CORPORATE PARENTING SUB-COMMITTEE

Date:Wednesday, 22 May 2019

16:00hr

Democratic and Members' Services
Fiona McMillan
Monitoring Officer

Shire Hall
Castle Hill
Cambridge
CB3 0AP

Room 128
Shire Hall, Castle Hill, Cambridge, CB3 0AP

AGENDA

Open to Public and Press

The Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee comprises the following members:

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

Councillor Anna Bradnam Councillor Adela Costello and Councillor Claire Richards

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

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CORPORATE PARENTING SUB-COMMITTEE: MINUTES

Date: Wednesday 20th March 2019

Time: 16:15pm-18:35pm

Venue: Council Chamber, East Cambridgeshire District Council, Nutholt Lane, Ely, CB7 4EE

Present: Councillors L Every Chairman), A Hay (Vice Chairman), A Bradnam, C Richards (from 4.35pm) and Councillor A Costello (to 6.10pm)

Apologies: Co-opted Member: S Day

85.   **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Apologies for absence were reported as recorded above

No declaration of interests were made

86.   **MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 30 January 2019**

The minutes of the meeting on 30 January 2019 were approved as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

87.   **ACTION LOG**

The action log was reviewed. The Chairman expressed concern at the length of the action log and stated that many of the actions had been marked as ongoing for a long time. She hoped that many of the actions would be completed before the next meeting. The following verbal updates were noted:

- Minute 9 - Councillor Bradnam had requested an updated application link. Councillor Richards' application was awaited. The Chairman asked that these outstanding DBS applications were followed up.

- Minute 46 –The Interim Foster Care Manager was present and a date for the planned training session on foster care would be discussed after the meeting.

- Minute 53 - The first meeting of the mental health task and finish group had been productive and work was continuing.

- Minute 55 – The Sub-Committee had asked to be kept in touch with developments relating to central government funding for post-adoption support services. An update would be provided in June.

- Minute 65 – An elected Member asked whether the venue of Sub-Committees meetings could be reviewed as it had not attracted the additional public attendance which had been hoped.

- Minute 71 –A training session for the Local Offer had been arranged for 14th June 2019.

- Minute 77 – Two additional young people had been identified as potential substitutes for the Co-opted Members. This was yet to be confirmed, but it was hoped that the two young people would observe the next meeting. The Chairman emphasised the fact that inviting young people to the meeting fitted in perfectly with the values and aims of the Sub-Committee.

- Minute 80 – Officers were consulting the Voice Matter group to take their views on the use of the word 'recovery' after trauma.

- Minute 83 – The Chairman asked that Members should be advised about benefits that could be accessed by care leavers as part of the training session on the Local Offer.

It was resolved to:

a) Review the action log and note verbal updates.

88. PARTICIPATION REPORT

The Sub-Committee considered an update on the work of the Participation Service. The Service Development Manager stated that the Participation Service had hosted the annual awards ceremony on the 15th February 2019. Two hundred children and young people had been nominated for an award and around eighty people had attended with their foster carers. A number of children and young people along with their carers had also attended a stargazing session at Cambridge University hosted by the Realise team.

It was hoped that the Participation Service would be fully staffed by the end of March. The participation worker currently on maternity leave was due to return to their post during April 2019. Once the vacancies in the team had been filled they would be better placed to engage effectively with children and young people through a wider range of participation events. The next Voices Matter meeting had been planned and would take place during the Easter Holidays and would include bowling. A number of activities were planned throughout 2019.

In discussion:

- Officers stated that they would be contacting children newly in care to inform them about the events being held.

- The Chairman welcomed the wider programme of events being offered and asked how young people accommodated outside of the county were being involved. Officers stated that participation events were open to all and that they were in discussion with colleagues in the Virtual School about ways to promote participation events to young people living outside of the county, including unaccompanied asylum seeking children. These events provided a relaxed environment where young people felt they could express their opinions.

- An elected Member asked about the mechanism for children and young people to provide feedback to the Participation Team if they did not want to attend the events. Officers stated that they were trying to be more creative and flexible in the format and location of events to make them appealing to the widest possible audience.

- The Service Development Manager confirmed that Cambridge University had agreed that the October Voices Matter meeting would take place at one of the Realise events. This event would include a session on developing debating skills.

- The Chairman suggested using an alumni system where older, more experienced children who were leaving foster care provided their knowledge to children who were currently in care. Officers commented that this process was already happening as some members of the Care Leavers Forum did attend Voices Matter.

It was resolved to:

> Comment on the consultation events and activities provided by the Participation Service to Children Looked After.

89. VIRTUAL SCHOOL

The Chairman stated that the Virtual School report was a standing item and reflected the Sub-Committee's continued focus on the education and achievement of Children in Care.

The Sub-Committee considered a report providing an update from the Virtual School. The Interim Deputy Head Teacher stated that the current substantive Head Teacher post would be advertised shortly with the appointee expected to start in September 2019. She outlined the four priorities presented in the report:

i.   Data Collection: Officers were working closely with the Business Intelligence Team to create a toolkit for collecting and tracking key data such as attendance, exclusions and progress. With the agreement of the Service Director for Education a data manager would be appointed within the team to help identify and track key issues;
ii. Creating a culture of school improvement: In recent months officers had been working closely with Suffolk, Hertfordshire and Peterborough's Virtual Schools which had enabled them to learn from other counties' experiences. The Virtual School Development Plan would be rolled out in Fenland first. A conference for designated teachers would take place on 1 July 2019 to share this vision. To encourage attendance the Virtual School was offering to fund supply teacher cover for schools which signed up early for places. A record would be kept of which schools were not represented and this would be followed up and monitored. The greatest challenge was engaging with out of county schools and officers were looking into the possibility of using reciprocal arrangements for training with geographical neighbours.
iii. Access and Inclusion Team: The Virtual School offer had been drafted.
iv. Internal processes and procedures: A development week was taking place from 25 March to focus on internal practice within the Virtual School. Amongst the proposals being considered would be moving to a system where schools would

bid in advance for Pupil Premium Plus project spending and a greater focus on Personal Education Plans (PEPs).

In discussion:

- Members were pleased to note the appointment of an Educational Psychologist to the Virtual School for two days per week from the end of March 2019, moving to three days per week from September 2019;
- A Member commended the Interim Head and Deputy Head Teachers of the Virtual School for what they had achieved so far in a short space of time;

- In relation to the recent Ofsted Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services, a Member asked how PEP targets would be set from the data obtained. The Interim Deputy Head Teacher of the Virtual School stated that the Virtual School would be moving to a submission deadline for PEPs so that it could review termly data to see how pupils were progressing in relation to their PEP targets. Targets might relate to a child's strengths or social, emotional or mental health goals as well as to academic achievements;

- A Member commented that if the process for monitoring the Pupil Premium Plus payments was overly complicated then it could become an onerous task for teachers. Officers stated that the process would be kept as simple as possible and that schools or groups of schools would be able to make a clustered bid;

- A Member asked why the Year 5/6 learning support programme had not proved more widely popular. Officers suggested that this might have been due to it requiring children to be withdrawn from some lessons or clashing with after school activities;

- A Member commented that they also sat on the Virtual School Management Board. This now met twice per term instead of once and it was very supportive of the work being done by the Interim Head Teacher and her team;

- The Assistant Director for Children's Services stated that she was encouraged to hear about the positive changes taking place in support of Children in Care. She commented that she would also be interested to hear how Pupil Premium funding might be used creatively to support students in Years 11 and 13 through their exam preparation. Officers undertook to include this information in a future report.
  (**Action: Interim Head of the Virtual School)**

The Chairman stated that the Sub-Committee was pleased to hear about the positive work being undertaken by the Virtual School as it remained an area about which Members were passionate. It would be useful to receive projected outcomes for the current academic year as an initial indicator of the position compared to last year. The Sub-Committee would also like to see headline data for Early Years, Key Stage 4 and Post 16 pupils and would be guided by the Interim Head of the Virtual School on when this would be ready to be presented.

It was resolved to:

Note and comment on the report

90. PERFORMANCE REPORT

The Sub-Committee received a report providing an overview of the performance of services for Children in Care and Care Leavers for December 2018 and January 2019. The Service Manager for Corporate Parenting outlined to the Sub-Committee the key findings from the report. In the four month period between October 2018 and January 2019 the total number of Children in Care had stayed the same. However, looking at the most recent data the number of Children in Care was starting to rise. The percentage of children who had been visited by their social worker was also improving.

In discussion:

- The Chairman stated that the accessibility of the data was improving each time the report was presented to the Sub-Committee and thanked officers for their work on this.

- A Member queried why the placement type for four children was marked as unknown. Officers confirmed that the children's location was known, and that this was a technical error arising from the input of data;

- A Member requested clarification regarding the Coram Cambridge Adoption table. Officers stated that the drop in figures for January was due to a complex case involving the placement of several siblings. Whilst it had taken time to achieve, the permanent outcome was extremely positive;

- A Member asked about the number of care leavers not in employment, education and training (NEET). Officers stated that some young people chose not to engage which led to gaps in the data, but that officers continued to reach out to these young people. Figures for this group in Cambridgeshire were comparable with the national average and a dedicated support worker was being appointed to work with this group to try to improve this figure. It was also planned to carry out an aspirational audit in conjunction with the Virtual School;

- The Assistant Director for Children's Services stated that there had been a drop in the percentage of health assessments being completed within timescale in December 2018 due to structural changes. A meeting was taking place the following week with Health Service colleagues and it was expected that an improvement would be seen going forward. John Peberdy, Service Director for Children and Young People's Health Services at Cambridgeshire Community Services NHS Trust hoped to attend the Sub-Committee's next meeting and would be able to provide a health provider's perspective.

It was resolved to:

Review performance for Children in Care and comment on the themes and trends identified in this report.

91. WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT- RECRUITMENT, RETENTION AND TRAINING

The Sub-Committee considered a report detailing workforce development issues. The Head of Service Safeguarding North explained that there had been two restructures in two years. This had both provided challenges and learning experiences for the service. A new strategy and action plan had been developed as a product of the restructuring, and good feedback had been received. The recruitment team was in the process of redesigning the recruitment strategy by shortening and simplifying the recruitment process. Job vacancies were advertised using social media as a marketing tool to attract potential applicants. An apprenticeship system was being introduced and a celebration day was planned to reflect on the positive outcomes.

In discussion:

- The Chairman welcomed the creativity found in the new recruitment process, but sought an assurance that no shortcuts were being taken which could impact on the safeguarding element of the recruitment process. Officers confirmed that this was definitely not the case;

- An elected Member requested more information regarding the difference in employment rates between the north and south of the county. The Head of Service stated that they had filled 91% of all permanent vacancies in the north of the county compared to 66% in the south. This disparity might in part be explained by higher house prices in the south of the county and difficulties commuting. Initiatives to address this included the recruitment of social workers from oversees and the re-introduction of flexible working patters

- The Assistant Director for Children's Services commented that the Cambs 2020 programme would reduce the commuting time for some officers as they would move out of Cambridge City;

- In response to a question from a Member, the Assistant Director for Children's Services stated that staffing levels in Childrens' Services in Cambridgeshire were currently the best they had been for over three years. However, vacancies remained in crucial safeguarding roles which they were actively trying to recruit.

It was resolved:

Review and comment on the update provided

92. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE LOOKED AFTER: EMOTIONAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

The Sub-Committee received a progress report on multi-agency work regarding the emotional health and wellbeing of Children in Care. The Professional Lead for Psychology stated that a diverse and effective multi-agency group had been established which had set clear goals to understand what the current offer from universal and specialist services were for children. The results would be used as a benchmark for care services in Cambridgeshire and to develop a clear action plan.

Arising from the report, Members:

- Requested more information regarding the functionality of the multi-agency group. The Professional Lead for Psychology clarified that it was a Multi-Agency task and finish group. She confirmed that the group was taking a child orientated approach;

- Welcomed the positive engagement from partners;

- The Vice Chairman commented that the Sub-Committee would welcome an update in six months' time describing the results of the work at that point. This might usefully be linked with a further workshop or training session, ideally on a date suitable for Councillor Richards;
(**Action: Professional Lead for Psychology)**

The Chairman stated that the Sub-Committee would want to be kept closely in touch with this work through update reports when appropriate. She also suggested this work should be included as part of a future Corporate Parenting item at a Members' Seminar. (**Action: Professional Lead for Psychology**)

It was resolved to:

> Review the progress to date on multi-agency work regarding the emotional health and wellbeing of children and young people looked after.

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

The Sub-Committee received a report outlining the work being undertaken to address the exploitation of children and young people in Cambridgeshire. This responded to a request by the Children and Young People Committee follow this issue up. The Head of Service Safeguarding, North Hub stated that officers were clear about their statutory duties and that strong partnership working existed with schools, health service colleagues, the police and the voluntary sectors. There was an increasing focus on contextual safeguarding which looked at the situation around a child as well as the children themselves.

During discussion:

- An elected Member commented that South Cambridgeshire District Council was taking forward work with private hire taxi firms in support of safeguarding issues. The Chairman stated that this was something which Sub-Committee members could usefully follow up with their own District and City Councils;

- The Chairman noted that an unsuccessful bid had been submitted to the Innovate and Cultivate Fund regarding tackling county lines and welcomed news that work was in hand on formulating a new bid.

- The Chairman stated that there might be scope for using some Community Safety funding in support of this work and asked that this should be explored. The

Assistant Director for Children's Services suggested that Dave Sargeant, an ex-police officer working with the Local Safeguarding Children Board, would be a good person to help co-ordinate thinking on this and suggested that he be invited to deliver a training session. This might also be opened to members of the Children and Young People Committee.
(Action: Head of Service: Integrated Front Door)

It was resolved to:

Note and comment on the report.

94. SUB-COMMITTEE WORKSHOP AND TRAINING PLAN

The Sub-Committee reviewed its workshop and training plan. It was suggested that the training session on the access to Universal Credit and benefits for care leaves could fit into the Corporate Parenting Care Leaver Local Offer seminar.

It was resolved to:

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

95. AGENDA PLAN

The agenda plan was reviewed and it was agreed that the Workforce Development report would be taken off the Forward Agenda Plan for May unless there were any headline figures to report.

Members emphasised the importance of the Sub-Committee having access to the first draft of the Corporate Parenting Annual Report to allow for their input before it was presented to the Children and Young People Committee in September 2019.

The Chairman stated that she would be having bi-monthly meetings with the Chairman of the Children and Young People Committee and the Executive Director for People and Communities to discuss the strategic and operational roles of the respective Committees and to align their work programmes and agendas. This would include considering the Action Plan and response to the findings of the recent Ofsted Inspection of Cambridgeshire's Children's Services. She would update the Sub-Committee on this at the next meeting.

It was resolved to:

Note and comment on the Sub-Committee's agenda plan

Chairman
(Date)

CORPORATE PARENTING SUB-COMMITTEE

Minutes-Action Log

Cambridgeshire County Council

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 **14 May 2019**.

Minutes of 13 December 2017					
9.	**Young People's Participation**	**Sarah-Jane Smedmor/ Richenda Greenhill**	To provide advice on whether Members should undergo a Disclosure and Barring Service check given that it was proposed that they would have direct access to personal information about children and young people in care and, on occasion, direct contact with the children and young people themselves.	**08.01.18:** The Assistant Director gave the view that Members of the Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee would need to undergo a DBS check in order to fully discharge their duties. Advice sought from the Head of HR. **09.04.18**: To be processed by Democratic Services. **08.10.18:** Updated training required to sign off DBS request. Course booked 29.11.18. **21.01.19**: DBS check completed for Cllr Hay. Documentation supplied and verified for Cllr Costello and certificate awaited. Existing DBS certificate held by Cambridgeshire County Council for Cllr Every confirmed by HR as sufficient to cover her role on the Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee. Replacement link to the DBS application site requested for Cllr Bradnam. Application awaited from Cllr Richards. **03.05.19:** Cllr Bradman's DBS check completed. Cllr Richard's application awaited.	**On-going**

53.	**Child and Adolescent Mental Health Issues relating to LAC in Cambridgeshire**	**Pam Parker**	To try to establish whether resources described in the Green Paper represented new or existing funding so that Members could take a view on whether they might wish to lobby for support.	**21.11.18:** A Task and Finish Group has been established which includes the Assistant Director for Children's Services, the Clinical Lead on Psychology, the Sub-Committee's two co-opted members and representatives from the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group and the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Foundation NHS Foundation Trust. **20.03.19**: The Task and Finish Group had held its first meeting which had been productive. **8.05.19:** The Task and Finish Group continues to be convened and activity is ongoing. Further updates will follow as part of the regular reports to the Sub-Committee.	**Completed**
55.	**Coram Cambridgeshire Adoption Annual Report 2017-18**	**F van den Hout**	To keep the Sub-Committee in touch with developments relating to central government funding for post-adoption support services.	**13.01.19** Commissioned by the Department for Education, Cambridgeshire County Council has been chosen alongside 14 other Local Authorities to participate in a longitudinal study on the Adoption Support Fund. The meeting with the research lead from Public Care at Brookes University is due to take place at the end of January 2019. **20.03.19**: The Sub-Committee was advised that an update would be available in June 2019.	**Update to be provided in June 2019**

| 58. | Sub-Committee Workshop/ Training Plan | ~~Jacqui Barry~~ Aidan O'Reilly | To arrange a generic workshop for all members and substitute members to consider how best to upskill themselves so that they were best equipped to fulfil their roles. It would be important to ensure a good turnout for this event to develop an agreed approach and to make full use of the wide variety of skills, experience and expertise of all involved. | **29.10.18:** Jacqui Barry discussing this with the Chairman. **12.02.19**: Aidan O'Reilly to pick this up. | **On-going** |

	Minutes of the Meeting on 21 November 2018				
65.	**Participation Report**	**Richenda Greenhill**	To hold Sub-Committee meetings in Ely when possible.	**28.11.18**: The meeting on 30 January 2018 has been moved to The Grange, Ely. Future meeting venues will be reviewed following that meeting. **23.01.19**: The meeting on 20 March 2019 will be held in Ely and arrangements reviewed after that. **02.05.19**: Venues to be reviewed on an ad hoc basis going forward, taking into account the most accessible locations for co-opted members to attend.	**Completed**
70.	**Local Offer for Care Leavers**	**Sarah-Jane Smedmor**	To follow up a Co-opted member's comments about the Local Offer information pack they had received; and Conduct an audit of the process and report back on this to the Sub-Committee.	**14.01.19:** The process of preparing the Local Offer is ongoing. This will include lessons learned from previous iterations. **08.05.19:** Transformation funding has been secured for a Local Offer Personal Advisor and recruitment is underway. Processes have been reviewed in service.	**Completed**

Minutes of the meeting on 20 March 2019					
89.	**Virtual School**	**Claire Hiorns**	The Assistant Director for Children's Services said that she would be interested to hear how Pupil Premium funding might be used creatively to support students in Years 11 and 13 through their exam preparation. Officers undertook to include this information in a future report.	**10.05.19:** This was mentioned in reference to the changes to PPP funding meaning that schools can bid for funding for group projects. The change of funding is from September, therefore this will come into effect for next academic year not this one. Schools will be able to apply for this funding for year 11 projects, but not year 13 as PPP stops at the end of year 11.	**Completed**
92.	**Children in Care: Emotional Health and Wellbeing**	**Pam Parker**	The Vice Chairman commented that the Sub-Committee would welcome an update in six months' time describing the results of the work at that point. This might usefully be linked with a further workshop or training session, ideally on a date suitable for Councillor Richards.	**05.05.19**: Six month update report added to the Sub-Committee agenda plan for September 2019.	**Completed**
		Pam Parker	The Chairman suggested that this topic should be included as part of a future Corporate Parenting item at a Members' Seminar.		
93.	**Actions taken by the Council in response to Child Sexual Exploitation and County Lines Gang Exploitation**	**Jenny Goodes**	The Chairman stated that there might be scope for using some Community Safety funding in support of this work and asked that this should be explored.	**05.04.19**: This will be considered by the working group looking at funding bids. The Sub-Committee's request that this should be explored has been passed on to Emily Tucker-Prescott, the Transformation Team's lead officer.	**Completed**

		Jenny Goodes	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 (CYP) Committee.	**05.04.19:** Dave Sargeant is actively involved in this area. A working group has been set up by the Local Safeguarding Children Board to be chaired by the police to lead on this. Officers will liaise with Mr Sergeant and Cllr Every regarding a possible future training session for CPSC and CYP members.	**On-going**

YOUNG PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION

To:	Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee
Meeting Date:	22 May 2019
From:	Claire Betteridge - Service Development Managers Hullal Miah – Mind of my Own (MOMO) Apprentice Amanda Prior – Participation Worker Helen Hooson – Business Support
Electoral division(s):	All
Purpose:	To provide an update on the range of participation and consultation events offered by the Participation Service.
Recommendation:	To review and comment on the consultation events and activities provided by the Participation Service to Children in Care.

