

CORPORATE PARENTING SUB-COMMITTEE



Wednesday, 18 September 2019

Democratic and Members' Services

Fiona McMillan
Monitoring Officer

16:00

Shire Hall
Castle Hill
Cambridge
CB3 0AP

Room 128

Shire Hall, Castle Hill, Cambridge, CB3 0AP

AGENDA

Open to Public and Press

- | | | |
|-----------|---|----------------|
| 1. | Apologies for absence and declarations of interest | |
| | <i>Guidance on declaring interests is available at</i> | |
| | http://tinyurl.com/ccc-conduct-code | |
| 2. | Minutes of the meeting on 17 July 2019 | 5 - 12 |
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| 9. | Sub-Committee Workshop and Training Plan | 109 - 112 |
| 10. | Agenda Plan | 113 - 118 |

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 Elisa Meschini

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

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<https://tinyurl.com/CommitteeProcedure>

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CORPORATE PARENTING SUB-COMMITTEE: MINUTES

Date: Wednesday 17 July 2019

Time: 4.00pm – 5.50m

Venue: Room 128, Shire Hall, Cambridge

Present: Councillors L Every (Chairman), A Bradnam, A Costello and E Meschini

Co-opted Members: S Day

Apologies: Councillor A Hay (Vice Chairman)

106. CHANGE IN MEMBERSHIP

The Sub-Committee noted the appointment of Councillor Meschini in place of Councillor Richards. The Chairman welcomed Councillor Meschini to the Sub-Committee and asked that her thanks should be recorded to Councillor Richards for her contribution to the Sub-Committee's work during her appointment.

107. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Hay. There were no declarations of interest.

108. MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 22 MAY 2019

The minutes of the meeting on 22 May 2019 were approved as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

109. ACTION LOG

The action log was reviewed and the following verbal update was noted:

- Minute 53: Child and Adolescent Mental Health Issues relating to Children in Care in Cambridgeshire. The Mental Health Task and Finish Group had completed its work and details of its activity and outcomes would be included in the Corporate Parenting Annual Report which would be finalised by the Sub-Committee in September 2019.

110. YOUNG PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION

The Sub-Committee reviewed the events for children in care and care leavers which had taken place since May 2019 and those planned for the school holidays.

Arising from the report, Members noted:

- A vacancy had arisen for one participation worker following the resignation of a member of staff. Interviews would be held in September 2019;

- A newsletter had been produced which included an events calendar. A copy would be circulated electronically to Sub-Committee members for information;
(**Action:** Participation Manager)
- The annual 'picnic in the park' event for children in care and their carers would take place the following week and would contain even more fun activities than previous years, including some run by partner organisations;
- Reporting tools for the 'Mind of my Own' (MOMO) app had been developed which were providing some useful data on usage. Examples were included at Appendix 1 to the report. Members noted that one response received via the MOMO app had indicated that a child felt unsafe. Officers stated that this response had been followed up to the social worker both by phone and in person who had confirmed the child's wellbeing;
- Welcomed confirmation that recruitment was already underway to fill the participation worker vacancy to maintain capacity;
- Asked whether foster carers were being made aware of the events being offered by the Participation Service. Officers confirmed that they were attending foster carer support groups to promote events and build confidence that events would run as planned. In the past a number of events had been cancelled at short notice which had undermined foster carers' trust. The current Participation Team was working hard to rebuild this trust and the increase in the number of children and young people attending recent events was encouraging;
- Noted that no feedback had been received via the MOMO app from any young people aged 17 or above. Members highlighted the importance of maintaining lines of communication with older children and young people and asked what could be done to encourage them to use the app. Officers stated that the MOMO app was promoted to all young people, but that those within this age group tended to make contact direct via text or email. Work was also underway to revamp the Care Leavers' Forum to make it more responsive to young people's needs. Workshops would be arranged to address issues identified by the young people themselves, for example CV writing or emotional support, and this would support a further channel of communication. The Co-Opted Member had also agreed to speak at a future meeting of the Care Leavers' Forum;
- Asked whether children in care and care leavers received any discounted or free access to leisure activities. Officers stated that the 'max card' offered some benefits of this type;
- The Chairman asked that officers should make the recruitment of a second co-opted member (if required) and co-opted member substitutes a priority to ensure that the voice of children in care and care leavers remained at the heart of the Sub-Committee's work.
(**Action:** Participation Service Manager)

The Chairman thanked the Participation Team for their continued hard work, the progress which was being made and the positive momentum which was being established. The Sub-Committee had been concerned at the low attendance rates at events and welcomed the improvements which had been achieved, particularly in relation to children and young people living outside of the county. The Chairman

expressed her regret that one young person had missed a recent event due to the taxi which had been arranged to support their attendance not turning up.

It was resolved:

- a) To comment and provide feedback on the range of consultation events and activities the Participation Service provide for children in care and care leavers.

111. PERFORMANCE REPORT

The Chairman welcomed John Peberdy, Service Director for Children and Young People's Health Services at Cambridgeshire Community Services NHS Trust (CCS) to the meeting. She stated that the Sub-Committee attached great importance to its links with Health Service partners and she invited Mr Peberdy to join the discussion for this item. The timely completion of initial health assessments remained an area of concern to the Sub-Committee and she welcomed the opportunity to review the position collaboratively.

Information about complaints relating to services for children in care in 2018/19 had been reviewed at the Sub-Committee meeting on 22 May 2019 in advance of this information being included in the Children's Services Annual Feedback report which was presented to the Children and Young People Committee on 9 July 2019. Members had asked for more information about the complaints which had been upheld and what measures had been taken to address the issues these raised. A summary of this information was contained at paragraph 2.7, but due to the very small number of individuals and families concerned it had been grouped under several headings to ensure that complainants' anonymity was protected. The Chairman asked whether any Member would like more detail on specific cases, in which case the meeting would need to move into closed session. No Member requested to do so.

The Lead Corporate Parenting Manager stated that conversations were continuing between officers and Health Service partners around the handling of initial health service assessments (IHAs) to improve the number carried out within statutory timescales. Amongst the causes of delay were difficulties in obtaining consents when children were taken into care at short notice or at the weekend, the submission of incomplete request forms and failures to attend for an assessment once this was arranged. Members noted that IHAs did not involve any invasive medical assessment.

Arising from the report:

- The Chairman thanked officers for their continued work to refine the content and presentation of the Performance Report to make it more informative and accessible;
- Members asked why the number of IHAs conducted within statutory timeframes had dropped from 63.6% in June 2018 to 5.7% in April 2019. Officers stated that the Children's Change programme had resulted in the loss of business support officers and changes in social workers which had impacted on timescales. The process for handling IHAs had also become over complicated. This had now been simplified and the newly appointed business support officers would include a nominated officer with responsibility for checking the IHA inbox daily and

sending a report each day to the Assistant Director for Children's Services setting out the number of IHAs which remained outstanding.

Mr Peberdy stated that capacity to carry out IHAs had not been an issue to date, but that some checks had been cancelled due to delayed consent forms. Work was taking place on a national basis to look at whether individual consent was required for each IHA as was currently the case or whether this could be presumed when a child was taken into the care of the local authority. The work was also looking at whether consent could be presumed as given unless it was specifically withdrawn. The CCS now tracked the number of delayed consent forms and this data could be shared with the Council.

(Action: Service Director for Children and Young People's Health Services, CCS)

The Chairman stated that the issue of delays to IHAs would remain an area of specific focus and that the Sub-Committee would want to look at the impact of the new arrangements when the Performance Report was reviewed at the next meeting in September 2019.

- Members noted that there could be delays in arranging IHAs for children in care placed outside of the county where the assessment would be conducted by the local health service provider. The Chairman stated that this was not acceptable. She welcomed an assurance from the Service Director for Children and Young People's Health Services (CCS) that initial health assessments for children in care in Cambridgeshire were carried out according to need and that assessments for children placed in Cambridgeshire by other local authorities were not delayed in favour of children in Cambridgeshire County Council's care. She asked CCS to let officers know which local authorities were consistently slow to process health assessments for Cambridgeshire children in care placed within their areas so that the Council could take this up with them;
(Action: Service Director for Children and Young People's Health Services, CCS)
- A Member expressed surprise that 55% of Cambridgeshire's children in care were placed more than 20 miles beyond the county's borders. Their impression had been that the majority of those placed out of county were older unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC) who were placed in Peterborough for social and cultural reasons. Whilst accepting that in some cases there were good reasons for children in care to be placed at a distance from their birth family they were concerned at the implications for those for whom this was not the case;
- Members noted that officers were currently aware of 337 children in the care of local authorities other than Cambridgeshire who were placed within Cambridgeshire. A Member commented that this meant that a significant number of the foster care places available in Cambridgeshire were not accommodating Cambridgeshire children;
- Officers stated that at present dental and optician appointments for children in care were recorded manually which could lead to appointments being missed. With the introduction of the new Liquid Logic system in November 2019 this data would all be captured on a single system which should eliminate this issue.

The Chairman thanked the Service Director for Children and Young People's Health Services CCS for his input and welcomed his offer to help guide the Sub-Committee through NHS structures and systems and to encourage other NHS colleagues who might usefully be involved to come along to future meetings. She asked that he should let the Sub-Committee and officers know of any Council practices in relation to children in care and care leavers which Health service partners found unhelpful. Going forward, officers would share in advance any specific questions which Members might have so that he would be aware of these ahead of the meeting.

(**Action:** Assistant Director for Children's Services)

It was resolved to:

- a) review performance for Children in Care and comment on the themes and trends identified in this report.

112. CHILDREN IN CARE AND CARE LEAVERS NOT IN EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT OR TRAINING (NEET) REDUCTION STRATEGY ACTION PLAN 2019/20

The Chairman welcomed the report and stated that the Local Offer was a priority for the Council and the NEET Reduction Strategy Action Plan was a key element of this.

Members noted that there was now a NEET Reduction Strategy in place for all young people within Cambridgeshire. Performance was generally good for 16-18 year old NEETs, but for young people in vulnerable groups such as children in care, care leavers and those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) the figures were less positive. To address this the NEET Reduction Strategy had been revised and six strategic objectives set relating specifically to children in care and care leavers. These were:

1. Support pre-16 young people to get offers of learning and make successful transitions into post 16 provision.
2. Support post-16 young people to ensure that they sustain post-16 provision and achieve their qualifications or re-engage into post-16 provision.
3. Ensure the right support is provided to young people with SEND.
4. Identify and develop more provision to meet the needs of post-16 young people (including those with mental health needs).
5. Support young people to make a successful transition to employment and develop links with the Department of Work and Pensions to ensure that they are claiming suitable benefits.
6. Improve data performance/ quality assurance/ workforce development.

Arising from discussion of the report:

- Members noted that good provision was available in regional colleges and sixth forms, but that there was less capacity to deliver foundation learning courses. The Chairman stated that there was a strong focus on foundation skills for adult learners, but a gap in local provision at this level for 16-18 year olds. This was a cause for concern;
- Officers stated that the entitlement of care leavers to education transport required clarification. The Chairman stated that the Sub-Committee had not previously looked at education transport issues for children in care and care leavers and the implications of this on their access to further education, apprenticeships and

employment opportunities. She asked that a report on the current position should be brought to a future meeting.

(Action: Lead Education Officer)

- Members noted the Combined Authority's Bus Reform Task Force was currently gathering evidence in relation to bus travel and suggested that the Council's response should include children and young people's use of buses, including children in care, and how this impacted on their access to education, employment, training and social opportunities.

(Action: Lead Education Officer)

- A Member asked for more detail on the reasons which lay behind the higher numbers of children in care and care leavers who were NEET. Officers stated this figure included care leavers who were experiencing mental health issues, those deemed not yet ready for education, employment or training, those who were pregnant or parents caring for children and those who were actively seeking education, employment or training. Officers judged that resources should be targeted on the latter group who were ready to engage. The Member commented that they understood the rationale for targeting resources towards this group, but commented that there were specific projects to support those with mental health issues into work so they would want to take advantage of those;
 - A new contract had been awarded to TCHC via the Combined Authority who were working in partnership with NEET providers across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. Officers were seeking to influence how this funding was directed, but emphasised that this related to all NEET and not just children in care and care leavers. The Chairman stated that she was a member of the Combined Authority Skills Committee and would pursue the issue through that forum. She would also be happy to write to providers to ask about their offer to children in care and care leavers if officers supplied the necessary information.
- (Action:** Lead Corporate Care Manager)

The Chairman thanked officers for their report and asked that a further report should be brought to the Committee in six months' time to keep the Sub-Committee informed of developments, or sooner if officers judged that it was needed.

It was resolved to note and comment on the report.

113. SUB-COMMITTEE WORKSHOP AND TRAINING PLAN

The Sub-Committee workshop and training plan was reviewed and provisional dates agreed for future workshop and training sessions. These would include a single session based on case studies looking at the wraparound care provided to children in care and two sessions to shape the Annual Corporate Parenting Report which would be presented to the Children and Young People Committee in October 2019. The Chairman stated that this would enable the Sub-Committee to play a central role in shaping its content and presentation. Members endorsed this approach. Officers would send out meeting invitations confirming the dates and venues.

(Action: Head of Service – Corporate Parenting)

The Chairman noted that several members of the Sub-Committee also held appointments to groups and bodies which were directly relevant to its work. She asked that a process be established to receive feedback on the work of those groups which related to children in care and care leavers and to open lines of communication.

(**Action**: Democratic Services Officer)

It was resolved to review and comment on the Sub-Committee workshop and training plan.

114. Agenda Plan

The agenda plan was reviewed and noted.

Chairman
(date)

**CORPORATE
PARENTING
SUB-COMMITTEE**

Minutes-Action Log



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 **6 September 2019**.

