

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.**

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