Officer contact:	*Member contact:*	
Name: Claire Betteridge	Name:	Councillor Lis Every
Post: Service Development Managers	Role:	Chairman, Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee
Email: csc.participation@cambridgeshire.gov.uk	Email:	Lis.Every@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
Tel: 01480 372493 / 01223 715530	Tel:	(office) 01223 706398

Summary:

- There is a plan for participation activities throughout 2019, including Voices Matter meetings an the Care Leavers Forum.
- The Mind of my Own Apprentice continues to promote the use of the APP offering
- Individual and group training. See Appendix 3 for a breakdown of performance for Mind of My Own.
- Amanda Prior and a young person attended the "Top Ten Tips for Social Workers" launch on th 17 April 2019.
- A new Participation Strategy has been produced and has been launched.
- The Participation Team hosted a Voices Matter meeting on the 9 April 2019 at One Leisure, thi event was well attended.

1.   BACKGROUND

1.1   The Sub-Committee requested an update on the work of the Participation Service at each meeting.

2.   MAIN ISSUES

2.1   **Update on Involvement of Young People**

Consultation

The participation team has been looking to identify other young people who might be interested in being substitutes for the co-opted members on the Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee, so we can ensure we have young people in attendance at each meeting. One young person has expressed an interest and she is planning to come and observe The meeting on 22 May 2019 so she can gain an understanding of the purpose of the role she might take on.

Since January 2019, the care leaver's forum meetings have not happened as anticipated for several reasons, including worker availability to cover evening meetings as well as young people not being able to attend or not confirming attendance. In February 2019, three young people came along to a meeting and they had a discussion about the impact that transport can have on their employability and job options and how they can become isolated as care leavers when they live in rural communities.

The April 2019 care leaver meeting only had one young person attend and therefore consultation was limited but she did contribute her views on the health passport, care leavers finance document and was keen to get involved in interviewing prospective. The next meeting is planned for the 8 May 2019.

The children in care council meeting (Voices Matter) took place on the 9 April 2019 at One Leisure. We had 20 children and young people come along aged between 6 and 15. There

were three young people who reside out of county. The meeting focused on promoting how children and young people can get involved in participation activities, after having a game of "Human Bingo".

We then explored as a group the terminology we use when referring to children in care and the group made suggestions of alternative ways to describe things like their contact, care plan and Child in Care reviews. Prior to bowling the group tucked into a lunch of burgers, sausages or nuggets and chips. The event seemed to be positively received by all and everyone seemed to have a good time. The group was consulted about other activity based Voices Matter meetings and there was a consensus for trampoline session, water sports and football.

We have confirmed a booking at the trampoline centre in St Neots for the May half-term, which will incorporate the Voices Matter meeting, an hour on the trampolines and having something to eat.

2.2   **Events Held**

- The children in care council meeting took place on the 9 April 2019 at one leisure, see above for a summary of event.
- We planned to host a craft event after school on the 25 April 2019, however only one young person expressed an interest therefore we have changed date and will be looking to offer this over half term holiday, subject to securing a suitable venue.
- Amanda Prior and a care leaver went along to the premier in Greenwich of the regional participation film – "The Top Ten Tips for Social Workers"

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

We are waiting to receive the link to the film and will circulate once we have it.

Although we gave an overview at the last Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee about the six young people who attended the Realise event in the February 2019 half term, we have recently received feedback from Realise about what the young people actually told them about the experience which we thought you would like to see.

- All participants reported that they had increased in knowledge about University from the event, this includes what life would be like, what student/financial support is available and what courses are available.

- The majority said their favourite session was the sport one and the feedback included, "Just fun to be active and try out new sport" and "I learnt to play a new sport and it was fun and different"

A series of events are planned throughout 2019, with Cambridge University for children in care and care leavers. The next date is planned for the May half term.

More information can be found via the link below

https://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/events/care

Activities Planned

- A schedule of events and participation activities are planned for 2019 and children residing out of County are invited to attend in the same way as all other children. We are currently exploring having a number of activity based sessions during the course of the year, which might include water based activities, drama, arts and crafts.
- The next Voices Matter meeting is planned for the end of May 2019 and will be held at Xtreme 360 Trampoline Park in St Neots.
- The annual summer "picnic in the park" is booked for July 2019 and will again be held at Witchford Village Hall. We are in the process of finalising the activities for the day.
- The participation team have also been asked to identify and support a group of young people being involved in the interviews for the step up to social work applicants which are taking place in May and June 2019. So far two young people have volunteered to be involved.
- We continue to meet with social care teams and the foster carers support meetings to update them regarding participation activities, promote the APP Mind of My Own, as well as using this as an opportunity to promote the revised promise and how this can be evidenced in their everyday practice.
- We are currently in discussion with two representatives from the library service as to how they can support children in care and care leavers in accessing their services, suggestions put forward by the library service has been offering access to free online resources (e.g. e-books, e-newspapers), Practice Driving Theory & Citizenship Tests, online training (i.e. Ciscoe Online I.T. Training).
- In addition to this we are meeting with representatives from the library service who are working on a project called 'The Library Presents' which is funded by Arts Council England which deliver arts events in libraries across Cambridgeshire. As a team they also do commissioned work with target groups and they are looking to facilitate opportunities specifically for children in care or care leavers. The information can be seen at the following link - www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/arts We are meeting with them in early May with colleagues in corporate parenting to explore this further.

2.3 **Participation Service**

Staffing

The participation team currently has a part time manager (Claire Betteridge), two participation workers (Amanda Prior and Stephanie Killick, who has not returned from

maternity leave), a business support assistant (Helen Hooson) and an apprentice leading on Mind of my Own (Hullal Miah).

Mind of My Own

The Mind of My Own Apprentice continues to target practitioners across the service who have registered for a Mind of My Own account but have not used it, offering training and support as a team or on a one to one basis to enhance practitioners understanding in how to use the application to capture the voice of the chid. He has delivered a number of training sessions across the county during April 2019.

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

The table below highlights the statistics for Mind of My Own for the past 12 months – April 2018 – March 2019

Number of YP accounts	84
Number of Worker accounts	363
Number of Express Statements	353
Number of One Statements	397
Top Statements – One	35% Worker Visit
	27% Foster Carer Reviews
	12% Preparation
Top Statements - Express	33% About Me
	22% My Education
	15% My Health

3.0   SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS

None identified

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	

VIRTUAL ACHOOL HEAD TEACHER'S ANNUAL REPORT – MAY 2019

To:	**Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee**
Meeting Date:	**22nd May 2019**
From:	**Claire Hiorns** **Interim Virtual School Head Teacher**
Electoral division(s):	**All**
Purpose:	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 2018). Furthermore it is to evaluate and share the work undertaken by the Virtual School and to set out the key priorities for the academic year 2019-2020.
Recommendation:	The Sub-Committee is asked to note and comment on the Virtual School Teacher's Annual Report, offering support and challenge as necessary.

Officer contact:		*Member contact:*	
Name:	Claire Hiorns	Names:	Councillor Lis Every
Post:	Interim Virtual School Head Teacher	Role:	Chairman, Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee
Email:	Claire.hiorns@cambridgeshire.gov.uk	Email:	Lis.Every@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Tel: 01223 743850	Tel: (office) 01223 706398

Summary:

The Virtual School Head Teacher's annual report is a statutory requirement. The full report is attached, along with two case studies. The report has been written in May 2019 so that it can reflect the validated data which was released in April 2019.

1.   BACKGROUND

1.1   The Virtual School Head Teacher's report for 2019 sets out the work of the Virtual School during the past year against its four identified priorities. A copy is attached at Appendix 1.

2.   MAIN ISSUES

2.1   Details included in the report at Appendix 1.

3.   ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PRIORITIES

3.1   **A good quality of life for everyone**

3.2   **Thriving places for people to live**

3.3   **The best start for Cambridgeshire's children**

4.   SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS

3.1   **Resource Implications**

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

3.3   **Statutory, Legal and Risk Implications**

3.4   **Equality and Diversity Implications**

3.5   **Engagement and Communications Implications**

3.6 **Localism and Local Member Involvement**

3.7 **Public Health Implications**

Source Documents	Location
Cambridgeshire Inspection of Children's Services Report January 2019	https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/44/80445

Cambridgeshire Virtual School Head Teacher's Annual Report

Produced May 2019

1.   Purpose of the report

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 2018). Furthermore it is to evaluate and share the work undertaken by the Virtual School and to set out the key priorities for the academic year 2019-2020.

1.1   Context

Since April 2014, every local authority in England has had to appoint at least one person to fulfil the local authority's statutory duty to promote the educational achievement of its Children in Care (CiC) wherever they live or are educated. This person is called the Head of the Virtual School. Within Cambridgeshire there is a team of education professionals who support the Virtual School Head in fulfilling these responsibilities.

Cambridgeshire Virtual School Team:

Role	Full Time Equivalent
Head of Virtual School	1
Deputy Head of Virtual School	0.8
Teachers	7.2 reducing to 6.0 from September 2019
Post 16 Support	2
Support Staff	3
Education Psychologist (seconded)	0.4 increasing to 0.6 from September 2019
Business Support	25 hours weekly for 41 weeks a year

The Teachers are reducing from September owing to fixed term contracts ending and a reduction in budget.

Cambridgeshire Virtual School support children and young people between the ages of 2 and 18.

The statutory remit of the Virtual School expanded in September 2018 to include information and advice for children previously in care; including those who have been adopted from care, those under special guardianship and child arrangement orders. Cambridgeshire Virtual School are responsible for children previously in care who attend a Cambridgeshire school or education setting.

2.   Role of the Virtual School

The Virtual School should be judged by the degree to which it diminishes the difference between outcomes for children in care and all children locally and that children in care do at

least as well as children in care nationally. The Virtual School strive to achieve this by working in the following ways:

Child Centred Work
- To ensure the voice of the Child / Young Person (CYP) is paramount within the Personal Education Plan (PEP) process
- To monitor the attainment and progress of all CYP in care and provide challenge and support in order to maximise this
- To manage and distribute the pupil premium grant and ensure that it is used effectively by schools and settings in order that CYP in care achieve specific outcomes as detailed in their PEPs
- To advocate on behalf of the CYP where it is felt that the school is not fully meeting individual needs

Education Setting focused work (including Early Years (EY) and post-16 settings)
- To support schools, specifically designated teachers, to carry out statutory duties including completion of the PEP
- To support EY and post-16 settings, specifically designated persons, to carry out statutory duties including completion of the PEP
- To deliver training which addresses particular needs of children in care and children previously in care (collectively referred to as care experienced children and young people)
- To promote aspirational attitudes when setting targets and outcomes for care experienced CYP

Access and Inclusion
- To hold a detailed knowledge of individual schools and settings in order to secure the best provision
- To have knowledge of services within and beyond the Local Authority (LA) in order to access additional support where appropriate
- To support the admissions process in order to minimise the amount of time out of education
- To challenge attendance issues and support interventions to improve outcomes
- To monitor exclusions and any CYP not accessing full time education to challenge and improve outcomes

Key Partners
- To deliver training to social workers, foster carers and other key partners to promote the educational needs of care experienced CYP

- To work in partnership with other key partners, within and beyond the LA, to secure the best possible educational outcomes

3. Cohort characteristics

The data reflects those CYP who have been in care for more than 12 months. The actual Virtual School cohort is fluid, with children entering and exiting care by way of reunification, adoption, Special Guardianship Orders or Child Arrangement Orders, or reaching adulthood throughout the year. The Virtual School work with all children in care (as described in section 2) regardless of the length of time in care; therefore it should be recognised that there will be discrepancies in the data reported and the actual numbers of CYP supported by the Virtual School.

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%

3.1 Placements

Breakdown according to local authority identifying where the child or young person is placed.

PLACEMENT LA FOR CAMBRIDGESHIRE CIC
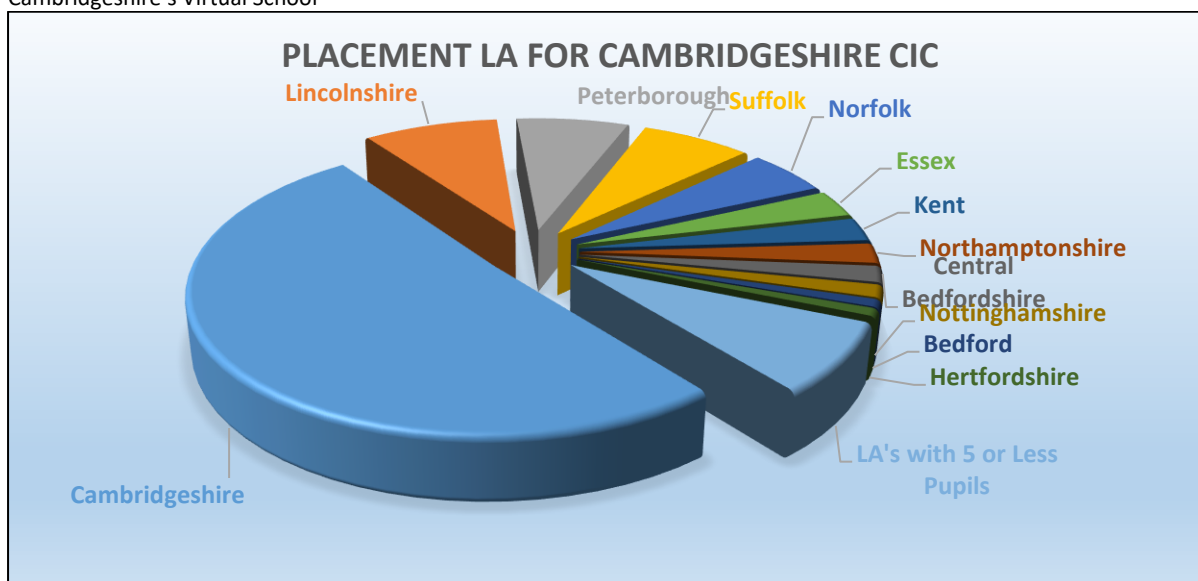
49.2% are placed out of Cambridgeshire, this equates to 347 CYP, of which 155 are not in the East of England. We have a minority of CYP placed outside of England. This increases the complexities in ensuring there is equity of service from the Virtual School. Where it is not possible to offer support face to face, the Virtual School makes use of technology.

3.2 Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

	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%

The percentage of Cambridgeshire CYP in care, reported to have a categorisation of SEN Support is slightly below the figure for national CiC, whereas the percentage of Cambridgeshire Children in Care with 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 the cohort of children in care.

4. Training and development

The Virtual School recognise the importance of training in developing practice and empowering professionals working with care experienced CYP.

The costs of this training are covered by Pupil Premium Grant retention. Training this year has included:

For schools and settings;

Training	Number of settings attended	Number of participants

Designated Teacher (basic)	40 and 3 LA partners	43
Designated Teacher (Enhanced)	26	26
Designated Person Induction - EY	65	78
Post 16 Designated Person	5	5
Attachment Awareness (1)	45	51
Attachment Awareness (2)	33	33
Trauma	17	17
FASD	7 and 9 LA Partners	16
Previously LAC	130	140
Network Meetings	68	70

This totals 479 educators that have attended Virtual School training during the academic year 2017-2018.

The Virtual School have also undertaken bespoke training in 10 schools who requested whole staff development (at a charge).

In addition to schools/settings based training, there has been training for other key stakeholders comprising of;

Training delivered	Number of participants
1. Foster Carers	
Trauma	18
FASD	13
Role of the VS	9
2. LA Partners	
SC, PEP training	134
SC, Admissions and exclusions guidance	86
IRO training team	7
SEND 0-25, VS role and PLAC update	31
3. New Adopters	
Supporting Education	7

5. **Early Years Attainment 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.

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. It is the first year outcomes for this age group have been published, therefore year on year comparisons are not possible.

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%
Cambridgeshire - All Pupils	70%	71%	71%
National - All Pupils	69%	71%	72%

- Cambridgeshire are 5% below the figure for children in care nationally.
- 2 of the children that didn't achieve GLD have an EHCP; one of which attends special education.
- One child missed GLD, as they didn't achieve the Early Learning Goal in one area (writing). This would have increased the percentage of children achieving GLD to 50%, and been slightly above national CiC.
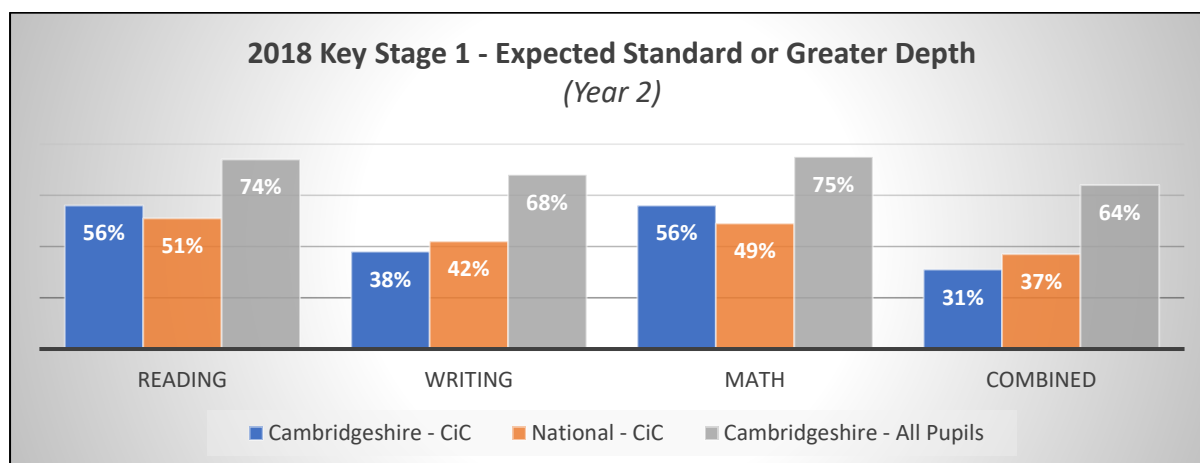
6. Key Stage 1 and 2 Attainment Data

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
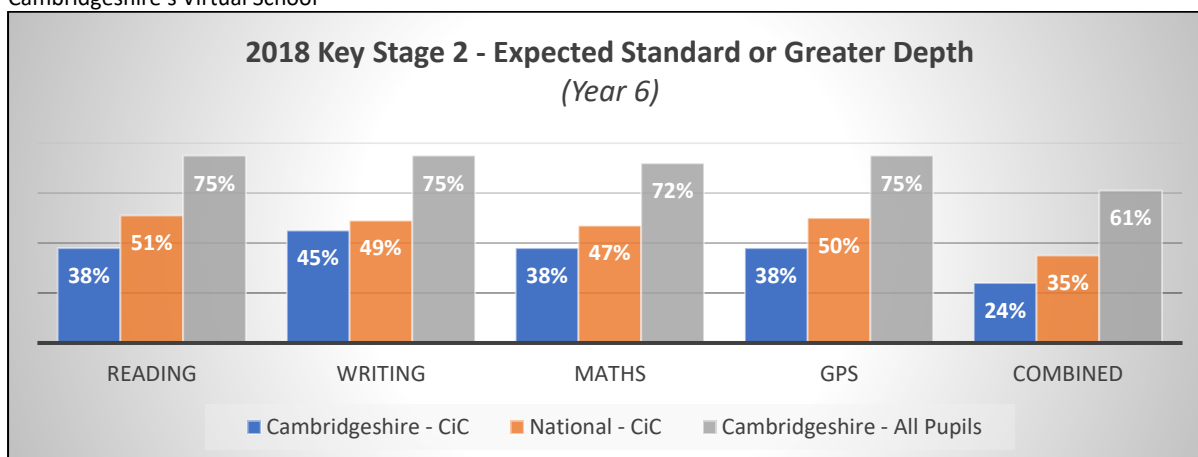
- **Working at expected standard:** at the level expected for their year group
- **Working at greater depth:** working more deeply within the expectations for their year.

6.1 Key Stage 1 Attainment Data

2018 Key Stage 1 - Expected Standard or Greater Depth
(Year 2)

	READING	WRITING	MATH	COMBINED
Cambridgeshire - CiC	56%	38%	56%	31%
National - CiC	51%	42%	49%	37%
Cambridgeshire - All Pupils	74%	68%	75%	64%

- There are 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 CiC level.
- The year on year figures show a positive trend for reading and maths
- Writing is below the figure nationally for children in care, at both the expected standard and at greater depth.

