 6 | 16 | 14 of 15 |
| Cambridgeshire - CiC | 50% | 56% | 29% |
| National - CiC | 46% | 49% | 49% |
| Cambridgeshire - All Pupils | 74% | 75% | 75% |

| | | | |
|------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|
| <i>National - All Pupils</i> | 75% | 76% | 76% |
|------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|

Combined Reading, Writing and Maths: Key Stage 1

| Combined - Reading, Writing & Maths (EXS or GDS in ALL Subjects) | | | |
|---|-------------|------|----------|
| Expected or Better (EXS or GDS) | KEY STAGE 1 | | |
| | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
| Cambridgeshire - CiC Cohort | 6 | 16 | 14 of 15 |
| Cambridgeshire - CiC | 33% | 31% | 21% |
| National - CiC | 34% | 37% | 37% |
| <i>Cambridgeshire - All Pupils</i> | 60% | 64% | 63% |
| <i>National - All Pupils</i> | 64% | 65% | 65% |

- The data currently represents 14 out of 15 children in the cohort
- 2 children attend special schools and were working below the national curriculum

Reading: Key Stage 2

| Reading | | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------|------|----------|
| Expected or Better (EXS or GDS) | KEY STAGE 2 | | |
| | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
| Cambridgeshire - CiC Cohort | 22 | 29 | 25 of 28 |
| Cambridgeshire - CiC | 32% | 38% | 36% |
| National - CiC | 45% | 51% | 49% |
| <i>Cambridgeshire - All Pupils</i> | 73% | 75% | 73% |
| <i>National - All Pupils</i> | 72% | 76% | 73% |

- Progress from key stage 1 to 2 is currently -0.92 compared to -0.27 of children in care nationally. 0 would be expected progress.

Writing: Key Stage 2

| Writing | | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------|------|----------|
| Expected or Better (EXS or GDS) | KEY STAGE 2 | | |
| | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
| Cambridgeshire - CiC Cohort | 21 | 29 | 25 of 28 |
| Cambridgeshire - CiC | 36% | 45% | 52% |
| National - CiC | 48% | 49% | 50% |
| Cambridgeshire - All Pupils | 74% | 75% | 75% |
| National - All Pupils | 77% | 79% | 78% |

- Writing is a teacher assessment rather than a test
- Progress is currently 0.73 compared to children in care nationally -0.83

Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling: Key Stage 2

| Grammar, Punctuation & Spelling (GPS) | | | |
|--|-------------|------|----------|
| Expected or Better (EXS or GDS) | KEY STAGE 2 | | |
| | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
| Cambridgeshire - CiC Cohort | 22 | 29 | 25 of 28 |
| Cambridgeshire - CiC | 41% | 38% | 52% |
| National - CiC | 50% | 50% | 53% |
| Cambridgeshire - All Pupils | 75% | 75% | 76% |
| National - All Pupils | 78% | 78% | 78% |

Mathematic: Key Stage 2

| Maths | | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------|------|----------|
| Expected or Better (EXS or GDS) | KEY STAGE 2 | | |
| | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
| Cambridgeshire - CiC Cohort | 22 | 29 | 25 of 28 |
| Cambridgeshire - CiC | 27% | 38% | 56% |
| National - CiC | 46% | 47% | 51% |
| Cambridgeshire - All Pupils | 73% | 72% | 76% |
| National - All Pupils | 75% | 76% | 79% |

- Progress is currently 0.36 compared to children in care nationally -0.97

Combined Reading, Writing and Maths: Key Stage 2

| Combined - Reading, Writing & Maths (EXS or GDS in ALL Subjects) | | | |
|---|-------------|------|----------|
| Expected or Better (EXS or GDS) | KEY STAGE 2 | | |
| | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
| Cambridgeshire - CiC Cohort | 21 | 29 | 25 of 28 |
| Cambridgeshire - CiC | 14% | 24% | 28% |
| National - CiC | 32% | 35% | 36% |
| Cambridgeshire - All Pupils | 59% | 61% | 62% |
| National - All Pupils | 62% | 65% | 65% |

- The data is currently on 25 out of the 28 children in the cohort.
- 4 of the children attend special schools and were are working below the national curriculum

2.4 End of Key Stage 4 Data

GCSEs are now graded 9-1, with 9 being the highest grade and 1 the lowest. The new GCSE content is recognised as more challenging. Grades 4 and 5 are equivalent to what was a 'C' in the old GCSE grades. Grade 5 is known as a strong pass and grade 4 as a standard pass.

English and Maths: GCSE

The data is based on those that achieved English and Maths at the end of year 11.

| Achieved Basics | KEY STAGE 4 | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------|--------------|-----------|--------------|-----------|--------------|
| | 2017 | | 2018 | | 2019 | |
| | Std (9-4) | Strong (9-5) | Std (9-4) | Strong (9-5) | Std (9-4) | Strong (9-5) |
| Cambridgeshire - CiC Cohort | 43 | | 55 | | 47 of 72 | |
| Cambridgeshire - CiC | 12% | 7% | 15% | 7% | 17% | 6% |
| National - CiC | 17% | 7% | 17% | 8% | 25% | 10% |
| Cambridgeshire - All Pupils | 67% | 47% | 67% | 46% | 68% | 48% |
| National - All Pupils | x | 43% | 64% | 43% | 65% | 43% |

Attainment 8

Attainment 8 measures a child's average grade across eight subjects. Maths and English are double weighted.

| Attainment 8 | KEY STAGE 4 | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------|------|----------|
| | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
| Cambridgeshire - CiC Cohort | 43 | 55 | 47 of 72 |
| Cambridgeshire - CiC | 17.9 | 21.9 | 22.5 |
| National - CiC | 19.3 | 18.8 | 25.1 |
| Cambridgeshire - All Pupils | 47.7 | 48.2 | 49.1 |
| National - All Pupils | 46.4 | 46.5 | 46.8 |

Progress 8

Progress 8 aims to measure the progress a child makes from the end of primary school to the end of year 11. A score of 0 is expected progress.

| Progress 8 (Progress from KS 2 to KS4) | KEY STAGE 4 | | |
|---|-------------|-------|----------|
| | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
| Cambridgeshire - CiC Cohort | 43 | 55 | 47 of 72 |
| Cambridgeshire - CiC | -1.16 | -0.71 | -0.90 |
| National - CiC | -1.17 | -1.24 | -0.96 |
| Cambridgeshire - All Pupils | 0.10 | 0.14 | 0.18 |
| National - All Pupils | -0.03 | -0.02 | -0.02 |

- The data is representative of 47 out of the cohort of 72

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

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

4. SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATION

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 |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| n/a | |

DRAFT CORPORATE PARENTING SUB-COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2018-19

To: **Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee**

Meeting Date: **15 January 2020**

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

Electoral division(s): **All**

Purpose: **This is the Corporate Parenting Sub Committee Annual report for 2018-2019.**

Recommendation: **Sub Committee is requested to review and agree the draft Annual Report 2018-19 for submission to the Children and Young People Committee.**

| <i>Officer contact:</i> | | <i>Member contact:</i> | |
|--------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|--|
| Name: | Fiona Van Den Hout | Names: | Councillor Lis Every |
| Post: | Head of Service Corporate Parenting | Role: | Chairman, Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee |
| Email: | Fiona.vandenhout@cambridgeshire.gov.uk | Email: | Lis.Every@cambridgeshire.gov.uk |
| Tel: | (office) 01223 518739 | Tel: | (office) 01223 706398 |

Summary:

The Draft Corporate Parenting Sub Committee Annual Report sets out the Sub Committee's activity over the year 2018-2019 and scrutinises performance and progress in the Council's work with Children in Care and young people leaving care against the five key priorities:

- Being and feeling safe
- Being healthy and leading a healthy lifestyle
- Achieving stability and permanence
- Preparing for adulthood
- Hearing the voices of children and young people

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee will provide an annual report to the Children and Young People's Committee detailing activity undertaken by the Sub Committee throughout each year. The report details the performance and achievements relating to the Council's work with children in care and those leaving care from April 2018 to March 2019.

2. MAIN ISSUES

- 2.1 The full draft Annual Report 2018-19 is attached at Appendix 1.

3. ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PRIORITIES

3.1 A good quality of life for everyone

This corporate priority is explicit throughout the report as it relates to children in care supported by the Council and the experiences of children and young people leaving the Council's care.

3.2 Thriving places for people to live

This corporate priority is explicit throughout the report as it relates to children in care supported by the Council and the experiences of children and young people leaving the Council's care.

3.3 The best start for Cambridgeshire's children

This corporate priority is explicit throughout the report as it relates to children in care supported by the Council and the experiences of children and young people leaving the Council's care.

4. SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS

3.1 Resource Implications

n/a

3.2 Procurement/Contractual/Council Contract Procedure Rules Implications

n/a

3.3 Statutory, Legal and Risk Implications

n/a

3.4 Equality and Diversity Implications

n/a

3.5 Engagement and Communications Implications

n/a

3.6 Localism and Local Member Involvement

n/a

3.7 Public Health Implications

n/a

| Source Documents | Location |
|------------------|----------|
| None | |

Corporate Parenting **Annual Report** Sub Committee 2018/19





**Foreword from Councillor Lis Every,
Chairwoman of the Corporate Parenting Sub
Committee**

I am very pleased to welcome you to the Corporate Parenting Sub Committee Annual Report which sets out the progress we have made against our priorities for children in care and those leaving care for the year 2018 to 2019. We know that we must be ambitious for every Cambridgeshire child but even more so for those who are disadvantaged and vulnerable.

Every Councillor is a Corporate Parent and this is a role that we take very seriously on the Sub Committee. Over the last year we have challenged and held to account the services provided by the Council and our partners on a number of key areas that shape the lived experiences of Children in Care and Care Leavers. We have also advocated for better outcomes in a range of forums, ensuring that these children's needs are always considered and in all Council business.

Central to the work of the Sub Committee is ensuring that the voices of our children in care influence all we do. We have been very fortunate over the last year to have had the privilege of working with two care experienced young people who, as co-opted members, have shared their knowledge and understanding to help develop and inform our priorities and discussions. On behalf of the Sub Committee, I would like to thank them for helping us to gain a better understanding of their experiences of interacting with services.

There have been significant positive progress with improvements this year which include:

- A redesign of Children's Services which led to the creation of specialist teams for children who are supported by the Council and who are leaving care. Over the next year we will continue to monitor and scrutinise Council performance and challenge where good outcomes are not being achieved.
- The publication of a revised Care Leaver Offer called Pathways4US, which has been coproduced with the young people who will benefit from more cohesive and accessible support and guidance as they transition into adulthood.
- The Council's Participation Team has worked hard to re-establish membership of the Voices Matter Group (Children in Care Council) and Care Leaver groups.
- Through the course of the year we have identified that we need to improve how we respond to and support the emotional health and well-being of children and care and those leaving care. We have listened to the feedback we have received from children and resolved to bring together key partners to address this need.

The service that children in care experience is only as good as our workforce. My heartfelt thanks go to our Children and Safeguarding Director, Lou Williams, the Assistant Director Sarah-Jane Smedmor and of course all their staff for their hard work and commitment to the public they serve. As always, thank you also to our foster carers and adopters.

CONTENT GUIDE TO THE 2018-2019 CORPORATE PARENTING SUB COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

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The role of the Corporate Parenting Sub Committee – how we do things in Cambridgeshire

Corporate Parenting places collective responsibility on Local Authorities to achieve good parenting which demonstrates their commitment to helping every child they support in care and wherever that child is living, to reach their potential.

Being a Good Corporate Parent means to seek the outcomes for children in care and those leaving care that every good parent would want for their children and to safeguard and promote their life chances, providing opportunities and support. Good Corporate Parenting requires ownership and leadership at a senior level, including Elected Members.

Background

In April 2017, the Corporate Parenting Sub Committee of the Children and Young People (CYP) Committee became active following a review of the long established Corporate Parenting Board. The new arrangements reflected the drive to strengthen arrangements for oversight and decision making in respect of corporate parenting activity with clear accountability to the CYP Committee through adopting a scheme of delegated authority and a framework for decision making.

Purpose

The purpose of Sub Committee is to ensure that the Council effectively discharges its role as Corporate Parent for all children and young people in its care and provides a key role in ensuring accountability. The transformation of the Sub Committee has been led by the Chair, reinvigorating it into one which is proactive in challenging service delivery and advocating strongly for Children in Care and Care Leavers resulting in a more robust constitution with stronger governance principles.

The Sub Committee has delegated authority to exercise all the Council's functions relating to the delivery, by or on behalf of the Council, of Corporate Parentings functions with the exception of policy decisions which remains with the CYP Committee.



Delegated authority includes:

- Working with the Virtual School to raise standards of attainment and developing education, employment and training opportunities for children in care, former children in care and children leaving care.
- Ensuring mechanisms for consultation and participation are positively promoted and that the Council actively listens and responds to the views and experiences of children in care, former children in care and children leaving care.
- Receiving regular reports on the provisions of services for children in care and care leavers as required by legislation and for the purpose of monitoring and offering advice.
- Working with the Clinical Commissioning Group and health providers to ensure delivery of services to meet health needs including health assessments and plans, emotional health, sexual health, substance misuse and teenage pregnancy.

Future developments

Now that the structure and governance arrangements are embedded, a refresh of Sub Committee business will take place in 2019. Whilst there will continue to be standing agenda items, we will look to a more thematic focus to provide increased scrutiny and oversight on specific areas.

Thematic agenda items will continue to follow the key priorities:

- Being and feeling safe
- Being healthy and leading a healthy lifestyle
- Achieving stability and permanence
- Preparing for adulthood
- Hearing the voices of children and young people

As Corporate Parents we are ambitious for our children and young people and committed to supporting them to reach their full potential, to stay safe and healthy and to go on to live fulfilling and successful adult lives believing that anything is possible. We are proud of our children and will take every opportunity to celebrate their achievements.

