

CORPORATE PARENTING ANNUAL REPORT 2017-2018

To: Children and Young People's Committee

Meeting Date: 13 November 2018

From: Wendi Ogle-Welbourn, Executive Director: People & Communities

Electoral division(s): All

Forward Plan ref: Not applicable **Key decision:** No

Purpose: To inform the Committee, as requested, of Looked After Children and Care Leaver Activity and Data for April 2017 to March 2018.

Recommendation: The Committee is asked to note and provide comments on the Corporate Parenting Annual Report 2017/2018.

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1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) is committed to providing high quality, cost effective public services that reflect the views and wishes of the people of Cambridgeshire.

Cambridgeshire remains an identified Government Growth Area, so CCC is continuing to improve services against a backdrop of growth in housing, employment and the economy. This report provides information on activity in respect of Looked After Children and Care Leavers from 1st April 2017 to 31st March 2018.

2. MAIN ISSUES

- 2.1 Outlined below are the key elements from the corporate parenting annual report 2017-2018 (**Appendix 1**):

- 1.89% increase (from 685 and 698) in number of Looked After Children in 12 months 50 children per 10,000 locally, compared to 61 per 10,000 nationally
- Unaccompanied children seeking asylum (UASC), make up 8.7% for the total looked after population in Cambridgeshire
- More children exited care than became looked after for 6 months of the year
- There are similar numbers of boys and girls looked after
- Children enter care at all ages, but there is a spike in teenagers becoming looked after
- 9% of children have disabilities
- The ethnicity of the Looked After population has remained consistent
- 57.73% of children have their futures secured with permanent plans. 20.91% are subject to care proceedings and 21.34% are accommodated by parental agreement
- 55% of all looked after children were placed within Cambridgeshire boundaries
- 30.94% of children live more than 20 miles over Cambridgeshire borders. 70% are placed in neighbouring authorities
- 231 are in in-house placements through the mainstream Fostering, Kinship Care and Supported Lodgings services
- 33 children receive Short Break Care through the Link Scheme. 10 young people are in Staying Put Arrangements and there are also 28 Children in Private Fostering arrangements

- 10.7% of children moved 3 or more times and some of these moves were on to permanent placements
- The timeliness of children having their initial health assessments needs improving
- There has been a marked improvement in statutory visit performance during this reporting period
- The timing of Looked After Child Reviews is strong
- Performance in relation to children waiting less than 14 months to be adopted has been 100% for 10 months of the year
- The percentage of looked after children going missing increased to from 7% in 2016 to 9% last year
- There has been an increase in the numbers of boys and girls at risk of Child Sexual Exploitation and Gang Exploitation

3. ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PRIORITIES

3.1 Developing the local economy for the benefit of all

There are no significant implications for this priority.

3.2 Helping people live healthy and independent lives

There are no significant implications for this priority.

3.3 Supporting and protecting vulnerable people

Cambridgeshire County Council fulfils its statutory duties in safeguarding the welfare of vulnerable children.

4. SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Resource Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

4.2 Procurement/Contractual/Council Contract Procedure Rules Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

4.3 Statutory, Legal and Risk Implications

There no significant implications – the report outlines some areas where performance needs to improve in line with statutory requirements.

4.4 Equality and Diversity Implications

There are no significant implications – the report outlines the demographics of those accessing services and needs of some specific groups.

4.5 Engagement and Communications Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

4.6 Localism and Local Member Involvement

There are no significant implications within this category.

4.7 Public Health Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

Source Documents	Location
Corporate Parenting Annual Report 2017/2018	Appendix 1