6.2 Key Stage 2 Attainment and Progress Data

2018 Key Stage 2 - Expected Standard or Greater Depth
(Year 6)

	READING	WRITING	MATHS	GPS	COMBINED
Cambridgeshire - CiC	38%	45%	38%	38%	24%
National - CiC	51%	49%	47%	50%	35%
Cambridgeshire - All Pupils	75%	75%	72%	75%	61%

■ Cambridgeshire - CiC ■ National - CiC ■ Cambridgeshire - All Pupils

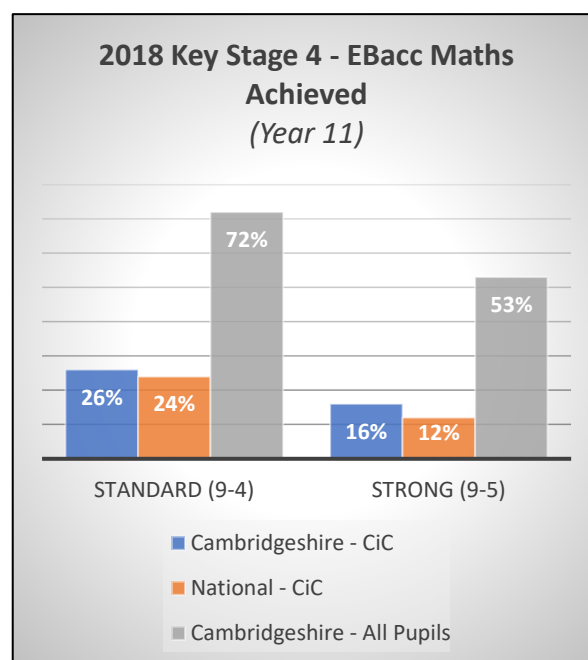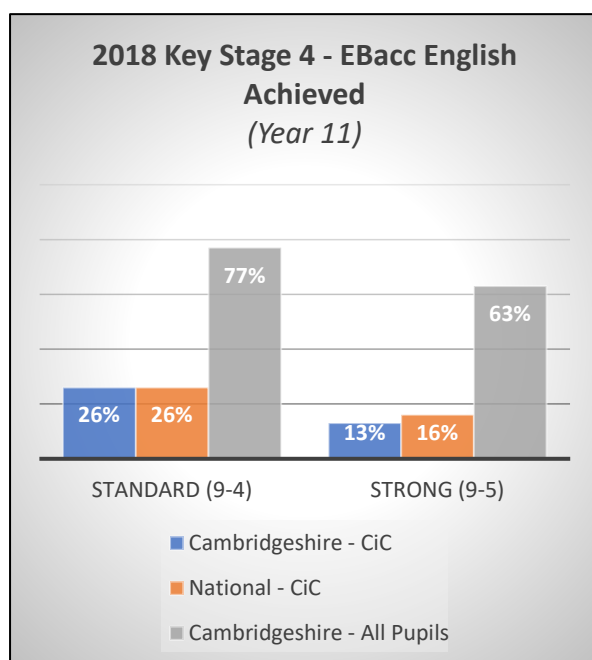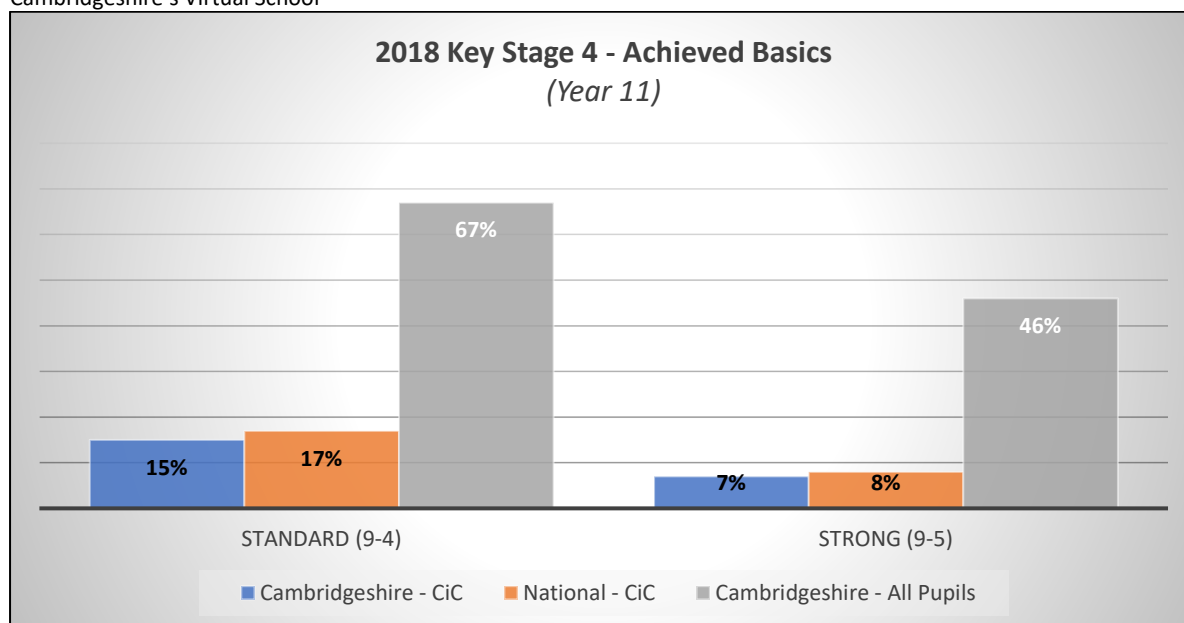| Cambridgeshire Children in Care Progress From Key Stage 1 to Key Stage 2			
	2016	**2017**	**2018**
Reading	0.45	-0.37	-0.17
Writing	0.64	-0.95	0.39
Maths	-1.34	-2.21	-0.97

- There are 29 children in this cohort.
- The Cambridgeshire CiC figures are below national, however the general trend over the last 3 years has been up and the percentage point increase has been better than the Cambridgeshire all pupils figure.
- The Greater Depth figures are encouraging as all except reading are above National CiC percentage
- The comparison of CiC 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 CiC 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.

7. Key Stage 4 Attainment and Progress Data

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.

2018 Key Stage 4 - Achieved Basics
(Year 11)

	STANDARD (9-4)	STRONG (9-5)
Cambridgeshire - CiC	15%	7%
National - CiC	17%	8%
Cambridgeshire - All Pupils	67%	46%

Legend: ■ Cambridgeshire - CiC ■ National - CiC ■ Cambridgeshire - All Pupils

2018 Key Stage 4 - EBacc English Achieved
(Year 11)

	STANDARD (9-4)	STRONG (9-5)
Cambridgeshire - CiC	26%	13%
National - CiC	26%	16%
Cambridgeshire - All Pupils	77%	63%

Legend: ■ Cambridgeshire - CiC ■ National - CiC ■ Cambridgeshire - All Pupils

2018 Key Stage 4 - EBacc Maths Achieved
(Year 11)

	STANDARD (9-4)	STRONG (9-5)
Cambridgeshire - CiC	26%	16%
National - CiC	24%	12%
Cambridgeshire - All Pupils	72%	53%

Legend: ■ Cambridgeshire - CiC ■ National - CiC ■ Cambridgeshire - All Pupils

Attainment 8	Key Stage 4
Cambridgeshire - CiC Cohort	55
Cambridgeshire - CiC	21.9
National - CiC	18.8
Cambridgeshire - All Pupils	*48.2*
National - All Pupils	*46.5*

Progress 8 (Progress from KS 2 to KS4)	Key Stage 4
Cambridgeshire - CiC	55
Cambridgeshire - CiC	-0.71
National - CiC	-1.24
Cambridgeshire - All Pupils	*0.14*
National - All Pupils	*-0.02*

- Cambridgeshire CiC are very close to national CiC figures and are better in some areas such as EBacc Maths, the Attainment 8 and Progress 8, however all figures are low compared with all pupils nationally and those within Cambridgeshire.
- The general trend, where it can be measured, is upward. The Progress 8 measure is very positive with its upward 3 Year trend compared to the national downward trend.
- Many of the Statistical Neighbour figures are suppressed at KS4 due to low numbers but Attainment 8 and Progress 8 have a full range published and Cambridgeshire is ranked 3 and 2 respectively, out of 11.

8. Post 16 Data

All Cambridgeshire CYP continue to have a PEP which is reviewed each term (up to and including their 18th birthday), the Virtual School then continues to offer support as required for the remainder of the academic year.

Historically, compliance from providers has been patchy with many not completing or returning the ePEP document. The Virtual School has therefore reviewed practice in order to ensure a higher completion rate. Visits were made to other post-16 Virtual School teams, the PEP document has been streamlined significantly and a single submission deadline implemented. 62% of Designated Persons and 54% of Social Workers complied with this deadline; outstanding paperwork was then chased up by the team. All post-16 ePEPs were quality assured and a quality assurance document provides exemplification of the red, amber and green.

8.1 NEET / EET

There are currently 93 out of 106 CYP that are in education, employment or training in year 12.

The Virtual School monitor CYP who are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) or at risk of becoming so; relationships have been developed with county NEET and EET managers.

Year 12 NEET (current)

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 12

- NEET - Not yet ready for EET
- NEET - Seeking EET
- NEET - Awaiting start date of EET
- NEET - Teenage mum
- NEET - Working not for reward
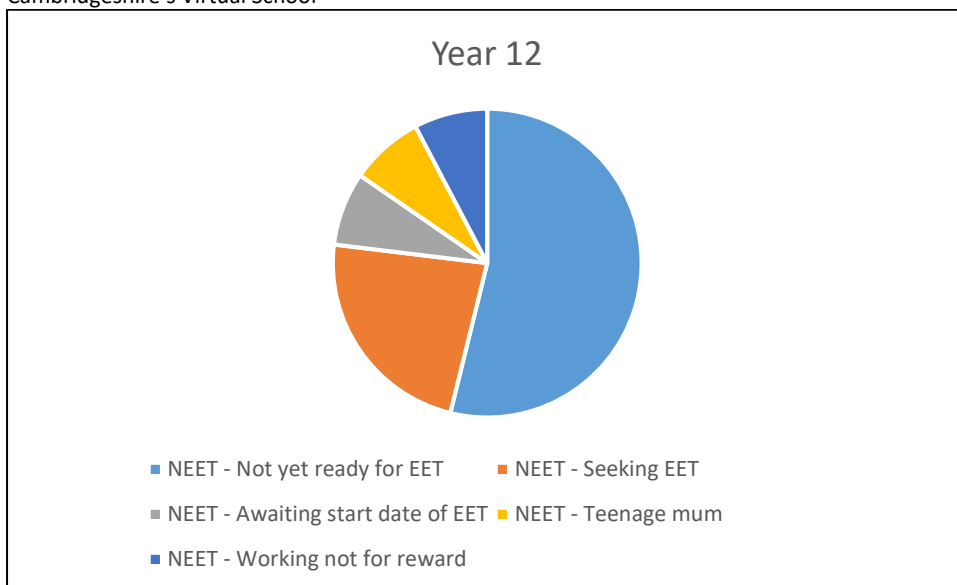
Year 13 NEET (current)

There are currently 75 out of 87 year 13s in education, training or employment.

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

Year 13 NEET

- NEET - Not yet ready for EET
- NEET - Seeking EET
- NEET - Awaiting start date of EET
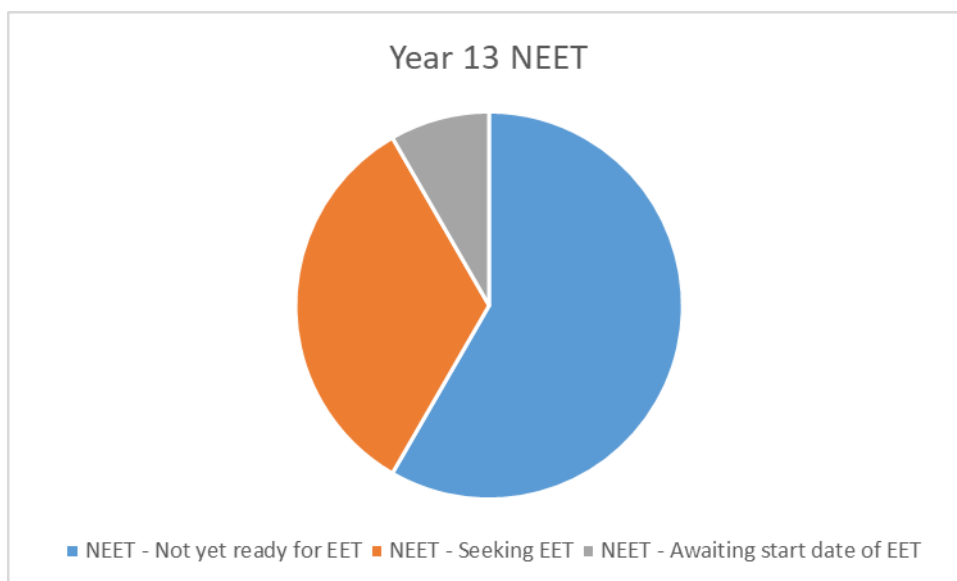
9. Inclusion

9.1 Attendance and Exclusions

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

- Cambridgeshire children in care's attendance data compares favourably to both the national child in care percentage and to all children in Cambridgeshire and nationally.
- Compared to statistical neighbours Cambridgeshire does not rank favourably. Cambridgeshire is ranked 4th/11th for persistent absence out of and 9th/11th for unauthorised absence.
- Cambridgeshire's children in care data for exclusions is slightly better than national CiC figures and is ranked 3rd/11th against statistical neighbours. Cambridgeshire now need to strive towards closing the gap between all children and children in Cambridgeshire's care.

9.2 Alternative Provision

For some children, attendance at a mainstream or special school is not possible or appropriate so they receive an alternative curriculum. This may be due to a variety of reasons such as a sudden change of placement which is too far away from the school where the child is on roll to enable them to continue to attend. The Virtual School is working proactively with social care to ensure that a CYP's ability to continue their current education placement is paramount when care planning. Tuition or other interim arrangements are also put into place as quickly as possible. Currently there are 9 CYP awaiting a school place (8 of these are due to a placement, 1 is as a result of permanent exclusion). There are a further 3 CYP not attending school due to school refusal and one CYP in a tier 4 hospital.

Significant social, emotional and mental health needs, may also impact on a CYP's ability to access full time education. This may necessitate a time-limited reduced timetable; currently there are 5 CYP on a reduced timetable (3 secondary, 2 primary) and 1 of these has an EHCP. In all cases there is a plan in place to move towards a return to full time attendance.

If a CYP is not able to access the education on offer on a full time basis, the CYP's education may be supplemented with additional tuition or other alternative provision. Currently children in care in Cambridgeshire access providers including equine and canine therapy, farm club and 1:1 tuition which focus on developing social and emotional skills as well as maintaining academic progress. Additionally, CYP in Years 10 and 11 may attend college courses for part of a week which increase employability skills and their ability to succeed in an adult environment. Alternative provision within Cambridgeshire provision is quality assured by the Alternative Provisions Manager and for those CYP placed out of county the preference is to use national providers which are therefore included in Cambridgeshire County Council's alternative provision directory.

Currently there are 19 CYP accessing alternative provision

CYP receiving tuition	8
CYP offered but not engaging with tuition	2
CYP awaiting tuition package	2
CYP accessing animal therapy	2
CYP of statutory school age accessing college or training	3

8.3 Quality of Provision

74% of CYP in care, of statutory school are, attend good or outstanding provision (April 2019 data). The schools with no ratings typically are new schools or schools that have converted to an academy, and not yet experienced an inspection. Where a child or young person is in a school that is less than good, the Virtual School consider on a case by case basis, whether the school place should be maintained.

	Number of children	Percentage
Outstanding	66	12.92
Good	310	60.67
Requires Improvement	70	13.70
Inadequate	9	1.76
No Rating	56	10.96
	511	

School Ofsted Rating

- Outstanding
- Good
- Requires Improvement
- Inadequate
- No Rating
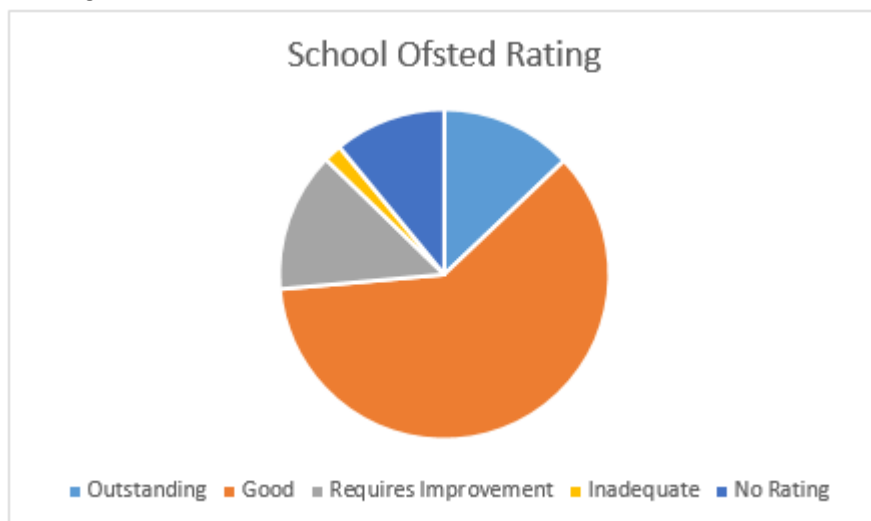
10. Personal Education Plans

A key role of the Virtual School is to ensure that PEPs are of a high quality and result in improved education outcomes.

Developments in the PEP process over the last three years have included:

- Moving to an electronic PEP
- Designated teachers taking on the role of chairing the PEP
- Training for designated teachers on leading the PEP
- Training for social workers on their role within the PEP
- Every PEP is quality assured by the Virtual School

Quality Assurance of the autumn term PEPs		
	Amber	**Green**
Mainstream ePEP	206	314
EY ePEP	14	52
Post-16 ePEP	68	60
SEND ePEP	44	53
TOTAL	152	479

In January 2019, the Cambridgeshire Inspection of Children's Services identified the following issues with PEPS:

'While some of these plans are effective, a significant minority do not meet the needs of children in care well. The quality assurance by the virtual school of these plans is inconsistent, and so weak practice is not always identified or challenged.'

Actions taken / planned to address this are:
- Streamlined the PEP so that the essential details do not get lost in the wider document
- Streamlined the QA process
- Added the ability to rate each section of the PEP
- Assigned the newly seconded Educational Psychologist to lead on the development of training and creation of resources on the creation of SMART targets
- The role of a PEP Champion within the Virtual School
- Introduction of school visits

Further detail on this will be in the development plan 2019 / 2020

11. Pupil Premium Plus Spending and Impact

The total amount of pupil premium plus funding for the year was £1,324,800. This is based on children of school age who has a period of 24 hours or more in the care of Cambridgeshire County Council at £2,300 per child.

Funding	Use	Impact
£817,711	Devolved directly to education settings. The funding was made in three instalments and details of how the funding was used was recorded in the Personal Education Plans.	Examples of impact can be seen through the case studies attached appendix 1
£75786	Tuition for CYP whilst education provision is secured, including online tuition	An example of the impact of work undertaken by a tutor is detailed below: 'I was able to conduct therapeutic conversation while associating together with J due to the extended time I spent with him building trust. He eventually accepted that he needed full time schooling and would have to attend alone and make new friends once there. I agreed to attend on his first day at the new school if he felt this was some assistance to build confidence. J explained how he had he believed become 'labelled as trouble' being one of a locally notorious extended family and felt that he had been pushed into fighting and felt he had no choice. He understood that a new start in a totally

		different locality would provide new opportunities to make a positive impression.' The young person is now accessing full time mainstream provision.
£72719	Funding to Welfare Call for the administration of the PEP and collection of attendance data	This has enabled the statutory duty for all children to have a PEP to be fulfilled. All children of statutory school age have their attendance monitored
£56785	Training, including funding paid to schools to release the DT to attend DT Conference. Section 4 of this report details the number of attendees and range of training offered	100% of attendees rated the training as good or outstanding
£13845	Resources, these have included purchasing books for DTs, laptops / ipads to loan to children	These were purchased at the end of the financial year. Impact is yet to be assessed
£287954	Staff costs	To enable the role of the virtual School to be fulfilled as described in section 2

12. Children Previously in Care

In order to fulfill the statutory requirement, the Virtual School have:

- Responded to individual enquiries from education settings, parents / carers, social workers and other professionals. The type of enquiry has been tracked.
- Worked with key partners to understand the needs. The knowledge gained has been used to produce resources which are responsive to need. These are now available on the website. One of these documents has been used in a national publication.
- Developed and led training on the role of the designated person for children previously in care
- Developed and led training for new adopters on how to support education

Enquiries Requested From	Number of Enquiries
Educational settings	22
Parents / Carers	11
CORAM Cambridgeshire Adoption	6
Other professionals	4

£39,441 was provided to the local authority to fulfil this duty. A further sum is guaranteed for the next year. Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Virtual Schools intend to pool this funding to appoint a person to develop Cambridgeshire and Peterborough's offer further.