Children in Care and Care Leaver demographics – who our children

775

children in care who Cambridgeshire were responsible for

78

Unaccompanied asylum seeking children in care in Cambridgeshire

360

young people in the leaving care population

256

children and young people in a long-term fostering placement

64

children in care with a recorded disability

340

female children in care

435

male children in care

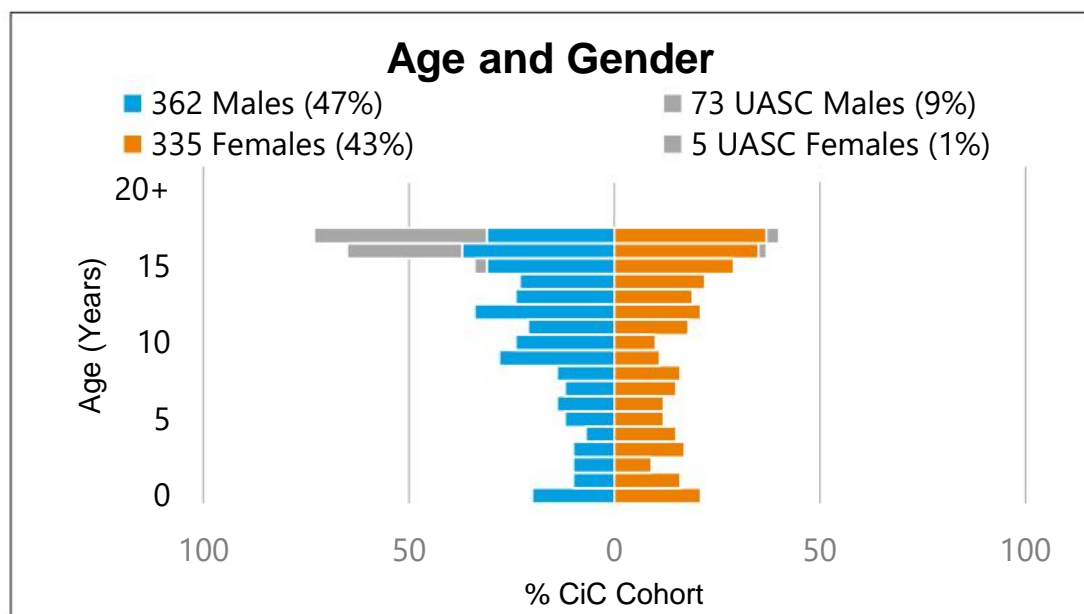
| Children in Care | Apr-18 | May-18 | Jun-18 | Jul-18 | Aug-18 | Sep-18 | Oct-18 | Nov-18 | Dec-18 | Jan-19 | Feb-19 | Mar-19 |
|-----------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Total CIC Population | 715 | 712 | 701 | 724 | 737 | 737 | 756 | 764 | 767 | 759 | 763 | 775 |
| Non-Unaccompanied Children | 654 | 655 | 644 | 650 | 652 | 655 | 668 | 678 | 680 | 676 | 684 | 697 |
| Unaccompanied Children (UC) | 61 | 57 | 57 | 74 | 85 | 82 | 88 | 86 | 87 | 83 | 79 | 78 |
| Unaccompanied Children % | 8.5% | 8.0% | 8.1% | 10.2% | 11.5% | 11.1% | 11.6% | 11.3% | 11.3% | 10.9% | 10.4% | 10.1% |
| Rate per 10,000 | 53.1 | 52.9 | 52.1 | 53.8 | 54.8 | 54.8 | 56.2 | 56.8 | 57.0 | 56.4 | 56.7 | 57.6 |

Children in Care

As of 31st March 2019, Cambridgeshire County Council is responsible for supporting and looking after 775 Children in Care (including children in respite care). In June, July and August there was a significant increase in the numbers of children in the care cohort which continued throughout the year. Using the latest published data (for 2018/19) the average rate (per 10,000 0-17yr olds) for similar areas was 49.2 and for England it was 65, compared with a rate of 57.6 for Cambridgeshire.

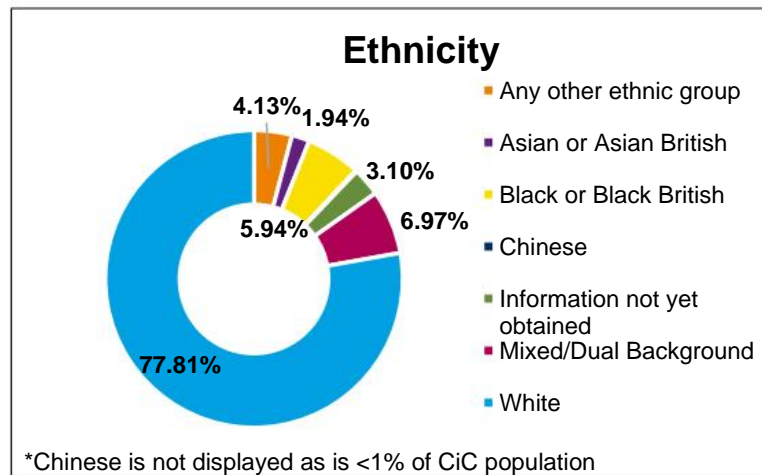
The rise in the care population in 2018/19 was also reflected in the number of unaccompanied children and young people seeking asylum over the year. Reflecting this trend, this cohort rose significantly in July and August but gradually decreased towards the latter part of the year. There are a number of factors that can have an influence on increasing numbers of children making the crossing to England, for example better weather during the summer months. The vast majority of these children will have experienced frightening and distressing experiences during their journeys and in order to ensure social workers had the capacity to adequately respond to the rise in spontaneous arrivals and these children's complex needs, it was agreed by the Eastern Region Network that Cambridgeshire would be exempt from receiving referrals via the National Transfer Scheme for a short period in late summer.

The chart below shows the age and gender of our children in care as of 31st March 2019. Unaccompanied asylum seeking children made up 10.1% of the care population and all but 5 of this cohort are male.

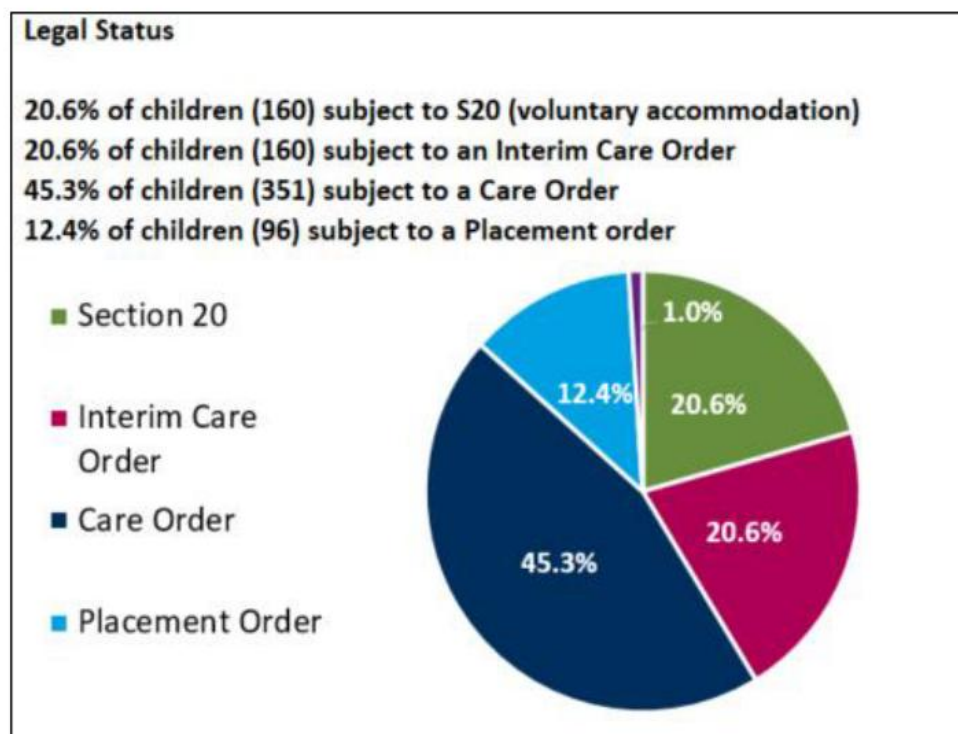


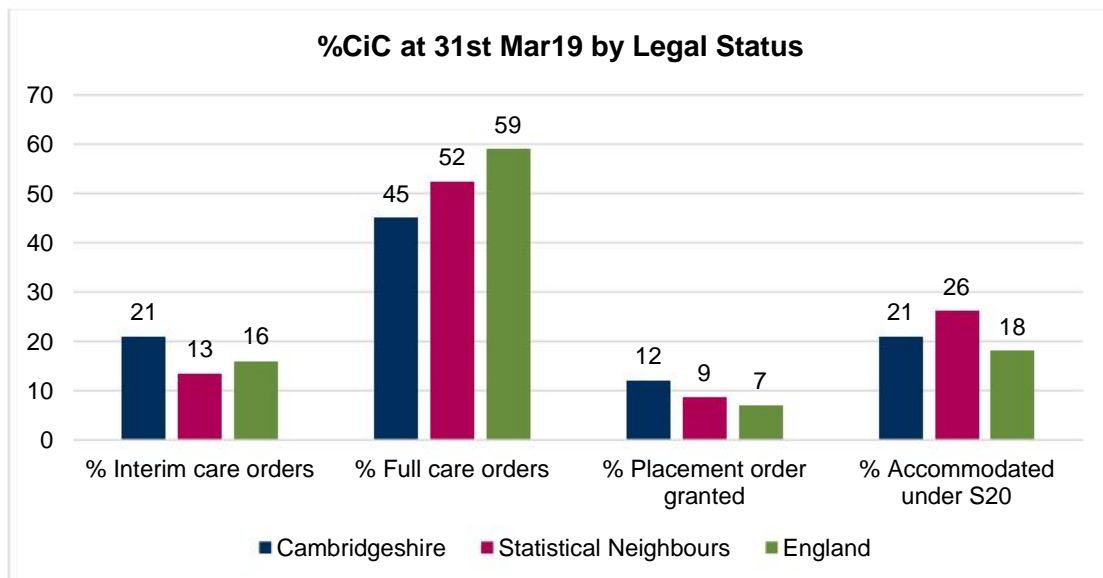
At the end of the year there are 64 children in care with a recorded disability, representing 8% of the care population. Of these the most prominent disabilities recorded are Learning Difficulties (29%) and Autism and Asperger Syndrome (24%).

This chart shows the ethnicity of children in care as of the 31st March 2019.



The chart below provides a breakdown of the legal status of children as of the 31st March 2019. Compared with statistical neighbours, Cambridgeshire has more children subject to Interim Care Orders and Care Orders and less children are accommodated under Section 20 (voluntary accommodation) than our statistical neighbours but more than the national picture.





Care Leavers

As of the 31st March 2019, the leaving care population consists of 360 young people, compared to 349 at the end of 2018. Cambridgeshire recognises that this cohort will continue to rise in the coming years as a result of legislation extending the support of Personal Advisors to all Care Leavers up to the age of 25 years (Children and Social Work Act 2017). To support this activity, capacity in the specialist Leaving Care Teams was increased through additional Personal Advisor posts and new Personal Advisor posts within the Children in Care Teams who have a focus on transition planning for children moving into adulthood.

26 Care Leavers (7.2%) have a recorded disability and of these the most common conditions recorded are Autism or Asperger Syndrome (54%), Behavioural Difficulties (38%), and Learning Difficulty (38%).

Whilst these demographics are important to help us understand who our children are we need to take into account that each one of these figures is an individual child or young person with their own unique life experiences, aspirations and asks of their Corporate Parent.

Corporate Parenting Priorities 2018/2019

Introduction

To ensure the Sub Committee continues to be as effective as possible, the membership, frequency of meetings and work plan are reviewed annually. The Sub Committee has met six times over the last year to oversee progress with the 5 key thematic priorities:

- Being and feeling safe
- Being healthy and leading a healthy lifestyle
- Achieving stability and permanence
- Preparing for adulthood
- Hearing the voices of children and young people

Acting on its delegated authority, Sub Committee has identified areas where further improvements are essential and also noted where achievements have already been made.

In recognition of a number of developments in a range of services that work with Children in Care and in response to recommendations from Cambridgeshire's Ofsted Inspection in January 2019, it was agreed that the five key priorities would remain for the year 2019/20. Whilst the improvement journey continues, progress is being made and we are confident that in 2019/20 we will be able to evidence the subsequent positive impact on children's outcomes.



