

Corporate Parenting Performance Report September 2021

To: Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee

Meeting Date: 17 November 2021

From: Nicola Curley, Assistant Director Early Help and Children's Social Care

Electoral division(s): All

Forward Plan ref: n/a

Key decision: No

Outcome: This report is submitted to each formal and informal Corporate Parenting Sub Committee as part of the standing work programme item in relation to performance.

Recommendation: The Sub-Committee is recommended to:

- a. Note the content of the report, and
- b. Raise any questions with the lead officer

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1. Summary

- 1.1 This report is presented to each formal and informal Corporate Parenting Sub Committee to allow members to be updated on the numbers of children in care, care leavers and the placements in which they are placed,

2. Background

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Corporate Parenting Sub Committee in respect of the numbers of children and young people being looked after by the Council as of 30 September 2021 by providing a breakdown of the types of placements in which they are living. The report also provides information about the age, gender and ethnicity of those children and young people.

2. Main Issues

- 2.1 As of 30 September 2021, there were 645 children in care they were in the following placements:
- 244 children were placed with in house foster carers providing placements for the Local Authority.
 - 207 children were in foster care and placed with independent fostering agencies (IFAs). The agencies work with the Local Authority on a contractual basis to provide foster placements.
 - 77 post 16 year olds were living on their own, with support (independent living) but still classed as Children in Care with an allocated social worker.
 - 12 children have a court order (Placement Order) that allows them to live with their prospective adoptive parents whilst they are awaiting a final adoption order.
 - 40 children were placed with family or friends' carers (connected person). These carers are formally assessed in the same way that our other in-house carers are assessed and are presented to the Fostering Panel for approval in the same way. They are paid the same level of allowances as other in house foster carers.
 - 4 children were living with their parents but considered as looked after children because they are subject to a full care orders, so the local authority still shares parental responsibility with the birth parent. Placements with parents are often made pending a plan for reunification with the parent and in some cases will result in an application for care orders to be discharged.
 - 53 children and young people (without disabilities) were placed in residential care which provides intensive support in a residential setting. These placements are most usually made when it is clear that foster care is not able to meet the child or young person's needs.

Residential care is nearly always accessed by adolescents and only very rarely used for younger children.

- 52% of all children in care were placed outside Cambridgeshire's boundaries.

3. Alignment with corporate priorities

- 3.1 A good quality of life for everyone
There are no significant implications for this priority.
- 3.2 Thriving places for people to live
There are no significant implications for this priority.
- 3.3 The best start for Cambridgeshire's children
There are no significant implications for this priority.
- 3.4 Net zero carbon emissions for Cambridgeshire by 2050
There are no significant implications for this priority.

4. Significant Implications

- 4.1 None.

5. Source documents

- 5.1 None