13. Priorities for 2018 / 2019

Four priorities were identified to facilitate the overall aim of moving to a new model, whilst continuing to maintain appropriate support and challenge during the academic year. These were:

1. Strengthen the collection of data, use of data analysis to inform strategy and interventions to drive improvement and maximise impact
2. Create a school improvement approach to improving outcomes for children in care and previously looked after children
3. Create a Virtual School Inclusion Team who will take the lead in supporting individuals to access high quality education provision and ensure that the CYP's experience of education is positive, aspirational and meets all needs
4. Realign processes and procedures, to fit with the new model, whilst maintaining compliance with statutory guidance

Actions towards these priorities are included in the development plan and are reviewed half termly. A summary of the key developments towards each priority are:

Priority 1:

- The VS now has validated attainment and progress data on 2017-2018 cohort in a reportable format
- The VS can now pull key reports down from Welfare Call
- The VS is now receiving monthly exclusions data from the local authority
- The VS is now utilising data on OFSTED ratings for schools termly to consider implications for CYP
- The VS now attends Schools Causing Concern meetings
- The VS now has access information collated by The Schools Intervention Service
- The VS know how other Virtual Schools are collecting and using their data
- A data dashboard is under construction
- The VS have prepared a job description and permission to appoint a data person to the team
- The KS3 attainment section of the PEP has been amended
- Within post 16 data is now collected on PEP quality and this information is being used to inform college support

Priority 2:

- The VS have initiated a process map around advisory visits
- The VS have initiated letters / scripts / self-evaluations to support school visits
- The VS understand many of the processes used in Hertfordshire, Suffolk, Peterborough and Norfolk and have created relationships which should be mutually beneficial moving forward
- The VS have shadowed a school visit and have requested further shadowing opportunities of other VS school visits
- The VS have created a VS offer, which is being shared widely
- The VS have met with IROs, senior social care managers, Participation Team, SAT and SEND Managers, EY team, Cllrs, AP lead and EIOs to share the model of the Virtual School and developments within it
- The VS have completed 2 governor briefings and have a further 3 scheduled on the Role of The Virtual School
- The Virtual School has presented to Secondary Head Teachers and has a date scheduled to present to Primary Heads
- The Virtual School Management Board has been re-established
- The VS are attending and contributing effectively to MACE meetings / TARP
- The VS are now part of SEMH review and start and finish task group on mental health
- The VS has hosted a network meeting
- The VS have a PPP policy and guidance drafted

Priority 3:

- The VS and Admissions now have agreement on how we can work together around admissions for CiC
- Discussions have been initiated around the role of Education Inclusion Officers for CiC
- Senior Transitions Advisors and Transitions Advisors working with our CiC
- We have a start and finish task group set up to look at SEND issues, we now have engagement with Statutory Assessment Team and Social Care with this
- The VS have initiated process maps for how to use the data to engage VS Inclusion team's support
- The VS have set up dedicated time from an experienced member of the teaching team to upskill the non-teaching team
- The VS is in the process of appointing a person between Peterborough and Cambs to support children previously in care
- The VS has an EP working with the team two days a week, three days from September

Priority 4:

- The VS have sought views from social workers, independent reviewing officers, carers, designated teachers and children and young people on the PEP
- The VS have streamlined the PEP and aligned the quality assurance process

- The VS have set up systems for finances to enable the spending of the pupil premium plus to be more strategic
- The VS have engaged the finance team on how changes to allocation of PPP would need to be managed
- The VS have added team building activities in to team meetings, to ensure staff wellbeing remains a priority during this period of change
- The VS have increased the number of team meetings and introduced development weeks to ensure changes are carefully considered and the team have ownership of them
- The VS have revised the post 16 PEP and moved to a PEP completion date

The final evaluated plan will be available at the end of the summer term.

14. Priorities for 2019 / 2020

All of the priorities identified below will be detailed in the Virtual School Development Plan 2019 / 2020. The development plan will include key actions and regular review points, in order to measure impact. The progress towards achieving the outcomes will be shared both through the Corporate Parenting Board Sub-Committee and with the Virtual School Management Board.

14.1   Key priorities
- Progress in English and maths across all key stages
- Strengthen the collection of data, use of data analysis to inform strategy and interventions to drive improvement and maximise impact
- Improve the quality of PEPs and the quality assurance of these
- Appoint a person to fulfil the local authorities statutory responsibilities around children previously in care
- Enhance work with young people to identify and make progress towards higher education and career aspirations
- Work productively with key partners to increase access to education

Impact Measures for the Work of the Virtual School

Key Performance Indicators:

Raise attendance	
Reduce exclusions	x
Increased rate of progress	x
Attainment in line with or exceeds age related expectations	x
Increased motivation and participation	x
Improved social, emotional wellbeing / mental health	
Secure appropriate education avoiding drift	

Child's name and date of birth:

Age of C/YP & Year Group	7 years old / year 3	Educational Context	Mainstream		
Care Status	FCO	In county / OOC	OOC	SEND status	SEND Support (accessing HNF)
Pen Portrait (baseline to current)					

Care
- Became LAC aged 4
- Had two in county foster placements both broke down within 5 months of becoming looked after owing to the difficult and dangerous behaviour.
- Moved to a therapeutic residential setting out of county (aged 5 years old).

Attainment
- Recognised as an able child but didn't achieve GLD at the end of FS2.
- Achieved ARE in reading, writing and maths at the end of year 2

Attendance
- Historically, attendance has not been a concern however she had a period of two months out of school when she moved to the residential setting, the setting provided nurture based activities and supported learning in the home during this time.
- Her current attendance figure looks low (75%) as she is accessing two sessions of therapeutic support weekly. School plan around this to minimise impact on her learning. She is responding very positively to the therapy and continues to be working in line with ARE in all subject areas.
- One fixed term exclusion in year 2. Significant resources and support directed to prevent further exclusions.

Educational Provision
- Accessed nurture provision within a mainstream school prior to becoming looked after. Remained at the same school and continued with this provision when she became LAC. Described by school (summer FS2) as variable in her mood, she has displayed very clingy and attention seeking behaviour. She would also object to and avoid contact. She tried to manipulate adult's attention and often refused to complete tasks. She desperately craved affection, however doubted any regard shown as being genuine and consequently tested the boundaries. Wet and soiled frequently. Struggled with transitions, would cling to table legs to avoid having to leave rooms. She accessed a high level of support in class and in the nurture unit. She would become highly anxious when asked to do simple things such as change her shoes. She accessed little learning, owing to her emotional state.
- 1:1 support through year 1
- 1:1 support In year two, accessed nurture provision 5 mornings a week
- Her most recent PEP (Autumn year 3) detailed 'has settled well. She has had access to a safe space in Year 3, which she designed alongside her TA as part of the strong transition programme. She has used it on

occasion but spends the majority of the time engaging with the whole class in the classroom environment where she is supported by her TA. She has formed good relationships with all adults in her class and seems settled. Recently all adults around her have noticed she has more emotional maturity and she is able to behave more appropriately e.g.: When she is sad she will express this by crying and explaining how she feels as opposed to outbursts of anger or frustration seen previously.'

Summary of Support / Challenge involving the Virtual School

- Detailed search of mainstream provision that would understand need and be able to support appropriately, involving the VS in the local area. OFSTED rating good.
- Additional funding by Cambs VS to support transition when moved OOC
- Facilitated discussions between previous school and new school
- Transition meeting attended by SW and VS
- Organised for school to produce photobook and school teddy to be given on first visit and to share topics with residential setting so that they could introduce vocabulary / experiences linked to topics
- Ongoing communication / advice around strategies to support
- Attendance in person or via phone by SW and VS for every PEP
- Every PEP quality assured
- Challenge to the Statutory Assessment Team resulting in a protocol established, enabling Cambridgeshire to fund SEND provision, for Cambridgeshire looked after children, where there is a need and the authority the child resides in uses alternatives to EHCPs as the funding mechanism. On an individual level this secured £9171 for the year to fund 1:1 TA support for the child. She has had two years of this funding.
- Challenge around the use of PPP, once the TA support was funded through SEND provision. School used the funding for attachment and self-harm training, resources for nurture provision / setting up safe space, release time for the class teacher, so that the teacher could work 1:1 with the child for some 'spotlight sessions' and resources to support learning at home
- Supported school in looking at options other than exclusion. On the one occasion where a fixed term exclusion was the only option, supported school to plan around it to promote successful reintegration
- Supported social worker with EHCP parental written submission
- Supported transition from the infant school to the junior school, including championing the idea of the TA working with the child in the infant setting moving up to the junior setting with her.

Impact

Pupil Outcomes

- Achieved ARE across reading, writing and maths at the end of year 2, having not secured GLD at the end of FS2
- Now accessing the mainstream classroom full time and is supported primarily as part of a group, rather than 1:1
- Developing increased emotional literacy and security in relationships (as described above)
- In response to the question 'what do you want to achieve this term?' she stated 'stay how I am – be happy'
- Boxall Profile scores show that she has moved from having a differential from the 'norm' in the developmental strands of 32 in December 2017, to 8 in May 2018. Within the developmental profile, in the same time period, she moved from a difference of 93 from the 'norm', reducing the gap to 53.

Feedback from Professionals

- Feedback from Designated teacher in infant school on the work of Cambridgeshire Virtual School teachers stated 'frequent timely communication /emails. Strong knowledge and very supportive of the school'
- Feedback from the social worker on the role of the Virtual School teacher reads 'she has been able to provide expert advice and support for quite complex cases and has been imperative in advocating for the young people we have worked together alongside her excellent knowledge of the legislation and systems in education and looked after children'

Impact Measures for the Work of the Virtual School

Key Performance Indicators:

Raise attendance	✓
Reduce exclusions	
Increased rate of progress	✓
Attainment in line with or exceeds age related expectations	
Increased motivation and participation	
Improved social, emotional wellbeing / mental health	
Secure appropriate education avoiding drift	✓

Child's name and date of birth:

Age of C/YP & Year Group	9 years old Year 5	Educational Context	Mainstream		
Care Status	FCO	In county / OOC	OOC	SEND status	EHCP

Pen Portrait (baseline to current)

Care
- **Became LAC aged 8 in 2017. Had been living in refuge with mum and two younger siblings; witnessed high level of domestic violence, alcohol and drug misuse.**
- **Had three separate foster placements which all broke down within 3 months of becoming looked after due to highly dangerous and difficult behaviour.**
- **Placed separately from siblings who have since been placed for adoption.**
- **Moved to a residential children's home out of county, initially extreme behaviour continued although has now stabilised.**

Attainment
- **Described by school when first became LAC as bright and intelligent but really hard to engage him in learning. The impact of dangerous and difficult behaviour meant that school did not have accurate attainment data for him.**
- **Had been to 4 other schools prior to becoming LAC.**

Attendance
- **At the time of becoming LAC, attendance was poor and birth mum was being taken to court regarding this.**
- **Current attendance at 97.9% of available sessions, although has been on a reduced timetable for some of this time and therefore also on not in 25 hours sheet.**

Educational Provision
    YEAR 3
- **At time of entering care, was attending mainstream school on a behaviour plan with a history of throwing scissors, glasses and high levels of anxiety. Had 1:1 support and history of leaving school site unattended. No EHCP in place.**
- **Continued in existing mainstream for remainder of this academic year.**
    YEAR 4
- **Following OOC care placement move, no local schools offered a place due to behaviour and limited resources in managing this whilst keeping the child and peers safe. Out of education for approximately 6 weeks.**
- **OOC LA offered part-time in placement in PRU with primary unit as well as additional tuition in the residential home. Recorded on OOC EOTAS list and CCC not in 25 hours sheet.**

- **Expansion of provision to include additional AEP to support emotional and social development and make progress within attainment levels.**
- **EHCP applied for and granted.**
- **OOC SAT supported mainstream school search and planned reintegration through reduced timetable YEAR 5**
- **Settled into school well and difficulties managed with compassion building to full time by mid-November.**

Summary of Support / Challenge involving the Virtual School

- **High level of support in liaison with OOC for initial mainstream school search**
- **Organised for 'goodbyes' and memory book to be shared with him following move to OOC**
- **Liaison with OOC VS and OOC admissions to secure placement in PRU**
- **Chaired telephone transition meeting between previous school, PRU and residential home**
- **Ongoing communication / advice around strategies to support as well as challenge to increase timetable and begin to provide opportunities for socialisation with peers**
- **Additional funding by Cambs VS to increase AP to build towards 25 hour timetable**
- **Attendance by SW and VS for all PEPs either in person or via telephone**
- **Every PEP quality assured**
- **EHCP application made by corporate parent (joint working between social care and VS) following advice for OOC VS about the quickest route. School setting fully involved within the process.**
- **Liaison with Staffs SEND following EHCP to move to mainstream setting**
- **Facilitated transition discussions PRU/AP and new mainstream school**
- **Ongoing liaison with new school to gradually increase time in school, also well supported by residential home**
- **Support to new school re appointment of new TA and skills and stra**
- **Attendance at first PEP early in academic year to share strategies, social care history and support**
- **Request to VSH to write to OOC LA acknowledging the high level of compassion and support offered and how influential the HT and school have been in achieving success for child**

Impact

Pupil Outcomes
- **Attending mainstream school full time with EHCP in place to support SEMH**
- **Pupil voice during time in PRU indicated a strong desire to go to a 'proper school' which has been achieved**
- **Acceleration in academic progress (currently ARE for reading and working within year group expectations for writing and maths)**

Feedback from Professionals
- **Feedback from HT: "_____ is great and doing really well. We are really pleased that next week he will start full time. He is working hard in class and we are seeing daily progress. He is keen to do well. He has lots of gaps in his knowledge but if he carries on the rest of the year like this he will have caught up, which is amazing! (I am obviously not counting my chickens but I am really pleased for him). Thanks everyone for all your support."**
- **Feedback from SW "Thank you for that update. I'm so pleased that he is doing well and will soon be full time! That is a massive achievement for him. Thank you for all your hard work."**

PERFORMANCE REPORT

To:	**Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee**
Meeting Date:	**22 May 2019**
From:	**Aidan O'Reilly** **Permanence Practice Development Manager**
Electoral division(s):	**All**
Purpose:	**To report on the performance of services for Children in Care and Care Leavers - as required in legislation and fulfilling the purpose of monitoring and offering advice.**
Recommendation:	**The sub-committee is asked to review performance for Children in Care and comment on the themes and trends identified in this report.**

Officer contact:		*Member contact:*	
Name:	Aidan O'Reilly	Names:	Councillor Lis Every
Post:	Permanence Practice Development Manager	Role:	Chairman, Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee
Email:	aidan.oreilly@cambridgeshire.gov.uk	Email:	Lis.Every@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
Tel:	01223 518719	Tel:	(office) 01223 706398

Summary:

The data referred to within this report reflects the situation on 31 March 2019.

- The format of the performance dashboard has been reviewed but the data set being reported remains the same.
- As of 31 March 2019, 768 Children in Care are supported by the Council.
- 44% of Children in Care are male, 56% are female.
- 8% have a disability.
- At the end of March 2019, 53% of children (excluding unaccompanied children) are living out of County and of those 39% are living more than 20 miles over Cambridgeshire borders.
- 83% of unaccompanied asylum seeking young people are living out of county.
- The proportion of Children in Care being visited within the statutory timescales is 95% in March 2019 having risen by 6% since the last reported data (January 2019).
- The number of Children in Care reported as going missing has been as follows; 20 in February 2019 and 27 in March 2019.
- There were 12 children adopted in this two month period (there were 30 adoptions completed in the previous 10 months). This means a total of 42 children have been adopted in 2018-2019 reporting year.

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 This report provides the Sub-Committee with an overview of performance of services for Children in Care and Care Leavers for February and March 2019. The full performance report can be found in Appendix A.

2. MAIN ISSUES

2.1 As noted in the performance dashboard (Appendix A) there have been ongoing difficulties with securing the required data in regards to the percentage of Initial Health Assessments (IHA) that have been completed in timescale. This has resulted in incomplete data for February 2019 and no data as yet being available for March 2019. There is ongoing joint agency work to resolve this issue and to agree and implement an effective mechanism for reporting.

2.2 Adoption Activity: There were 12 children being adopted in February and March 2019. This is more than usual for any two month period and was affected by a large number of children (eight) being adopted in February 2019. No children who were adopted in these two months were waiting for

more than 14 months to be adopted.

2.3   The percentage of children who have been visited within statutory timescales has risen month on month since November 2018. Currently we are reporting 94.6% which is just below the agreed target of 95%. This aligns with services stabilising after structural change and it is anticipated that this improvement will be sustained.

2.4   The Customer Care Service was asked to report to the Sub-Committee on complaints received in 2018 to 2019 relating to Children in Care and Care Leavers prior to the Children's Services Annual Feedback Report 2018/19 being submitted to the Children and Young People Committee in July 2019. An overview of activity is as follows:

Out of 238 initial statutory complaints received in respect of Children's Services as a whole in 2018-19, 82 related to Children in Care, Adoption or Care Leavers, which represents 34% of all initial statutory complaints received.

Who complained?
33 complaints from parents (including 4 adoptive parents)
17 complaints from young people (12 with the support of advocates)
28 complaints from extended relatives
4 complaints from foster carers

What issues were the complaints about?
27 complaints related to communication difficulties
20 complaints related to worker behaviour
6 complaints related to assessments/reports
5 complaints related to safeguarding concerns
24 complaints related to a variety of other issues (for example payments, policy and turnover of staff)

Outcome of investigation
17 No Further Action or outside of remit
1 not determined
17 not upheld
38 partially upheld
9 Upheld

3.   **ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PRIORITIES**

Evaluation of proposals being made

3.1   **A good quality of life for everyone**

n/a – no proposals being made

3.2   **Thriving places for people to live**

n/a – no proposals being made

3.3 The best start for Cambridgeshire's children

n/a – no proposals being made

4. SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS

3.1 Resource Implications

n/a

3.2 Procurement/Contractual/Council Contract Procedure Rules Implications

n/a

3.3 Statutory, Legal and Risk Implications

n/a

3.4 Equality and Diversity Implications

n/a

3.5 Engagement and Communications Implications
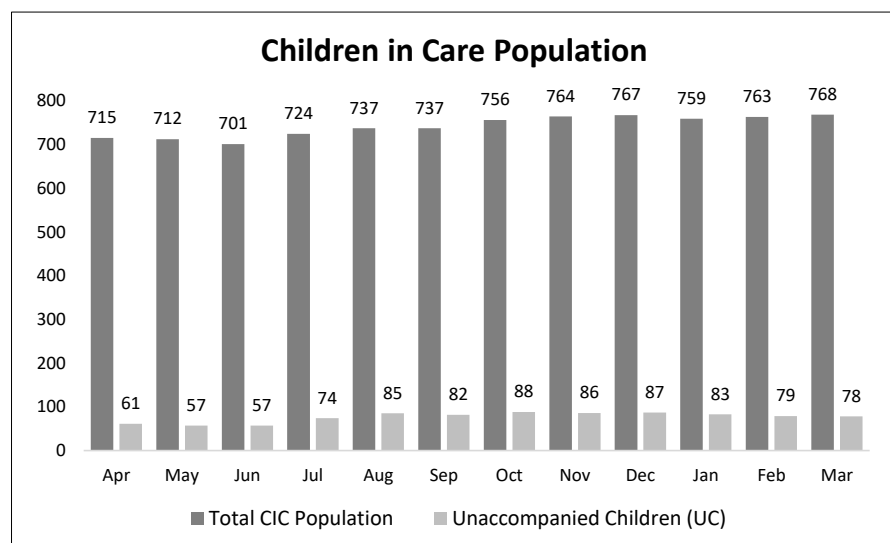
n/a

3.6 Localism and Local Member Involvement

n/a

3.7 Public Health Implications

n/a

Source Documents	Location
None	

Children in Care - Population

Children in Care	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Average
Total CIC Population	715	712	701	724	737	737	756	764	767	759	763	768	**742**
Non-Unaccompanied Children	654	655	644	650	652	655	668	678	680	676	684	690	**666**
Unaccompanied Children (UC)	61	57	57	74	85	82	88	86	87	83	79	78	**76**
Unaccompanied Children %	8.5%	8.0%	8.1%	10.2%	11.5%	11.1%	11.6%	11.3%	11.3%	10.9%	10.4%	10.2%	**10.3%**
Rate per 10,000	53.2	53.0	52.2	53.9	54.9	54.9	56.3	56.8	57.0	56.4	56.7	57.1	**55.2**

Children in Care Population

Total CIC Population: Apr 715, May 712, Jun 701, Jul 724, Aug 737, Sep 737, Oct 756, Nov 764, Dec 767, Jan 759, Feb 763, Mar 768

Unaccompanied Children (UC): Apr 61, May 57, Jun 57, Jul 74, Aug 85, Sep 82, Oct 88, Nov 86, Dec 87, Jan 83, Feb 79, Mar 78

Commentary:

There has been a smaller increase in the number of Children in Care since the last report to the Corporate Parenting Sub Committee. The last 4 months show less change in the overall figure unlike earlier in the year (July and August, Oct and Nov) which showed a steadily increasing number of Children in Care. This trend is also reflected in our unaccompanied children cohort since August 2018, the number of which has decreased over the last 4 months.