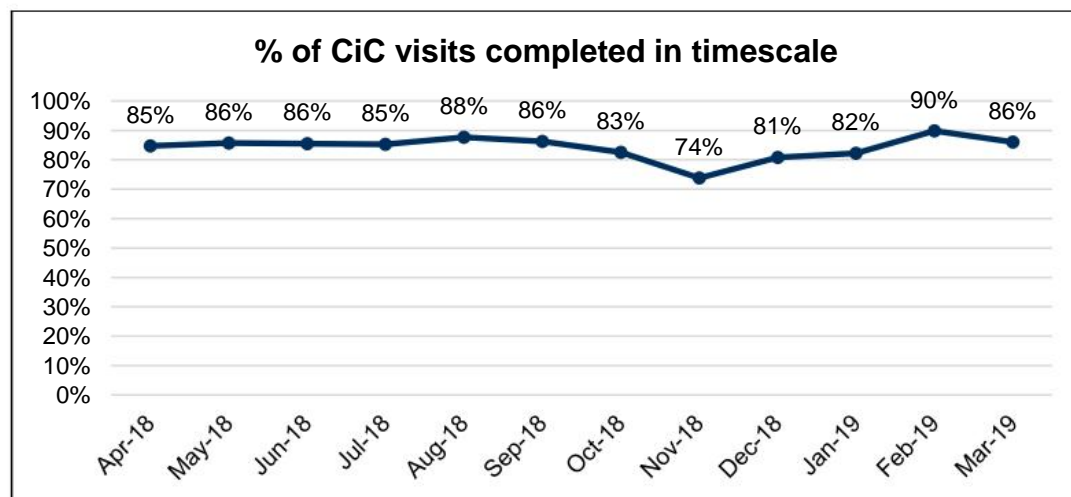
Being and feeling safe

- To have consistent oversight of children in care and/or are at risk of sexual exploitation (CSE) or child criminal exploitation (CCE)
- To ensure all children in care and care leavers are involved in their reviews and their pathway planning
- To continue to improve transition care pathways for care leavers with special educational needs and disabilities
- To continue to improve workforce recruitment, retention and agency rates so young people benefit from consistent relationships
- To ensure the outcomes from the annual Independent Reviewing Officer Report are considered and action taken

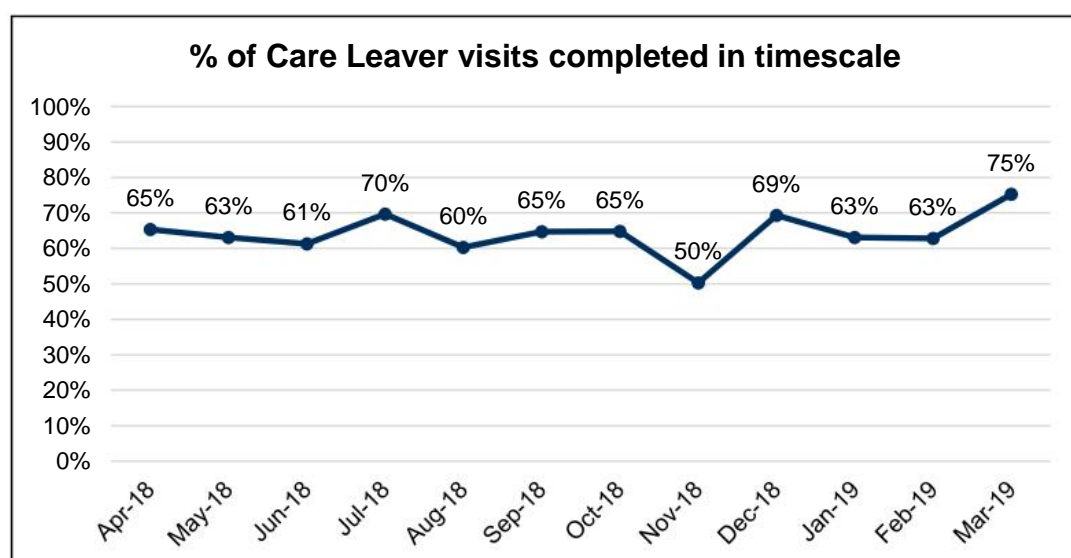
Being and feeling safe

| What has been achieved | The impact on children and young people |
|---|---|
| <p>The creation of dedicated children in care teams and care leaving teams following structural changes implemented in November 2018 has resulted in the majority of children being seen within the required timescale. However recording is not always completed in a timely enough manner</p> <p>High caseloads in the Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) Service reduced throughout the year</p> <p>The IRO escalation policy was reviewed in November 2018 and is gradually embedding</p> <p>The Multi Agency Sexual Exploitation meeting supports the identification and safety planning for all children, with children in care and care leavers specifically identified</p> | <p>Children in Care and young people leaving care will experience less changes in their social worker and Personal Advisor are now supported by specialist teams. However, the drawback of structural changes in November also resulted in a number of children having a new social care professional allocated to them</p> <p>The reduction in IRO caseloads allowed for improved focus on children's care planning. 97 escalations relating to out of date care plans were raised with the majority addressed by the social work team within the set timeframes</p> <p>With the support of the IRO service, the quality of care planning for children is showing a steady improvement</p> <p>Children at risk of exploitation are readily identified and intelligence gathered leading to a more responsive and targeted support plan</p> |

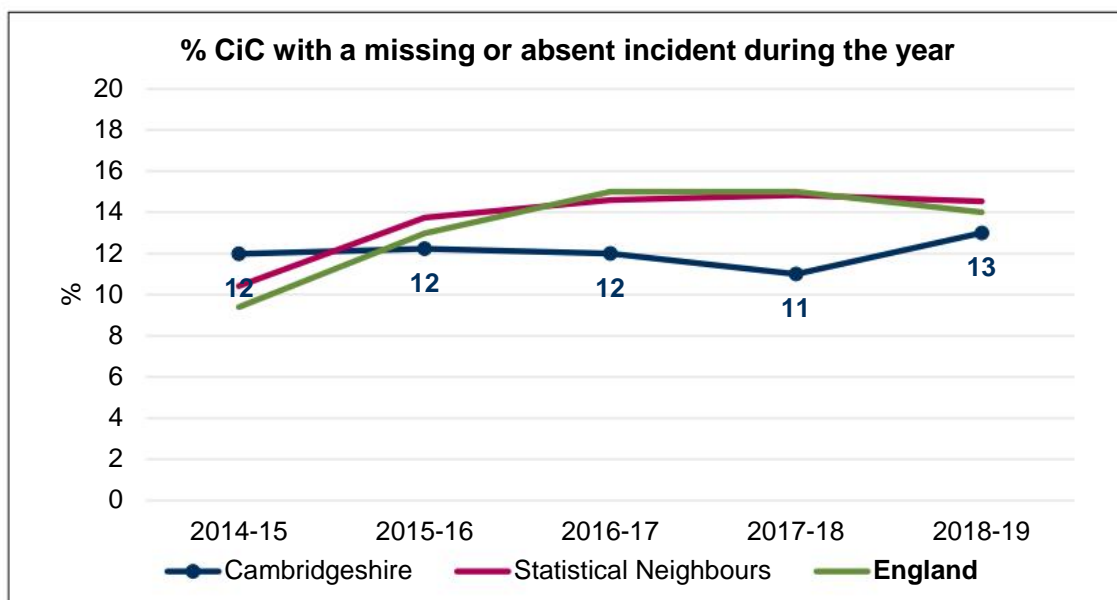
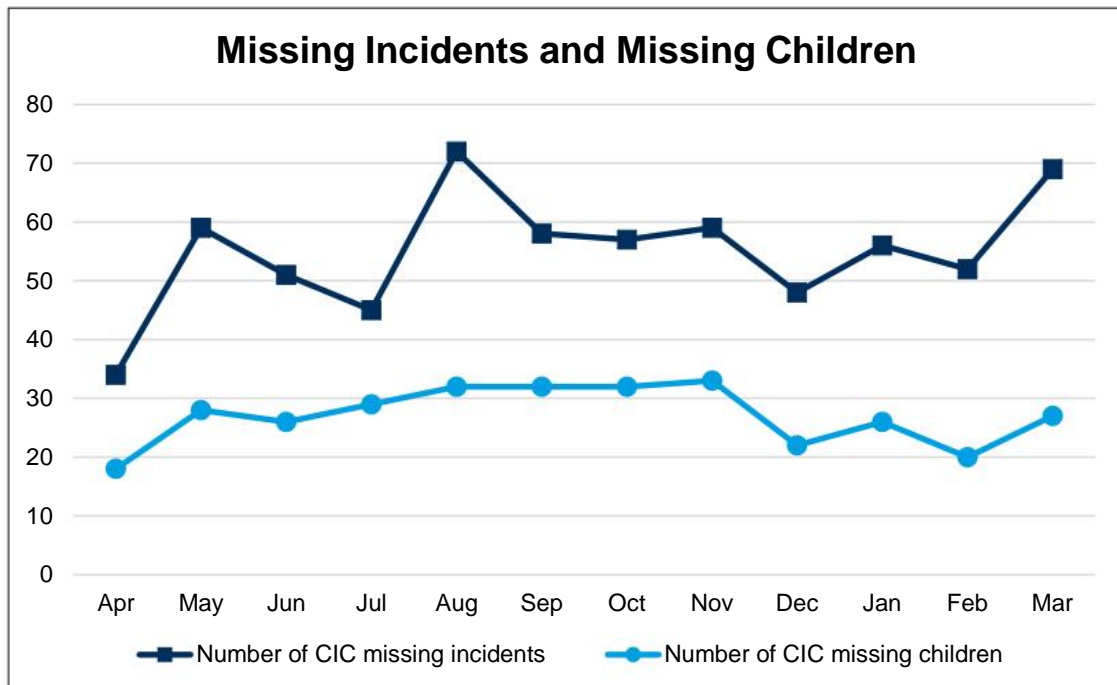
A key indicator for this priority is the percentage of children in care receiving regular visits from their allocated worker. The table below shows that performance has fluctuated marginally between April and September and dipped significantly in November which coincided with the structural changes in the system. Whilst performance gradually improved again it remains below our target of 95% of visits in timescale.



The below graph is the equivalent performance indicator for Care Leavers. This shows a significant increase in care leavers receiving a visit from their Personal Advisors since November but again there is room for much improvement.



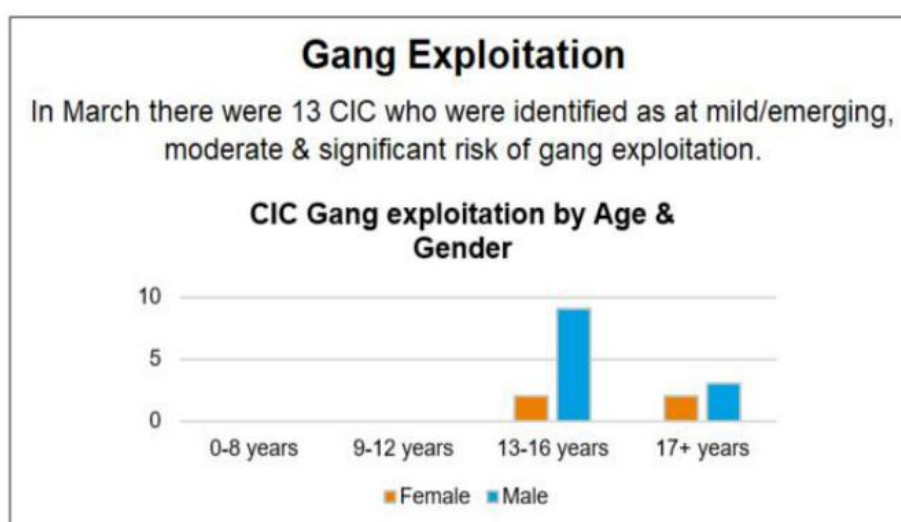
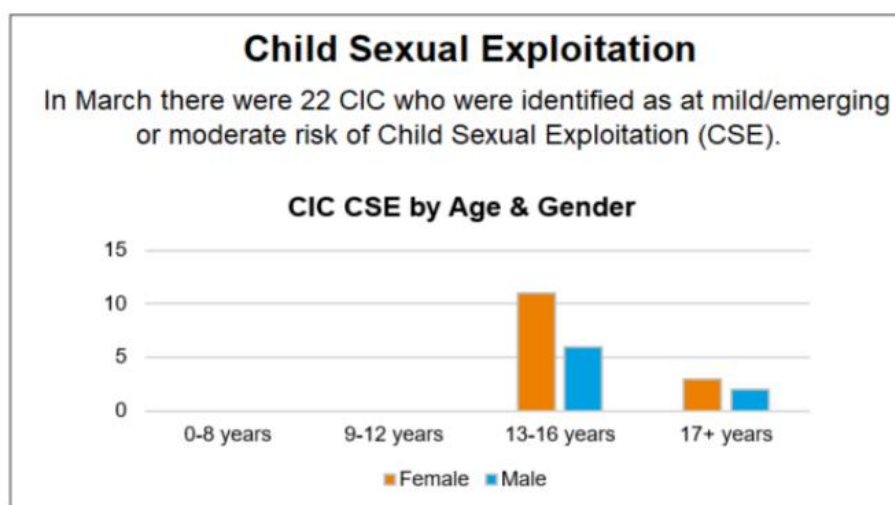
Another key indicator relating to this priority is the number of children who are reported missing and how many times they have been reported as missing. The two graphs below capture these figures and also detail the comparative data which shows that Cambridgeshire is reporting less children in care as missing than our statistical neighbours.



The number and timeliness of Return Home interviews (RHIs) conducted in response to children in care being reported missing is another key indicator relating to this priority. In Cambridgeshire the RHIs are conducted by specialist staff within the Missing, Exploited and Trafficked HUB (MET HUB). The MET HUB sits within the Integrated Front Door which enables timely access to key information about children and families from across partner agencies.

The priority for the coming year is to continue to improve both the uptake of interviews and the timeliness of RHIs. The target timeframe to conduct return interviews is 72 hours from the point the child is found. For Children in Care, 441 RHIs were required during the year, 418 were completed, 345 were completed within timescale and 73 were completed outside of the 72 hours.

The following two graphs show the number of children assessed as at risk in the following categories at the end of March 2019.