Minutes of the meeting on 19 September 2018

| | | | | | |
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| 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. | <p>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.</p> <p>20.03.19: The Task and Finish Group had held its first meeting which had been productive. Work was continuing and a further update would follow.</p> <p>8.05.19: The Task and Finish Group continues to be convened and activity is ongoing.</p> <p>28.06.19 The Task and Finish Group continues to be convened and activity is ongoing. A report on activity and outcomes will be included in the Annual Corporate Parenting Sub Committee Report which would be submitted to in September 2019.</p> <p>09.09.19: Report submitted to the Sub-Committee for consideration on 18 September 2019.</p> | Completed |
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| 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. | <p>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.</p> <p>20.03.19: The Sub-Committee was advised that an update would be available in June 2019.</p> <p>28.06.19: The Adoption Annual Report submitted for consideration at the Corporate Parenting Sub Committee meeting on 18 September 2019.</p> | The Adoption Annual Report to be submitted to Sub Committee in September |
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Minutes of the meeting on 20 March 2019

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| 92. | Children in Care: Emotional Health and Wellbeing | 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/ Fiona van den Hout | 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 Committee. | <p>05.04.19: Dave Sargeant is actively involved in this area. A working group has been set up by the LSCB to be chaired by police to lead on this.</p> <p>22.05.19: Mr Sargeant to be invited to take part in the training session to be arranged for all members and substitute members of the Sub-Committee.</p> <p>28.09.19: Mr Sargeant happy to deliver a training session. A provisional date of 3 October 2019 at Shire Hall has been proposed.</p> | On-going: A date of 3 October 2019 at Shire Hall has been proposed. |

| Minutes of the meeting on 22 May 2019 | | | | | |
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| 103. | Fostering Service Annual Report 2018/19 | Sarah-Jane Smedmor | The Sub-Committee would want officers to look at ways of supporting foster care recruitment beyond the three year period covered by Transformation funding. | <p>03.07.19: The Assistant Director for Children's Services to work with the fostering team and transformation team to consider sustainability. This will be fed back as part of the next fostering service report in November 2019.</p> <p>03.09.19: The service is considering sustainable schemes and practice approaches to support foster carer recruitment</p> | For report in November 2019 |
| Minutes of the meeting on 17 July 2019 | | | | | |
| 110. | Young People's Participation | Claire Betteridge | To circulate an electronic copy of the Participation Service newsletter to Sub-Committee members. | 08.08.19: A copy circulated to all Sub-Committee members. | Completed |
| | | | To make the recruitment of a second co-opted member (if required) and co-opted member substitutes a priority to ensure that the voice of children in care and care leavers remained at the heart of the Sub-Committee's work. | 29.08.19: Officers are continuing to attempt to recruit another young person to be a co-opted member, but haven't been able to identify anyone so far. It is hoped that a young person may come along to observe the meeting on 18 September. | On-going |
| 111. | Performance Report | John Peberdy, CCS | To share CCS tracking information on health assessment consent forms with CCC officers. | 06.09.19: The information is shared with CCC officers as part of the process. | Completed |

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| | | | CCS to let officers know which local authorities were consistently slow to process health assessments for Cambridgeshire children in care placed within their areas so that the Council could take this up with them. | 06.09.19: Establishing those local authorities which are consistently slow to process health assessments for Cambridgeshire children in care placed within their areas has proved complicated. The Sub-Committee will be kept updated. | On-going |
| | | Sarah-Jane Smedmor | The Chairman undertook to share in advance with CCS any specific questions which the Sub-Committee might have. | 06.09.19: Noted. | Completed |
| 112. | Children in Care and Care Leavers not in education, employment or training (NEET) Reduction Strategy Action Plan 2019/20 | Hazel Belchamber | The Chairman stated that the Sub-Committee had not previously looked at education transport issues for children in care and care leavers and the implications of this on their access to further education, apprenticeships and employment opportunities. She asked that a report on the current position should be brought to a future meeting. | 28 July 2019: A report on Education Transport for Children in Care and Care Leavers to be brought to the Sub-Committee in November 2019. | Report scheduled for November 2019 |
| | | Hazel Belchamber | Members noted the Combined Authority's Bus Reform Task Force was currently gathering evidence in relation to bus travel and suggested that the Council's response should include children and young people's use of buses, including children in care, and how this impacted on their access to education, employment, training and social opportunities. | 29.07.19: The Bus Reform Task Force is looking at three work streams, but none of these relate to bus use by children and young people or will result in a report requiring a response from the County Council. Cllr Every will raise these points with the Combined Authority in her capacity as a member of the Combined Authority Skills Committee. | Completed |

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| | | Kate Knight | The Chairman stated that she would be happy to write to NEET providers to ask about their offer to children in care and care leavers if officers supplied the necessary information. | 30.07.19: Mark Cowdell drafting a letter for Cllr Every's signature. 03.09.19: The letter has been drafted and will be sent to Cllr Every for approval. | On-going |
| 113. | Sub-Committee Workshop and Training Plan | Fiona van den Hout | To send out meeting invitations confirming the dates and venues of the workshop and training sessions for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Case studies for wraparound care ii. Annual Corporate Parenting Report (two sessions) | 03.09.19: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Date to be arranged. ii. One session has taken place. Report will now be signed off via correspondence. | On-going |
| | | Richenda Greenhill | Establish a process to receive feedback on the work of those groups to which Sub-Committee members are appointed which relate to children in care and care leavers and to open lines of communication. | 15.08.19: A list of all relevant groups which Sub-Committee members sit on has been compiled. A process to receive feedback on the work of these groups and to open lines of communication with them is under discussion. | On-going |

YOUNG PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION

To: **Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee**

Meeting Date: **18 September 2019**

From: **Claire Betteridge - Service Development Manager**

Electoral division(s): **All**

Purpose: To provide an update on recent participation events.

Recommendation: To comment or provide feedback on the range of consultation events and activities the Participation Service provide for children in care and care leavers.

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



Summary:

- There is a plan for participation activities throughout 2019/20.
- The annual 'picnic in the park' took place at the end of July 2019.
- The Participation Team hosted a Voices Matter meeting on the 22 August 2019. This event was arranged with colleagues in fostering.
- We will have held two 'Just Us' Groups over the summer.
- The Mind of My Own Apprentice continues to promote the use of the APP offering individual and group training.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee requested an update on the work of the Participation Service at each of its meetings.

2. MAIN ISSUES

2.1 Update on Involvement of Young People

Consultation

The participation team has continued to make efforts to identify other young people who might be interested in being substitutes for the co-opted members of the corporate parenting sub-committee, so we can ensure we have young people in attendance at each meeting.

During the events we have hosted over the summer we have had a consistent theme to consult children and young people on:

- Feedback and views to be used as part of the regional participation media event which is taking place towards the end of September 2019
- Seeking ideas about the annual awards ceremony for next year 2020.

Picnic in the Park

The annual fun day was held on the 26 July 2019 at Witchford Village Hall. Once again there were a variety of fairground attractions which included inflatables, a coconut shy, hook a duck and giant board games as well as arts and crafts, a tennis tournament and the connections bus.

We also had stalls hosted by other organisations which included the library service, the Fitzwilliam Museum and Cambridge University Realise team, to promote what opportunities they were able to offer our children in care and care leavers.

From feedback received it seems as though the event was enjoyed by those who came along. Fortunately the heat wave we had experienced earlier in the week disappeared and the weather was fine and dry.

From the registrations on the day we had 40 households and a total of 132 people, which consisted of 48 foster carers and 84 children.





Impact

During the course of this event and in preparation for the regional participation media project in September we asked children and young people to give us comments on the questions in the grid below. This was the first time we used this event to obtain feedback from young people and the grid below is what we gathered, and this will now feed into the regional participation media project.

| | |
|---|---|
| What advice would you give to someone coming into care? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> You should be looking forward to it because it is fun and you get treated well. Look into options and situation. You're safe not at risk of harm :) Good food., warm, fun days out Get out asap It's OK it's not as scary as you think Think outside the box because there is always ways around every situation |
| What advice would you give to someone leaving care? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stay away from drugs no matter what peer pressure is around Always follow your dreams no matter how hard it seems and always stay positive |

| | |
|--|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enjoy your life and follow aspirations |
| What is good about being in care | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People actually understand what you are going through and will always support you and your decisions and your hopes and dreams. • Families love you the same and going out. • You go out – bike shows, silly games, live music, fun fair, meeting people on bikes |
| What's not so good about being in care | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You don't get much family contact • Scary and strange to start with • Homework :(Bedtime • Lack of career prospects. Constantly being judged because of your background |

During the course of the event we provided foster carers and young people with a participation pack with information about events over the summer and how young people can get involved. We also included a copy of the participation newsletter and a form to register interest and joining our mailing list.

Impact

As a result of our promotional materials we were able to recruit two new young people who then also came along to the Voices Matter meeting at Grafham.

Voices Matter

The children in care council meeting (Voices Matter) took place on the 22 August 2019 at Grafham Water. The event was a joint collaboration with colleagues in the fostering service. The morning session hosted three separate meetings, Voices Matter, a meeting with foster carers and one for children who foster.

Of the 18 young people who attended we had 11 Girls and 7 Boys, aged between 5 and 14 years of age. The event was well supported by senior managers and elected members, who spent time with each group.

The session started with three groups working on three pieces of work, two groups did some preparation for the regional media event in September which built on the work we began at the picnic in the park, where young people were asked to comment on what advice they would give someone new coming into care and advice to someone leaving care. We also facilitated a discussion about what was good about being in care and what wasn't so great. The final group worked on ideas for the annual awards evening. Everyone had the opportunity to contribute to each piece of work.

Everyone came together for lunch and the afternoon was spent getting involved in activities which included Canoeing, Bush Craft, Archery or the High Ropes.

Impact

We are in the process of analysing feedback and learning gathered but initial findings have indicated:

- Some young people have indicated that they want to get involved in the regional media project which is taking place in September 2019 and this is being followed up to encourage and support their participation.
- We are attracting a core group of young people who are attending the participation events and meetings on a regular basis which is enabling us to build up positive relationships with them. They are also beginning to form friendships between themselves which is a pleasure to observe and support.
- A group of young people have said that they are keen to get more involved in the planning of the next awards ceremony and want to be part of a planning committee to oversee this with the participation team.

The feedback we got to use for the regional media project is collated in the table below, and further builds on the feedback from the Picnic in the Park fun day:

| | |
|---|---|
| What advice would you give to someone leaving care? | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Have fun• Live while you can• Stay away from bad things and people• Remember you can always go back and meet your carers• If you need help there are always places you can go to talk for help• Stay away from drugs• Remember you have people to turn to• Make your situation, never let your situation make you• It can be hard. Try not to keep thinking about the past, the past is the past, focus on your future• Find the strength to speak out about any of your worries, feelings, emotions |
| What is good about being in care | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Foster Carer is lovely and lets me have a dog• Sometimes you don't have to change school• Going back home / reunification• Food• Foster carer• Nothing• Pocket Money• Voices matter• Watching the film you want when you are older• Carer help with my homework• I get to see my mum• I get an independent visitor• I get good holiday• Pocket money• Everything is amazing when not told of cause we get treats and surprise!!! |

| | |
|---|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feeling like am related in a family • Play Football • Roller skating, eat, swimming, zoo, aqua park, beach, Trampoline park, rock climbing • Craft day • Sleep |
| What isn't great about being in care | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can't choose our social worker • Split from siblings • Respite carer • Mental health • Confusion of the situation and stress • Losing animals when moved into care • Anxiety and depression getting worse • Takes way too long to get my position back • Foster carer booking things without asking me • Transport • When they tell you off • Not good social workers • Too many changes • The social workers don't visit enough • Too many changes • Carers make you eat vegetables • Not meeting you Foster Carers • Foster carers let us down • Going to meetings • Changing schools • Getting told off • Switching social workers all the time • Room checks • Slow trust process |
| What advice would you give to someone coming into care? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Think that you would be in a worse situation if you weren't put where you are and given help • Always remember you have a voice use it • Try to have fun • Try to make a second life • Just live life happily because you only have one • Don't run away • Don't panic • Try to relax • Keep your mental health positive • Don't run away because it will make matters worse • Try your hardest to trust people around you • You get included in things • You have a second chance in life • Try not to let it get to you. Talk to someone • Speak up and give your opinion • Make friends. Don't be afraid |

- | | |
|--|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• You have been given another chance in life• You get to meet new families and live a new life• Don't be worried• Don't push people away |
|--|---|

We did receive some specific feedback though on the day,

- a young person who had been quite reserved during the course of the day but had plucked up the courage to go canoeing and when he got back to dry land, announced he was going to be a canoeing instructor when he was older.
- Another young person enjoyed taking part in activities that they had never experienced and her foster carers told us that they are now seeking out an archery club so she can take up the sport.

In conclusion, the day was a enormous success and the feedback we have received has been very positive from both the children and their foster carers. They all are keen to have similar events in the future.



Just Us Groups

A meeting was held at Hichingbrooke Country Park on the 19 August 2019 for children and young people aged between 5 and 12 years of age. The beginning of the session covered ideas for the awards evening next year (which is still being collated) and feedback for the regional media project in September. This is summarised in the table below:-

| | |
|---|---|
| What advice would you give to someone leaving care? | Stay positive and concentrate on the good things Look forward – don't think of the past, think of the future |
| What is good about being in care | Everything Learning new things Meeting new people |
| What isn't as great about being in care | Liked it Nothing is Bad Found settling in hard |
| What advice would you give to someone coming into care? | Share your worries/ don't keep them to yourself Always looking forward Don't be scared |

The group then participated in some pond dipping and orienteering. There were 9 young people signed up to attend and 5 came along on the day. They were aged between 8 and 12 years. There were 2 young people who were from out of county placements.



On the 2 September 2019 another Just Us Group is due to take place at the Wisbech Adventure playground for children and young people aged between 5 and 14 years of age. At the time of

writing this report the session hadn't taken place, but we have three young people signed up to attend.

Impact

We are in the process of completely collating and analysing feedback gathered and we will be able to provide a more comprehensive overview once the second Just Us Session takes place on the 2 September.

Care Leavers Forum

We are looking to relaunch this forum and plan to have an ongoing series of drop-in sessions on offer at different venues across the county. This forum will be undertaken in collaboration with the leaving care team. We are looking to have these sessions established in the autumn 2019.

2.2. Events from other organisations we have supported

The Realise Team (Cambridge University)

The Realise Team from Cambridge University attended the picnic in the park and fed back that they found being able to network with various representatives from Cambridgeshire county council and foster carers was invaluable in respect of promoting the opportunities available to our looked after children.

Over the summer they offered a Superstar Science workshop at the end of July which consisted of four half day sessions for eight to eleven year olds and their foster carers. In addition they held two University Explore days at the end of August for eleven to fifteen year olds. Unfortunately only one young person signed up for this event so it was cancelled, but they remain committed to offer further such workshops to our children in care.

More information on the events that the Realise Team host can be found via the link below.

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

Arts Award (The Fitzwilliam Museum – Cambridge University)

The Fitzwilliam Museum facilitated the bronze arts award over four days in mid-August. These sessions were open to young people aged 11 years and over. The event covered a visit to the museum of zoology, spending time at the Fitzwilliam museum viewing exhibitions and using various art techniques such as marbling and screen-printing. Each young person had a folder where they were able to collate information from the four days.

We had 5 children sign up, but only 4 were able to attend the sessions. The four young people who attended will all receive an accredited bronze arts award.

Impact

Four young people who attended will all receive an accredited bronze arts award.

At the beginning of the week the young people were asked the following:-

| |
|--|
| What, if anything, are you hoping to gain by taking part in the Arts Award? |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• learning more about art• no• learn more things• better at art |

At the end of the week the young people were asked the following

| |
|---|
| What, if anything, do you feel you've gained from the Arts Award? |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• yes my art has got better• learning new ways of art• new skills• Yes |
| What did you like most about the Arts Award? |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• working with new people• messy things• everything/marbling• Marbling |
| What did you dislike most about the Arts Award? |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• nothing• nothing• nothing• nothing because all of it was fun |
| Do you have any other comments about your experience on the Arts Award? |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• no• fun• no I am happy• no because it was all fun to do and I will be coming back to the Arts Awards |

This feedback evidences that the children enjoyed the event and improved their skills and confidence in art as well as receiving an award.

The Library Service (Cambridgeshire County Council)

'The Library Presents' which is funded by Arts Council England delivers arts events in libraries across Cambridgeshire, offered to host a four day event at the end of August creating digital art characters such as Minecraft on the theme of dreams with a professional virtual reality artist.

The information can be seen at the following link - www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/arts

A young person was involved in the shortlisting of the artist, Lee Mason who was commissioned for this project (<https://www.instagram.com/leemason/?hl=en>).

Unfortunately due to low numbers of young people signing up to attend the session was only offered over two of the four days. We had six children and young people sign up, aged between 11 and 14.

Below is some examples of the work that Lee Mason has produced –



Impact

The feedback from this event will be evaluated once this event has taken place.

Regional Participation

The regional participation teams are planning to collaborate on another project and have a meeting planned for the end of September at The Junction in Cambridge. The plan is to make a film with children and young people across the region to share their experiences about their journey into care.