Notes on data and definitions:
 - The 'CIC population figure' measures the number of children who are in the care of the local authority at the end of each month.
- A 'UC' is an Unaccompanied Child. A contribution of accommodating UCs is met by the Government.
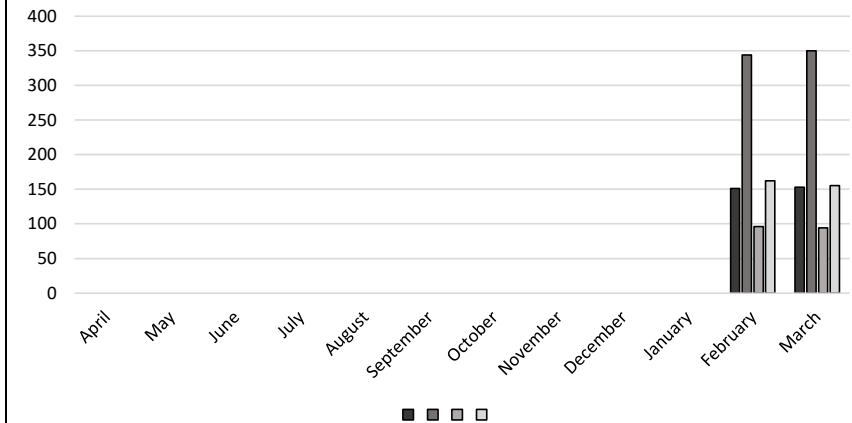
CIC - Age and Gender

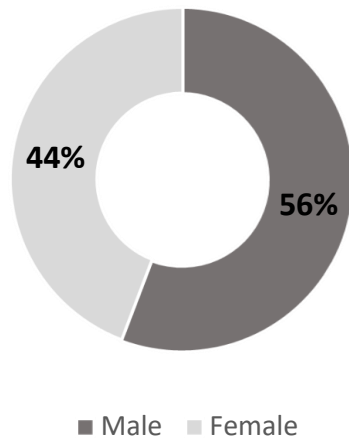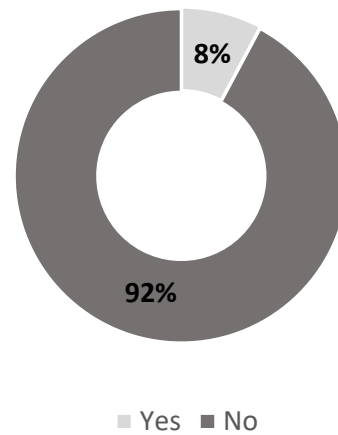Legend: ■ Male □ Female
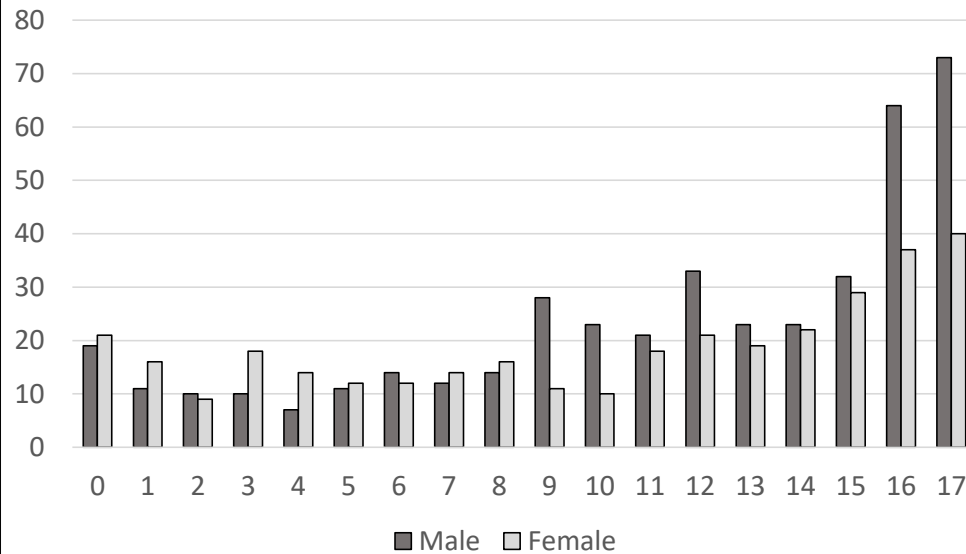
Legal Status

20.2% of children (155) subject to S20 (voluntary accommodation)
19.9% of children (153) subject to an Interim Care Order
45.6% of children (350) subject to a full Care Order
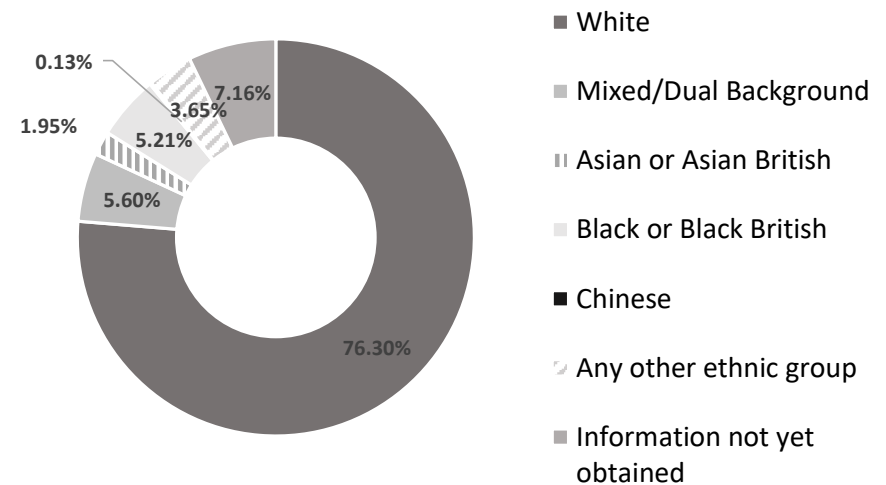**12.2% of children (94) subject to a Placement order**

Gender

44% 56%

■ Male ■ Female

Disability

8% 92%

■ Yes ■ No

Ethnicity

0.13% 7.16%
1.95% 3.65%
5.21%
5.60%
76.30%

- ■ White
- ■ Mixed/Dual Background
- ‖ Asian or Asian British
- Black or Black British
- ■ Chinese
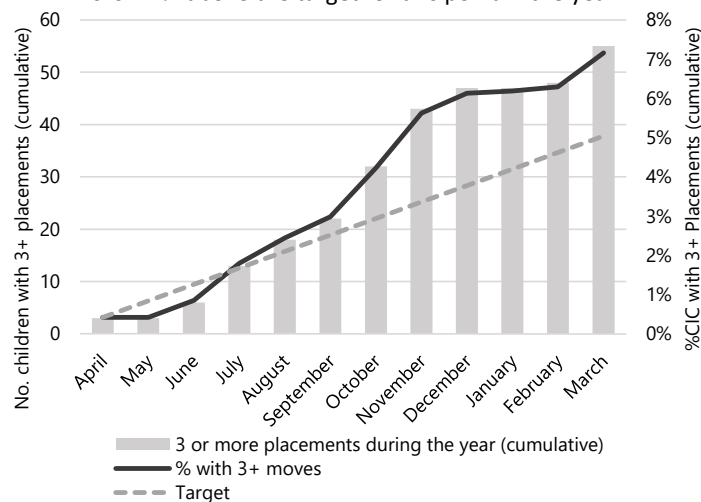- ▨ Any other ethnic group
- ■ Information not yet obtained

Children in Care - Placements

3+ Placments

55 children have had 3+ placements this year (7.2%).
This is 2.1% above the target for this point in the year.

Legend:
- 3 or more placements during the year (cumulative)
- % with 3+ moves
- Target

CIC Placed Out of County

In March 53.2% of children in care (excluding Unaccompanied Children) were placed out of county. 83.3% of Unnacompanied children were placed out of county.
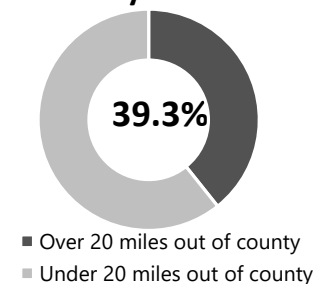

Legend:
- CIC (ex. UC) Placed out of county
- UC Placed out of county
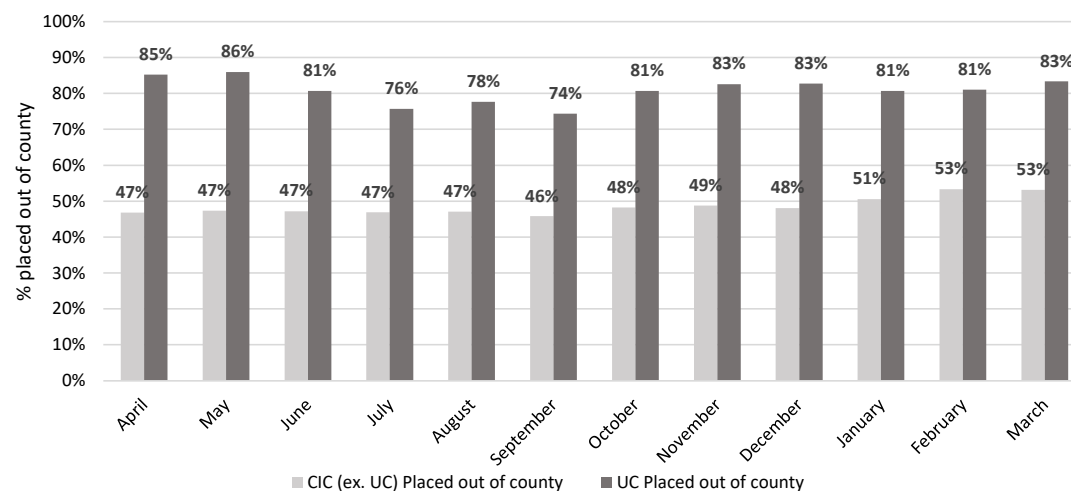
Commentary:

53% of the Children in Care, excluding unaccompanied children, are living in County whereas 83% of the unaccompanied cohort are living out of County. This high proportion is due in part to the lack of available suitable accommodation in Cambridgeshire but also other areas offer the opportunity for cultural and religious needs to be met. 7% of Cambridgeshire's Children in Care have experienced 3 or more changes in placement and of these 75% are assessed as now living in stable and settled care arrangements.

CIC (exc. UC) Placed out of County

53.4%

Legend:
- Out of County
- In County
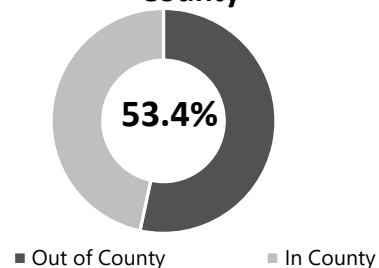
CIC (ex. UC) Placed out of County 20+ miles

39.3%

Legend:
- Over 20 miles out of county
- Under 20 miles out of county

Notes on data and definitions:
- 'Children in Care placed in county' - Children who have been placed into care within the Cambridgeshire area.
- 'Children in Care placed out of county' measures the number of children we are responsible for, who are placed into care outside of the Cambridgeshire area.
- We also measure those who have been placed into care outside Cambridgeshire, who are 20 miles or more from the home they lived in before they entered care.
- We count separately the number of unaccompanied Children who are placed into care outside Cambridgeshire.
- '3+ placements' is a count of the number of 3 or more placement changes a child in care has had since the start of April (for the current financial year) to fall in line with statutory reporting. This is measured cumulatively. We measure the number of placement changes to understand a child's placement stability whilst in care.

Children in Care - Placement Types at Month End

At the end of March there were the following number of placements of these types:

In House Fostering	32.6% of CIC cohort (250 children)
Agency Fostering	39.8% of CIC cohort (306 children)
Secure Accommodation*	0.5% of CIC cohort (4 children)
Adoptive Placement	4.4% of CIC cohort (34 children)

Fostering, Secure Accomodation, Adoptive Placements by % of total CIC cohort at month end

Legend: In House Fostering, Agency Fostering, Secure Accommodation, Adoptive Placement
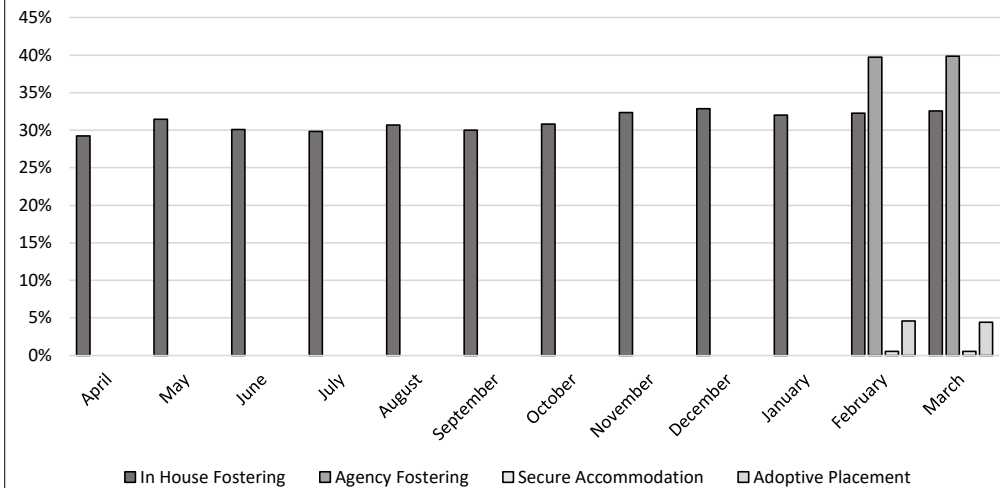
Commentary:
10% of children are placed in children's homes. Some children will have disabilities and will require specially adapted settings to meet their needs. 72.4% of all children live with foster carers, this has risen by 3% since the last report to Sub- Committee.
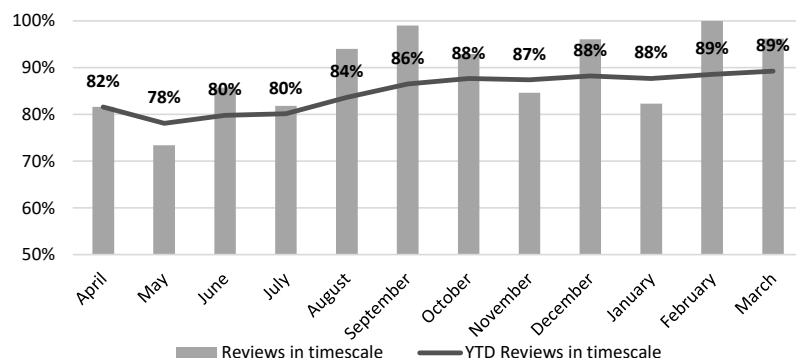
Notes on data and definitions:

*Secure accomodation includes children placed in secure children's homes and young offender's institutions
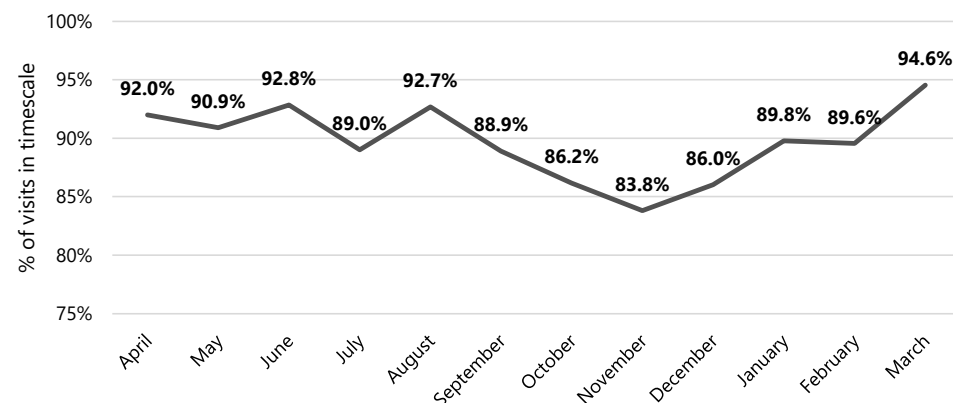
Children in Care Reviews

In March there were 105 reviews completed. 101 of these were in timescale. (96.2%). So far this year 89.3% of all reviews due were in timescale.
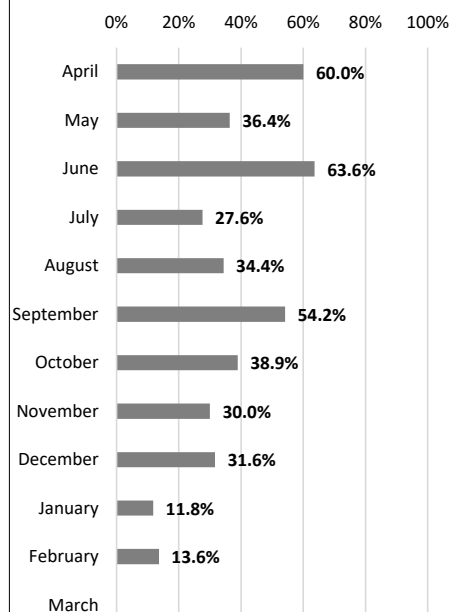

Legend: Reviews in timescale — YTD Reviews in timescale

Bar values: April 82%, May 78%, June 80%, July 80%, August 84%, September 86%, October 88%, November 87%, December 88%, January 88%, February 89%, March 89%

Children in Care Visits

In March there were 514 visits completed. 486 of these were in timescale (94.6%).

Y-axis: % of visits in timescale

Values: April 92.0%, May 90.9%, June 92.8%, July 89.0%, August 92.7%, September 88.9%, October 86.2%, November 83.8%, December 86.0%, January 89.8%, February 89.6%, March 94.6%

Initial Health Assessments completed in timescale

Month	%
April	60.0%
May	36.4%
June	63.6%
July	27.6%
August	34.4%
September	54.2%
October	38.9%
November	30.0%
December	31.6%
January	11.8%
February	13.6%
March	

For CIC who have been in care 12

Annual Health Assessment completed in last 12 months

84.2%

■ In timescale ■ Not in timescale
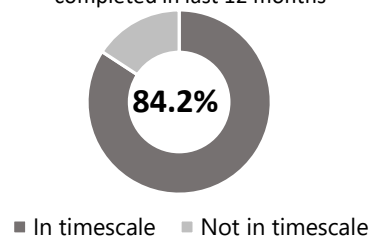
Dental Check completed in last 12 months

52.2%

■ In timescale ■ Not in timescale
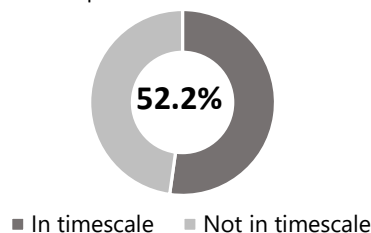
Commentary:

March 2019 saw the highest proportion of our Children in Care being visited in timescale and in accordance with their care plan. The reduction of children visited as noted in November 2018 was linked to structural changes within the service. The positive trend shown in December and January has continued as anticipated.

In February 2019 all Children in Care reviews were within statutory timescales. In March 2019 this dropped to 95%.

Performance around children becoming looked after undergoing a health assessment within 20 days rose marginally in February 2019. No data is yet available for March 2019. In light of the ongoing challenges, a multi-agency workshop co facilitated with health colleagues was held to review resources and business processes in order to increase the opportunity for our children to access timely health assessments and also the reporting on this data set.

Notes on data and definitions:

- **CIC Reviews**: The number of children with a review in timescale are those who were due a review in month but that review did not take place in timescale. We also record the cumulative late reviews throughout the year as well as the % of reviews in timescale each month.

- **CIC Visits**: The number of children not seen in timescale are those who were due a visit in the reporting month, but were not seen in timescale.

- An **Initial Health Assessments** (IHA) for all children must take place within 20 working days of them becoming looked after. The NHS provide data regarding the date of each child's IHA, and the timescale of this assessment is calculated.