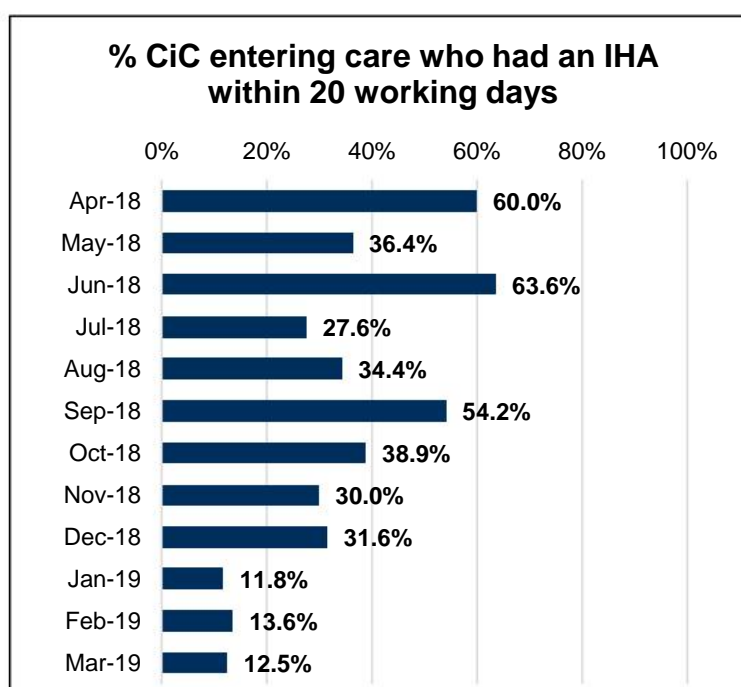
Being healthy and leading a healthy lifestyle

- To ensure improvement in the timeliness of initial and review health assessments
- To ensure that all children and young people are registered with a dentist and have regular check ups
- To ensure children and young people (and especially care leavers) have access to assessment and support for their health needs in a flexible and creative way that supports them to understand and prioritise their health
- To ensure young people are supported to understand their health history

Being healthy and leading a healthy lifestyle

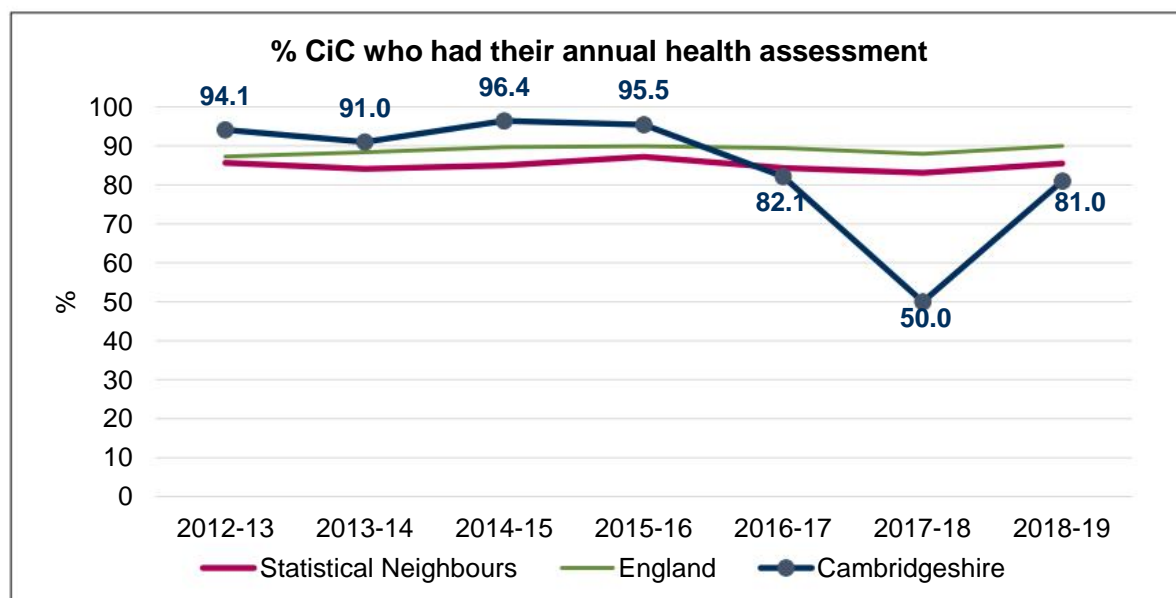
| What has been achieved | The impact on children and young people |
|---|--|
| Collaborative working with health colleagues to review referral pathways and processes has commenced which will culminate in joint away days | A co-produced Standards of Practice (joint protocol) will be agreed and implemented in 2019/20 with the aim of improving joint responses to children's health needs |
| The Network Plus Project is established involving multiple agencies including health colleagues | The Network Plus Project supports creative and collaborative care planning for children in complex circumstances and has resulted in a number of children being prevented from hospital admissions |
| The Emotional Health and Wellbeing task and finish group is established bringing key partners together aiming to improve services for children in care and care leavers. This will include the effective use of information gained via SDQ's and health assessments | This is the first forum where key agencies will come together to specifically consider the emotional and mental health needs of children in care. The group will be supported by the Chairwoman of the Subcommittee and Co-opted young people. |
| The Specialist Clinical Service is established which has resulted in a group intervention for in house foster carers | Specialist clinicians support the quality and stability of foster care placements using attachment and trauma informed practice |

The graph below demonstrates that there is significant improvement needed to ensure the initial health needs of children in care are responded to in a timely manner. Initial Health Assessments can be delayed for a number of reasons such as obtaining consent which allows referrals to be made to health, delayed clinic appointments and non-attendance at clinic appointments. There are also different arrangements that apply to children who live in Cambridgeshire and those who live outside of Cambridgeshire that affect how other health authorities prioritise Cambridgeshire children.

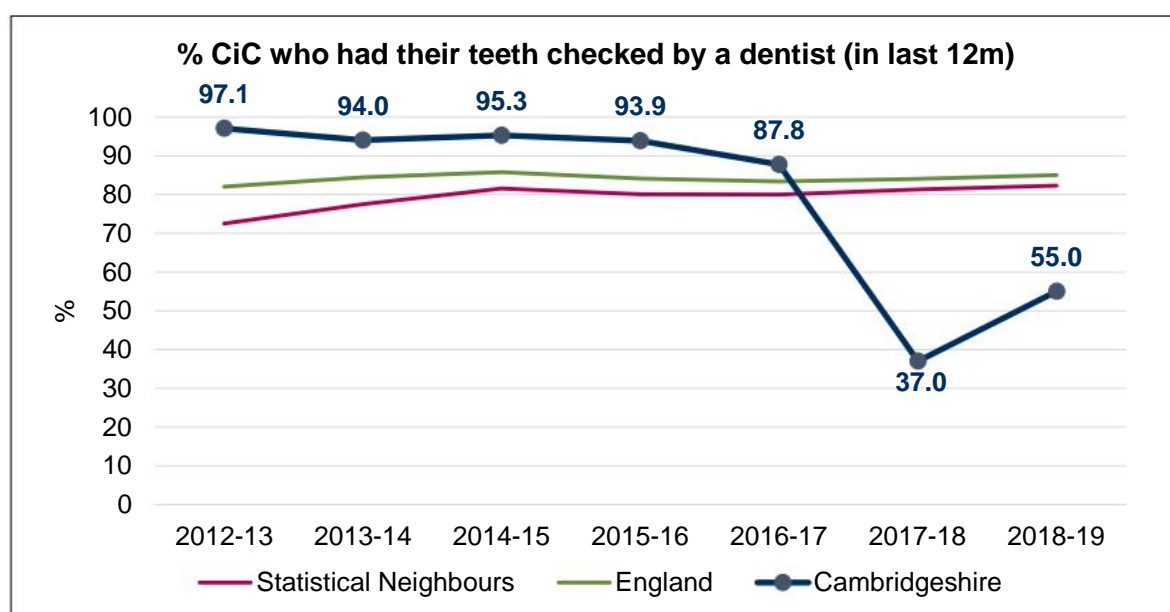


Activity has commenced which will support improvements next year such as improving the data quality and pathways which feed into this performance indicator and we are also looking to develop visual aids to encourage young people and foster carers to attend health appointments and to understand the value of these in terms of their care. Ensuring improvement and scrutinising this activity will remain a priority for the Sub Committee next year.

The chart below shows the percentage of children who received their annual health assessment, this is the cohort of children on the 31st March who have been in care continuously for over 12 months and who received their health assessment within the last 12 months (or 6 months for under 5 year olds). Whilst a significant improvement on performance in 2017– 2018, Cambridgeshire's performance remains below that of statistical neighbours and nationally.



The chart below shows the percentage of children who had been in care continuously for over 12 months on 31st March and had a dental check in the last 12 months. Again whilst performance for Cambridgeshire's children in care improved in 2018-2019, it remains well below that of our statistical neighbours and the national picture.



Care leaver's offer (health)

Health agencies have a key contribution to make in the development of the care leaver's offer and a number of initiatives are planned to support the improvement of the health offer in 2019/20.

These include:

- Contributing to the multi-agency Task & Finish group exploring services to improve the emotional health and wellbeing of children and young people in care and leaving care – recommendations to be reviewed at Corporate Parenting subcommittee in January 2020.
- Health and wellbeing work stream and away days to be held in 2019 to review the joint protocol and address operational barriers between health and social care.
- Update and reprint of the health passport for 16-25 year olds in January 2020
- Launch of the new updated health passport at Corporate Parenting Partnership Board in February 2020

Health Passport

The paper or card health passport will be offered to all children over the age of 15 years that attend for a Review Health Assessment. Uptake for the passport can be mixed with some children and young people saying that they do not want to feel different to their peers by carrying around a 'passport' and there is also a training need to support the promotion of the benefits of a health passport during transitions and placement changes as well as to encourage ownership.



Children's Services

Change Lives, Every Day

Achieving stability and permanence

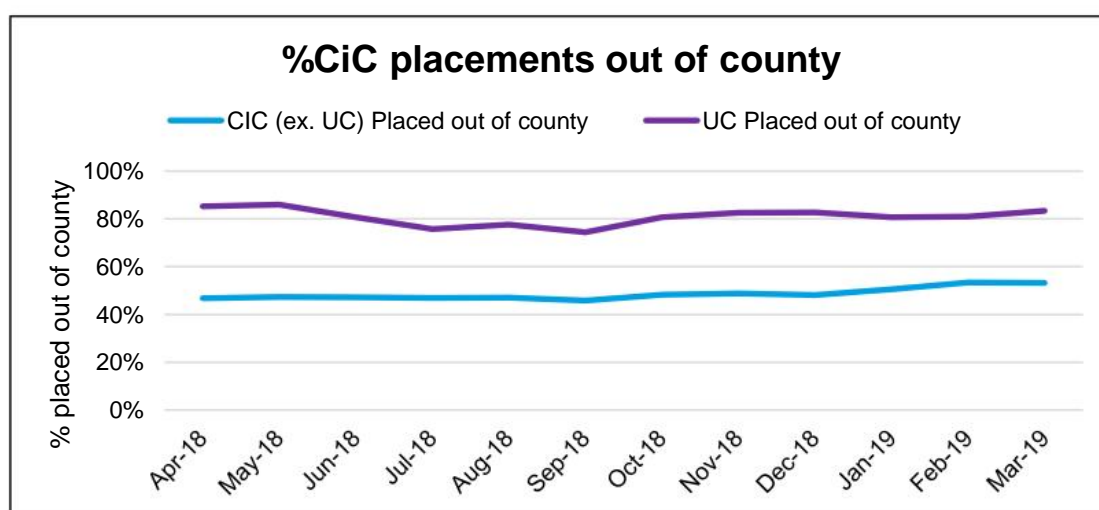
- To support the increase in the number, quality and range of local foster carers and placement provision
- To ensure improvement around placement stability
- To increase the number and timeliness of permanent care arrangements
- To consider the annual fostering and adoption panel reports

Achieving stability and permanence

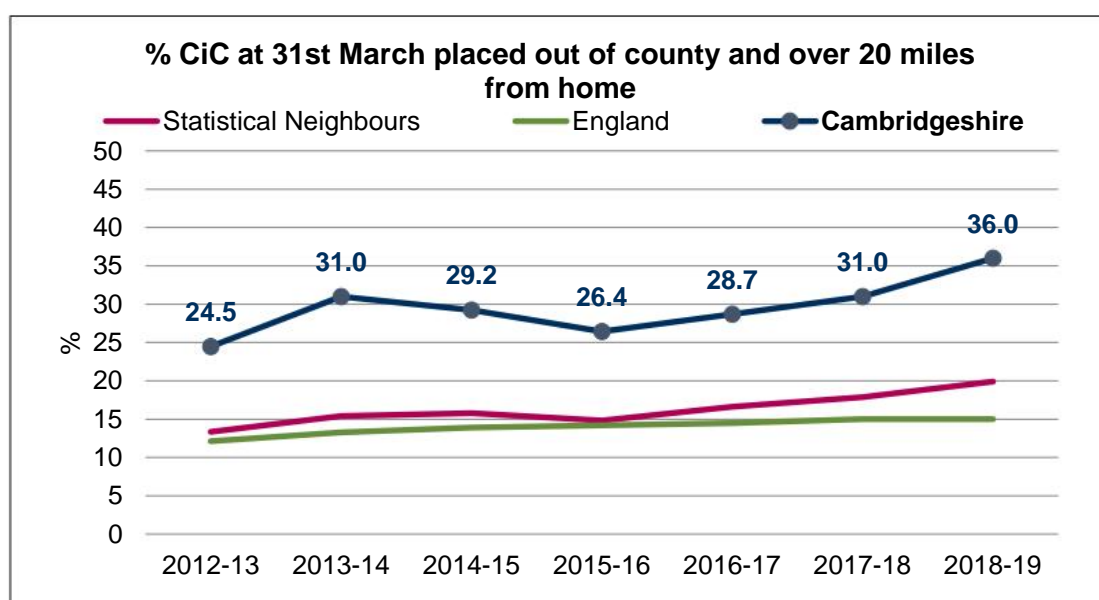
| What has been achieved | The impact on children and young people |
|--|---|
| CCC fostering service underwent restructure in November 2018 that saw a reduction in the number of teams and introduced an additional service manager post | Strengthened management arrangements and oversight |
| Fostering campaign launched in September 2019 and 24 new fostering households were recruited in 2018/19 | Recruitment strategy in place to attract new carers – rebranding of recruitment materials to ensure CCC fostering service stands out in the market place |
| The Cambridgeshire Foster Carer Association was launched | Improved communication between the service and foster carers, promoting good practice and supporting foster carers to provide high quality care |
| CCC provided 429 individual children with an in house care arrangement | Increase of 41 children over 2017/18 (10.5%) |
| Adoption activity was brought back into CCC in July 2019 | Closer links with adoption work and improved communication |
| Adoption scorecard – A1: Cambridgeshire ranked 13 th nationally, A2: Cambridgeshire ranked 54 th nationally | Improvement in the average time between a child entering care and moving in with its adoptive family and in the time between a Placement Order being granted to the LA deciding a match to an adoptive family |

Whilst the service continues to prioritise achieving and maintaining stable local foster care provision for children, the complexity of the needs of the children coming into our care continues to remain a challenge. An example of this is the risk of gang involvement and child sexual exploitation which may require children to live a distance away for their own protection or in provisions other than foster care. In addition the rise in the overall number of children in care throughout the year by 60 children has impacted on the ability of Cambridgeshire's in house fostering service to meet demand.