2.3 Participation Service

Staffing

The Participation Team currently has a part time manager, two participation workers, a business support assistant and an apprentice leading on Mind of My Own. One of the participation workers has recently resigned from their post. We will be holding interviews for this vacancy on the 9 September 2019.

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 child.

The Mind of My Own developers have introduced a new statement option called “My Wellbeing”. The aim of this statement is to support young people to build resilience by helping them to understand their strengths and stressors and encouraging their mindful awareness, social connections and coping strategies.

By using this statement choice to provide feedback, as an organisation we will be able to identify which young people have resilience factors such as:

- A trusted adult in their life
- They are engaged and happy in their community
- They attend sports groups
- They have meaningful friendships and relationships

The information in Appendix 1 summarises Mind of My Own activity for July and August 2019.

CONCLUSION

The participation team have had a busy summer hosting and supporting various events. It's been great to see a core group of young people come along to our meetings and events and we are beginning to build positive relationships with them as well as observe how they are enjoying meeting up with one another and forming friendships. A growing group of children and young people are showing an interest in getting involved in shaping as well as participating in our participation events and making their voices heard.

As a team we are committed to promote and encourage our children in care and care leavers access and attend the various opportunities that are being made available to them which not only include the events and meetings we host, but what is being offered by other organisations. As a team we have been somewhat disappointed at the numbers of children and young people we have seen sign up to and attend events over the past few months. However, we have been in discussions with managers and senior managers particularly in fostering in recent weeks to explore how attendance and take up of these opportunities can be increased in the future. I am assured that there is a real commitment to ensure that foster carers will be expected to encourage our children and young people to access these opportunities going forward.

We are reliant on colleagues to support and promote these opportunities not only in fostering but in the corporate parenting teams and other professionals such as Independent Reviewing Officers who come into regular contact with children in care and care leavers.

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 | |

Appendix 1 – Item 4

Overview of Mind of My Own

Mind of My Own is a web based application which can be accessed via a smartphone, tablet, laptop or desktop computer. The program helps children and young people express themselves and communicate with professionals in their lives making sure they are heard. Both One App and Express are effective direct work tools which can be used by a range of professionals from social workers and teachers to support workers.

The **MOMO One App** is a great way for young people to share their thoughts and send them to those who need to hear from them. The app has a number of options called statements which the young person can choose to use, for example preparing for a meeting, share good news or sort a problem. This version of the app provides prompts in terms of what the young person might want to share, for example: preparing for a meeting there are a number of questions, like who do you want to be there, sit next to or talk about, but there is also room for the young person to expand and provide more of a narrative of their views. The app is available to young people to have their own account or they can access it via their workers account when they have a one to one session. The app is able to assist in guiding or structuring a conversation with a young person. The young person can choose who they want to send their statement to.

The **MOMO Express App** is aimed at younger children or those with additional needs and uses expressive pictures, minimal text and affirming sounds. It has some accessibility features that can be tailored to the needs of the child and it can be used to support education, health or social care planning or review process, including EHC plans. The Express App is designed to be used with a worker. The Mind of My Own developers have added some additional reporting functions which we have used for the first time for the purposes of this report.

| | | | |
|---|--|---|------------------|
| Number of YP accounts – 110 | | | |
| Number of worker accounts – 376 | | | |
| | July 2019 | August 2019 | Sept 2019 |
| Number of statements per month from YP | 7 | 2 | |
| Number of statements per month via worker | 5 | 13 | |
| MOMO Express (younger children) Statements per month | 49 | 13 | |
| Top 3 subject matters each month MOMO ONE (older children) | Foster Carer Review - 33% Worker Visit – 25% Preparation/Problem - 17% | Foster Carer Review – 50% Preparation – 27% Worker Visit – 9% Conference – 9% | |
| Top 3 subject matters each month MOMO EXPRESS (younger children) | About Me – 27% My Life – 25% My Education – 19% | About Me – 27% My Education – 20% My Health – 20% | |

Mind of My Own Summary

The apprentice for the APP continues to offer team training and one to one support. As a team we have targeted safeguarding teams to promote the use of the APP as part of the preparation in capturing the voice of the child/young person for a review child protection conference.

The use of the one APP was low for July 2019 with only 12 statements in total received for the month. The use of the express APP reached a total of 49 statements. The One APP Statements in August 2019 have increased to a total of 21 and there has been a real decrease in the number of statements received via the Express APP.

The one APP statements received continue to be consistently used for foster carer reviews.

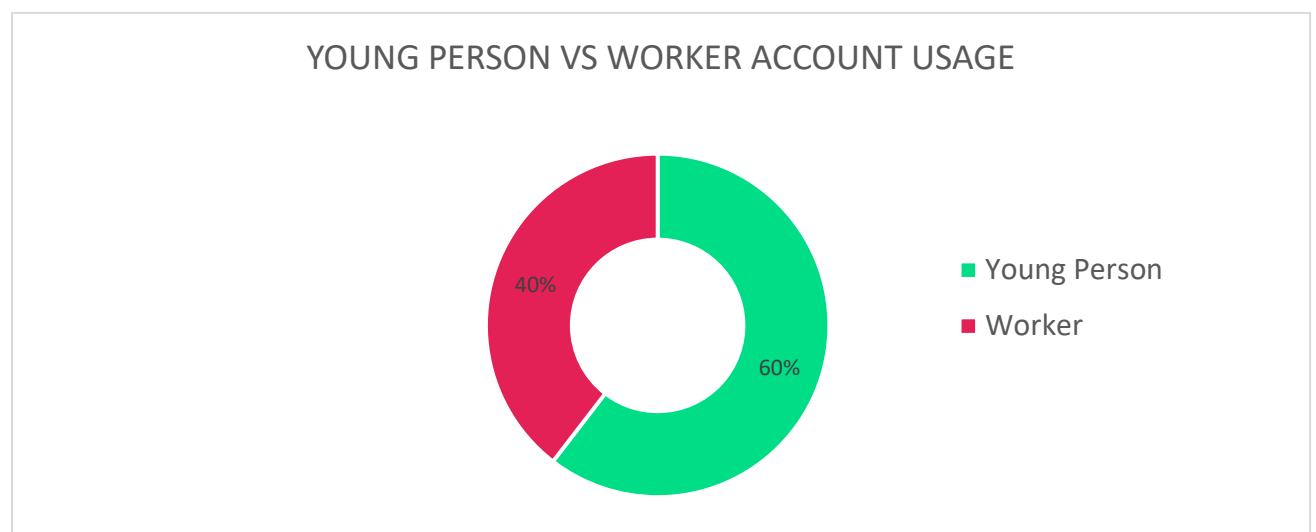
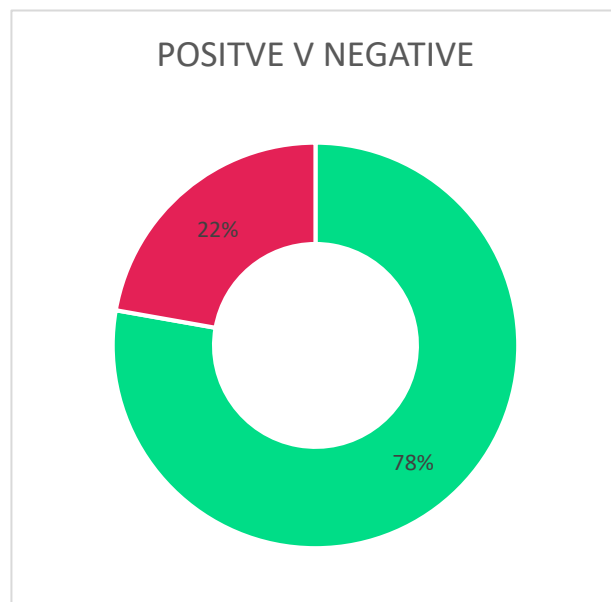
Below is a summary of feedback received from children and young people through the one APP.

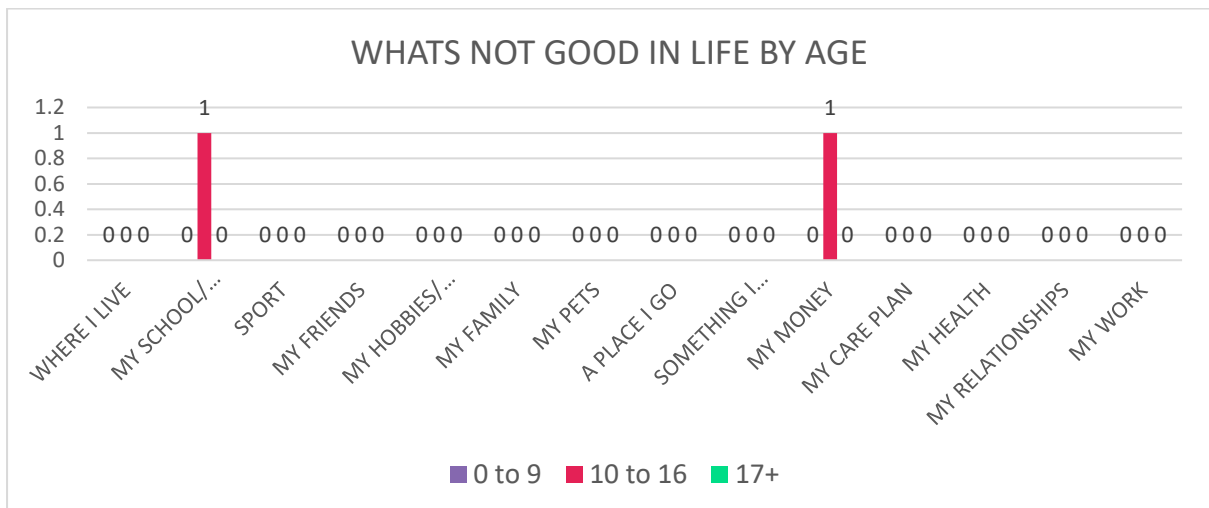
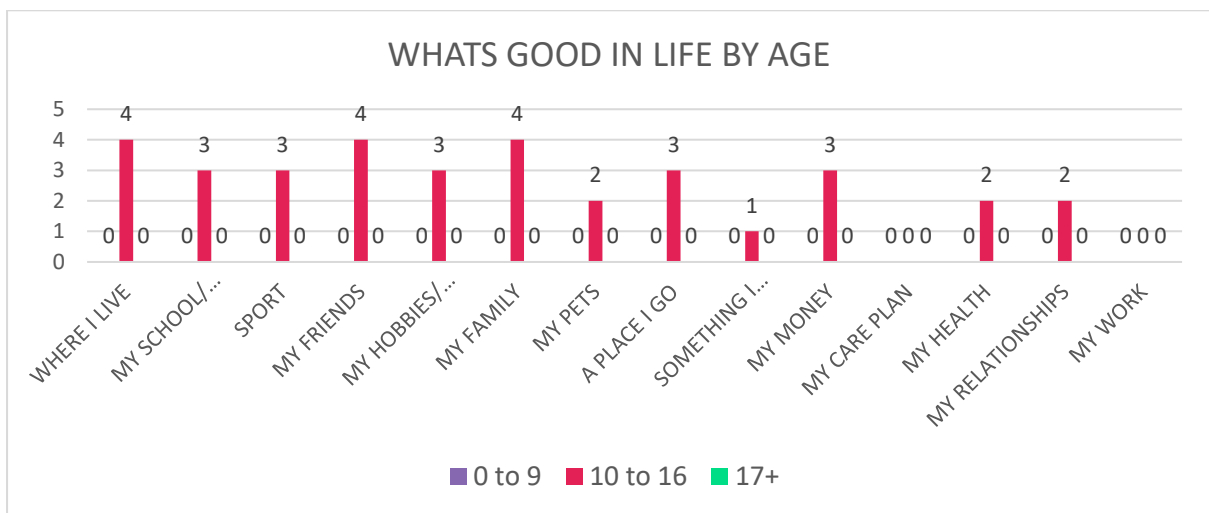
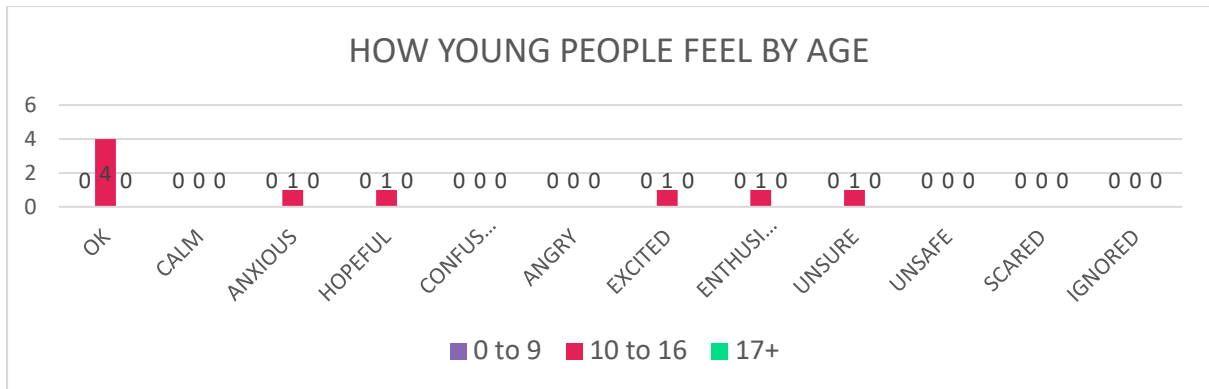
Mind of My Own Statistics

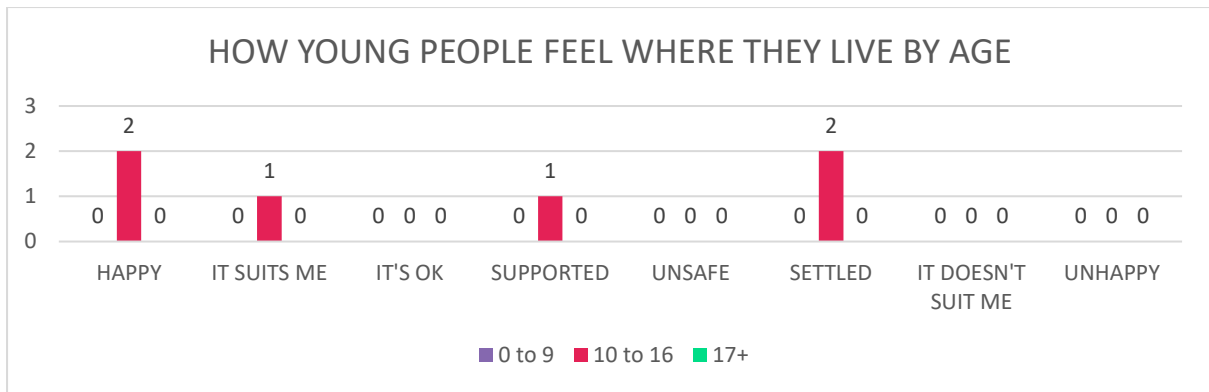
The developers have updated the dashboard which means we can extract information from the statements we receive from children and young people and the following charts are an example of the information we have gathered for the months of July and August 2019.

