

CORPORATE PARENTING SUB-COMMITTEE PERFORMANCE REPORT

To: **Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee**

Meeting Date: **19th September 2018**

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

Electoral division(s): **All**

Purpose: **To report on the performance of services for Looked After Children 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 Looked after Children, and comment on the themes and trends identified in this report.**

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|--------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|---|
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Summary:

- As of the 30th June 2018, 701 looked after children are supported by the Council
- 57% of looked after children are male, 43% are female
- 9% have a disability
- At the end of June 47% of (non unaccompanied asylum seeking children - UASC) children were placed out of County and of that 47%, 35% were placed more than 20 miles over Cambridgeshire borders.
- 80% of unaccompanied asylum seeking young people are placed out of county. Although a majority are placed in Peterborough, which meets their cultural needs, we are seeing a number now being placed further afield due to there not being available resources to place them in the Peterborough area.
- The proportion of looked after children being visited within the statutory timescales has sat between 90 and 92% in quarter one.
- The incidents of looked after children reported as going missing was less in June (22 missing events involving 10 children) in comparison to April (29 missing events involving 20 children) and May 2018 (45 missing events involving 26 children).
- There are (end of June 2018) 215 fostering placements being provided by local authority foster carers. 35 children on Short Breaks (temporary care to support their main placement) and 9 young people are living with foster carers beyond their 18th birthday under Staying Put.
- There were 10 children adopted during quarter 1.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 This report provides the Sub-Committee with an overview of performance of services for Looked After Children and Care Leavers. The full performance report can be found in Appendix 1.
- 1.2 Members have asked for fostering data to be added to the Corporate Parenting dashboard which has now been done.

2. MAIN ISSUES

- 2.1 There has been an increase in the number of looked after children that Cambridgeshire look after since the last report although we continue to look after less children 52 per 10,000 than the national average (60 per 10,000) although the rate of increase is above the national trend.
- 2.2 We have 53% of our children and young people of the current placements are in-county, with 47% of placements out of county. 80% of unaccompanied asylum seeking young people are placed out of county and the majority of

their placements are located in Peterborough, where their cultural needs are appropriately met. However due to resource availability some are being placed further afield.

- 2.3 The proportion of looked after children being visited within the statutory timescales has increased to 92%, this has been gradually improving and continues to be monitored closely at operational boards to improve it further.
- 2.4 There were 69 children who became looked after during April, May and June 2018.
- 2.5 Performance around newly looked after children having their health assessment within 20 days of becoming looked after has improved in the last quarter although there was a drop in May 2018.

Overall the performance for health assessments being completed within timescale for both in and out of county placements was 60% for April, 36% for May and 64% for June. There is work taking place with health and business intelligence to understand and improve these figures which is having a positive effect.

It is not clear why it dropped in May although it may be due to a higher number of children being placed out of county in that month. All health assessments for out of county children are organised by the hosting Primary Care Trust and Cambridgeshire cannot specifically determine when their assessment takes place. The 20 day timescale is national guidance so all Health trusts do work to the same arrangements, but it is important to highlight that Health authorities will prioritise seeing children from their local area, before assessing the needs of children placed in their area by other authorities, therefore it is likely to have an impact on our overall figures.

- 2.7 The incidents of looked after children going missing was reported as being less in June (22 missing events involving 10 children) in comparison to April (29 missing events involving 20 children) and May 2018 (45 missing events involving 26 children).

There is a multi-agency approach to missing incidents and supporting children and young people to tell their story. The children and young people are monitored individually and patterns are examined to identify individuals and locations of concern and to plan intervention to break dangerous cycles.

3. SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS

3.1 Resource Implications

3.2 Procurement/Contractual/Council Contract Procedure Rules Implications

None.

3.3 Statutory, Legal and Risk Implications

3.4 Equality and Diversity Implications

3.5 Engagement and Communications Implications

None

3.6 Localism and Local Member Involvement

3.7 Public Health Implications

None

| Source Documents | Location |
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| Children's Service Performance Dashboard. | Hannah Parkinson Senior Analyst Business Intelligence Cambridgeshire County Council Octagon, Shire Hall Cambridge CB3 0AP |