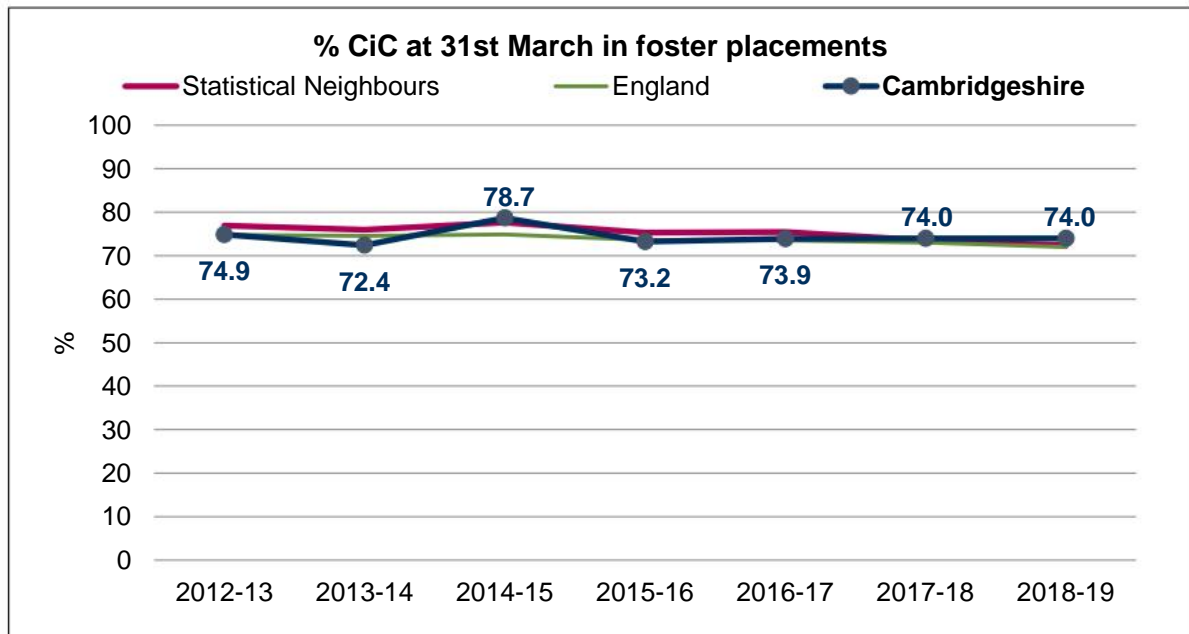
These graphs show the percentage of children living out of county and those living out of county and over 20 miles from their home. As both show, the number of children living outside of Cambridgeshire (excluding unaccompanied children) rose by 6.4% throughout the year. Unaccompanied young people are often supported to live in communities outside of Cambridgeshire that better meet their religious and cultural needs.



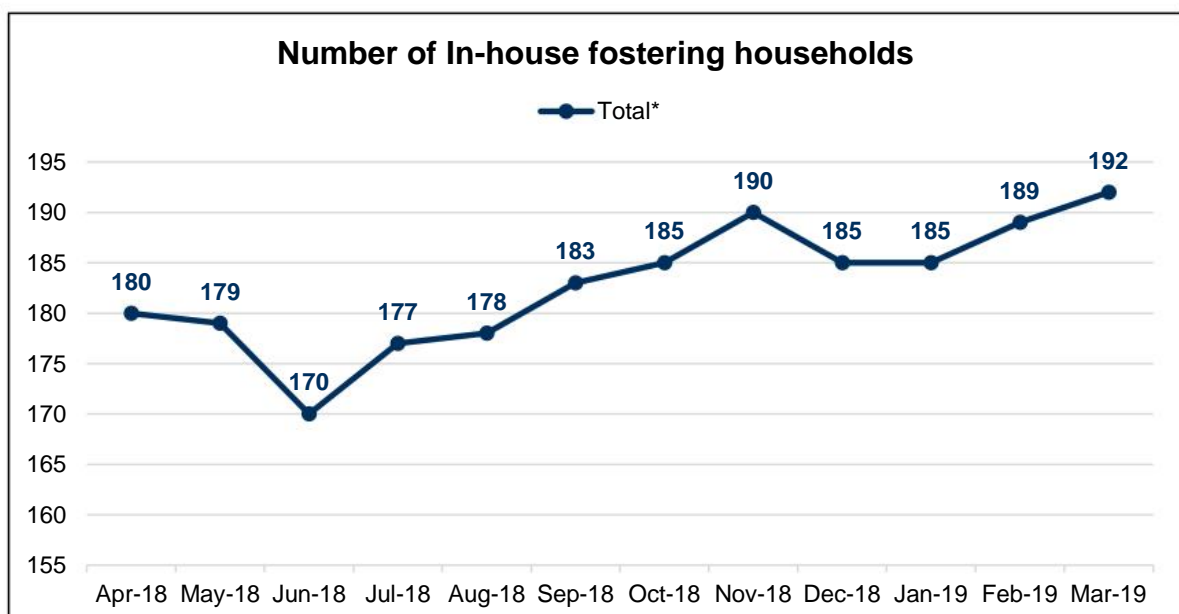
(UC = unaccompanied children)



The number of children living in foster care provision (both CCC foster carers and agency foster carers) has remained at 74% of the overall children in care cohort which is in line with our statistical neighbours and the national picture.

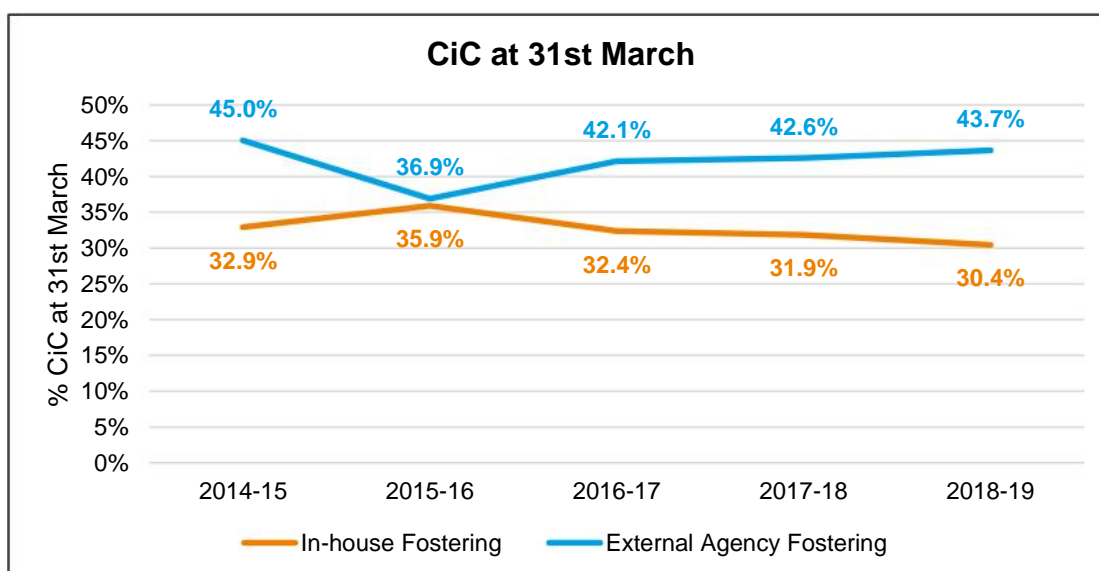


The number of approved CCC foster carer households has increased throughout the year by 12 households. However the increase has not kept up with the demand for a foster care provision.

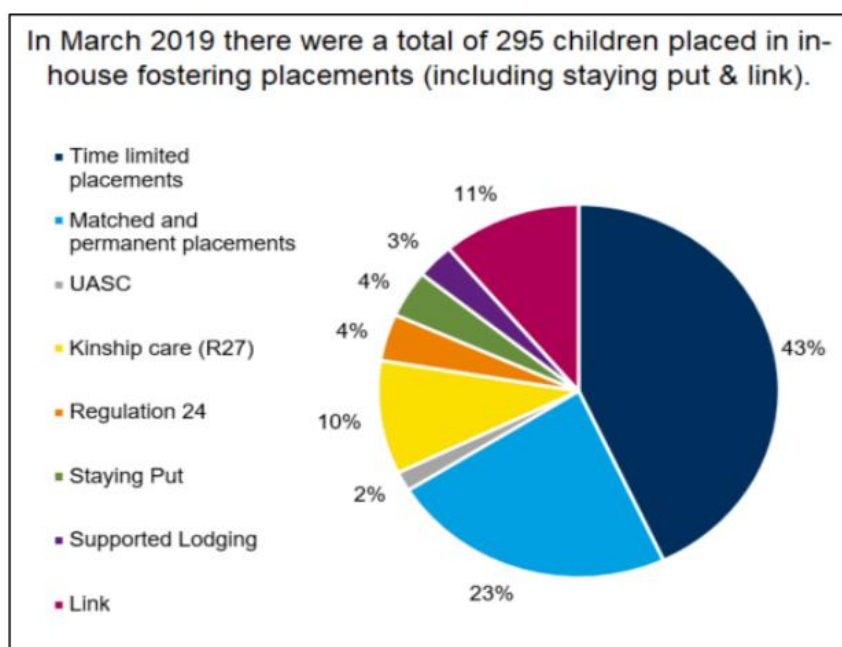


*Total includes Approved carer, Reg 24 carer, Kinship Carer (R27), Link Carer and Supported Lodgings carer households

The graph below details the percentage of children living with CCC foster carers and those living with agency foster carers. Whilst the number of children living with in-house foster carers dropped to its lowest percentage of 30.4% in March 2019 it is envisaged that the Fostering Campaign launched in 2018 will encourage more enquiries to foster and will reduce our over reliance on agency foster care.

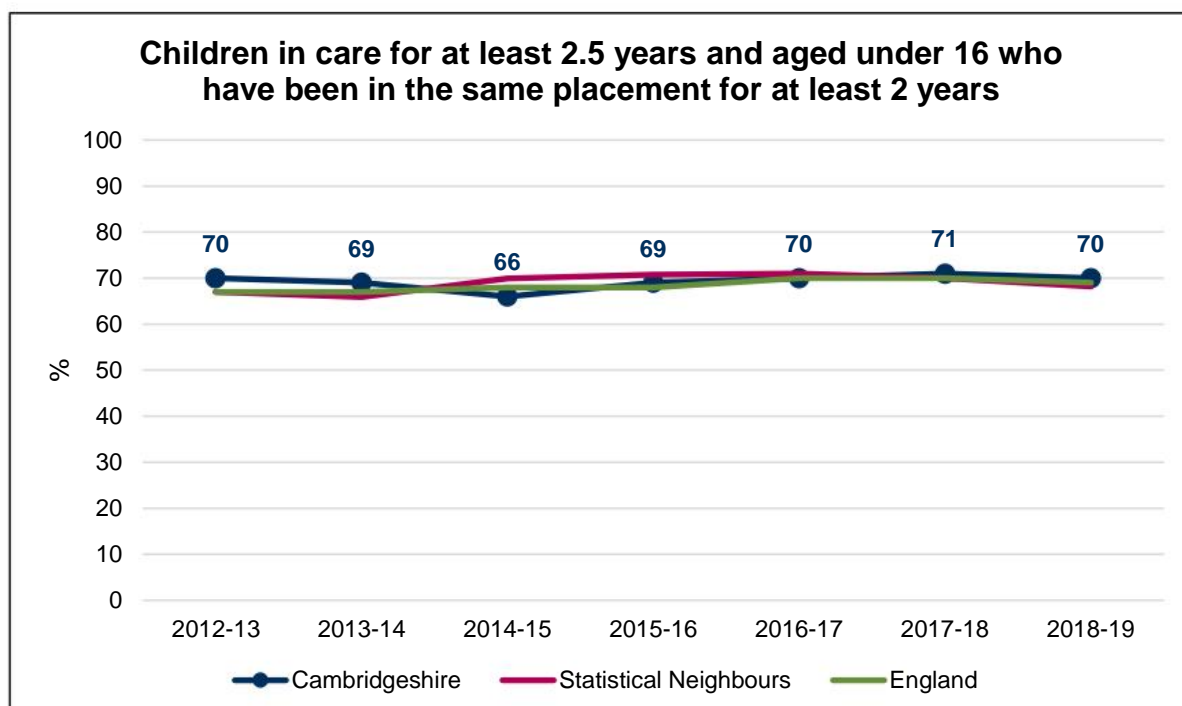
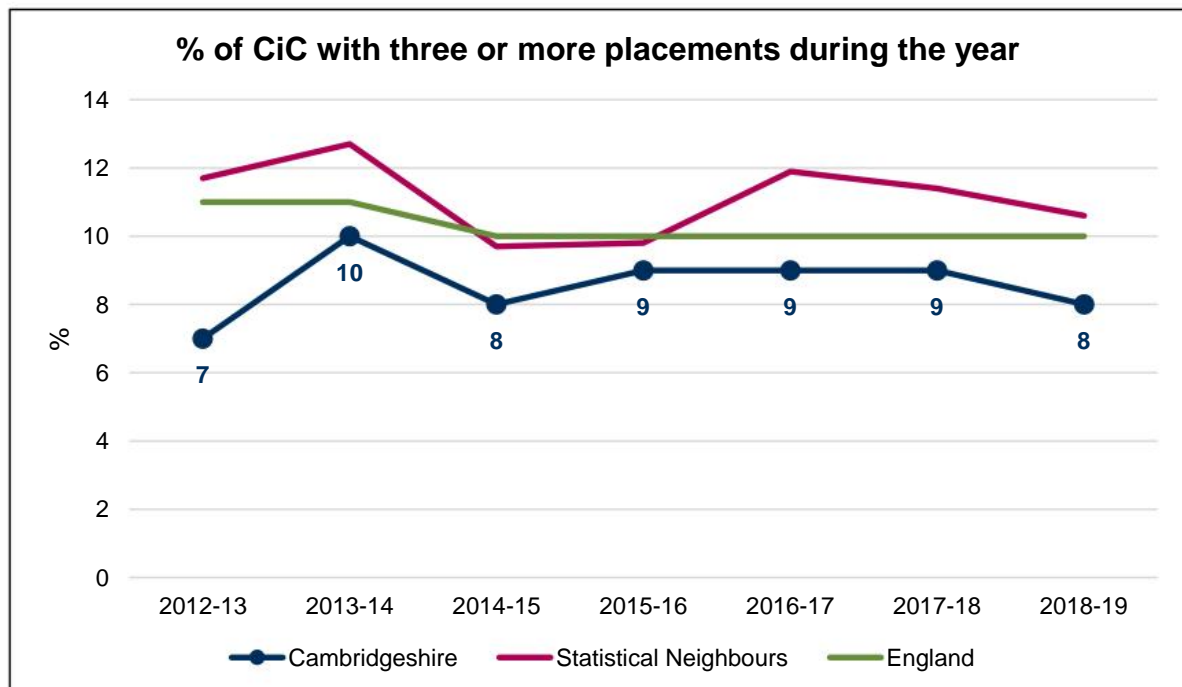


The chart below shows the 'placement type' of the children and young people living with CCC foster carers, former foster carers and supported lodgings carers.