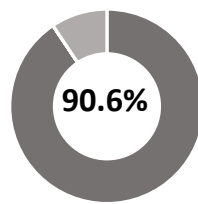## Children in Care - Education and Care Leavers

Care Leavers

In March there were 32 Care Leavers whose 17th - 21st birthday was in month. Out of these:
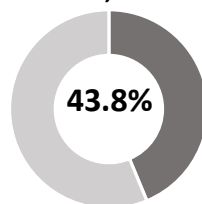
In suitable accomodation

100.0%
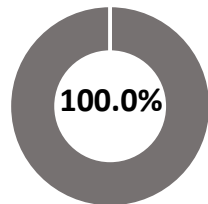
- In suitable accommodation
- Not in suitable accommodation

In Touch

90.6%

- In touch
- Not in touch
- RHOM
- NREQ

In Employment, education, or training

43.8%

- EET
- NEET

Commentary:
The data relating to Care Leavers is presented in the same way all Local Authorities are required to report into the Department for Education.
In both February and March 2019 Care Leaver numbers were higher than average. This is due to a number of unaccompanied Children in Care turning 18 years old with the 1st January being recorded as their birth date when their actual birth date is unknown.
There are approximately 275 care leavers within the Corporate Parenting service in total.

Notes on data and definitions:
- **Care Leaver Cohor**t: the Care Leavers whose 17th, 18th 19th, 20th and 21st birthdays fell within the reporting month.
- **Suitable Accommodation**: Whether accommodation is deemed 'suitable' is judged on an individual case. The Department for Education judge the following accommodation types as suitable ('Parents or relatives', 'Community home or other form of residential care', 'Semi-independent', 'transitional accommodation', 'Supported lodgings', 'Ordinary lodgings' without formal support, 'Foyers and similar supported accommodation', and 'Independent living').
- **In Touch**: There should be "contact" between the authority and the young person around 3 months before and one month after the Care Leaver's birthday. This is designed to monitor the situation of young people when they have left care, rather than their situation immediately before they left care.

Children in Care (post-16)

In Employment, education, or training

80.8%
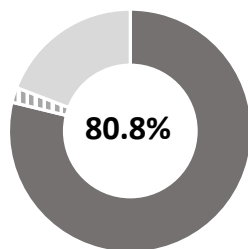
- In Learning
- In Employment
- NEET

Commentary:

The Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) figures for both Children in Care Post 16 and Care Leavers have increased slightly. Unfortunately it can be difficult to find alternative opportunities for our care leavers until September, due to being in the summer term and also depending on where they live.
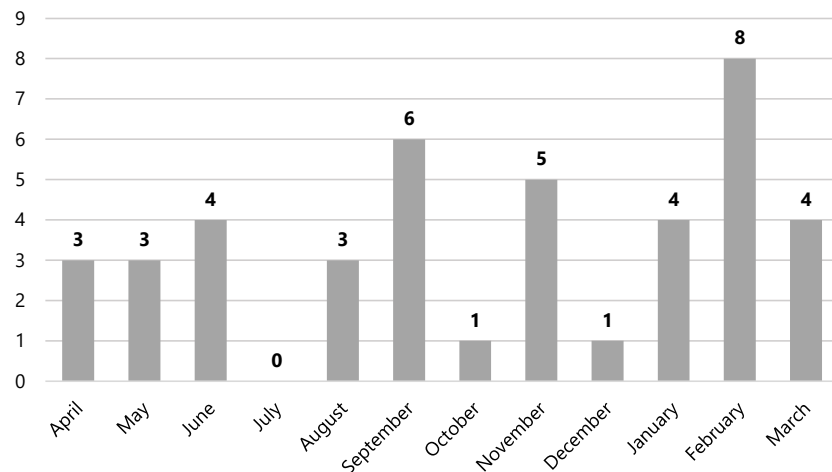
Notes on data and definitions:
- Measures of the percentage of children Post 16 who are in Learning, In Employment or NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training)
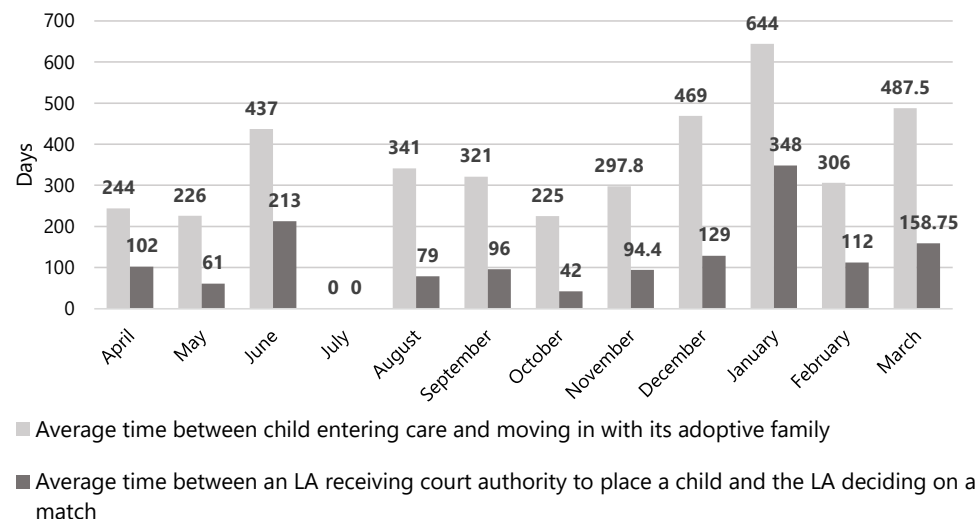
Children in Care - Adoption

Adoptions in Month

In March there were 4 children adopted (16.0% of CLA).

Month	Adoptions
April	3
May	3
June	4
July	0
August	3
September	6
October	1
November	5
December	1
January	4
February	8
March	4

Adoption Timescales

In March 100.0% of the children adopted waited less than 14 months between entering care and moving in with their adoptive family.

Month	Average time between child entering care and moving in with its adoptive family	Average time between an LA receiving court authority to place a child and the LA deciding on a match
April	244	102
May	226	61
June	437	213
July	0	0
August	341	79
September	321	96
October	225	42
November	297.8	94.4
December	469	129
January	644	348
February	306	112
March	487.5	158.75

(Days)

■ Average time between child entering care and moving in with its adoptive family

■ Average time between an LA receiving court authority to place a child and the LA deciding on a match

Commentary:
Every child adopted in February and March 2019 were adopted in less than 14 months. In February and March 2019, a total of 12 children were adopted.   By the end of the reporting year, at 31st March 2019, 42 children have been adopted throughout the year. From our overall cohort of Children in Care, 16% of children ceased care status due to

Children in Care - Missing

CiC - Missing	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Average
Number of CIC missing incidents	34	59	51	45	72	58	57	59	48	56	52	69	**53.7**
Number of CIC missing children	18	28	26	29	32	32	32	33	22	26	20	27	**27.1**

Missing incidents and missing children
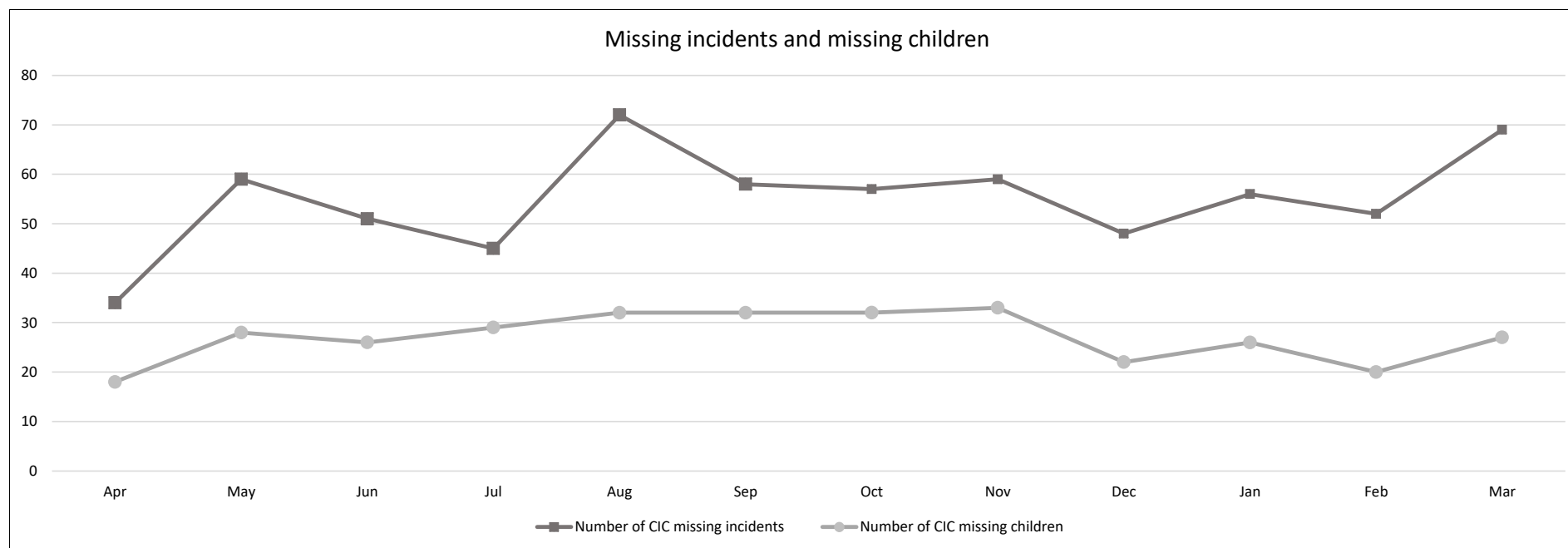
Commentary:

The total number of missing children and missing incidents has increased over the course of this reporting year. There is a multi-agency network around missing children who work hard together to identify and support this extremely vulnerable cohort and it is likely that better reporting has, in part, influenced this increase as well as other socio economic factors. There was a significant rise in the number of missing episodes and the actual number of children involved in March 2019 as compared to February. As a consequence, an escalation in safeguarding activity involving joint working with police is taking place.

Notes on data and definitions:

- Each episode of a child going missing is recorded as a missing incident.
- A child who goes missing during the month will be recorded as a missing child only once, but if they go missing multiple times then they generate more than one missing incident during the month.
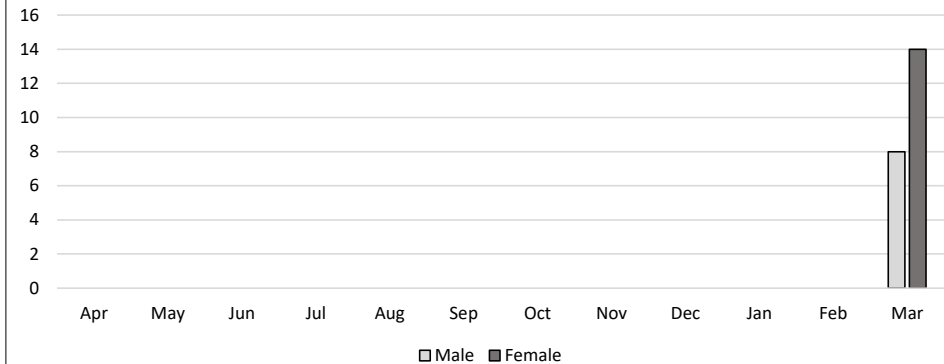
Child Sexual Exploitation

In March there were 22 CIC who were identified as at mild/emerging or moderate risk of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE).
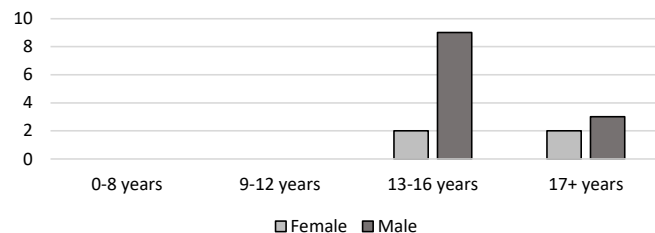
CIC CSE by Age & Gender

Female / Male

Child Sexual Eploitation - CIC by gender
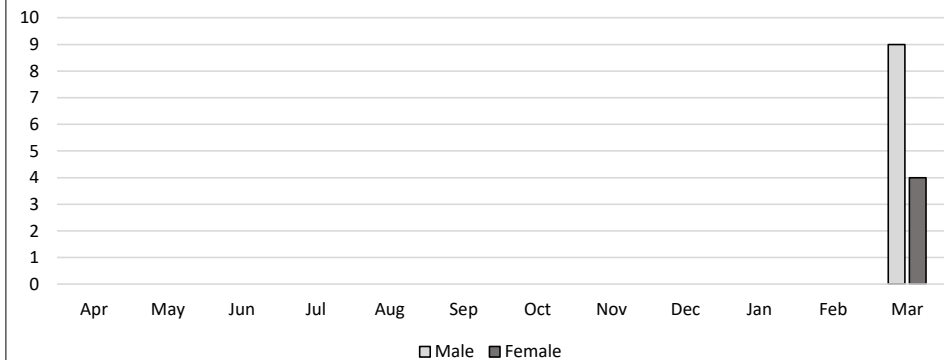

Male / Female
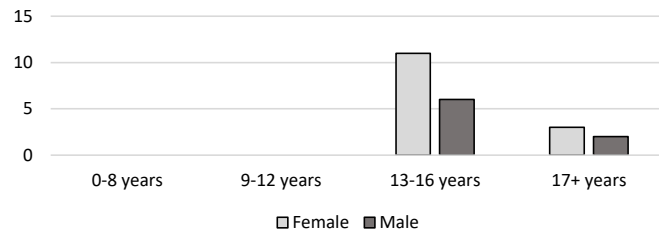
Gang Exploitation

In March there were 13 CIC who were identified as at mild/emerging, moderate & significant risk of gang exploitation.

CIC Gang exploitation by Age & Gender

Female / Male

Gang Exploitation - CIC by gender

Male / Female

Commentary:

The mechanism for collecting this data was changed in February 2019, hence the lack of previous data. Prior to this date we had not been identifying CIC as a subgroup. This information closely correlates with missing information and links to the ongoing safeguarding response.

Notes on data and definitions:

- As part of a child's assessment, practitioners assess a child or young person's level of risk of child sexual exploitation (CSE). CSE is defined as children under 18 in exploitative situations, contexts or relationships where they receive 'something' (e.g. food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, affection, gifts, money) as a result of them performing, and/or another or others performing on them, sexual activities.

- As part of a child's assessment, practitioners assess a child or young person's level of risk of gang exploitation. The definition of being at risk of gang-related exploitation is - 'There are tangible indicators/evidence that suggests risks that a young person is being groomed and/or coerced into moving or selling drugs and being involved in other violence related gang activity, e.g. missing episodes with limited information on whereabouts and/or involvement with groups involved in the supply of drugs and carrying of weapons'.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL FOSTERING SERVICE ANNUAL REPORT 2018/19

To:	**Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee**
Meeting Date:	**22nd May 2019**
From:	**John Heron, Consultant Lead Manager – Fostering**
Electoral division(s):	**All**
Purpose:	**To provide the Sub-Committee with an overview of the work of the Fostering Service during 2018/19.**
Recommendation:	**The Sub-Committee is invited to review and comment on the report.**

Officer contact:		*Member contact:*	
Name:	John Heron	**Names:**	Councillor Lis Every
Post:	Consultant Lead Manager - Fostering	**Role:**	Chairman, Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee
Email:	John.heron@cambridgeshire.gov.uk	**Email:**	Lis.Every@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
Tel:	01223 743857	**Tel:**	(office) 01223 706398

Summary:

The Fostering Service Annual report for 2018-19 looks back over the last 12 months and reports on the main things that have been happening. It also looks ahead to 2019/20 and the priority areas for the Fostering Service.

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 The Fostering Service Annual Report 2018/19 is attached at Appendix 1.

2. MAIN ISSUES

2.1 Detail of the report. Use sub-headings if necessary.

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**

The Annual Report sets out the work being done by the Fostering Service in support of this objective.

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 Annual Report sets out the work being done by the Fostering Service in support of this objective.

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	

CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

FOSTERING SERVICE ANNUAL REPORT 2018 – 2019

JOHN HERON - CONSULTANT LEAD FOSTERING MANAGER

Background

The Fostering Services Regulations 2011 require that the Fostering Services provides written reports on the management, outcomes and financial state of the fostering service. This report provides an overview of activity from the last financial year, April 2018 to March 2019, and the plans from the service for the forthcoming year (April 2019 to March 2020).

1. Executive Summary

Since the last annual report the fostering service has been through a significant reorganisation. The service has reduced the number of teams in order to improve communication and streamlined processes. This has also enabled the service to strengthen management arrangements and oversight by creating an additional Service Manager post.

The Fostering Service has also developed a Service Development Plan which will ensure service delivery is monitored and continually improving.

In December 2018 the Fostering Service was audited by Partnerships and Quality Assurance. The recommendations and learning points from this audit were included in the Service Development Plan and actions addressed.

The Fostering Service was also inspected by Ofsted in January 2019 as part of the ILAC inspection of Cambridgeshire's Children's Services and the service received positive feedback.

Early in 2018 the Fostering Service, in conjunction with PS.Media and Corporate Communications updated Cambridgeshire's fostering brand and devised a recruitment plan to attract new foster carers. This culminated in the launch of a major new recruitment campaign in September 2018.

In this reporting period, the Fostering Recruitment and Assessment Team (FRAT) recruited 24 new fostering households. This included 20 mainstream fostering households, 2 new Link carers, and 2 new Supported Lodging families. Eight of the 20 mainstream families were Independent Fostering Agency (IFA) carers who transferred into Cambridgeshire County Council. In addition, the Connected Person's Team assessed 11 new Connected Persons Foster Carers bringing the total of new foster carers for Cambridgeshire to 35.

As at 31 March 2019 there are a further 25 new assessments in progress. This work will carry over into 2019/20.

In this reporting period, 9 foster families resigned from fostering leaving an overall net gain of 15 households (26 including Connected Persons). No Foster Carers transferred to an IFA from Cambridgeshire.

On 31 March 2019 there were 241 children and young people looked after in mainstream fostering beds compared to 225 children on the 31st of March 2018. This represents an increase of 16 children (7%) in the last year.

There was a total of 42 SGO orders made in 2018/19 which is a decrease of 25 children from the previous year.

The number of Connected Person's Carers being granted temporary approval under Regulation 24 has remained consistent with the previous year. 26 households (32 children) were made subject to Regulation 24. Eleven households became fully approved under Regulation 27.

There are 15 active Link carers, 7 of which are retained carers and 8 are traditional Link Care. There are 33 established placements and 9 children in introductions.

The Support offer to Cambridgeshire Foster Carers has improved been with the establishment of the Foster Carers Association.

2. Fostering Service Restructure.

The fostering service has recently undergone a significant restructure alongside Cambridgeshire's wider Social Care Service. The Fostering service now sits with Cambridgeshire's Corporate Parenting Service working closely with colleagues within the Children in Care teams, the Rehabilitation and Placement Support (RAPS) Service and the Contact Service.

The restructure took place in November 2018 with the service bringing together its core functions to reduce from six teams to four with the aim of delivering a more focussed, child centred and efficient service to Cambridgeshire's Children in Care.

The service recruited two (new) Service Managers to strengthen management capacity and to oversee the delivery of the service and the range of functions within fostering.

Steve Crossman is the Service Manager responsible for the Connected Persons Team which includes; Connected Persons/Kinship Assessment of family members and/or members of the child's wider network to provide care and support within their own home and family unit. This also includes assessment of individual/s wishing to offer placements as part of a Special Guardianship Order (SGO).

Steve also oversees the Fostering Support Team who support, supervise and develop foster carers, carry out annual reviews and support training and development in line with the Fostering Regulations 2011 and National Minimum Standards 2011

Despina Kaoura is the Service Manager responsible for the Fostering Recruitment & Assessment Team, the Family Finding/Matching Function of the service and also responsible for the Specialist Fostering Team which includes the LINK service (Short Breaks for Disabled Children), Supported Lodgings and Private Fostering.

FRAT/Family Finding	Specialist Fostering Team	Fostering Support Team	Connected Persons/SGO Team
• Marketing/Recruitment activity • Retention activity/Events • Foster Carer Support groups • Enquiries • Initial Visits • Form F Assessments • Approvals • Foster Carer Training • Family Finding & Matching for permanence	• Recruitment of Link and Supported Lodgings Carers • Supervision/ support/ development of Link and Supported Lodgings Carers. • Coordinate Link Placements • Annual Reviews • Contribute to training of carers • Assess and coordinate Private Fostering Arrangements	• Foster Carer Supervision & Support • Foster Carer Training & Development • Support Groups • Foster Carer Annual reviews • Fostering Duty • Kinship Carer Support • Long term Matching with in-house carers	• Kinship Care Assessments • SGO Assessments • CAO Assessments • SPA Assessments • SGO Support

The fostering service aims to provide a high quality responsive child-centred service in relation to its core functions and to recruit new foster carers from within our diverse community. We prepare applicants through training to be able to deal with the range of issues that foster carers face when looking after children.