July 2019

How young people are feeling in general

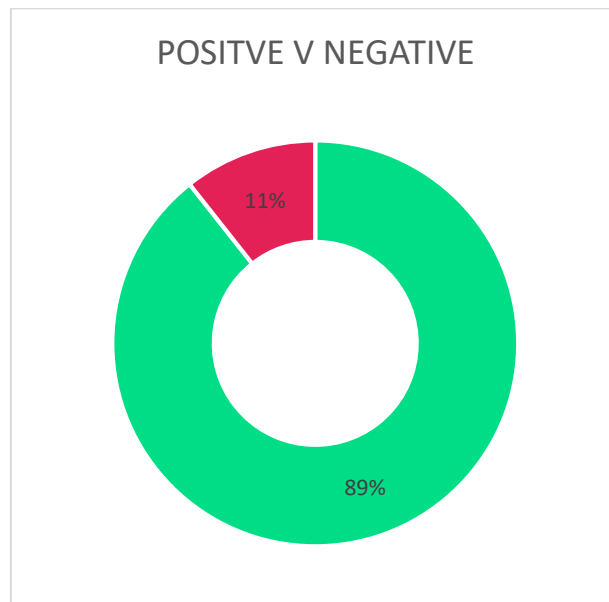




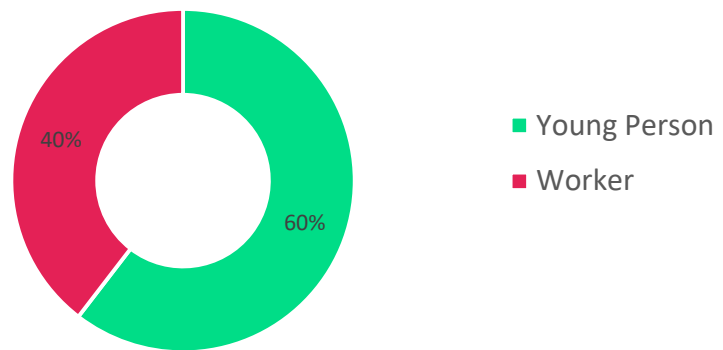


August 2019

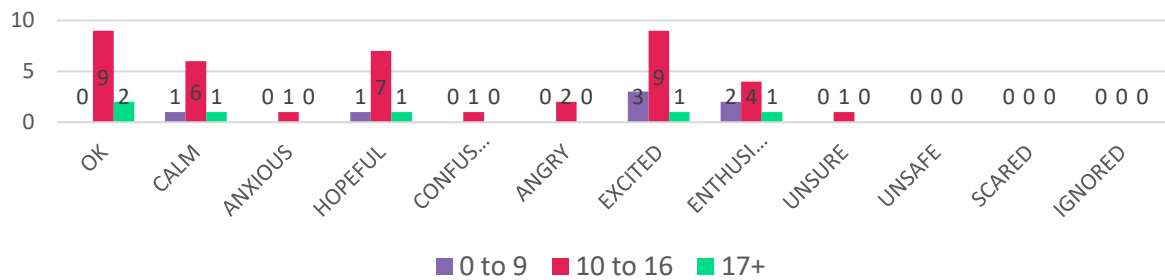
How young people are feeling in general



YOUNG PERSON VS WORKER ACCOUNT USAGE

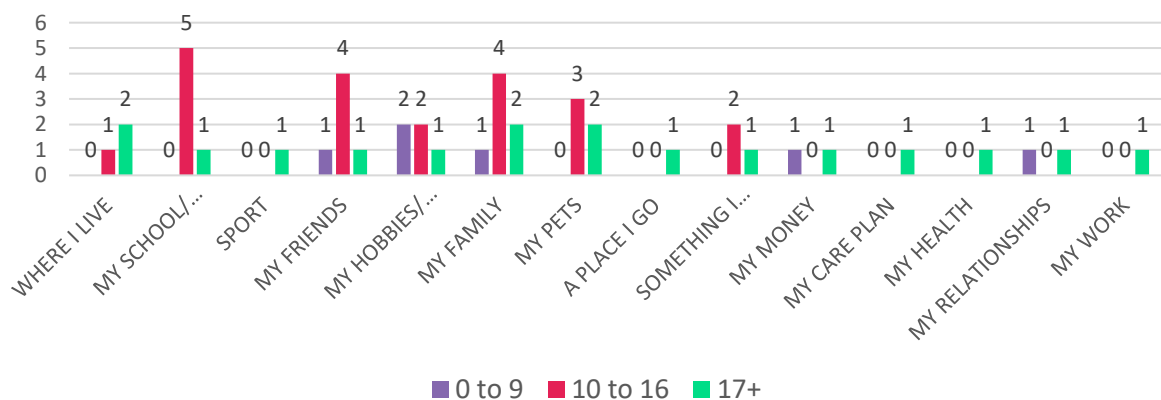


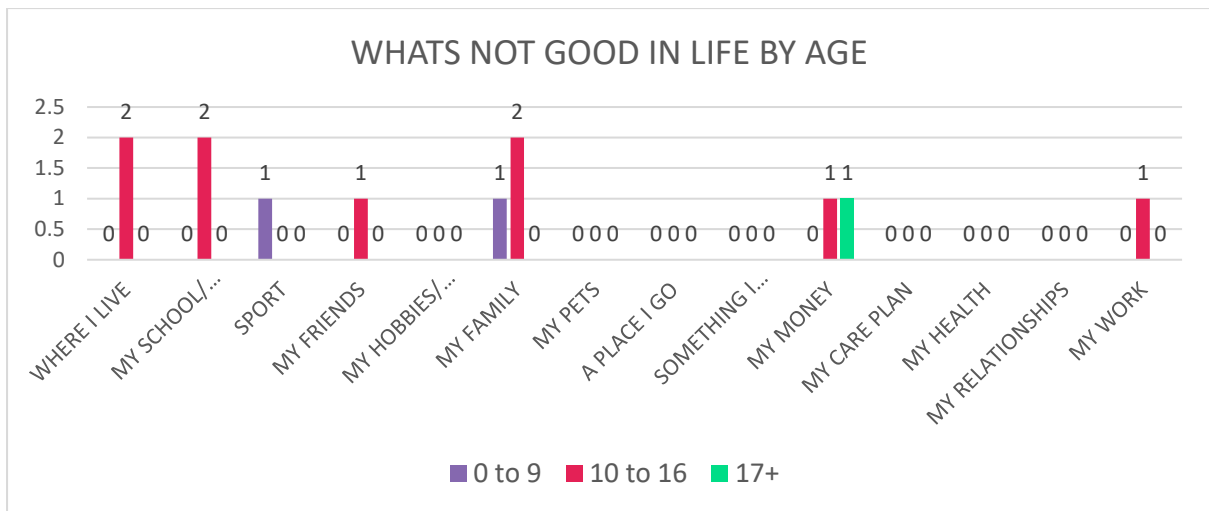
HOW YOUNG PEOPLE FEEL BY AGE



The young person who reported that they felt anxious, also said that they felt OK, Calm, Hopeful, Confused, Angry, Excited, Enthusiastic, Unsure. This seems to be related to their care plan and whether they will be returning home and this is what they shared for their foster carers review.

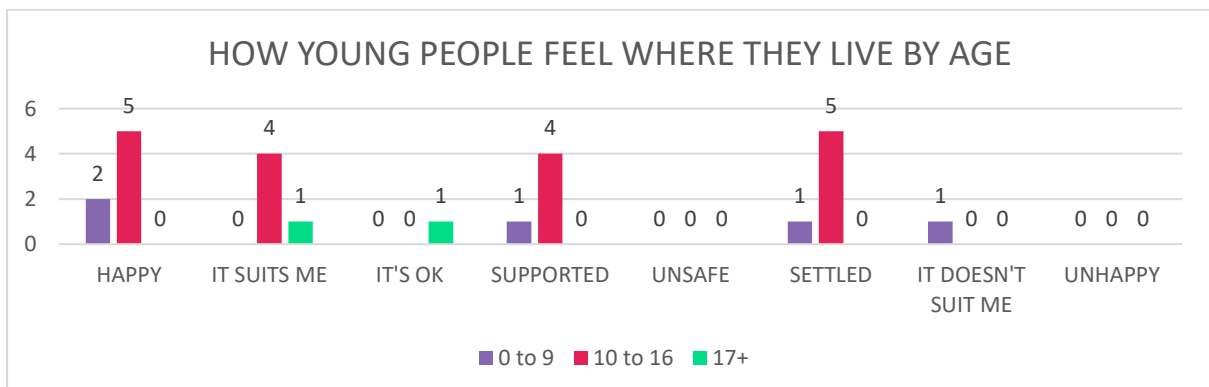
WHATS GOOD IN LIFE BY AGE





One young person aged between 10 and 16 reported that where they lived wasn't good but the statement shared positive feedback about their placement for the foster carers review. They have since moved placements.

The other young person who reported that where they live wasn't good in their life was the same young person who shared it didn't suit them and they have subsequently returned home as part of their care plan.



The one young person who reported that where they lived didn't suit them has recently been rehabilitated back home to their family at the conclusion of care proceedings. However they did say they felt safe and supported in their placement.

VIRTUAL SCHOOL REPORT

To: **Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee**

Meeting Date: **18 September 2019**

From: **Claire Hiorns
Virtual School Head Teacher**

Electoral division(s): **All**

Purpose:

- i. **To provide an update on the reviewed Virtual School development plan (January 2019- August 2019)**
- ii. **To outline the priorities for the coming academic year (September 2019 - August 2020)**

Recommendation: **The Sub-Committee is recommended to note and comment on the report, offering support and challenge as necessary.**

| <i>Officer contact:</i> | | <i>Member contact:</i> | |
|--------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|--|
| Name: | Claire Hiorns | Names: | Councillor Lis Every |
| Post: | 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:

To provide an update on the progress towards the development priorities within the Virtual School from January 2019 - August 2019. This plan focused on restructuring the Virtual School policy and practice, to a model which could be led by data and increase the Virtual School's capacity to be proactive rather than reactive.

The report also sets out the Virtual School priorities for the academic year September 2019-August 2020. This forms the first part of a three year strategic plan.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Every local authority must have a Virtual School Head Teacher. In Cambridgeshire there are a team of educational professionals who support the Head to fulfil the statutory duties. Since the time of the last report the substantive Virtual School Head Teacher position has been filled with the Interim Head appointed to the role. The Virtual School is a standing item on the Sub-Committee agenda.

2. MAIN ISSUES

2.1 Reviewed Development Plan

The plan commenced from January 2019, as this coincided with the departure of the previous Virtual School Head Teacher and aimed to support the development of the Virtual School until the substantive position was appointed to. The plan was built around four key priorities:

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

Following the implementation of this plan, the Virtual School has now restructured the team; developed processes and systems for the implementation of the new model and held a launch event for over 200 Designated Teachers (attended by Cllr Lis Every and Sarah-Jane Smedmor,

Assistant Director). From September 2019 the new model will be live for children aged 4-18. It will be launched with Early Years Settings for a January 2020 start.

Appendix 1 provides a copy of the fully reviewed Virtual School Development Plan from January 2019-August 2019.

2.2 Development Plan September 2019-August 2020

The priorities for the next academic year focus on embedding the new model. They form the first part of a three year strategic plan, with the ultimate aim of improving outcomes for care experienced children. The six priorities for this academic year are:

- **Personal Education Plans (PEPs) consistently meet the needs of children and young people in care**

As part of the previous plan, the PEP was streamlined to increase the focus on pupil voice, social emotional and mental health needs, attainment and progress and the link between each of these with the development of Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, and Timely (SMART) outcomes. Within the new PEP, pupil premium plus must be applied for against the SMART outcomes set. A PEP submission date has also been introduced. This PEP will be live from September 2019. This was shared with Designated Teachers (DTs) at the launch event in July 2019. To further support DTs the Virtual School is developing the role of a PEP Champion.

Over the next twelve months the quality assurance process and audit of this process will be developed. There will be an increased focus on the collection of both compliance and quality data linked to the PEP. This data will be used to hold parties to account, to identify training needs and to inform the content and delivery of training. It will also provide a focus for the advisory visits in schools, with Post 16 and Early Years Settings.

There will be an emphasis on increasing children and young people's understanding of and meaningful involvement within the PEP meeting.

- **Children and young people in care have increased access to and inclusion within education, leading to improved outcomes**

The Virtual School now has an Access and Inclusion Team, whose role is to ensure when a child or young person enters care, or has a care placement move, that education is prioritised. Over the next twelve months the processes and systems which have been set up will need to be regularly reviewed and revised to ensure that system is effective.

The Virtual School Education Psychologist will be leading a project around promoting attendance for children in care.

There will be a focus on increasing Education, Employment and Training for our 16-18 year olds and increasing inclusion for our Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children.

- **Projects (including those funded by pupil premium plus) raise attainment and support accelerated progress in English and Maths**

With the changes to the Virtual School Pupil Premium Plus Policy (live from September 2019), there are three stands to funding:

1. Funding for an individual child, linked to the SMART outcomes and applied for through the PEP
2. Application for a project, which will benefit a minimum of two children in care and links to the Virtual School's priority areas
3. Virtual School retained funding

Over the next year there will be a focus on ensuring all Designated Teachers are aware of and understand the changes to the pupil premium plus policy, enabling them to make the best use of the funding streams available to them. Pupil Premium Plus (PPP) for an individual child will be scrutinised through the PEP quality assurance process and form a focus of the advisory visits in education settings.

The Virtual School Educational Psychologist will lead on supporting schools to develop project bids which maximise opportunities for impact and will monitor this impact. Schools will be empowered to take the lead on the implementation of the projects.

The impact of retained funding, for example the Virtual School Educational Psychologist role, will be evaluated and this intelligence will be used to establish future investments.

There will be a focus on how data can be collected which evidences impact of each of the funding streams.

The Virtual School is involved in a project with the REES Centre, which is supporting the training of 16 foster carers in paired reading, with the aim of improving the reading age of the focus group.

The Virtual School is working with other key partners within the local authority to develop and pilot a trauma informed project to support schools. By the end of the year, the pilot will have been evaluated with the aim of being able to roll it out across Cambridgeshire.

The Virtual School will be working in collaboration with social care to develop an aspiration audit, the findings will be used to inform support for children and young people.

- **Key partners within the local authority and beyond see children in care as a shared responsibility and are empowered to support them effectively**

Over the last year, there has been a focus on developing relationships and communication with a range of key partners. This will continue to be embedded over the next 12 months.

Within schools the next focus is to embed the advisory visits so that Designated Teachers, governors and senior leaders see the Virtual School advisory team as a 'critical friend'. Where relevant, there will also be a focus on collaboration with other Virtual Schools for school visits. As part of this, the Virtual School's data processes will continue to be strengthened.

Owing to the success of linking members of the Virtual School team to other teams within the local authority, this year further links will be established. Where relevant, protocols will be agreed. The Virtual School team will signpost Designated Teachers to the team that can best support.

In order to facilitate communication, the Virtual School website will be developed, as will the use of social media.

- **Policy and practice is developed to promote educational outcomes for children previously in care**

Peterborough and Cambridgeshire Virtual School have jointly appointed an Officer to support the Virtual School in fulfilling its statutory duty to provide advice and information for children previously in care. Following the induction, the focus will be on establishing relationships with key partners, aligning processes between Peterborough and Cambridgeshire and ensuring there is equity in the offer for those subject to a Special Guardianship Order and Child Arrangement Order, as with those adopted from care.

Advice and information sought from the Virtual School and responses given will be tracked and analysed, enabling the Virtual School to evidence impact of VS intervention; to create additional documentation; and to modify training according to emerging needs.