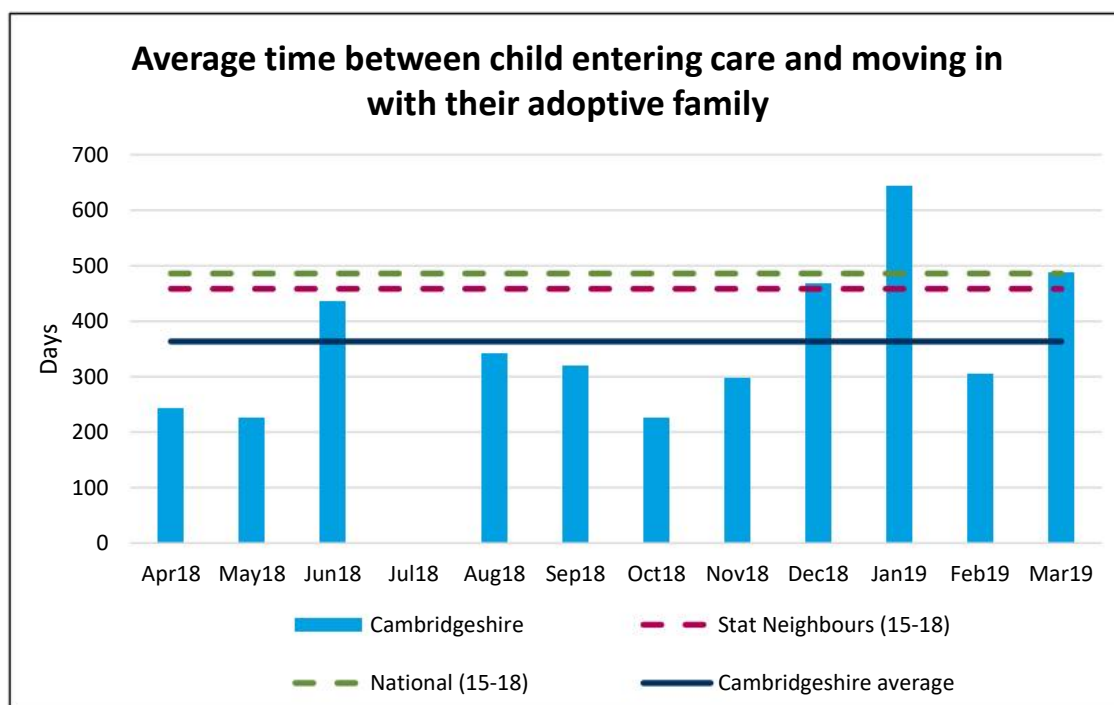
Join Our Fostering Team

Performance in relation to placement stability for Cambridgeshire's children in care remains better than our statistical neighbours and the national picture with less children experiencing three or more changes in their care arrangement during the year and more children being cared for by the same carers for at least 2 years.



There were 59 children placed for adoption in 2018/19, this is a significant rise in adoptive placements when compared to 2017/18 when 39 children were placed for adoption.

60% of these children were deemed complex under the DfE-defined 'harder to place' categories which include: being 5 years or over, in a sibling group, Black and Minority Ethnicity, disability or waiting over 18 months since Court approval to place for adoption and several of the children placed in 2018/19 had complexities in more than one of these categories. Despite this the average days between a Cambridgeshire child becoming looked after and moving in with their adoptive family was significantly less than statistical neighbours and the national average.



The number of Placements Orders allowing the Local Authority to place a child with its adoptive family remained relatively stable in 2018/19 at 62 when compared to the previous year. However Cambridgeshire also experienced an increase in care proceedings exceeding 26 weeks which rose to 66% in 2018/19, compared to 59% the previous year and 38% in 2016/17. Delays in care planning and proceedings are now being addressed through a number of forums attended by Cambridgeshire Adoption where the timeliness of pre proceeding work and court proceedings is monitored for example the multi-agency Unborn Baby Panels.

Preparing for adulthood

- To continue to monitor the use of and impact of Pupil Premium
- To manage the number of fixed term exclusions
- To maximise attainment and progress at Key Stage 4 and early years
- To continue to improve the engagement of older children in care and care leavers in positive employment, education or training activities
- To implement effective mechanisms to stay in contact with older care leavers
- To ensure suitable housing options for care leavers are in place through development work with housing
- To increase number of care leavers in higher education
- To develop and publish the Leaving Care Offer

| Preparing for adulthood | |
|--|---|
| What has been achieved | The impact on children and young people |
| <p>Specialist care leaving teams in place following the system wide restructure in November</p> <p>Publication of the CC care leavers offer, PATHWAYS4US hosted on the CCC corporate website. The visit by the National Implementation Adviser for Care Leavers to place in January and helped to further define our aspirations and offer. This resulted in investment for a specialist Local Offer Personal Advisor</p> <p>The Virtual School reviewed practice to ensure a higher completion rate of the ePEP document, streamlined the PEP and QA processes, introduced single submission deadline and school visits</p> | <p>Investment made in additional Personal Advisor (PA) posts to enable PAs to work directly with care leavers and respond to, support and manage the growing number of care leavers opting to ask for our support up to their 25th birthday</p> <p>The website offers guidance, information and opportunities relating to education, work and training, citizenship, accommodation, finances, health and relationships</p> <p>Improved compliance and quality to ensure plans are effective and meet the needs of children. Educational Psychologist will lead on developing training to ensure SMART targets and the role of the PEP Champion with the Virtual School will be developed</p> |

The Virtual School

In April 2019, 49% of children in care are living outside of Cambridgeshire. Of these 347 children, 155 were not living in the East of England. Cambridgeshire also had a small minority of children living outside of England. This increases the complexities in ensuring there is equity of service from the Virtual School and where it is not possible to offer support face to face, the Virtual School makes use of technology. The tables below provide an overview of the Cambridgeshire's Children in Care of school age and the Local Authorities they live in.

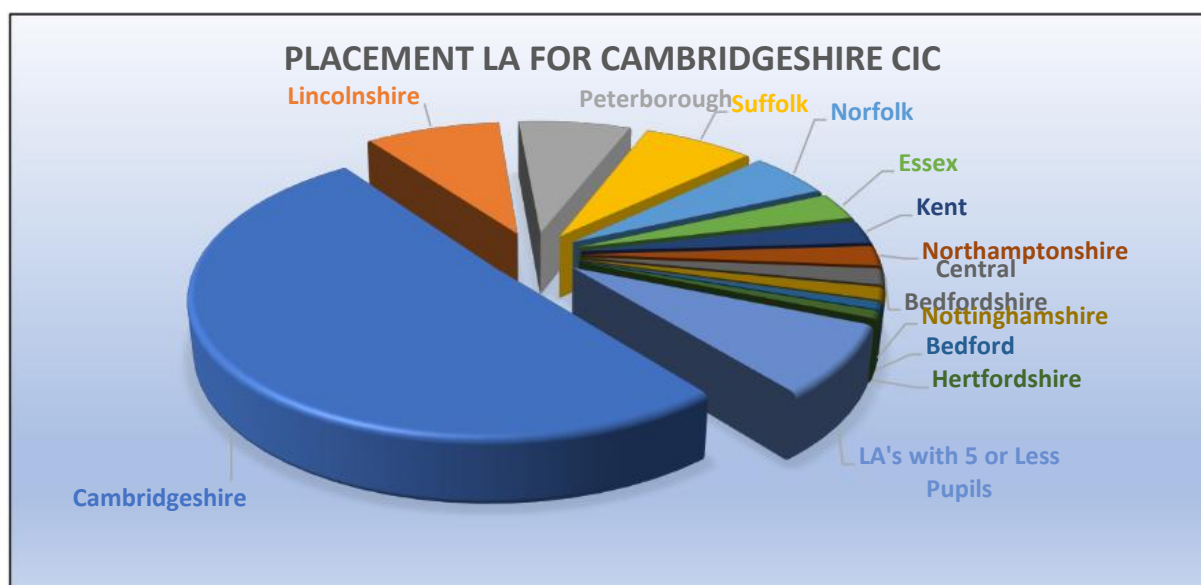
| Cambridgeshire Virtual School (April 2019) | Pupils | % of Total |
|--|--------|------------|
| Total number of Children in Care (CiC) | 706 | 100% |

| | | |
|---|-----|-------|
| Cambridgeshire CiC - in Cambridgeshire schools or education settings | 359 | 50.8% |
| Cambridgeshire CiC - in Out of Cambridgeshire Schools or Education Settings | 347 | 49.2% |

| | | |
|---|----|------|
| *Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) | 35 | 5.0% |
|---|----|------|

| | | |
|--------|-----|-------|
| Male | 406 | 57.5% |
| Female | 300 | 42.5% |

| | | |
|-------------------------------|-----|-------|
| Ethnicity - White British | 554 | 78.5% |
| Ethnicity - Not White British | 152 | 21.5% |



Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

In April 2019, the percentage of Cambridgeshire's children and young people in care reported as having a categorisation of SEN support is slightly below the national figure, whereas those being supported by an EHCP is above the national level. There is a significant difference between those in care with SEND and all pupils (both nationally and within Cambridgeshire). This reflects the complexities of this cohort of children.

| | All Pupils Nationally | All Pupils Cambridgeshire | National CiC | Cambs CiC |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|--------------|-----------|
| SEN Support | 11.7% | 10.7% | 29% | 22.6% |
| Education Health Care Plan | 2.9% | 3% | 26.5% | 30.8% |

In recognition of the important role of training in developing practice and empowering professionals to work effectively with children and young people in care, the Virtual School delivered a variety of training sessions covered by the Pupil Premium Grant retention. This training was delivered to foster carers, other Local Authority partners including the IRO team and new adopters as well as schools and other education settings.

Early Years Attainment

GLD refers to Good Level of Development. This is the national benchmark for children at the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage (aged 5). Children are deemed to have met GLD if they have achieved the Early Learning Goals in the curriculum areas of Personal, Social and Emotional Development, Physical Development, Communication and Language Development, Literacy and Mathematics.

There are 12 children in the Early Years qualifying cohort. This cohort is relatively small which impacts significantly on the percentage value of each pupil. This is the first year outcomes for this age group have been published, therefore year on year comparisons are not possible.



The table below shows that Cambridgeshire is 5% below the figure for children in care nationally in relation to meeting the requirements of GLD.

| Good Level of Development (GLD) | RECEPTION (EYFSP) | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|------|------|
| | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 |
| Cambridgeshire - CiC Cohort | x | x | 12 |
| Cambridgeshire - CiC | x | x | 42% |
| National - CiC | x | x | 47% |
| <i>Cambridgeshire - All Pupils</i> | 70% | 71% | 71% |
| <i>National - All Pupils</i> | 69% | 71% | 72% |

Key Stage 1 and 2 Attainment

At the end of key stage 1 (aged 7) and key stage 2 (aged 11), children are assessed as:

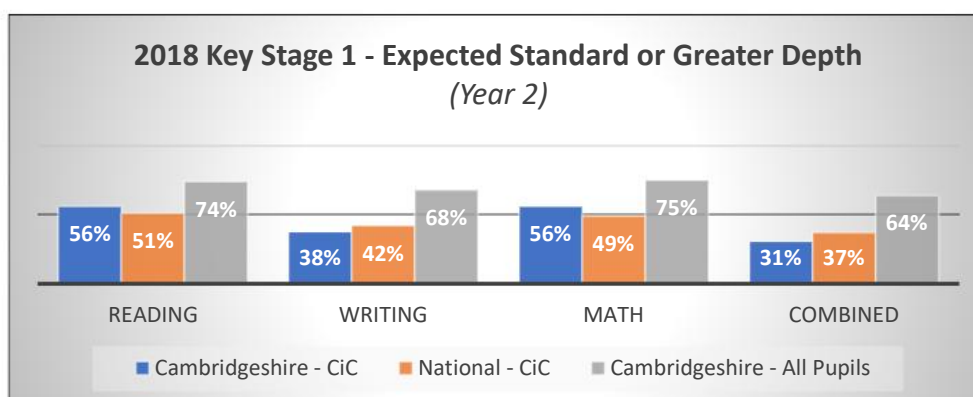
Working towards the expected standard: not yet reaching the standard expected for their school year

Working at expected standard: at the level expected for their year group

Working at greater depth: working more deeply within the expectations for their year

Key Stage One

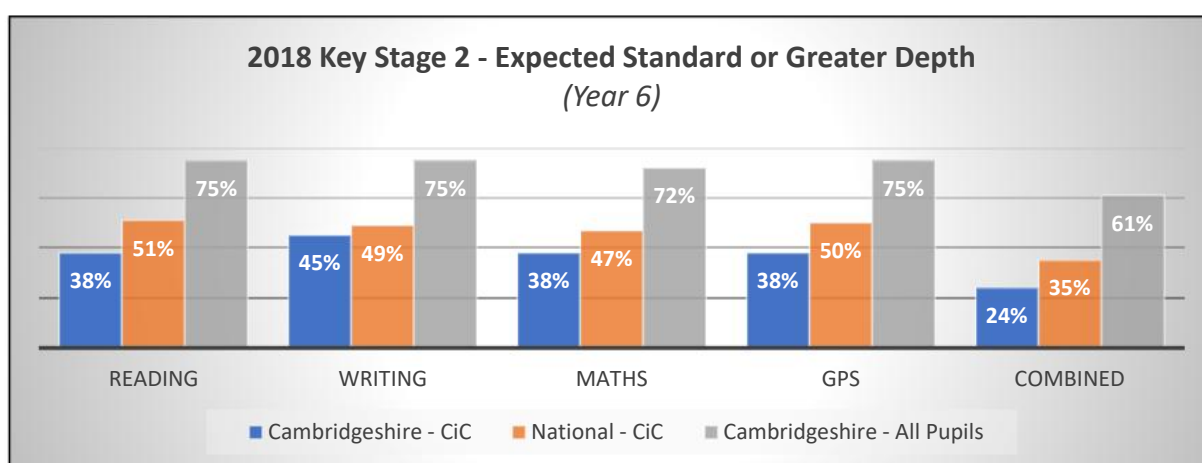
Of the 16 children in this cohort, Cambridgeshire children in care outperformed children in care nationally in reading and maths. This strength is also reflected in the greater depth standard with 6% of the cohort achieving this in reading and maths, which is in-line or just below the national figure.