The service assesses foster carer applicants i.e. Mainstream Foster Carers, Connected Persons Carers, LINK Carers, Supported Lodgings Carers and those who offer Private Fostering. The service undertakes comprehensive assessments and checks to ensure that prospective carers are suitable and able to carry out their role. We supervise, support and develop carer's skills and knowledge in order that they promote and achieve the highest standards of care, safeguarding and outcomes for children in care.

The types of Foster Care offered includes;

Short Term/Time Limited:
Time limited placements across all skills Levels. However, level 6 carers would be expected to undertake assessments on children and young people in their care or undertake specified tasks.

Long Term:
Planned, permanent placements across Skills levels. Level 6 carers would be expected to provide permanent placements for children with significantly complex needs or challenging behaviours.
Respite:
Planned, child needs led support for placements and agreed support for carers across skills levels.
Support Care:

Part of a package of support (including day care and child minding) where carers provide planned time limited support to maintain children with their current foster placements and to prevent placement breakdown.

Children with Disabilities:
Short Term / Short Breaks provision and Long Term (Permanent) placements for children with disabilities.

Kinship Care & Connected Persons:
Planned and Court approved placements for children and young people within their wider network including family members or other with whom children have an existing and positive relationship

PACE:
The Local Authority has duty to provide accommodation to children and young people under the age of 18 who have been arrested and charged in relation to a criminal offence. PACE stands for Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 which placed this duty. PACE transfers take place in order to limit the amount of time children and young people are required to spend in police custody with the young person being transferred to Local Authority accommodation overnight before being presented to court the following morning.

Supported Lodgings:
Supported Lodgings provides a young person with a room in a friendly home environment and the support and guidance of an adult living there.

3. Audit and inspections of the Fostering Service in 2018-2019

In preparation for the forthcoming Ofsted Inspection the Performance and Quality Assurance (PQA) service completed an audit which began in December 2018 and concluded four weeks later in January 2019. The audit highlighted a number of key themes and resulted in a clear action plan to address the identified issues.

The strengths identified included:
- Assessments of Foster Carers are generally comprehensive
- In the majority of cases the supervision of Foster Carers is carried out regularly
- There is evidence of good working relationships, trust and respect between Foster Carers and their Supervising Social Workers
- There is evidence of annual review processes being followed in detail
- Where provided, input from children in placement and their Social Workers enhanced carer reviews by 'triangulating' the lived experience of the child
- There is some evidence of the increasing use of ONE for systematically recording all aspects of the authority's interaction with Foster Carers

Audit findings also acknowledged some clear challenges and areas for development which included:
- Improving core systems and data reporting for management information
- That the service develop clear service standards which clarify the expectations of Social Workers
- Key processes such as DBS, safer caring and placement planning are reviewed to ensure consistency and quality
- That fostering supervision is made more robust and considers secondary carers in the wider household
- That there is an increased rigor on the quality assurance of placements by undertaking unannounced visits and improving the review process

Before the PQA inspection could be completed OFSTED arrived in Cambridgeshire to undertake the ILAC Inspection. Inspectors commented that they could see the improvements that had been put in place by the Fostering Service and that they were confident that this would be sustained. The inspection identified the following themes:

- That there was a strong training package for Foster Carers which is complemented by good support from their Supervising Social Workers.
- That assessments of carers are generally good, sometimes very good. Social Workers' recommendations about the terms on new carers are approved are specific and appropriate to individual carers' skills and circumstances. This helps to ensure that children are only placed with carers who are well matched to their needs. This has led to more stable and positive placements for children and helps to retain carers, because they are less likely to have children they cannot manage placed with them.
- That a strengthened approach to fostering recruitment is effective and beginning to yield results
- That carers receive regular supervision
- That development work needs to focus upon ensuring connected persons carers receive the same support at mainstream carer standard as most foster carers
- That further development work needs to ensure that matching children for permanence occurs in a timely way

4. Recruitment and Marketing

As part of the 'Transforming Outcomes for Children and Young People in Care' strategy PS. Media was appointed to work alongside Cambridgeshire's Corporate Communications and Fostering Services to devise and deliver recruitment campaigns in order to increase the number of in-house foster carers providing homes for Cambridgeshire children.

Prior to the launch of the Foster Carers Recruitment Campaign in September 2018 a number of recruitment activities took place. These included:

- The annual New Carers Event. All foster carers approved over 2017 to 2018 were invited to a 'Welcome and Thank You' event. This was the fourth event of its kind and was, as always, well-attended and we received positive feedback from carers. The event provided carers with the opportunity to network with other carers, professionals and agencies that support Foster Carers and Children in Care. The event included agencies such as the Virtual School, Casus (drug and alcohol services), Foster Talk and Nyas (advocacy service) giving carers the opportunity to familiarise themselves with agencies outside of fostering and social care. The follow-up press release from this event achieved good coverage in local press and social media.
- Foster Care Fortnight took place in May. This is a National Event run annually by The Fostering Network. The aim of the campaign is to raise the profile of fostering and to show how foster care transforms lives. Activity during Foster Care Fortnight included; paid social media advertising using video and images

gathered at the recent event to celebrate foster carer recruitment and radio advertising with Heart FM.

- In July a letter was distributed through schools which proved to be a highly effective strategy attracting more than 60 enquiries.

Alongside this activity and working in partnership, the three service areas (PS.Media, Corporate Communications and Fostering) undertook a number of actions in preparation for the launch of the first campaign in 2018. These included:

- Setting up of a focus group of existing Foster Carers, Cllr Simon Bywater, (Chairman of the Children and Young People Committee), PS. Media, Corporate Communications and Fostering

- Rebranding of all fostering recruitment materials to ensure the in-house Fostering Service stands out in the fostering market place.

- Refreshed the fostering pages on the Corporate Website

- Produced video content for use on the website and across social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter etc).

- Identified a number of Foster Carers willing to give interviews to the press, TV and Radio.

- The identification of a number of local companies and organisations who agreed to become 'Campaign Partners' to support campaigns. These organisations agreed to carry our publicity materials on their websites and share our recruitment information within their staff groups. Others offered advertising space or printed materials. Campaign partners included organisations such as Cambridge United Football Club, Peterborough United Football Club, Heart FM, Stagecoach buses, Archant newspapers, BBC Look East, Cambridgeshire Police and Fire services and Network Rail.

The first campaign was launched on the 12th September 2018 at Abbey Stadium, the home of Cambridge United Football Club and was attended by the Deputy Lord-Lieutenant, Mrs Judy Pearson, Cambridgeshire County Council Elected Members, Senior Officers, Foster Carers and staff of the fostering service. The aim of the campaign was to attract enquiries from Cambridgeshire residents considering any type or age range of fostering. The concept for the campaign was '#TeamCambridgeshire' Join our Fostering Team.

The Campaign was supported by paid for advertising which included bus side advertising, Radio advertising with Heart FM, Website Optimisation, Google Adwords and Facebook Lead advert. The event also attracted attention from BBC Radio Cambridgeshire and BBC Look East.

Following the launch, the campaign was kept alive with further social media activity. In October the Six Steps to Fostering Video, featuring children from the Wild Cat Arts and Drama School, was published on Social Media. This was followed up with case

studies and interviews with Foster Carers in November. In December the New Year's resolution videos were featured on social media. In January a new campaign was launched focussed on recruiting Foster Carers for teenagers.

Outcomes

In the period 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019 the Fostering Recruitment and Assessments Team received 391 enquiries from the public seeking information about becoming a foster carer. The team completed 138 Initial Visits (IV's) and 24 new fostering households were approved. In the same period 9 fostering households have retired from fostering leaving a net gain of 15 fostering households.

Enquiries	391											
April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March
24	18	24	62	36	60	47	22	16	38	23	21
IVs	138											
April	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March
9	10	5	12	12	18	21	14	9	13	10	5
Approvals	24											
April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March
3	2	2	0	4	1	2	2	0	5	1	2

There are currently 25 assessments in stages 1 and 2 which have carried over into 2019/2020. This currently represents a potential of a further 27 homes for children.

5. Fostering Panel

The Fostering Service has reviewed all panel processes and has removed non statutory functions to streamline the panels. This includes the formal matching of children and young people with their permanent Foster Carers. This is now managed through a separate process following the Children Act 1989 and Care Planning, Placement and Case Review Regulations 2010. This has created additional panel time and reduced delay.

In December 2019 Sara Neville resigned from the role of Independent Panel Chair. In February 2019 Richard Holland was appointed as the new Independent Panel Chair. In the interim, Sarah Fletcher, the Vice Chair of the Panel chaired panel.

Additionally, Aidan O'Reilly, Permanence Practice development Manager has been appointed as Panel Advisor. The appointment further strengthens the ties between the service and the Panel ensuring that the child's plan is represented effectively when making decisions.

The Panel membership meets the requirements of the Fostering Services Regulations 2011 and there are currently 10 members on the central list.

The Fostering Panel met on 25 occasions during 2018-2019, and dealt with 171 cases.

	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Number of panels	23	27	25	30	25
New Approvals	32	29	28	22	24 (+ 11 Connected Persons)
Regulation 25 Extensions (Connected Persons)	-	-	-	-	18
Resignations/Deregistration	14	15	22	17	9
Matches (numbers of children)	27	37	28	31	19
Change of approval outside Reviews.	22	4	6	4	2
Reviews	46	40	39	58	70
Progression	16	16	14	3	18
Staying Put Approval	2	4	7	1	NA
Best interest	0	25	13	NA	NA
Total number of actual cases presented	127	155	182	168	171

6. Cambridgeshire Approved Households (as of 31st March 2019

Total Number Approved Households	101	112	125	133	148
Total Number of Beds	197	219	252	271	289
Short breaks households	30	27	13	16	15
Short break beds	61	62	55	26	33
Kinship Foster Carers Including Reg24	23	34	25	28	18 + 12 Reg 24
Kinship beds	30	56	38	38	29 + 12

Supported Lodgings	-	-	-	9	11
Supported Lodging Beds	-	-	-	9	13

The combined number of all types of approved fostering households including Short Breaks, Kinship Care and Supported Lodgings, is 205. The optimum number of placements provided through the Fostering Service is 376, a net gain of 18 placements.

Fostering households are approved for one, two or three children. Often the approval can be one or two/ if siblings. This is usually due to bedroom space available and in Cambridgeshire we allow siblings (if appropriate) to share bedrooms. For the purposes of reporting the number of beds approved, the maximum number is reported.

There are other reasons why it is not possible to use all Foster Carers to their full approval capacity. This includes Foster Carers being on hold, either at their own request for example personal or family circumstances, or at the request of the service due to complaints or allegations. Often carers are not used to their full approval, due to the needs of other children living in the foster carer's home.

Each year fostering services can expect to lose a number of foster cares. On average fostering agencies can expect to lose 10% of their foster carers. Foster carers leave for a number of reasons. In the last year 9 foster carers left Cambridgeshire's fostering service. Of these; 5 resigned and 4 retired.

Of the 5 that resigned;

- 1 emigrated to Australia,
- 1 moved away from the area to care for elderly parents,
- 1 had a baby and no longer have accommodation to foster,
- 1 decided fostering was incompatible with own children's needs
- 1 resigned due to other commitments but has recently expressed an interest in returning

Of the 4 that retired;

- 2 retired on health grounds
- 2 retired due to age.

The 24 mainstream carers recruited in 2018/19 offer 34 beds. Therefore there is a net gain of 18 mainstream fostering beds in the year to 31st March 2019.

7. Mainstream Fostering Occupancy rates

On 31st March 2019 there were 200 children placed with in-house mainstream (Short-term and Long-term foster carers). This is an increase of 13 children (7%). A further 41 children were placed with kinship Foster Carers. 241 children were living with Cambridgeshire approved Foster Carers.

	Long term	Short term	Kinship care	Total
31/03/2017	69	118	35	222
31/03/2018	74	113	38	225
31/03/2019	69	131	29 + 12 Reg 24	241

Additionally there were 9 children placed with Supported Lodgings, 33 children linked to Link carers and 12 young people in Staying Put arrangements making a total of 295 children looked after by the service.

8. Placement endings

The in-house Fostering Service provided a total of 456 placements for children throughout the year. This compares to 388 in 2017/18 an increase of 68 or 17.5%. Some of these children had more than one episode of care. When this is taken into account the Fostering Service provided placements to 429 individual children, an increase over the previous year of 41 or 10.5%

Many children who become looked after during the year did return home. Other children and young people leave care or move to permanent placements.

Throughout the year there has been significant movement of children from in house to other placements through positive care planning. These include:

- 29 children moved to adoptive homes

- 1 foster carer adopted their foster child

- 2 children moved to a concurrent placement

- 32 children were rehabilitated home

- 21 children moved to live with extended family or friends through a connected person's arrangement

- 2 children moved to live with Special Guardianship carers

- 2 moved to a mother and baby placement

- 10 young people moved to semi-independent living

- 13 young people moved to independence

- 5 moved onto our Supported lodgings carers

- 5 children returned to their local authority

- 5 children returned to their IFA carers following respite

- 6 Young People were placed with PACE foster carers

A number of children also moved because the in-house service was not able to meet their needs. These include:

- 3 children moved due to carers not being able to meet their needs and no other in-house foster carer could offer a placement match

- 3 young people were moved to residential - 2 of whom were from emergency out of hours foster homes

- 1 young person moved to supported accommodation

- 5 children moved to agency carers in order to better meet their needs- ie nearer to school and/or cultural match

- 6 children moved from short term in-house foster carers to agency foster carer permanent matches

- 16 children who were placed in agency foster homes by Cambridgeshire's out of hours service due to there being no suitable accommodation in house

- 4 young people made allegations against their foster carers and subsequently moved

- 2 children moved after carer gave immediate notice on the care arrangement

Over the year, 6 children experienced unplanned placement endings that were not expected and they were not prepared for. Four children were moved after an allegation towards their carers either by that child, or another child in that foster home, none of which were upheld. Two carers served immediate notice due to not being able to manage the child's behaviours. This cohort of children are currently being reviewed to ensure learning is captured to inform how the service could further support Foster Carers to sustain children in their homes.

9. Short Breaks Care

At the end of this reporting period there were fifteen Link Carers providing accommodation and care for thirty three children. 2 new Link Carers have been approved this year, one of whom has been providing a time limited foster placement since approval due to the particular skills of this carer and the needs of the child living with them.

Unlike mainstream foster care, this service provides children with a variety of care arrangements, therefore a more accurate way of identifying the capacity of this part of the service is by the overall number of nights and days provided under the Short Breaks Scheme. The service currently provides 1443 nights/days for children and young people with complex physical needs and challenging behaviours. This is an increase of 93 or 6.8% compared to the same period last year.

The complexity of the children and young people receiving this support is increasing, with more complex children being offered a service due to their diagnosed disability and impact of family and environmental factors.

The Link Service has continued at full capacity with any vacancies being quickly filled with potential matches. If a vacancy equals a typical allocation for a Link child (24 nights) the service has capacity for 61 vacancies. At the end of March, 60.125 vacancies were used or earmarked with thirty three established ongoing placements, thus the service is functioning at 98.6% capacity.

There is scope to develop and expand this service which has the proven potential to reduce the need for children becoming looked after by the Council or as an alternative to care.

10. Private Fostering activity in Cambridgeshire.

The Local Authority has a statutory duty to monitor the safety and wellbeing of children and young people living in Private Fostering arrangements. Private Fostering arrangements are made between parents or carers who have parental responsibility for that child and another individual in order that they can take on care of their child for a period of longer than twenty eight days. This arrangement should be reported to the Local Authority for a safeguarding assessment and monitoring. However, this is not well understood by the public and children living in these arrangements are often under reported.

Since the restructure of the service in November 2018, the responsibility for Private Fostering functions have been transferred to the Specialist Fostering Team. Since this time a route and branch review of policies and procedures have been undertaken. A Communications Strategy and an Information Leaflet has been produced. The Statement of Purpose has also been updated and discussions have been held with the Language schools in Cambridgeshire to remind them of their duties under this legislation.

This approach has had an impact, there have been 97 notifications since April 2018, 82 of which have been received since the restructure. The majority of these were from language schools relating to children and young people attending short courses running over twenty eight days.

Private Fostering Notifications
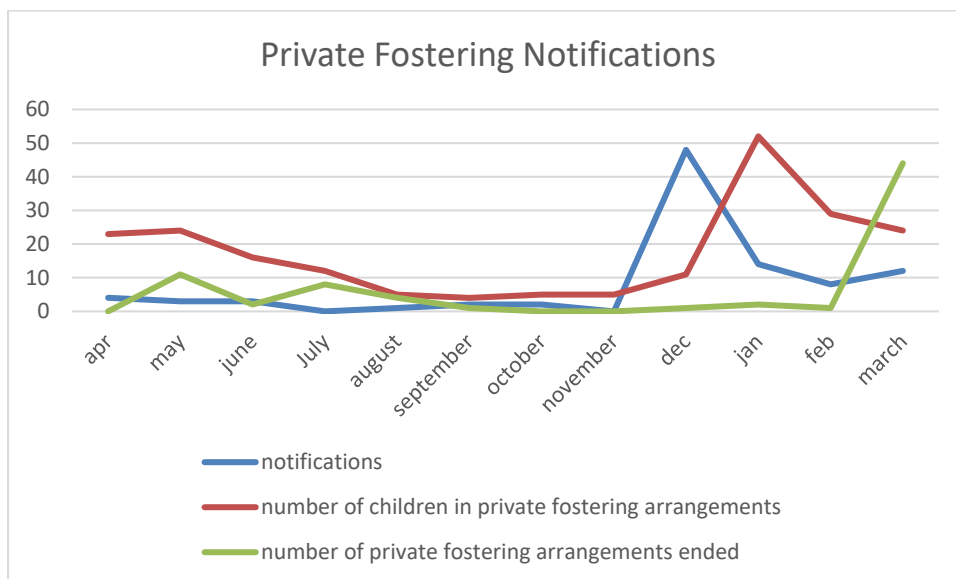
From December 2018 to March 2019, 74 children were living in Private Fostering arrangements. 17 of these are long term arrangements monitored by the safeguarding districts, 57 are language school notifications.

The number of children living within Private Fostering arrangements varies significantly over the year depending upon the activity of local language schools. As of 31st March 2019 there were 24 children privately fostered in Cambridgeshire in the following arrangements:

Reason for Private Fostering arrangement at 31st March 2019	Number of children
Overseas child attending language schools	12
Overseas Children in Mainstream Schools	5
Child separated from parents	5
Child living with extended family members	2
Total Number of Children	24

11. Supported Lodgings

There are currently 11 Supported Lodgings Carers with capacity to offer 13 Supported Lodgings homes. Supported Lodgings carers offer accommodation within a family setting with the guidance and support of the trusted adult who lives there. Children in Care and Care Leavers between the ages of 16-21 are eligible for the service, however, for the arrangement to be successful the young person should not require a high level of supervision and should have a basic level of independence skills and commitment to education, training or employment.

At the end of the reporting year, eight young people were living in Supported Lodgings arrangements with an additional young person in a Staying Put arrangement and another unaccompanied your person in a foster placement with Supported Lodgings

carers. There were three vacancies at this point with an additional vacancy soon to be available, however as of 31st March 2019 these vacancies were being carefully considered for identified young people.

To optimise assessment and flexibility of resource, careful decisions are made about approval of Supported Lodging household with a trend for Supported Lodgings carers to be dual registered as Foster Carers to capture young people and unaccompanied asylum seekers who would manage in a household with less supervision and support than mainstream foster care. We have also endeavoured to ensure any household looking to retire from or withdraw from fostering due to change of circumstances is able to consider Supported Lodgings as a viable option for their family.

Our aspirations for the year ahead is to continue to grow this service and we aim to increase the resource and offer 15 more young people a home over the next 12 months). Crucially we will also focus on providing high quality support and supervision to retain and upskill our current carers with the aim of offering placements to a wider range of young people who require an alternative to shared accommodation.