Links will be established with other Virtual Schools in the Eastern Region, with the aim of developing a collaborative approach to promoting educational outcomes for children in previously in care.

- **There is stability within the Virtual School Team and a sense of wellbeing**

The Virtual School has had a period of instability and high levels of change. The working practice has evolved along with the new model. The team has a wealth of knowledge and experience. There is a need to invest in staff to support them to feel confident with the new working practices and to promote a sense of wellbeing.

3. ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PRIORITIES

3.1 A good quality of life for everyone

The report above sets out the implications for this priority in section 2.

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 report above sets out the implications for this priority in section 2.

4. SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Resource Implications

The recruitment of a Data Officer has been approved and is in process.

4.2 Procurement/Contractual/Council Contract Procedure Rules N/A

4.3 Statutory, Legal and Risk Implications

All statutory requirements are being adhered to in all developments with the Virtual School

4.4 Equality and Diversity Implications N/A

4.5 Engagement and Communications Implications

The report above sets out the implications for this priority in section 2.

4.6 Localism and Local Member Involvement N/A

4.7 Public Health Implications N/A

SOURCE DOCUMENTS

| Source Documents | Location |
|---|---|
| <i>Virtual School Development Plan September 2019-August 2020</i> | <i>Claire Hiorns</i> <i>Head of the Virtual School</i> Claire.hiorns@cambridgeshire.gov.uk hire.gov.uk 01223 743850 |

CAMBRIDGESHIRE VIRTUAL SCHOOL FOR CARE EXPERIENCED CHILDREN

VISION STATEMENT

We will champion the individual needs of all care-experienced children enabling them to learn, aspire, thrive and achieve their maximum potential.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- The voice of the child is of paramount importance.
- All care-experienced children will receive high quality education which is inspiring and challenging, resulting in the best possible outcomes, thus closing the educational gap between these children and those who are not care experienced.
- Every care-experienced child will have a positive educational experience which promotes social and emotional learning and wellbeing alongside academic success to ensure readiness for adulthood.
- Every setting will be empowered and able to lead the changes necessary to enable our children to thrive.
- The Virtual School will meet the needs of care-experienced children through effective liaison and integrated work with all key partners.

Strategic Overview

In recent years the Virtual School has been developing new approaches to its work and is in the process of moving from a 'caseload based model' to a 'school improvement model' which will be initiated by September 2019 and evolve throughout the 2019-20 academic year. This developing model was confirmed by the joint Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Virtual School external review (Summer 2018). This new way of working will include a closer working relationship with Peterborough Virtual School.

Four priorities have been identified to facilitate movement towards the new model, whilst continuing to maintain appropriate support and challenge during the current academic year:

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

Within this document the term 'designated teacher' is used throughout. This also includes designated persons in Early Years and Post-16 settings and those responsible for previously LAC.

Development Plan January 2019-September 2019

| <p style="text-align: center;">Priority 1</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Strengthen the collection of data, use of data analysis to inform strategy and interventions to drive improvement and maximise impact</p> | | | |
|--|------------------|--------------------|--|
| Required Actions | Timescale | Current RAG | Review |
| <p>To make use of current available data to inform support and challenge regarding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Individual CYP - Education settings - Social care | April 2019 | G | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data considered, patterns and trends used to support review of PEPs and QA process • 2017/18 data analysed and reported in HT report. • Data used as part of training for gov, HT, DTs and other key partners • Post 16 data used to support advisory visits to Post 16 Providers • Post 16 data on PEP compliance and quality shared with social care and used to develop documentation and training • Data used to inform updated PPP policy |
| <p>To plan and implement actions in response to key themes and trends identified through data analysis e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - OFSTED rating - Attendance / Access to education - Attainment and progress | July 2019 | A | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OFSTED ratings are now analysed and used to check on school placements. • VS data now feeds into schools causing concerns meeting • Process maps and additional guidance developed to support team members in response to areas such as OFSTED ratings, attendance. • Pupil level data dashboard set up to pull through all key reports as relevant. This will be routinely used to direct the work on the A&I team from September <p>NEXT STEPS (to feed into next plan)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School level data dashboard to be ready to inform school advisory visits |
| <p>To review KS3 data collection in order that the data collected is meaningful, comparable and reflects both attainment and progress</p> | April 2019 | G | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KS3 and 4 data collection amended and included in PEP to be launched from September 19 |
| <p>To develop a coordinated data dashboard to include individual pupil data on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Placement type (home and school) - OOC - Attainment and progress - Not in full time | February 2019 | G | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data dashboard is set up and will be live from September <p>NEXT STEPS (to feed into next plan)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the dashboard once live and amend and update accordingly |

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|--|------------|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Exclusions (FEX, PEX) - Managed moves - Alternative provision - UASC - SEND - Attendance (authorised and unauthorised) | | | |
| <p>To develop a data dashboard to include school level data:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PEP compliance - OFSTED ratings - Schools refusing to admit CiC - Training attended - School improvement information from other LA partners - OOC CiC in Cambs schools - PLAC in Cambs schools | May 2019 | A | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business Intelligence Team are in the process of developing this toolkit. Expected to be ready by September 19. • Data for each school has been pulled through manually in preparation for school advisory visits to begin in Autumn term 19. • The VS now has access to school information held by the School Intervention Service <p>NEXT STEPS (to feed into next plan)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data toolkit to be live from September • Review the toolkit once live and revise accordingly |
| To create and implement data input processes to ensure that the live dashboard is up to date/current (individual pupil) | April 2019 | G | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Systems set up to refresh the data accordingly <p>NEXT STEPS (to feed into next plan)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review processes once live and revise accordingly • Appointment of VS Data Officer to support management of data |
| To establish baselines to identify CYP in need of support and allocation processes resulting from this (priority 3) | June 2019 | G | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Threshold established for A&I referral to advisory team • Process maps created <p>NEXT STEPS (to feed into next plan)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review processes once live and revise accordingly |
| To create and implement data input processes to ensure that the live dashboard is up to date/current (school level) | May 2019 | R | <p>NEXT STEPS (to feed into next plan)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data toolkit to be live from September • Review the toolkit once live and revise accordingly • Appointment of VS Data Officer to support management of data |
| To establish processes which enable identification of the strengths and weaknesses of individual schools/federations/MATs or schools within a specific geographical area and result in increased school improvement support from the VS | June 2019 | G | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendance at schools causing concern meeting and access to local authority data / intelligence on schools • Use of data on individual schools and first school visit to inform next steps for each school <p>NEXT STEPS (to feed into next plan)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formalise criteria for RAG rating of schools |

Priority 2

Create a school improvement approach to improving outcomes for children in care and children previously in care

| Required Actions | Timescale | Current RAG | Review |
|--|------------|-------------|--|
| <p>Develop systems and proforma for school improvement visits, pilot these in settings and shadow visits made by other Virtual Schools in order to establish long-term model of school improvement which may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Termly/annual visits - Training - Work with school leadership/governance - Audits | April 2019 | G | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advisory Team established • Systems and processes developed. All schools to receive a school visit in the autumn term. • Shadowed Norfolk, Suffolk and Hertfordshire VS school visits • Format for school visits shared with Designated Teachers in preparation for visits starting in Sept 19 • Training programme set and shared with schools <p>NEXT STEPS (to feed into next plan)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Years Settings launch to take place in Autumn Term, ready to move to the new model in January 2020 |
| <p>Develop a communication strategy for sharing changes with settings and other Virtual School partners (social care, IROs, fostering, SEND teams, School Improvement Team)</p> | April 2019 | G | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engaged transformation Team to support strategy and approach • Over 200 Designated Teachers attended the VS launch event in July 2019. Key partners including an IRO, Assistant Director of Children's Services, a Cllr, Service Director Education, Chairman of the Virtual School Management Board (VSMB), Fostering Team representatives and Participation Team representatives also attended the event. The event was filmed and is available to share with DTs out of county. • Reports written and presented at Corporate Parenting Board Sub-Committee in January 19, March 19, May 19 • Virtual School Management Board re-established. Reported to the board in April 19. Held monthly telephone updates with the Chair of the VSMB • Presented to IROs, SEND District Team Managers, AP Manager, Statutory Assessment Team, School Intervention Team, Access to Resources and Admissions Manager on the changes to the VS • Presented on the work of the VS and the changes to CSLT (Social Care leaders). Termly sessions booked for next academic year. • Presented on the work of the VS and the role of governors at 5 governor briefing sessions across the local authority • Presented to the Primary and Secondary Head Teachers briefings on the changes to the VS • Presented on the work of the VS at 3 foster carers events |

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| | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Twitter Account created and used to share updates • Website has been striped back and will be live with new documentation from September 19 <p>NEXT STEPS (to feed into next plan)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foster Carers launch event planned for Autumn Term 2019 • A member of the VS to have an ongoing formalised link with social care, IROs, foster carers, AP Team, Statutory Assessment Team, SEND District Teams, Adoption and Family Finding Team to strengthen communication and partnership working |
| <p>Working collaboratively, develop strategic and operational partnership with key partners (including key contacts within them) within and beyond the LA in order to drive forward best outcomes for CiC and highlight barriers e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Business Intelligence - Schools intervention service - Social Care - Family finding - Early Years - SAT/SEND 0-25 - Admissions - Post-adoption support - EHWBS - Behaviour/Exclusions teams... | July 2019 | G | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relationships established / strengthened with each of the teams listed • MACE meetings regularly attended and contributed to effectively impacting on the VS awareness of vulnerabilities of individuals as well as challenges within geographical areas • Threshold and Resourcing Panel regularly attended and contributed to effectively, impacting on education being considered at the time of placement planning • SEND protocol written in draft. Operational meetings taking place monthly involving Statutory Assessment Team, Social Care, Access to Resourcing Team and the Virtual School. These are impacting on the situations where there has traditionally been drift for children with EHCPs, placed out of county, requiring an education placement • Senior Transition Advisors and Transition Advisors are now routinely working with Children in Care • A process has been established for directing academies who refuse to admit • Collaborative work with Business Intelligence to create a VS data toolkit which will enable the VS work to be driven by the relevant data <p>NEXT STEPS (to feed into next plan)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formalise the process for Education Inclusion Officers working with Children in Care • Finalise SEND protocol and ensure it is widely known and used in practice |

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| Develop a virtual school 'offer' which outlines role and remit of the virtual school to be shared with other teams within and beyond the LA | February 2019 | G | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Virtual School Offer written and shared with all key partners. |
| Empower the role and effectiveness of the Designated Teacher <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chairing PEP meetings - Completing self-evaluations - Enhancing understanding of school leadership regarding the role - Support cascading of training and whole school understanding of key barriers for CYP | July 2019 | G | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Network meeting took place 2nd April 100% positive feedback DT launch event included training on writing SMART desirable outcomes, the format and content of the advisory visits and the completion of the self-evaluation. Attended by over 200 DTs. 104 delegates attended VS training on attachment and trauma 67 DTs / DPs attended VS training on the role of the designated teacher / designated person for children in care 34 DTs / DPs attended VS training on the role of the designated person for children previously in care 24 delegates attended training on FASD |
| Work with PVS to further embed and extend county wide and school based training including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Designated Teacher for CiC - Designated Person for Previously-LAC - Network Meetings - Attachment and Trauma - FASD - Early Years - Post-16 | July 2019 | A | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cambridgeshire Virtual School (CVS) training offer is established for next year CVS offer shared with PVS. Awaiting PVS to share their offer to enable reciprocity of training |
| Develop information, advice and guidance packs for education settings, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Difficult and dangerous behaviours - Pupil Premium Plus Grant - Early Years - Culture, race, equalities and diversities | July 2019 | A | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PPP policy and guidance is complete and has been shared with key partners Model Policy for Care Experienced Children has been created and is available for schools, EY settings and Post 16 Providers to personalise and adopt <p>NEXT STEPS (to feed into next plan)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guidance on difficult and dangerous behaviour (to include guidance on exclusions) to be drafted Guidance document (to supplement training) on writing SMART Desirable Outcomes to be created Examples of good quality PEPs to be created and available to share with schools, Post 16 Providers and EY settings |
| Establish strategy to be implemented for maximising school engagement in school improvement model for forthcoming academic year | July 2019 | G | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funded place at launch day for all CCC schools. Launch event detailed model for schools over 200 attended |

| | | | |
|---|------------------|-----------------|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MATs/federations - Geographical areas and cluster - Individual Schools - EY and post-16 settings | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A further day is booked in the autumn term for schools which were unable to attend this event • See further details in communication strategy • All schools and Post 16 providers allocated an Advisory Teacher / Officer <p>NEXT STEPS (to feed into next plan)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embed advisory visits, amending the format according to lessons learnt from the Autumn term |
| <p>To develop an understanding of both the national and local developments around mental health in schools and how it may influence the Virtual School's work to improve outcomes for care experienced children</p> | <p>July 2019</p> | <p>A</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MO'S attended Anna Freud training and shared with Team • DT network meeting focused on tools for measuring SEMH • Stalls with the Boxall Profile, Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire and FAGUS were provided at the DT launch event • Working group formed around trauma and attachment, including representation from key partners within the LA (VS, Education Safeguarding Team, EPs, Specialist Teachers, Emotional Health and Wellbeing Team). Ready to pilot work with a group of schools in Spring term 2020 • VS are now feeding into the LA working group on mental health and Children in Care • VS are part of the LAs SEMH review <p>NEXT STEPS (to feed into next plan)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attachment and Trauma pilot • Continue to work with key partners on SEMH review and Mental Health project |

Priority 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

| Required Actions | Timescale | Current RAG | Review |
|---|---------------|-------------|--|
| <p>Working collaboratively, ensure protocol and procedures are in place with key partners within and beyond the LA to minimise barriers for individual CiC and ensure that CiC receive a high quality offer from all. e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Admissions - SAT/SEND - Alternative provision - Transport | July 2019 | A | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MACE meetings regularly attended and contributed to effectively impacting on the VS awareness of vulnerabilities of individuals as well as challenges within geographical areas • Threshold and Resourcing Panel regularly attended and contributed to effectively, impacting on education being considered at the time of placement planning • SEND protocol written in draft. Operational meetings taking place monthly involving Statutory Assessment Team, Social Care, Access to Resourcing Team and the Virtual School. These are impacting on the situations where there has traditionally been drift for children with EHCPs, placed out of county, requiring an education placement • Senior Transition Advisors and Transition Advisors are now routinely working with Children in Care • A process has been established for directing academics who refuse to admit <p>NEXT STEPS (to feed into next plan)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formalise the process for Education Inclusion Officers working with Children in Care • Finalise SEND protocol and ensure it is widely known and used in practice |
| <p>Develop processes which target individual CYP identified through the data dashboard (priority one):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Allocations - Challenge and expectation - Collaborative working - Crisis management and containment <p>Support all members of VS Inclusion team to ensure they feel confident and understand processes in supporting individual CYP</p> | June 2019 | G | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access and Inclusion Team has been created • Systems and processes have been established and recorded in process maps • Mentoring has been provided to the Access and Inclusion Team Officers by an experienced VS teacher <p>NEXT STEPS (to feed into next plan)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review processes once live and revise accordingly |
| <p>Working collaboratively, ensure appropriate information, advice and guidance is available to minimise barriers and</p> | December 2018 | G | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Virtual School Advisory for Children Previously in Care has been appointed (joint post across Peterborough and Cambridgeshire) |

| | | | |
|---|------------|--|--|
| ensure educational outcomes for previously LAC protocol (to include exploration of previously LAC advisor post shared with PVS) | | | NEXT STEPS (to feed into next plan) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Induction of new post holder. • Align processes in Peterborough with those in Cambridgeshire • Bring inline offer for SGOs and CAOs with the offer for Adopters |
| Explore possibility of recruiting an educational psychologist | April 2019 | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EP has been in post since April 2019 • Criteria for EP involvement has been drafted • EP has developed training on setting SMART outcomes and delivered this within the VS team and to over 200 DTs • EP has supported the review and development of the PEP document • EP has supported the review and development of PPP policy to include project bids • EP has offered consultation around difficult situations for children in care to support the VS team in their work |

