

**CORPORATE PARENTING SUB-COMMITTEE PERFORMANCE REPORT**

*To:* **Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee**

*Meeting Date:* **17 July 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 recommended to review performance for Children in Care and comment on the themes and trends identified in this report.**

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## **Summary:**

**The data referred to within this report is reflective of the situation on 31 May 2019.**

- As of 31 May 2019, 793 Children in Care are supported by the Council.
- 56% of Children in Care are male, 44% are female.
- 8% of Children in Care have a disability.
- At the end of May 2019, 55% of children (excluding unaccompanied children) are living out of County and of those 37% are living more than 20 miles over Cambridgeshire borders.
- 86% of unaccompanied asylum seeking young people are living out of county.
- The proportion of Children in Care being visited within the statutory timescales is 93% in May 2019.
- The number of Children in Care reported as going missing has been as follows; 35 in April 2019 and 30 in May 2019.
- There were 10 children adopted in this 2 month period.

## **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 April and May 2019. The full performance report can be found in Appendix A.

## **2. MAIN ISSUES**

- 2.1 As noted in previous reports to the Sub-Committee, there have been difficulties in the capturing and analysis of data around Initial Health Assessments (IHA) for Children in Care. A multi-agency working group has reviewed the joint protocol and process which encompass this work and implemented changes to improve matters.

Specific issues identified related to communication and information sharing, having no single process for gaining the consent needed by health professionals, working across multiple NHS trusts and restructuring of services, in particular business support, in Children's Social Care.

An improvement plan has been implemented and dedicated business support is now in post. May 2019 saw an improvement from 5% to 40% of health assessments being completed in the statutory timescales. Moving forward it is anticipated that this improvement will continue.

- 2.2 Adoption Activity; There were 10 children being adopted in April and May 2019. No children who were adopted in these two months were waiting for more than 14 months to be placed with their adoptive families.

- 2.3 The percentage of children who have been visited within statutory timescales has seen a steady overall rise since November 2018, despite a dip in performance in April 2019. Currently we are reporting 93% which is just below the agreed target of 95%.
- 2.4 There has been a rise in the total numbers of Children in Care over these two months. This is caused in part by several large sibling groups that have entered care, but it is also reflective of an increase in new sets of care proceedings over this period of time.
- 2.5 Upheld Complaints
- 2.6 Information about complaints relating to children in care was included in the Performance Report in May 2019 to give the Sub-Committee the opportunity to review this before Children's Services Annual Feedback report for 2018-19 was considered by the Children and Young People Committee on 9 July 2019. The Vice Chairman stated that it would be helpful to see which complaints had been upheld and what measures had been taken to address these issues. Officers undertook to report back at the next meeting.
- 2.7 Nine complaints were upheld during 2018-19. Of these, two complaints were about payments being late due to administrative issues. These issues are now resolved on the electronic system. Two complaints were around communication difficulties and the service has put measures in place to mitigate the risk of this occurring again. One was around a change of worker at a critical point in the young person's care journey. This was upheld due to this change being agreed, but another worker was allocated to the family who was known to them. Four complaints were around financial support or arrangements. All four complaints were upheld as it was found that there were delays in processing the financial applications and administration. The service is currently reviewing and implementing new financial mechanisms for all parts of the service and we are already seeing some positive results. This includes new finance panels and quicker administration processes.

### **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

<b>Source Documents</b>	<b>Location</b>
None	