## 12. Kinship/Connected Person assessments

Referrals

Number Referrals	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Number referrals	65	99	141	173	133
SGO's Made	34	38	49	67	42
CAO's made	-	-	7	-	-
New fully regulated carers-households			9	4	11

In 2018 to 2019 the Kinship Assessment Team received 133 referrals relating to 177 children. The team saw a reduction in demand for the first time since 2008 and the reasons for this are not fully understood at this time, however the Council did see an increase of children being adopted. Of the referrals received:

- A total of 37 Special Guardianship Orders were awarded in relation to Looked after Children

- A total of 5 Special Guardianship Orders were awarded in relation to children who were not looked after

- There was a total of 42 Special Guardianship Orders awarded which was a reduction of 25 from the previous year

- In the last year there were 26 Regulation 24 households and 32 children subject to Connected Persons Care under Regulation 24 which was an increase of two from the previous year

Of the assessments that reached their completion, 53% were positive and recommended Connected Persons Care and 38% were negative. A further 9% of assessments were completed and whilst the applicant was assessed favourably, an alternative plan was recommended for the child. There is currently a 26% withdrawal rate which is considered an acceptable level of attrition. The graph below demonstrates the outcomes visually:

Assessment Outcomes

■ Positive ■ Negative ■ Withdrawn ■ Other
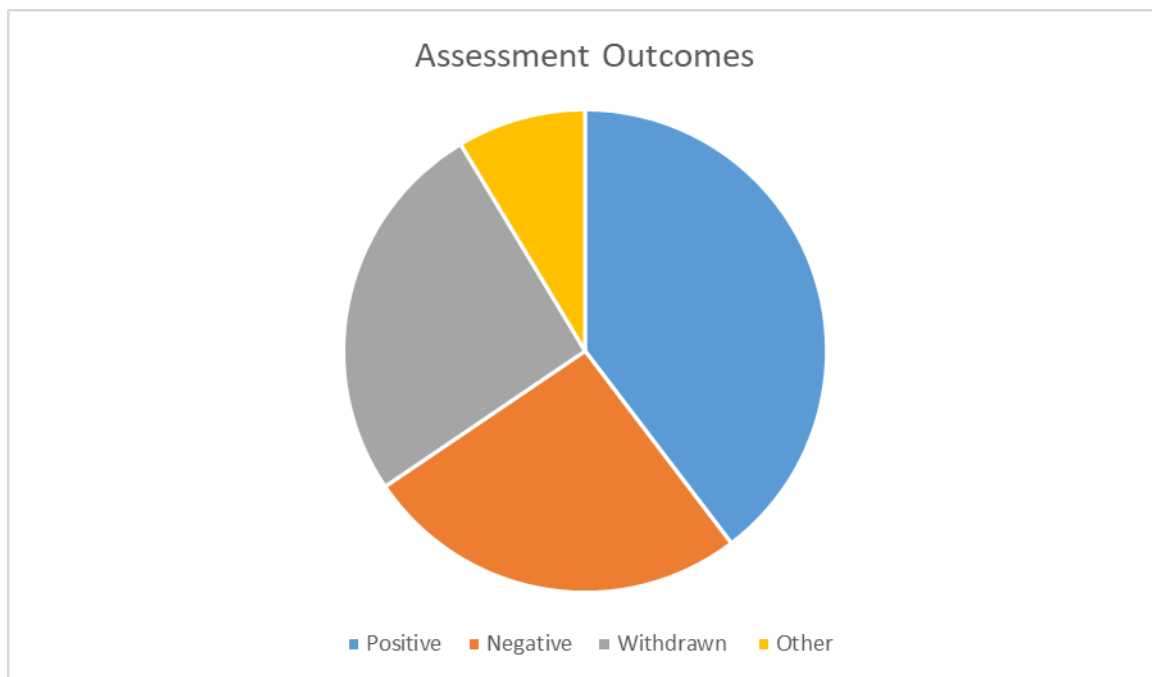
13. Step Parent Adoption

<u>Applications</u>

A function of the Kinship Assessment Team is to undertake Step Parent Adoption assessments. The service now has a dedicated worker to undertake assessments and develop the service. This has seen a more timely response to court requests for reports and better service to clients.

<u>Step parent adoptions.</u>

Title	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019
Enquiries made.	46	55	49
Assessments	20	26	20
Orders made	15	16	16

14. Fostering Reviews

The foster carer's annual review of approval addresses all relevant aspects of the National Minimum Fostering Standards and Regulations 2011. The reviews are written by the supervising Fostering Social Worker and either presented to Panel and endorsed by the Fostering Panel Agency Decision Maker or submitted to the Lead Manager for Fostering who is the Agency Decision Maker for non-Panel reviews. All the completed reviews are scrutinised by the relevant Team managers who monitor compliance with the regulations before final agreement.

The Fostering Service has recently revised the review process in order to streamline the procedure and ensure compliance with the Regulations.

The current process of fostering reviews includes Personal Development Plans, feedback from children and young people, their Social Workers and other professionals working with the fostering household as well as obtaining the views from the carers own children.

In this reporting period there were 70 annual reviews presented to Fostering Panel, 19 were first reviews and 109 non-panel reviews we approved by the Agency Decision Maker.

15. Foster Carers Support

Fostering Support Groups

Three bespoke county wide support groups are currently being offered to foster carers.

The first support group for mainstream carers is held across the county in different geographical areas; Huntingdon, Cambridge and Fenland. The groups meet on a monthly basis in each area and are well attended by foster carers across the county. The fostering support groups enable Foster Carers to meet with their peers and form supportive relationships to help them understand their fostering role, and share their experiences and provide opportunities to develop their knowledge and skills. Various speakers are invited to all the foster carer support groups to talk about specific topics and offer any information about local activities within the community. Minutes from the support groups are sent to all foster carers regardless of their attendance so they are kept informed.

In addition to the mainstream foster carer support group, there is a specific Level 6 support group offered to Level 6 foster carers which is co-facilitated by a senior fostering Social Worker and a clinician to offer a systemic approach to carers who care for young people with complex and challenging needs. This support group is also well attended by Level 6 foster carers who find the therapeutic and systemic approach invaluable in enabling them to continue to care for children who present with varying degrees of complexities.

The Men who Foster support group is facilitated by a supervising social worker and a male foster carer. Attracting attendance at this group continues to be a challenge

although attendance has slightly increased from the last reporting period and the frequency of the meetings have been reduced to quarterly.

<u>Cambridgeshire Foster Carer's Association</u> (CFCA)

The Cambridgeshire Foster Carer's Association was formed at the end of 2018 by some of the Foster Carers from Cambridgeshire. The association is constituted with a Chair Person, two Vice-Chairs, Treasurer and Secretary and Events Manager. A Service Level Agreement has been drafted for use between Cambridgeshire County Council and The Foster Carers Association.

The aim of the CFCA is to raise the profile of all Foster Carers and to ensure that they are viewed as professionals by Social Workers and colleagues working with children that are looked after by Cambridgeshire. The CFCA will;

- Provide strong channels of communication between the Fostering Service and the Association
- Work in partnership with Corporate Parenting and Fostering Services
- Seek to improve all aspects of fostering
- Promote good practice
- Represent Foster Carers as a group
- Organise support and social events for Foster Carers

The formation of the CFCA will raise the profile of CCC Foster Carers, advance foster carers views and recommendations regarding the Fostering Service and support carers to provide to provide high quality care for the children they look after.

Currently the CFCA are in the process of setting up a website for all Foster Carers to access information regarding various issues and topics and for them to leave their views in relation to any fostering matters. This will ensure that there are robust channels of communication and feedback from foster carers to senior managers.

<u>Peer Mentoring</u>

As well as offering various support groups, there is the Peer Mentoring Scheme where Foster Carers offer support and guidance to all newly approved Foster Cares. The mentors are experienced, with at least five years of fostering experience and are approved at skills level 3 and above. Currently there are six active mentors who cover different parts of the county and offer their experience in different types of fostering from moving babies on to adoption, to adolescent and long term foster care. There are three supervisions a year for the mentors as well as additional support if it is needed. Mentoring remains a valuable resource aspect of fostering and mentees continue to offer positive feedback in relation to support received by them from the mentors.

<u>My Family Who Fosters</u>

The young people attending the groups chose to change the name from Sons and Daughters to 'My Family Who Fosters' as they felt that this fitted in better with their role.

There are two groups, each with a different aim. The first group has clinician input to help prepare young people whose families are in the assessment process. This is to prepare them for the fostering task ahead and for them to ask any questions and share their worries about the assessment process or the fostering task ahead.

The second group, 'Children Who Foster' is aimed at children whose families are already fostering. The aim of this group is to allow these children to feel valued in their ongoing commitment through a combination of fun based activities and outings. It is also a forum to allow them to share their feelings and experiences with their peers in a safe environment of shared experiences. Attendance for the second group remains low, however this is still in the early stages of establishing a core attendance. The group have had three meetings in this reporting period and have used various fun based activities to discuss and look at Safer Caring, Network of Support and a Greatest Memory Competition.

Long Service Awards

In October 2018, over 120 foster carers, children and young people attended the foster carer's annual Long Service Awards event with Foster Carers receiving awards in recognition of fostering for Cambridgeshire County Council. 18 households received awards ranging from 5 to 30 years. This event generated good local press coverage and social media content.

16. Complaints and Allegations Complaints and Allegations

There were 9 allegations concerning Foster Carers during this reporting period. Two of the allegations were against the same carer. Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) processes were instigated in relation to all of the allegations; all allegations were resolved with no further action being taken but to identify relevant training for four of the carers.

There were three complaints received from Foster Carers. Two complaints were made about the level of support provided by the fostering support service. The other concerned the Fostering Panel process. All three complaints were resolved informally by meeting with the foster carers who did not wish to pursue the complaint any further and where satisfied with the outcomes.

17. Child's Voice

The Fostering Service actively seeks to support children and young people to share their views about their experience of being a Child in Care, about their support and how they feel their needs are being met.

Practitioners within the Fostering Service use a range of tools, including a software package 'Mind Of My Own' to support children and young people to express their views about how they are being looked after. Practitioners ensure children are seen regularly and spoken to as part of Foster Carers supervision and are encouraged to communicate their views in a range of ways e.g. verbal communication and visual such as art photos, evidence of outings, experiences and opportunities etc.

The fostering service has been noted within Cambridgeshire County Council as a service which promoted the use of Mind Of My Own to gain children's views and enable their contribution, including to Foster Carer annual reviews to support decision making around continued registration of Foster Carers.

18. Training

In 2018 – 2019 Foster Carers enrolled on 417 e-learning courses. There were 72 'lecture room' training courses delivered to foster carers, an increase of 7 compared to the previous year, many of which had waiting lists.

During the reporting period there were 6 'Skills to Foster' courses provided for prospective Foster Carers from 49 households.

	April 2018	June 2018	October 2018	Nov 2018	Jan 19	March 19
No of households	6	6	4	6	6	9
Experienced Carers		3		3		6

This is an increase of 17 households (53%) attending 'Skills to Foster' training compared to the previous year.

19. Budget

The service budget came in as forecasted.

20. Summary

The Fostering Service has had a busy year. In addition to recruiting and supporting Foster Carers, the service is responsible for undertaking connected person's assessments (kinship), providing a Short Break Fostering Service and carries out Private Fostering assessments and Step-parent Adoptions. The service works closely with Commissioning colleagues and provides a Duty Service every day to identify any urgent and emergency placements required across Children's Social Care.

In addition to the dedicated fostering trainer, Social Workers in the service also provide regular training for Foster Carers both pre-approval and post approval. In order to meet the needs of the Foster Carer training and undertake marketing activity workers across the service often working during the evenings and weekends. The service runs a successful Foster Carer mentoring scheme and monthly support groups in three geographical areas. The service also provides out of hours support to Foster Carers and managers are available to our out of hour's emergency service.

During the course of the last year the Fostering Service has been through a period of transformation. The service has been restructured, reducing the number of teams from 6 to 4. This has created efficiencies, reduced duplication of functions and brought allied service areas closer together, ensuring that foster carers are fully supported. This has also enabled the management structure to be strengthened by allowing for an additional Service Manager post to be created to oversee the service.

The Fostering Service has also created a Service Development Plan in order to strategically manage and monitor the continual improvement and development of the service. This will form the basis of the Fostering Service Development and Delivery Board which is still to be established.

The number of Children in Care in Cambridgeshire has increased over the last year from 706 at 1st 2018 to 768 at the 31st March 2019 an increase of 9%. The Fostering Service has worked hard to meet demand. Over the last year there has been significant investment in fostering recruitment with 24 new mainstream foster families recruited over the year providing an optimum of 34 fostering beds. At the 31st March 2019 25 potential foster families were being assessed providing a potential of 27 new homes for children. Plans are in place to continue our recruitment efforts and to increase the range and choice of types of fostering homes we provide throughout 2019/2020.

The Fostering Service has also been inspected twice in the course of the last year, once by colleagues in PQA and once by Ofsted. Whilst this confirmed areas in which the service can be improved, both inspections recognised areas in which the Fostering Service is working well and has improved. Recommendations for improvement from these inspections have been actioned and strategies for further improvement have been put in place. The Fostering Service will welcome colleagues from PQA back in July 2019 when they will undertake a follow-up inspection.

The Fostering Service has also worked hard to improve the quality of support offered to Foster Carers. As part of this the service has worked with Foster Carers to establish the Cambridgeshire Foster Carers Association. Although this is now established it is still in an embryonic stage. The Service and the Association will work in the coming months to fully develop communication strategies and partnership working in order to promote foster care and Foster Carers in Cambridgeshire.

21. Developments for 2019/20

Over the coming year the Fostering Service will prioritise work in the following areas:

- **Establish the Fostering Service Development and Delivery Board.**
  The Fostering Service has an ambitious development plan which will move the service into a space that acknowledges its outstanding contribution towards children and Carers. The Fostering Service Development and Delivery Board will ensure inclusion of stakeholders in the development of the service whilst holding the service to account by ensuring that the ambitious aims of the service are achieved.

- **Review Fostering Allowances and Remuneration.**

  The current Foster Carer payment system is outdated and inequitable. The Fostering Management Team are currently reviewing the payment structure to ensure that the service is able to present an attractive offer to carers which will promote both recruitment and retention, whilst ensuring that there is a sustainable package of financial remuneration which is fair, consistent and well justified when considering the task of the individual carer.

- **Achieve continuous improvement through a culture of effective management oversight**

  There is a clear expectation upon the Fostering Management team to ensure that there is strong leadership and accountability to the wider service. Significant attention is being given to streamlining current processes and transforming the service in order that it can deliver high quality placements through a performance driven culture. The Fostering Service has benefited from recent inspections which have promoted an understanding of the requirement for effective quality assurance through audits and management oversight which in turn can evidence the work that is being undertaken.

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	*Fiona MacKirdy, Head of County Wide and Looked After Children*	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	*Jacqui Barry, Service Development Manager, District Safeguarding Manager*	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	*Lou Williams, Service Director,*	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.			*Jenny Goodes, Head of Service – Integrated Front Door*	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		Medium	14.06.19	Kate Knight, Lead Corporate Parenting Manager	Members' Seminar	All Members		

8.	Skills Workshop	To arrange a generic workshop for all members and substitute members to consider how best to upskill themselves so that they were best equipped to fulfil their roles. It will be important to ensure a good turnout for this event to develop an agreed approach and to make full use of the wide variety of skills, experience and expertise of all involved.		To be arranged	Aidan O'Reilly, Corporate Parenting				
	Access to Universal Credit and benefits for care leavers	Training session. Involving a Personal Adviser or the Personal Adviser Coordinator would be of benefit.		To be arranged	Aidan O'Reilly, Corporate Parenting				

CORPORATE PARENTING SUB-COMMITTEE FORWARD AGENDA PLAN	Published 14 May 2019	Agenda Item No: 10

Summary

The Forward Agenda Plan shows the dates and times of future meetings, where they will be held and what reports will be considered.

Committee date	Agenda item	Lead officer	Reference if key decision	Deadline for draft reports to Sarah-Jane Smedmor	Approved reports to Democratic Services by
Wednesday 22 May 2019 – 4.00pm – Room 128, Shire Hall **Meeting theme: Education Issues**					
	Notification of the Chair and Vice Chair for the 2019/20 Municipal Year	Democratic Services	Not applicable		
	Minutes and Action Log	Democratic Services	Not applicable		
	Virtual School – Head Teacher's Annual Report *(Standing item)*	C Hiorns	Not applicable		
	Performance Report *(standing item)*	A O'Reilly	Not applicable		
	Sub-Committee Workshop/ Training Plan *(standing item)*	A O'Reilly	Not applicable		

Committee date	Agenda item	Lead officer	Reference if key decision	Deadline for draft reports to Sarah-Jane Smedmor	Approved reports to Democratic Services by
	Young People's Participation *(standing item)*	C Betteridge	Not applicable		
	Fostering Service Annual Report 2018/19	J Heron	Not applicable		
	Agenda Plan	Democratic Services	Not applicable		
Wednesday 17 July 2019 – 4.00pm – venue tbc					
	Minutes and Action Log	Democratic Services	Not applicable		
	Virtual School *(Standing item)*	C Hiorns	Not applicable		
	Performance Report *(standing item)*	A O'Reilly	Not applicable		
	Sub-Committee Workshop/ Training Plan *(standing item)*	A O'Reilly	Not applicable		
	Young People's Participation *(standing item)*	C Betteridge	Not applicable		
	Corporate Parenting Annual Report *(Prior to submission to the Children and Young People Committee in September 2019)*	S-J Smedmor	Not applicable		
	Child and Adolescent Mental Health issues for Cambridgeshire's Children in Care: Update *(bi-meeting update)*	P Parker	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
	Refreshed NEET Strategy: Reducing the number of Children in Care who are Not in Education, Employment or Training	M Cowdell	Not applicable		
	Independent Review Officers' Annual Report: April 2018-March 2019	Olly Grant	Not applicable		
	Update on the Local Offer *(bi-meeting update)*	K Knight	Not applicable		
	Agenda Plan	Democratic Services	Not applicable		
Wednesday 18 September 2019 – 4.00pm – venue tbc					
	Minutes and Action Log	Democratic Services	Not applicable		
	Virtual School *(Standing item)*	C Hiorns	Not applicable		
	Performance Report *(standing item)*	A O'Reilly	Not applicable		
	Sub-Committee Workshop/ Training Plan *(standing item)*	A O'Reilly	Not applicable		
	Young People's Participation *(standing item)*	C Betteridge	Not applicable		
	Workforce Development *(quarterly standing item)*	S-J Smedmor	Not applicable		

Committee date	Agenda item	Lead officer	Reference if key decision	Deadline for draft reports to Sarah-Jane Smedmor	Approved reports to Democratic Services by
	Children in Care - Emotional Health and Wellbeing: Six Month Update report	P Parker	Not applicable		
	Agenda Plan	Democratic Services	Not applicable		
Wednesday 20 November 2019 – 4.00pm – venue tbc					
	Minutes and Action Log	Democratic Services	Not applicable		
	Virtual School (Standing item) i. Un-validated exam results	C Hiorns	Not applicable		
	Performance Report (standing item)	A O'Reilly	Not applicable		
	Sub-Committee Workshop/ Training Plan (standing item)	A O'Reilly	Not applicable		
	Young People's Participation (standing item)	C Betteridge	Not applicable		
	Agenda Plan	Democratic Services	Not applicable		
Wednesday 15 January 2020 – 4.00pm – venue tbc					
	Minutes and Action Log	Democratic Services	Not applicable		

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 *(Standing item)* i. *Validated exam results (if available)*	C Hiorns	Not applicable		
	Performance Report *(standing item)*	A O'Reilly	Not applicable		
	Sub-Committee Workshop/ Training Plan *(standing item)*	A O'Reilly	Not applicable		
	Young People's Participation *(standing item)*	C Betteridge	Not applicable		
	Workforce Development *(quarterly standing item)*	S-J Smedmor	Not applicable		
	Agenda Plan	Democratic Services	Not applicable		
Wednesday 25 March 2020 – 4.00pm – venue tbc					
	Minutes and Action Log	Democratic Services	Not applicable		
	Virtual School *(Standing item)*	C Hiorns	Not applicable		
	Performance Report *(standing item)*	A O'Reilly	Not applicable		
	Sub-Committee Workshop/ Training Plan *(standing item)*	A O'Reilly	Not applicable		

Committee date	Agenda item	Lead officer	Reference if key decision	Deadline for draft reports to Sarah-Jane Smedmor	Approved reports to Democratic Services by
	Young People's Participation *(standing item)*	C Betteridge	Not applicable		
	Agenda Plan	Democratic Services	Not applicable		
Wednesday 20 May 2020 – 4.00pm – venue tbc					
	Notification of the Chair and Vice Chair for the Municipal Year 2020/21				
	Minutes and Action Log	Democratic Services	Not applicable		
	Virtual School *(Standing item)*	C Hiorns	Not applicable		
	Performance Report *(standing item)*	A O'Reilly	Not applicable		
	Sub-Committee Workshop/ Training Plan *(standing item)*	A O'Reilly	Not applicable		
	Young People's Participation *(standing item)*	C Betteridge	Not applicable		
	Workforce Development *(quarterly standing item)*	S-J Smedmor	Not applicable		
	Agenda Plan	Democratic Services	Not applicable		