Priority 4

Realign processes and procedures, to fit with the new model, whilst maintaining compliance with statutory guidance

| Required Actions | Timescale | Current RAG | Review |
|--|------------|-------------|---|
| To develop cross border working with PVS | July 2019 | G | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular meetings between PVSH and CVSH Joint development plan (see reviewed document attached) Joint recruitment to the Previously in Care Role |
| To have in place a streamlined PEP and QA system | April 2019 | G | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Views from IROs, SW, DTs, foster carers and young people used to inform changes to the PEP PEP revised and streamlined to focus on pupil voice, attainment / progress, SEMH, pupil premium plus and desirable outcomes. QA document and guidance revised PEP submission date introduced PEP Champion role introduced Changes to the PEP shared at the DT launch Creation of a document to support social workers in the completion of the PEP <p>NEXT STEPS (to feed into next plan)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training for social workers on PEP compliance and quality Development of the PEP Champion role |
| Consider PEP submission deadline | April 2019 | G | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PEP submission date has been in place in post 16 for two terms PEP submission date introduced from September 19 for all other PEPs |
| Complete tender process for ePEP | July 2019 | R | <p>NEXT STEPS (to feed into next plan)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retender for PEP |
| To establish processes which collect and record pupil voice in a meaningful way and which avoid duplication | April 2019 | G | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Young people's views sought about PEP and amended PEP document in line with this <p>NEXT STEPS (to feed into next plan)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider child / young person's active meaningful participation within the PEP meeting and models to facilitate this |
| To redesign procedures for the allocation and monitoring of the PP+ grant to individual CYP in order to increase due diligence, evaluate impact of funding and share best practice | July 2019 | G | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allocation of PPP has been revised with the intention of matching amounts more closely to individual need and making schools more accountable for the use of and impact of the funding Funding distribution is now managed directly by the VS PPP Policy rewritten, ratified by the VSMB and shared with schools |

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|--|--------------|----------|---|
| To establish systems for bidding, allocation and monitoring of PP+ for projects (driven by priority 1) to include: - groups of YP - MATs/federations/clusters - schools in close geographical proximity | April 2019 | G | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Systems are in place to enable schools to apply for funding for projects. Guidance is included within the PPP policy. Details were shared with schools at the DT launch event VS EP time has been allocated to support this development |
| In line with the rest of the LA and Peterborough, move towards use of Liquid Logic | LA timescale | R | <p>The LA timescale for implementation is now set for January 2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Correspondence taken place between the VS and Liquid Logic Team VS has a Change Champion <p>NEXT STEPS (to feed into next plan)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> VS to complete online training in November 19 Liquid Logic Team to work with Change Champion to ensure it meets VS needs |
| Ensure the supervision, CPD and wellbeing of VS staff is given the highest priority within the new model | July 2019 | A | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whatsapp group set up Team building activities used from January – July within team meetings Development week supported team understanding of VS direction EP provides group supervision and individual personal supervisions as requested Tree of Life intervention completed VS Health, Safety and Wellbeing policy written VS Staff Development and Appraisal policy written <p>NEXT STEPS (to feed into next plan)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following consultation with team, consider how to build team building days into the annual calendar |

PERFORMANCE REPORT

To: **Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee**

Meeting Date: **17 July 2019**

From: **Kate Knight
Lead Manager, Corporate Parenting**

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: | Kate Knight | Name: | Councillor Lis Every |
| Post: | Lead Manager Corporate Parenting | Role: | Chairman, Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee |
| Email: | Kate.Knight@cambridgeshire.gov.uk | Email: | Lis.Every@cambridgeshire.gov.uk |
| Tel: | (office) 01223 728362 | Tel: | (office) 01223 706398 |

Summary:

The data referred to within this report reflects the position on 31 July 2019.

- As of 31 July 2019, 788 Children in Care are supported by the Council.
- 57% of Children in Care are male, 43% are female.
- 9% of Children in Care have a diagnosed disability.
- At the end of July 2019, 53.1% of children (excluding unaccompanied asylum seeking children) are living out of county and of those 36.1% are living more than 20 miles over Cambridgeshire's borders.
- 86.2% of unaccompanied asylum seeking young people are living out of county.
- The proportion of Children in Care being visited within the statutory timescales is 90.9 % in May 2019.
- The number of Children in Care reported as going missing has been as follows; 22 in June 2019 and 36 July 2019
- There were 15 children adopted in June-July 2019.

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 June and July 2019. The full performance report can be found in Appendix 1.

2. MAIN ISSUES

- 2.1 As noted in previous reports, there have been difficulties in the capturing and analysis of data around Initial Health Assessments (IHA) for Children in Care. We are continuing to improve our oversight and address challenges with our health colleagues as this is a shared target. A multi-agency working group has reviewed the joint protocol and process which support this work and implemented changes to improve matters. A further meeting to consolidate this work will be held on the 9 September 2019.
- 2.2 Adoption Activity: There were 15 children being adopted in June and July 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 is currently reporting at 90.09 % which is just below our set target of 95%.
- 2.4 There continues to be a slight rise in the total numbers of Children in Care over these two months.

3. ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PRIORITIES

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

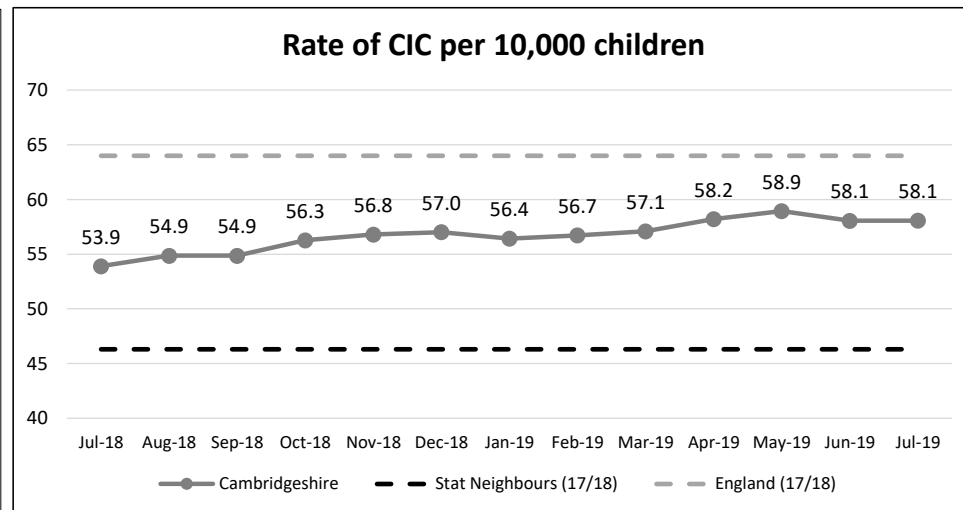
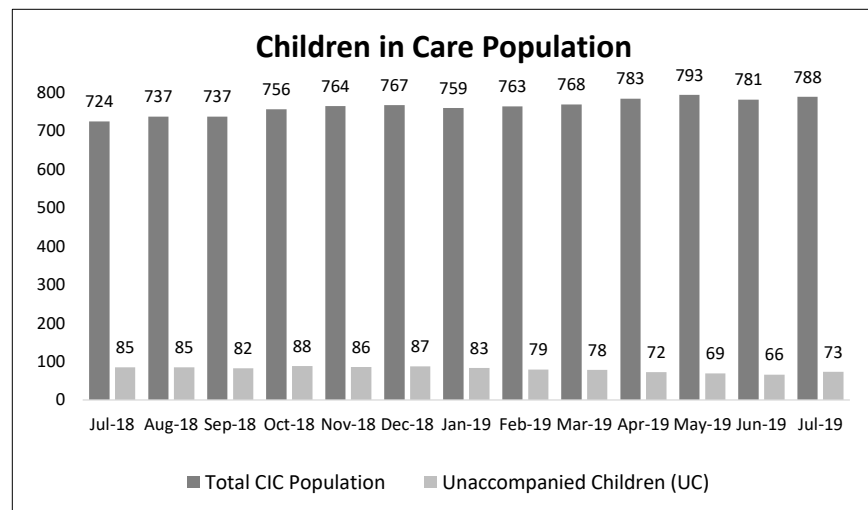
3.7 Public Health Implications

n/a

| Source Documents | Location |
|------------------|----------|
| None | |

Children in Care - Population

| Children in Care | Jul-18 | Aug-18 | Sep-18 | Oct-18 | Nov-18 | Dec-18 | Jan-19 | Feb-19 | Mar-19 | Apr-19 | May-19 | Jun-19 | Jul-19 | Average |
|-----------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------------|
| Total CIC Population | 724 | 737 | 737 | 756 | 764 | 767 | 759 | 763 | 768 | 783 | 793 | 781 | 788 | 763 |
| Non-Unaccompanied Children | 639 | 652 | 655 | 668 | 678 | 680 | 676 | 684 | 690 | 711 | 724 | 715 | 715 | 684 |
| Unaccompanied Children (UC) | 85 | 85 | 82 | 88 | 86 | 87 | 83 | 79 | 78 | 72 | 69 | 66 | 73 | 79 |
| Unaccompanied Children % | 10.2% | 11.5% | 11.1% | 11.6% | 11.3% | 11.3% | 10.9% | 10.4% | 10.2% | 9.2% | 8.7% | 8.5% | 9.3% | 10.3% |
| Rate per 10,000 | 53.9 | 54.9 | 54.9 | 56.3 | 56.8 | 57.0 | 56.4 | 56.7 | 57.1 | 58.2 | 58.9 | 58.1 | 58.1 | 56.7 |



Commentary:

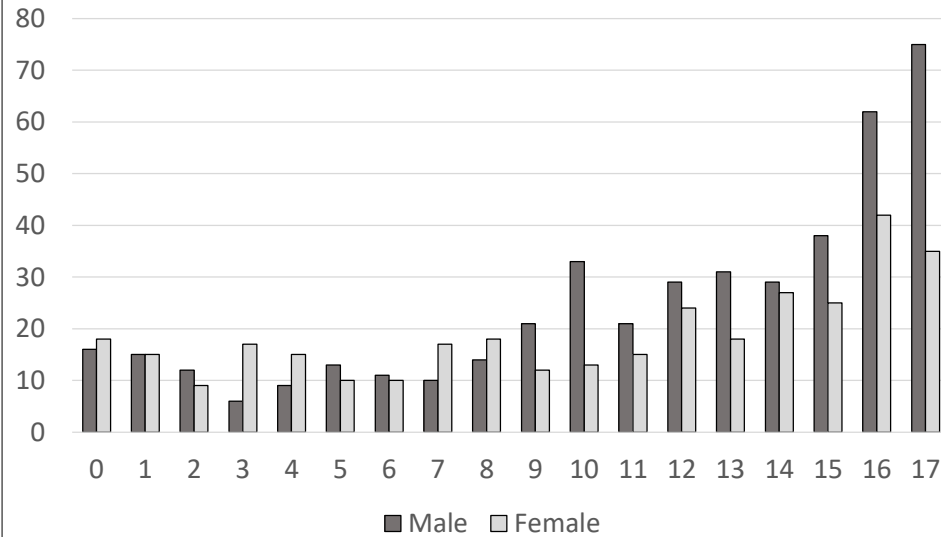
There continues to be a small increase in the number of Children in Care since the last report to the Corporate Parenting Sub Committee. The last 4 months show that a peak was reached in May, the population decreased in June and increased again in July. Our unaccompanied children cohort has also seen an increase in numbers since May 2019.

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 Unaccompanied Children is met by the Government.

Children in Care - Demographics as at Month End (July 2019)

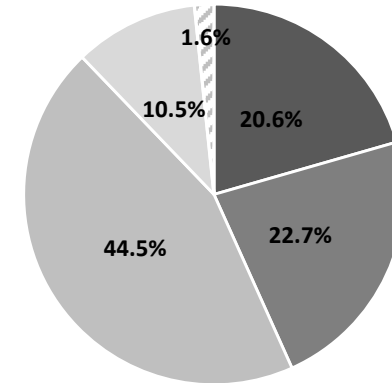
CIC - Age and Gender



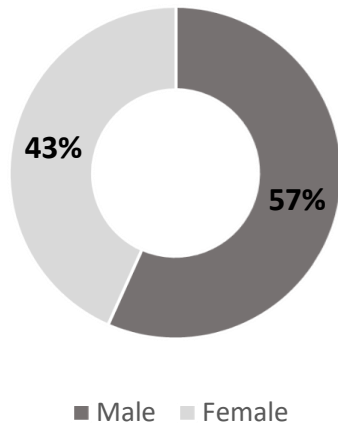
Legal Status

20.6% of children (162) subject to S20 (voluntary accommodation)
 22.7% of children (179) subject to an Interim Care Order
 44.5% of children (351) subject to a Care Order
 10.5% of children (83) subject to a Placement order
 1.6% of children (13) subject to other legal status

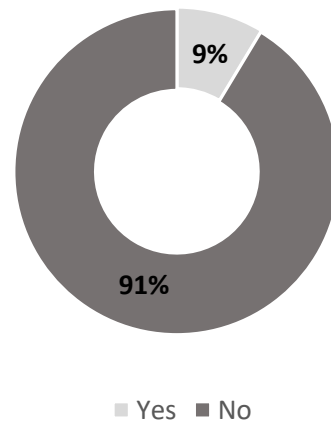
■ Section 20
 ■ Interim Care Order
 ■ Care Order
 ■ Placement Order
 ■ Other



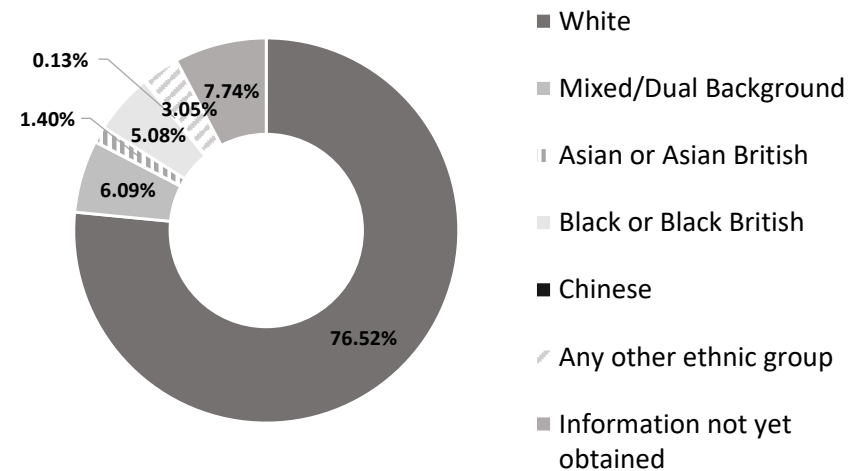
Gender



Disability



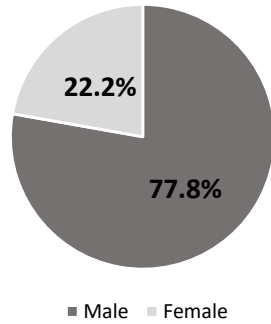
Ethnicity



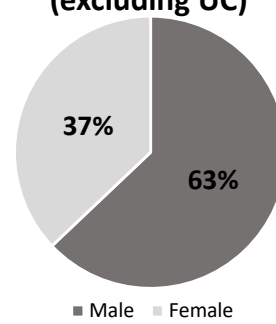
Children in Care - Voluntary Accommodation (for Month end July 2019)

In July 2019 162 children (20.6% of the CIC cohort) were accommodated under section 20 (S20; voluntary accommodation).