Key Stage Two

There are 29 Cambridgeshire Children in Care in this cohort. Performance is below the national picture however the general trend over the last three years has been upwards and the percentage point increase has been better than the Cambridgeshire 'all pupils' figure. The comparison of children in care pupils between Cambridgeshire's statistical neighbours is quite wide with some having fewer than 10 pupils at KS2 compared to others with 77. This can create significant statistical anomalies when comparing percentage point figures.

In general, Cambridgeshire is in the lower middle ranking for KS2 attainment but at the upper end for progress, particularly for Writing, where it is ranked No1 against statistical neighbours.

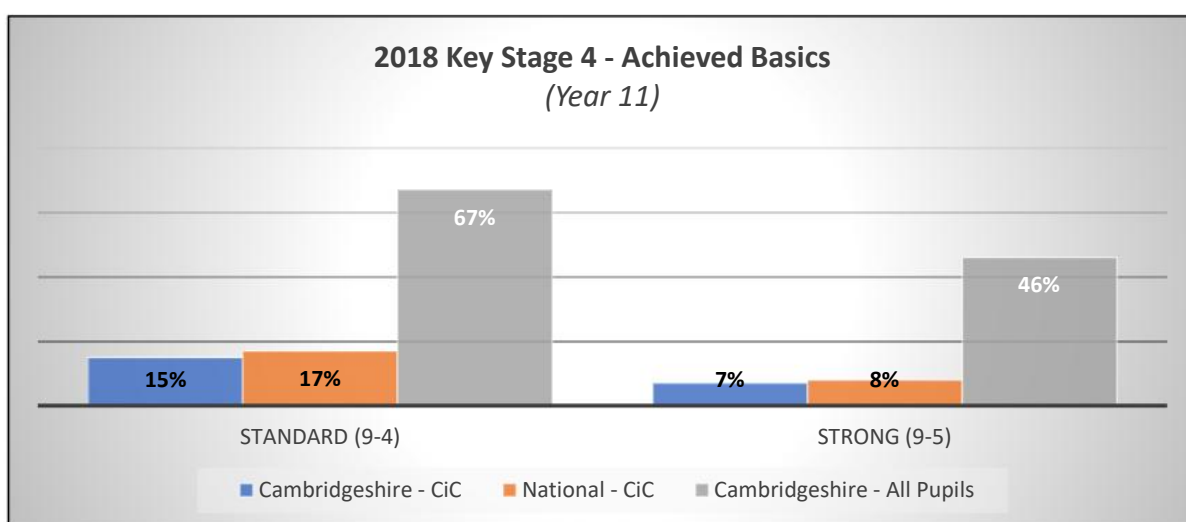


| Cambridgeshire Children in Care Progress From Key Stage 1 to Key Stage 2 | | | |
|--|-------|-------|-------|
| | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 |
| Reading | 0.45 | -0.37 | -0.17 |
| Writing | 0.64 | -0.95 | 0.39 |
| Maths | -1.34 | -2.21 | -0.97 |

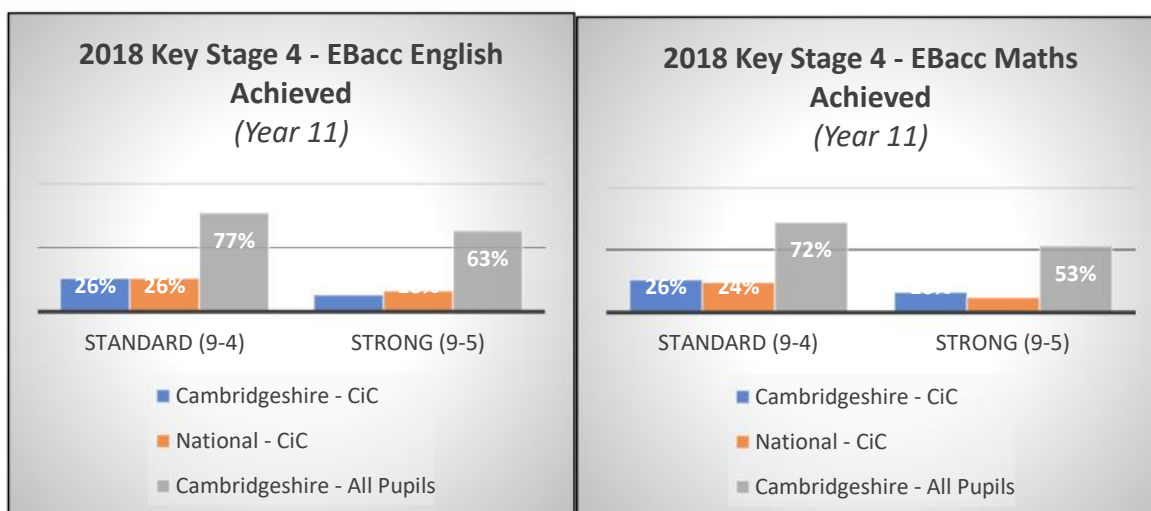


Key Stage Four Attainment and Progress

Most GCSEs are now graded 9-1, with 9 being the highest grade and 1 the lowest. The new GCSE content is recognised as more challenging. Grades 4 and 5 are equivalent to what was a 'C' in the old GCSE grades. Grade 5 is known as a strong pass and grade 4 as a standard pass. Students that do not achieve at least a 4, will be expected to re-sit the GCSE. The ongoing changes to the Key Stage 4 examinations mean it is hard to compare year on year and only 2017 can reasonably be looked at alongside this year's figures.



Cambridgeshire Children in Care are very close to national Children in Care figures and are better in some areas such as EBacc Maths, however all figures are low compared with all pupils nationally and all those within Cambridgeshire.



Inclusion

Cambridgeshire children in care's attendance data compares favourably to both the national children in care percentage and to all children in Cambridgeshire and nationally. However, compared to statistical neighbours Cambridgeshire does not rank as favourably: 4th /11th for persistent absence and 9th/11th for unauthorised absence.

Cambridgeshire's children in care figures for exclusions are slightly better than the national children in care figures, Cambridgeshire being ranked 3rd/11th against statistical neighbours. Cambridgeshire now need to strive towards closing the gap between all children and children in Cambridgeshire's care.

| | Unauthorised Absence | Persistent Absence | At Least 1 Fixed Term Exclusion |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------|
| | % of Sessions | % of Sessions | % of Sessions |
| <i>National All Pupils</i> | 1.4% | 11.2% | 4.8% |
| <i>Cambridgeshire All Pupils</i> | 1.1% | 9.6% | 5.9% |
| National CiC | 1.3% | 10.6% | 11.8% |
| Cambridgeshire CiC | 1.2% | 9.2% | 10.7% |

NEET/EET

In April 2019, there were 93 out of 106 Year 12 children and young people in education, employment or training and 75 out of 87 Year 13 children and young people. The breakdown of those who are NEET is as follows:

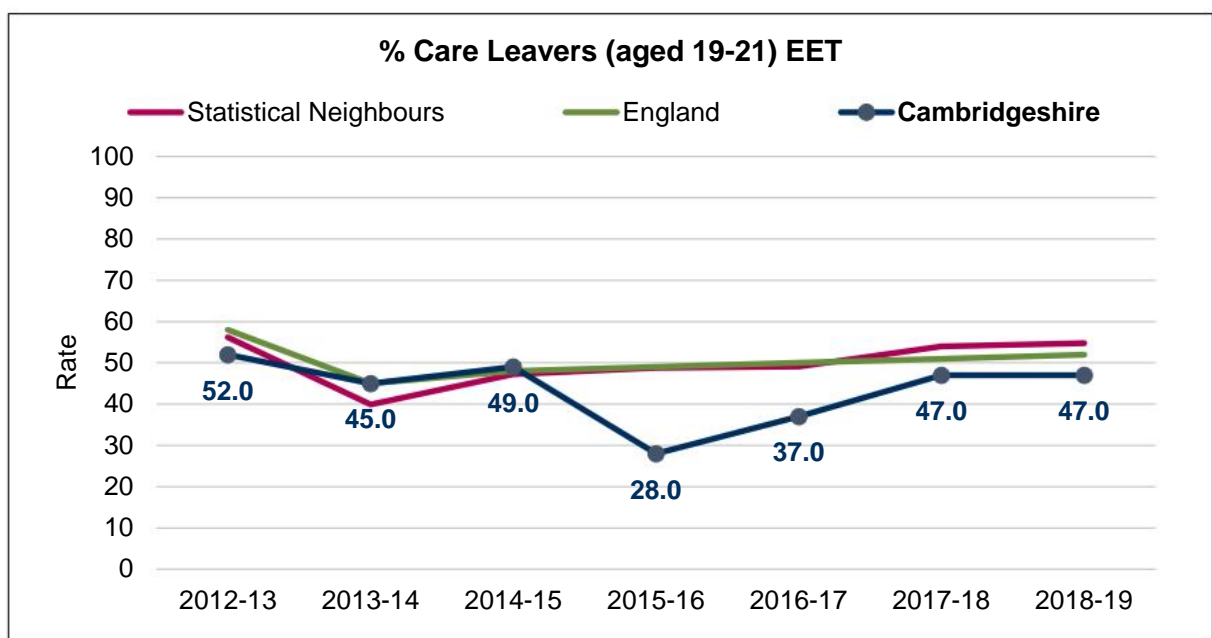
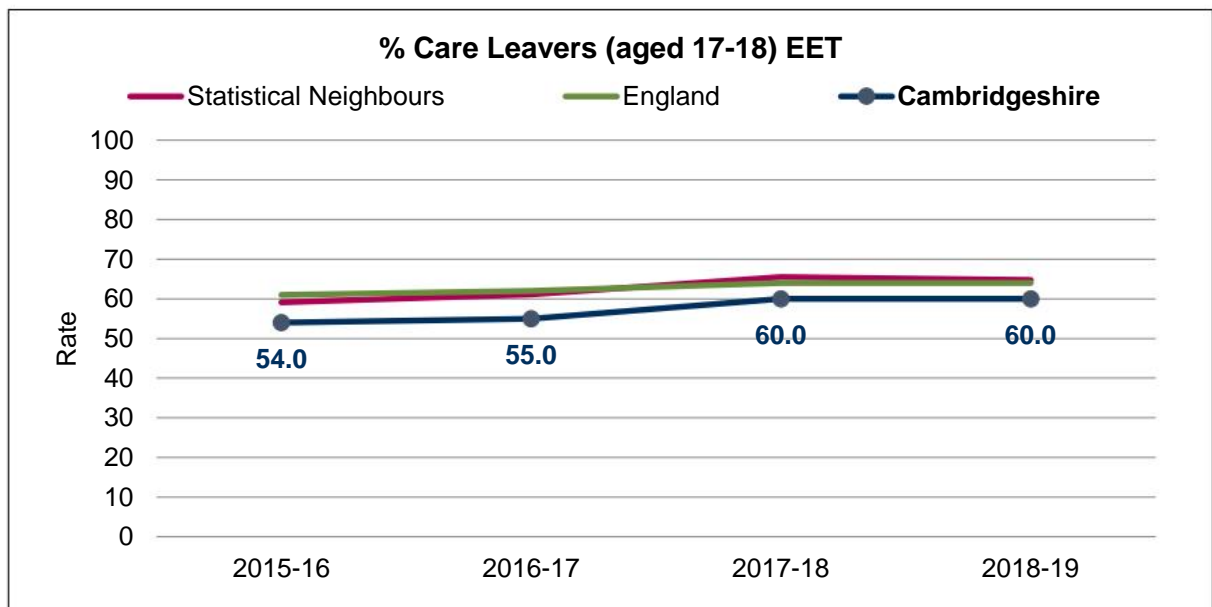
Year 12

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| NEET - Not yet ready for EET | 7 |
| NEET - Seeking EET | 3 |
| NEET - Awaiting start date of EET | 1 |
| NEET - Teenage mum | 1 |
| NEET - Working not for reward | 1 |

Year 13

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| NEET - Not yet ready for EET | 7 |
| NEET - Seeking EET | 4 |
| NEET - Awaiting start date of EET | 1 |

As the two graphs below show, the percentage of care leavers in education, employment or training at the ages of 17-18 and 19-21 years respectively, remained static in 2018-2019. Whilst Cambridgeshire remains below its statistical neighbours and the national percentage, it is anticipated that with improved focus and the investment in additional staff as part of structural changes in November 2018, performance will improve in 2019- 2020.



An important indicator in Preparing for Adulthood is the percentage of care leavers living in suitable accommodation and the number that the Local Authority maintain a relationship with. In relation to performance in both these areas, in April 2019 Cambridgeshire's performance was showing a similar trend as those in education, employment or training, Cambridgeshire performing just below the national percentage across the reported age ranges.