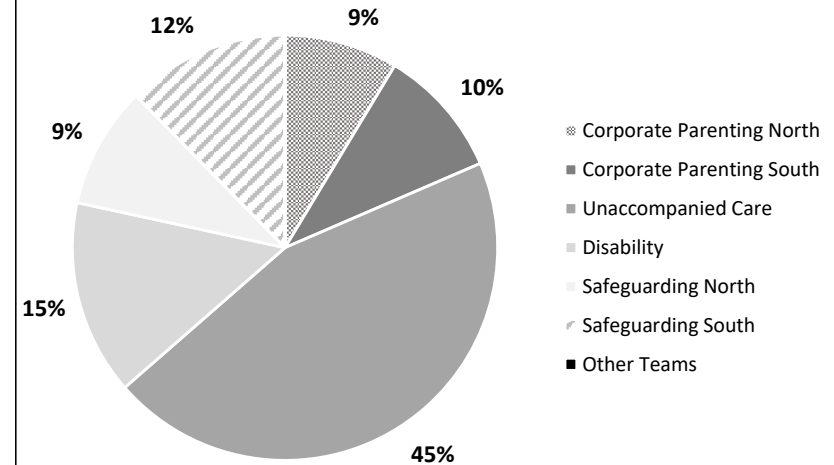
CIC accommodated under S20 by gender



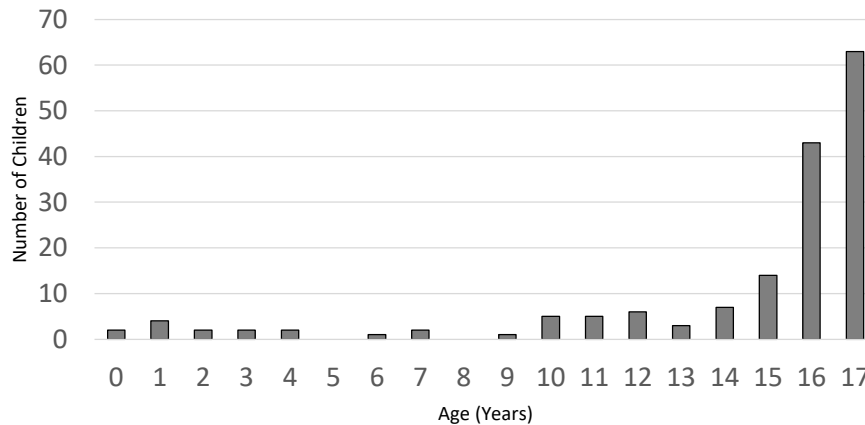
CIC accommodated under S20 by gender (excluding UC)



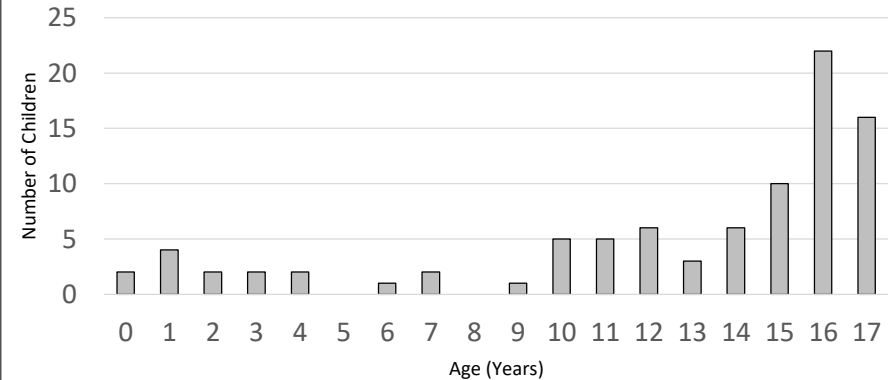
CIC accommodated under S20 by team



CIC accommodated under S20 by age



CIC accommodated under S20 (excluding UC) by age



Children in Care - Placements

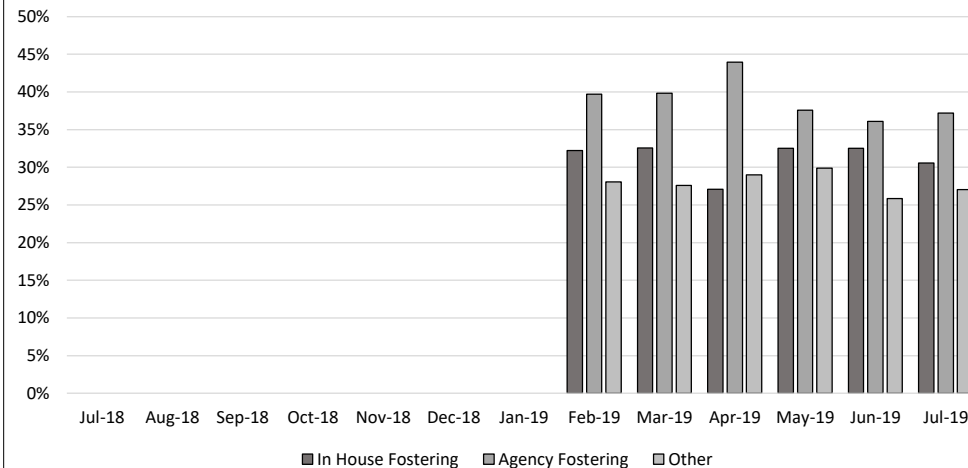
At the end of July there were the following number of placements of these types:

| | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| In House Fostering | 30.6% of CIC cohort (241 children) |
| Agency Fostering | 37.2% of CIC cohort (293 children) |
| Other (including Adoptive placements & secure accommodation) | 27.0% of CIC cohort (213 children) |

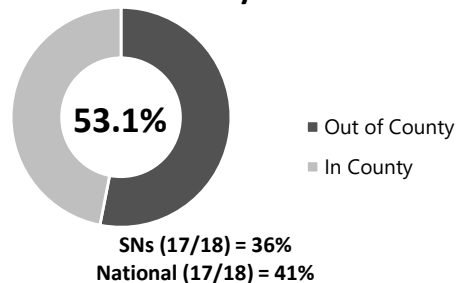
Commentary:

The inhouse cohort has decreased slightly from 32.6% as has the Agency Fostering cohort which has decreased from 39.8%. This could be due to an increase in our use of semi-independent provision for our over 16 years cohort, children in secure settings and successful adoptions.

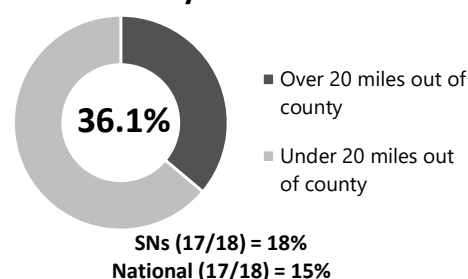
Placement Types by % of total CIC cohort at month end



CIC (exc. UC) Placed out of County



CIC (ex. UC) Placed out of County 20+ miles



Commentary:

46.9% of the Children in Care, excluding unaccompanied children, are living in Cambridgeshire. 86.2% of the unaccompanied cohort are living out of County. This 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. 6.7% of Cambridgeshire's Children in Care have experienced 3 or more placement moves. 64.5% are assessed as now living in stable and settled care arrangements. It is important to note that the statistical neighbour and National percentages are for the year 2017- 2018 and are therefore not a 'like for like' comparison.

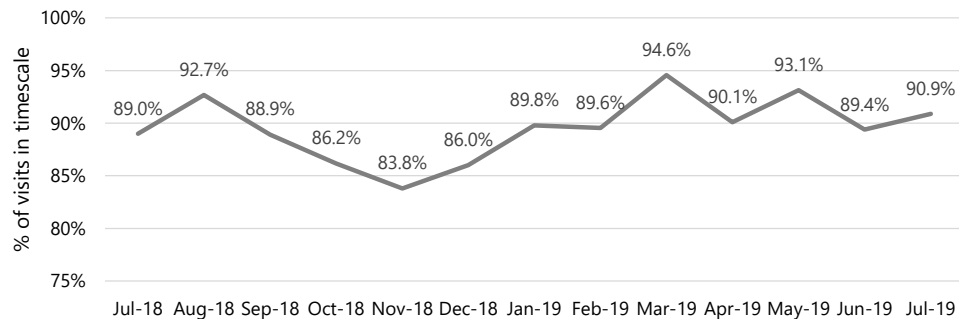
Notes on data and definitions:

- '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.

Children in Care -Visits and Health

Children in Care Visits

In July there were 582 visits due or completed. 529 of these were seen (90.9%).



Commentary:

March 2019 saw the highest proportion of our Children in Care being visited in timescale and in accordance with their care plan. The percentage of children who received a visit from their social worker within the statutory timeframe rose in July when compared to June.

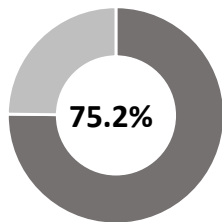
Notes on data and definitions:

- **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.

Children in Care Health

For CIC who had been in care 12 months at the end of July:

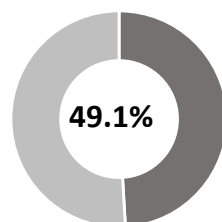
Annual Health Assessment
completed in last 12 months



■ In timescale ■ Not in timescale

SNs (17/18) = 83%
National (17/18) = 88%

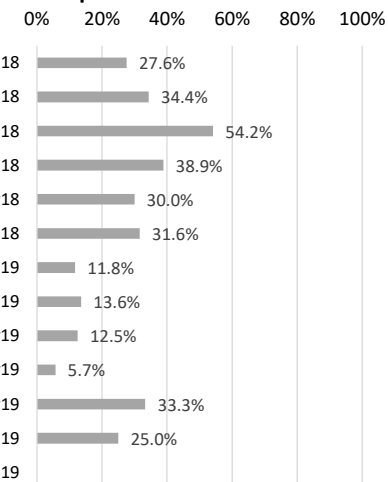
Dental Checks
completed in last 12 months



■ In timescale ■ Not in timescale

SNs (17/18) = 81%
National (17/18) = 84%

Initial Health Assessments completed in timescale



Commentary:

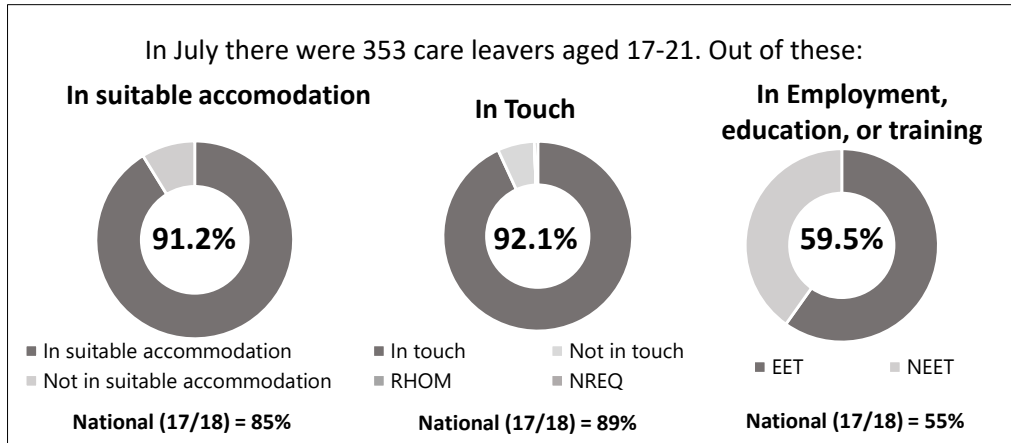
Performance around Children in Care undergoing a initial health assessment within 20 days of becoming looked after has risen in May and June. This is in part due to increased oversight and closer working arrangements with health colleagues. Whilst further improvement is needed to ensure children receive a timely response to any health need, the number of children living out of county (53.1%) does have an impact on performance.

Notes on data and definitions:

- 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

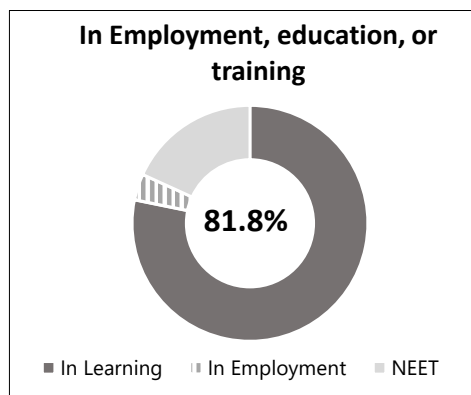


Commentary:
Performance continues to improve in relation to all of these three targets.

Notes on data and definitions:

- **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)



Commentary:

Performance has slightly improved from 80.8% to 81.8%. compared to previous reporting in April and May. It is expected that we will continue to see improvement in performance.