Care Leavers living in suitable accommodation

17– 18 year olds: Cambridgeshire- 87%

National - 90%

19- 21 year olds: Cambridgeshire – 84%

National – 89%

Care Leavers in touch with the Local Authority

17– 18 year olds: Cambridgeshire- 84%

National - 90%

19- 21 year olds: Cambridgeshire – 81%

National – 85%



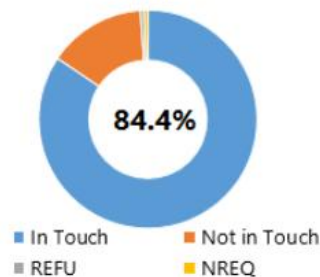
The pie charts below set out Cambridgeshire's performance against key indicators as of the 31st March 2019 in relation to the overall care leaving cohort.

In Suitable Accommodation



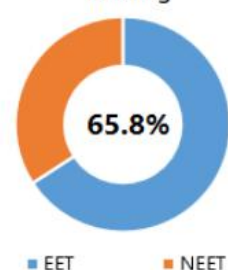
National 18/19 = 85.9%

In Touch



National 17/18 = 90.1%

In Employment, Education or Training



National 18/19 = 55.3%

Hearing the voices of children and young people

- Hearing directly from care leavers on the impact of Cambridgeshire's Local Offer and develop their voice and influence
- Closing the loop in acting on young people's feedback to ensure children in care and care leavers experience tangible changes in the areas they think we could do better on
- Continue to raise awareness within Council services to create opportunities for young people to influence wider services
- Learn lessons from complaints reports to improve practice
- Seek out new, innovative and successful ways to maximise the feedback from young people that can be used to improve the experiences of the care population now and in the future

Hearing the voices of children and young people

| What has been achieved | The impact on children and young people |
|--|--|
| A Young Person's Guide to being in Care has been developed with the help of children and young people | Children and young people have an accessible guide that clearly sets out the role of key professionals and meetings, their rights and who to speak to if they are not happy with any aspect of their care or services being provided to them |
| The Children in Care Council meetings (Voices Matter) were re scoped and redeveloped to increase attendance and participation of children and young people in care | There is a plan for participation activities throughout 2019, including Voices Matter meetings and the Care Leavers Forum. A new Participation Strategy has been produced and launched |
| The Council's 10 promises to Children in Care has been launched | The Council has a clear pledge to children in care for which it can be held to account |
| Mind of my Own application embedded into practice, Mind of My Own apprentice in post and supporting awareness of the app | Children and young people are supported to participate fully in their care, their views helping to make practice changes in children's services |
| The Care Leavers Forum was consulted on the Local Offer | PATHWAYS4US (Local offer for Care Leavers) is published |

The Participation Service

A number of participation events supported by the Sub Committee were held throughout Cambridgeshire during the year which included:

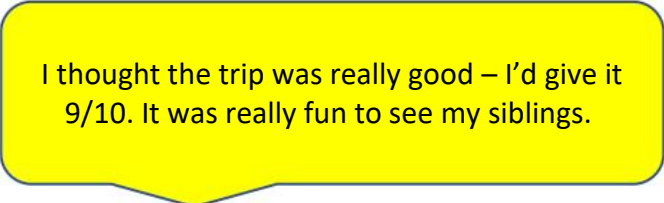
- The Annual Awards Ceremony in February 2019 where two hundred children and young people were nominated for an award and around eighty attended the event
- Children, young people and their carers attended a stargazing event at Cambridge University hosted by the Realise Team
- Six young people attended a Realise University Explore event, workshops included debating, geology and modern languages as well as circuit training at the sports centre
- The annual summer 'Picnic in the Park' took place and was well attended, everyone enjoying craft stalls and activities including a 'Bake Off' competition
- Children aged 6 – 11 and their carers attended a Make and Take Christmas Craft Fair hosted by teams from within children's services and the health team
- Cambridgeshire attended a regional participation event to support a project whereby children in care provide advice to their social workers, called the Top Ten Tips. Cambridgeshire was tasked to collect feedback on Be Respectful: please don't judge us. The Top Ten Tips will be made into a film and showcased in April 2019 at National Children in Care Council Event.

Voice of the children in care planning


In line with the national expectation that children's views are sought in an age appropriate manner for their Children in Care reviews, 54% of children in care over the age of four attended their review, 41% conveyed their views via another person (6% via their NYAS advocate) or through using the Mind of My Own app or a consultation document.

Siblings Forever


Siblings Forever is a two night activity trip for brothers and sisters aged 8 to 18 years who have been separated through care. It allows siblings to have extended time together in a safe and fun environment. One activity trip took place in October 2018 which was held at the Graffham Water Activity Centre. Below are examples of feedback from the trip.



I thought the trip was really good – I'd give it 9/10. It was really fun to see my siblings.



I loved the trip. I loved spending so much time with my brother and sister



I had a good time. All good to see my big brothers.

There are a number of areas for development that will continue to be monitored, scrutinised and supported by the Corporate Parenting Sub Committee in 2019. These include:

Ensuring children and young people (and especially care leavers) have access to assessment and support for their health needs in a flexible and creative way that supports them to understand and prioritise their health

Ensuring young people are supported to understand their health history

Hearing from young people about their experience of accessing appropriate and tailored health services

Ensuring maximum and creative impact of the pupil premium

Continuing to drive attainment for all children in care to reach their potential and be as close as possible in their achievements to children outside of the care system

Ensuring the Sub Committee hears the views of front line staff

Hearing from young people about their experiences of being supported through transitions and into adulthood

Supporting the development and aspirations of Cambridgeshire's Local Offer

Supporting the recruitment and retention of foster carers that are prepared and supported to undertake the role of caring for children with complex needs – local foster families for local children

Hearing from children and young people of their experience of the care they are provided with in a variety of different care arrangements

Closing the loop in acting on young people's feedback to ensure children in care and care leavers experience tangible changes in the areas they think Cambridgeshire could do better on

Encouraging Corporate Parenting partners to be more ambitious in expressing and realising their Corporate Parenting offers. The Corporate Parenting Sub Committee will continue to create a culture of accountability in order to achieve

CORPORATE PARENTING SUB-COMMITTEE FORWARD AGENDA PLAN

Published 7 January 2020

Agenda Item No: 9

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 15 January 2020 – 4.00pm – Room 128 - Theme: Health | | | | | |
| | Minutes and Action Log | Democratic Services | Not applicable | | |
| | Virtual School <i>i. Un-validated exam results</i> | C Hiorns | Not applicable | | |
| | Sub-Committee Workshop/ Training Plan (standing item) | F van den Hout | Not applicable | | |
| | Young People's Participation (standing item) | C Betteridge | Not applicable | | |
| | Children in care health assessments | J Peberdy & D Spencer CCS | 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 |
|---|---|---------------------|---------------------------|--|--|
| | Draft Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee Annual Report 2018/19 | S-J Smedmor | Not applicable | | |
| | Improving the Emotional Health and Wellbeing of Children Looked After and Care Leavers | P Parker | Not applicable | | |
| | Agenda Plan | Democratic Services | Not applicable | | |
| Wednesday 25 March 2020 – 4.00pm – Room 128 Shire Hall – Theme TBC | | | | | |
| | Minutes and Action Log | Democratic Services | Not applicable | | |
| | Performance Report <i>(standing item)</i> | K Knight | Not applicable | | |
| | Sub-Committee Workshop/ Training Plan <i>(standing item)</i> | F van den Hout | Not applicable | | |
| | Young People's Participation <i>(standing item)</i> | C Betteridge | Not applicable | | |
| | Family Safeguarding Model | L Williams | Not applicable | | |
| | Refreshed NEET Strategy: Reducing the number of Children in Care who are Not in Education, Employment or Training <i>Six month update report</i> | M Cowdell | Not applicable | | |
| | Workforce Development <i>(Quarterly standing item)</i> | 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 May 2020 – 4.00pm – Room 128, Shire Hall – Theme TBC | | | | | |
| | Notification of the Chair and Vice Chair for the Municipal Year 2020/21 | | | | |
| | Minutes and Action Log | Democratic Services | Not applicable | | |
| | Performance Report (standing item) | K Knight | Not applicable | | |
| | Sub-Committee Workshop/ Training Plan (standing item) | F van den Hout | Not applicable | | |
| | Young People's Participation (standing item) | C Betteridge | Not applicable | | |
| | Child and Adolescent Mental Health issues for Cambridgeshire's Children in Care: Update (bi-meeting update) | P Parker | Not applicable | | |
| | Agenda Plan | Democratic Services | Not applicable | | |
| Wednesday 15 July 2020 – 4.00pm Room 128, Shire Hall, Cambridge | | | | | |
| | Minutes and Action Log | Democratic Services | Not applicable | | |
| | Young People's Participation (standing item) | C Betteridge | Not applicable | | |

| Committee date | Agenda item | Lead officer | Reference if key decision | Deadline for draft reports to Sarah-Jane Smedmor | Approved reports to Democratic Services by |
|--|--|---------------------|---------------------------|--|--|
| | Performance Report (standing item) | K Knight | Not applicable | | |
| | Sub-Committee Workshop/ Training Plan (standing item) | F van den Hout | Not applicable | | |
| | Virtual School: Themed Report | C Hiorns | Not applicable | | |
| | Independent Review Officer's Annual Report | O Grant | Not applicable | | |
| | Workforce Development: Quarterly Report | A Bennett/ L Liston | Not applicable | | |
| | Draft Annual Corporate Parenting Report 2019/20 | F van den Hout | Not applicable | | |
| | Agenda Plan | Democratic Services | Not applicable | | |
| Wednesday 9 September 2020 – 4.00pm Room 128, Shire Hall, Cambridge | | | | | |
| | Minutes and Action Log | Democratic Services | Not applicable | | |
| | Young People's Participation (standing item) | C Betteridge | Not applicable | | |
| | Performance Report (standing item) | K Knight | Not applicable | | |
| | Sub-Committee Workshop/ Training Plan (standing item) | F van den Hout | 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 |
|--|--|---------------------|---------------------------|--|--|
| | Virtual School Headteacher's report <i>(To include validated data and development plan)</i> | C Hiorns | Not applicable | | |
| | Agenda Plan | Democratic Services | Not applicable | | |
| Wednesday 18 November 2020 - 4.00pm Room 128, Shire Hall, Cambridge | | | | | |
| | Minutes and Action Log | Democratic Services | Not applicable | | |
| | Young People's Participation <i>(standing item)</i> | C Betteridge | Not applicable | | |
| | Performance Report <i>(standing item)</i> | K Knight | Not applicable | | |
| | Sub-Committee Workshop/ Training Plan <i>(standing item)</i> | F van den Hout | Not applicable | | |
| | Siblings Forever Annual Report | O Grant | Not applicable | | |
| | Workforce Development: Quarterly Report | A Bennett/ L Liston | Not applicable | | |
| | Agenda Plan | Democratic Services | Not applicable | | |
| Wednesday 13 January 2021 - 4.00pm Room 128, Shire Hall, Cambridge | | | | | |
| | Minutes and Action Log | Democratic Services | Not applicable | | |
| | Young People's Participation <i>(standing item)</i> | 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 |
|---|--|---------------------|---------------------------|--|--|
| | Performance Report (standing item) | K Knight | Not applicable | | |
| | Sub-Committee Workshop/ Training Plan (standing item) | F van den Hout | Not applicable | | |
| | Virtual School: Unvalidated Results | C Hiorns | Not applicable | | |
| | Agenda Plan | Democratic Services | Not applicable | | |
| Wednesday 24 March 2021 - 4.00pm Room 128, Shire Hall, Cambridge | | | | | |
| | Minutes and Action Log | Democratic Services | Not applicable | | |
| | Young People's Participation (standing item) | C Betteridge | Not applicable | | |
| | Performance Report (standing item) | K Knight | Not applicable | | |
| | Workforce Development: Quarterly Report | A Bennett/ L Liston | Not applicable | | |
| | Sub-Committee Workshop/ Training Plan (standing item) | F van den Hout | Not applicable | | |
| | Agenda Plan | Democratic Services | Not applicable | | |
| Wednesday 9 June 2021 – 4.00pm Room 128, Shire Hall, Cambridge | | | | | |
| | Minutes and Action Log | 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 |
|----------------|--|---------------------|---------------------------|--|--|
| | Young People's Participation (standing item) | C Betteridge | Not applicable | | |
| | Performance Report (standing item) | K Knight | Not applicable | | |
| | Workforce Development: Quarterly Report | A Bennett/ L Liston | Not applicable | | |
| | Sub-Committee Workshop/ Training Plan (standing item) | F van den Hout | Not applicable | | |
| | Agenda Plan | Democratic Services | Not applicable | | |

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

Summary

Each committee at the County Council has its own training plan to help its members learn more about the business that the Committee covers. Each training session is listed and a record is kept of which members of the committee attend.

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

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

| | | | | | | | | | |
|-----|--|---|--------|----------|--|------------------|---|--|--|
| | | | | | | | | Every, French, Gowing, Hay, Hunt, Rogers, Sanderson, Wotherspoon | |
| 8. | Developments in Children and Safeguarding Services – Family Safeguarding | To brief Members on service developments and provide an overview of District Safeguarding work | High | TBC | | | | | |
| 9. | Permanence planning for children | To brief Members on the importance of permanence planning for children and the different types of arrangements including concurrency | High | 03.10.19 | Kate Knight Lead Corporate Parenting manager/Julie Ann Saunders | Training session | Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee members | | |
| 10. | Accommodation provisions for Children in Care and Care leavers | To brief Members on the variety of provisions available for Children in Care and Care Leavers | Medium | TBC | Access to Resources TBC | | | | |
| 11. | The Role of the Personal Advisor and update on the Local Offer | To brief Members of the role of the Personal Advisors and specialist PA roles in the context of the Local offer and opportunity to meet with PA's | Medium | TBC | Kate Knight lead Corporate Parenting Manager | | | | |