Notes on data and definitions:

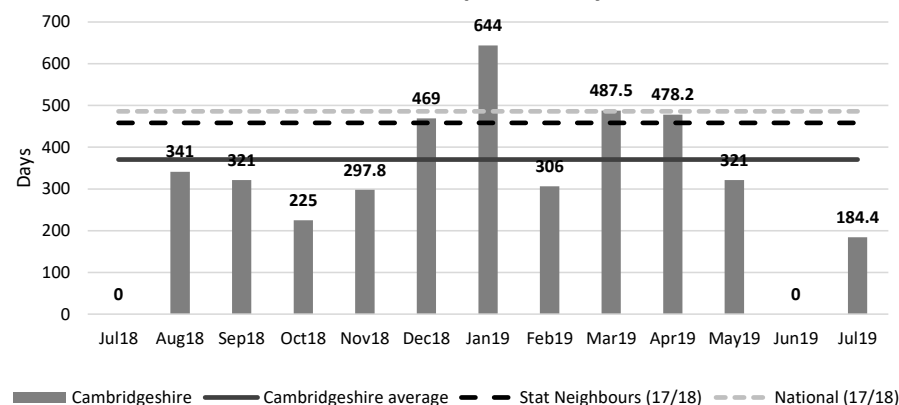
- Measures of the percentage of children Post 16 who are in Learning, In Employment or NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training)

Children in Care - Adoption

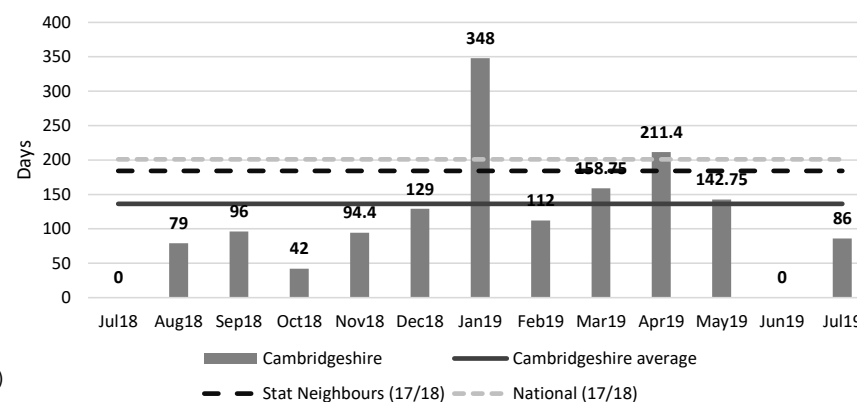
Adoption Timescales

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

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



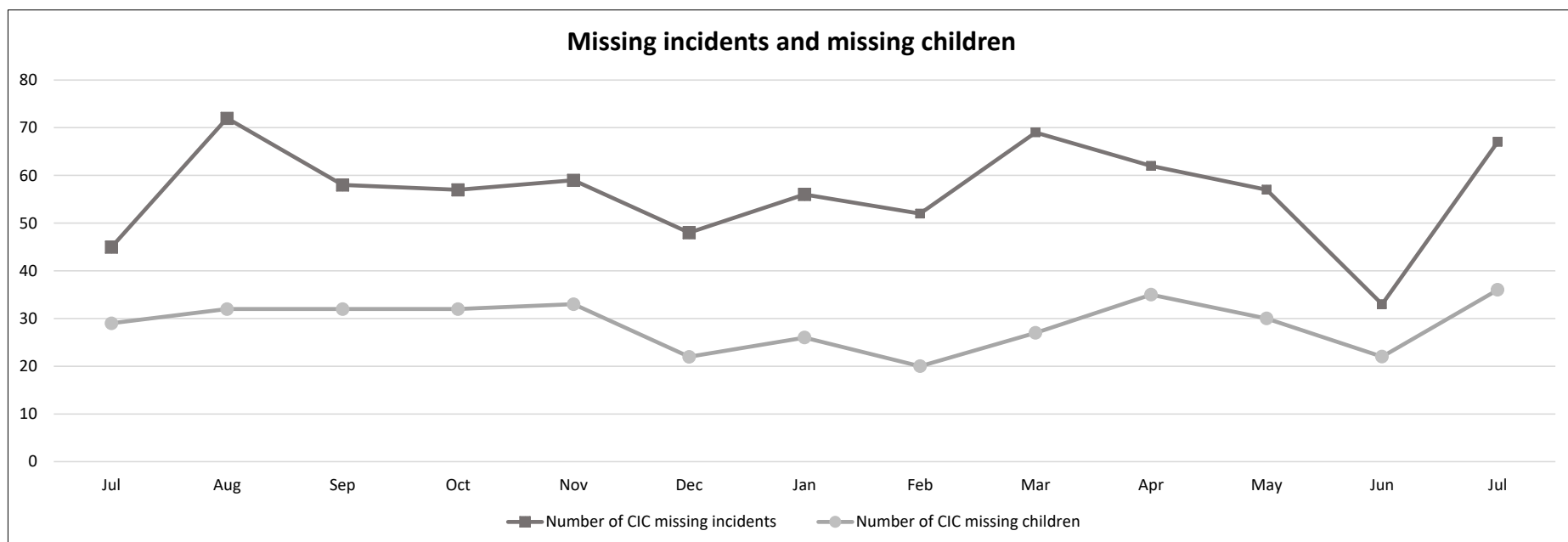
Average time between LA receiving court authority to place a child and the LA deciding on a match



Commentary: Since February, every child who has secured permanence through adoption has had a journey of less than 14 months from the Court decision to adoption. By the end of the last reporting year, at 31st March 2019, 42 children had been adopted throughout the year and since April, a further 15 children have been adopted by families. From our overall cohort of Children in Care, 16% of those who left care did so because they were adopted.

Children in Care - Missing

| CiC - Missing | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Average |
|---------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------------|
| Number of CiC missing incidents | 45 | 72 | 58 | 57 | 59 | 48 | 56 | 52 | 69 | 62 | 57 | 33 | 67 | 55.7 |
| Number of CiC missing children | 29 | 32 | 32 | 32 | 33 | 22 | 26 | 20 | 27 | 35 | 30 | 22 | 36 | 28.3 |



Commentary:

The total number of missing children in care and missing incidents has increased in July. This will be partially attributable to the summer holidays and better weather but there is an identified cohort of boys who are regularly reported as missing from care.

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.

Notes on data and definitions:

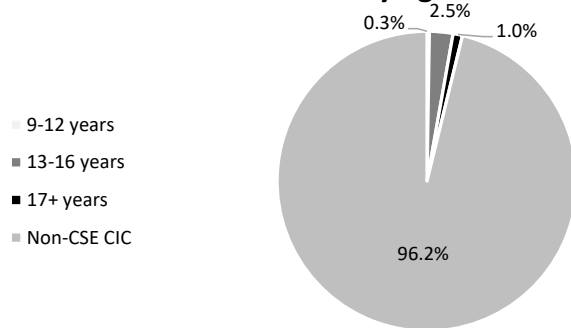
- Each episode of a child going missing is recorded as a missing incident.
- A child who goes missing during the month will be recorded as a missing child only once, but if they go missing multiple times then they generate more than one missing incident during the month.

Child Sexual Exploitation and Gang Exploitation for CIC

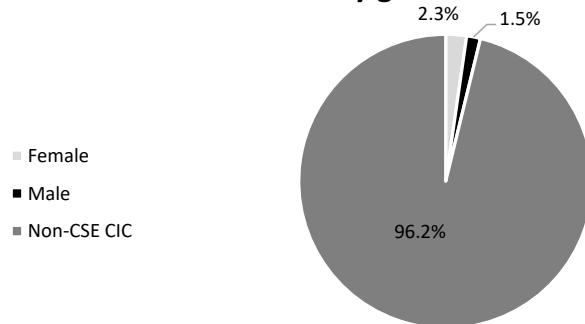
Child Sexual Exploitation

In July there were 30 CIC who were identified as at mild/emerging, moderate & significant risk of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE).

CIC CSE by age



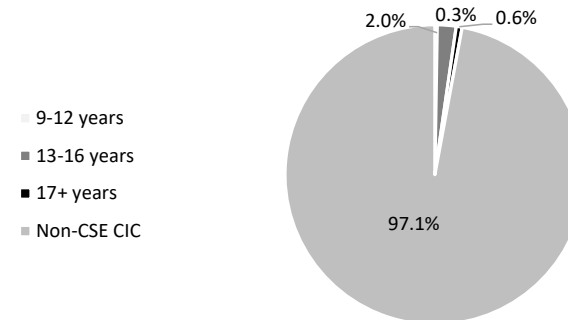
CIC CSE by gender



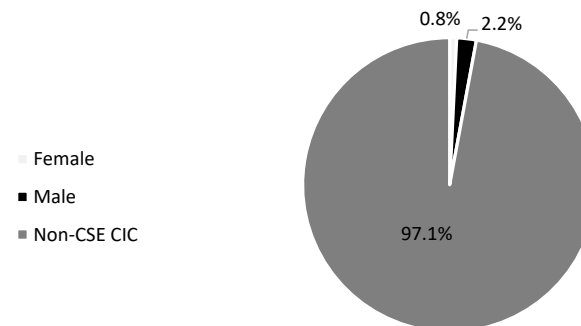
Gang Exploitation

In July there were 23 CIC who were identified as at mild/emerging, moderate & significant risk of gang exploitation.

CIC Gang Exploitation by age



CIC Gang Exploitation by gender



Commentary:

The numbers of children identified as at risk have remained relatively stable but are slightly decreasing in respect of CSE and slightly increasing in respect of Gang Exploitation. This is likely to be due both to an increase in activity in this area and improved identification and reporting.

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'.

Children and Young People in care: Emotional Health and Wellbeing

To: **Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee**

Meeting Date: **18 September 2019**

From: **Dr Pamela Parker
Professional Lead for Psychology**

Electoral division(s): **All**

Purpose: **To provide an update the Committee.**

Recommendation: **The Sub-Committee is asked to:**

- a) Review and comment on the recommendations being taken to the Joint Commissioning Unit.**
- b) Review and support the service developments in services for children in care across local agencies.**

| | <i>Officer contact:</i> | <i>Member contact:</i> |
|--------|--|---|
| Name: | Pamela Parker | Names: Councillor Lis Every |
| Post: | Professional lead for Psychology | Role: Chairman, Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee |
| Email: | Pamela.parker@cambridgeshire.gov.uk | Email: Lis.Every@cambridgeshire.gov.uk |
| Tel: | 01223 728180 | Tel: (office) 01223 706398 |

Summary:

Meeting the emotional wellbeing and mental health needs of children and young people who are in care is a priority in Cambridgeshire, and requires all agencies to work together to achieve this end. The purpose of this report is to update the Sub-Committee on the work being undertaken by key local agencies working to improve outcomes for children and young people in care, and provide effective, compassionate, accessible services.

1. BACKGROUND

Although there is a lack of recent national robust data, it is well established that the level of emotional distress and mental health difficulty experienced by children and young people in care is unacceptably high. Feedback from children and young people who engage with Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) participation groups indicates there is scope to improve local services by reducing fragmentation, reducing waiting times, clarifying pathways and increasing accessibility. There is also a clear theme in local and national feedback from young people regarding the importance of consistent relationships and compassionate services.

In Cambridgeshire there is currently no ongoing multi-agency forum where the needs of this group are given specific consideration. An officer Task and Finish group was established in November 2018 to understand the current offer for children in care and young people leaving care in Cambridgeshire and then consider this in line with national best practice and the evidence base for improving outcomes.

2. MAIN ISSUES

- 2.1 The Task and Finish Group has now met on eight occasions. The following key agencies have been consistently represented:

Cambridgeshire Virtual School (CVS)
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust (CPFT) Adult
Mental Health Primary Care (AMH)
Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)
CPFT Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMH)
Emotional Health and Wellbeing Service (EHWB)
Cambridgeshire Clinical Team (CCT)
Cambridgeshire Social Care (CSC)
Special Education Needs and Disability (SEND)

Centre 33 has also recently contributed to work on services for young people leaving care.

2.2 The following Table illustrates the recommendations and progress to date

| Recommendation | Outcome | Agency | Status |
|---|--|--------------------|---------------------|
| Designated teacher training should include a mental health and emotional wellbeing component provided by partner agencies | Improved wellbeing and support for children in schools | CVS/CAMH/CCT | Actioned |
| The training above should include information on the use of a strengths and difficulties questionnaire and supplementary measures to inform robust assessments of need | Effective assessment and streamlined access to services | As above | Actioned |
| Clarify the current arrangements for “Virtual Mental Health Lead” role in Cambridgeshire. | Strategic oversight of services and effective communication about developments | CCG /CSC | In progress |
| Revisit the purpose of the emotional health and wellbeing workstream group and ascertain what arrangements are now in place to provide strategic leadership in this area. | As above | CSC/CCT/CSC | In progress |
| Embed Children in Care champion posts across key universal services | Improve service experience and outcomes | CCT/CAMH/EHWP/SEND | Under Consideration |
| Support the champion posts through a community of practice approach | As above | As above | As above |
| Develop a decision tree / flow chart to help clarify pathways for support including issues of consent for | As above | CCT | In progress |

| | | | |
|---|--|---------|--------------|
| children and young people in care in Cambridgeshire to support more effective and efficient access to services. | | | |
| Ensure the above is available to Foster Carers at key points (each new care arrangement/annual reviews) | As above. Support and retain foster carers. Ensure timely access to the right services for children. | CCT/CSC | In progress |
| Co-produce with young people and carers locally a quick guide to working with children and young people who are in care to help professionals deliver the best possible service | Improve how young people experience services | CCT/CSC | In progress |
| Develop a virtual mental health resource for professionals to share resources and provide updated information about local services with oversight from clinical staff in health and/or social care. This should include interactive material and videos to really engage people and provide a hub of knowledge to support practice. | Improve outcomes for young people and their experience of services | ALL | To be agreed |
| Develop relationships with third sector partners who work with children and young people in care to ensure there is a | As above. | CCT/ALL | In progress |

| | | | |
|---|---|--------------|-------------|
| shared approach and strong enough relationships to facilitate Partnership working. | | | |
| CAMH staff to link in with all social care processes such as statutory reviews, placement planning as appropriate for children and young people known the service. | As above. | CSC/CAMH | Actioned |
| Local Authority staff to share information about those processes and highlight the offer from CAMH to support these in order to enhance multi-agency working and share resources most effectively | As above. Improve outcomes for young people. | CSC/CAMH/CCT | In progress |
| Continue to develop a clinical support service for foster carers in Cambridgeshire and work with Independent Fostering Agencies (IFAs) partners to ensure the support offered is effective and meets what carers need to retain and support them in their crucial role. | Ensure there are good local placements for children and young people that meet their needs. Retain and support foster carers in Cambridgeshire. | CSC/CCT | In progress |
| Continue to develop a specialist clinical service for children in care and young people leaving care informed by knowledge about developmental | Improve outcomes and quality of life for children and young people who have experienced relational | CSC/CCT | Actioned |

| | | | |
|---|--|--------------------|--------------|
| trauma, resilience and pathways to recovery. | trauma. | | |
| Improve the coherence between Education Health Care plans, local authority care plans and Personal Education Plans so that these processes are as meaningful and effective as possible. | Improve outcomes for children and young people. | CVS and SEND | In progress |
| Provide shared training for key agencies in relevant evidence informed practice to create greater coherence for children and young people across services | Improve outcomes and experience of services for children and young people. | All | Actioned |
| Extend the above to include local private providers who work with and care for Cambridgeshire Children | As above. | CAMH/CCT | To be agreed |
| Trial a peer mentor offer for young people leaving care as part of the CAMH transitions offer and ADULT Mental Health recovery college with a view to developing the peer mentoring further across services | As above. | CSC and CAMH | To be agreed |
| Strengthen clinical supervision arrangements for services offering direct therapeutic work for children in care and young people leaving care by working across | As above. | CAMH/Centre 33/CCT | To be agreed |

| | | | |
|---|-----------|--------------|-------------|
| agencies | | | |
| Create as much flexibility as possible in transition arrangements for young people aged 17-25 who have been working with CAMH and require ongoing support | As above. | CAMH/AMH/CCG | In progress |

2.3 NEXT STEPS

One further task and finish group meeting will take place in September 2019 to review what data is currently collected across services, how this is used to inform service developments. The group will consider whether this can be improved to make clear what impact services have on an ongoing basis and inform plans for service developments in an informed manner.

Consultation work will then be undertaken with young people and foster carers to ensure the Task & Finish group work is informed by lived experiences.

A final report will be submitted to Joint Commissioning Unit (JCU) in November 2019. A plan will then be produced to take forward the agreed actions.

3. ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PRIORITIES

3.1 A good quality of life for everyone

The report above sets out the implications for this priority in paragraph 1.

3.2 Thriving places for people to live

None

3.3 The best start for Cambridgeshire's children

The report above sets out the implications for this priority in paragraph 1.

4. SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Resource Implications

The most significant resource implication is clinical time across agencies to create links and coherence within a universal model of service delivery, across a large geographical county. The Task and Finish group members are not recommending a shift to specialist CAMH services or requesting additional clinical posts/funding at this time. There is a need to create and sustain sufficient specialist expertise within existing services, and to support this at a strategic level, so that the needs of children and young people in care receive

prompt and effective responses from their local services, supported by people they trust.

4.2 Procurement/Contractual/Council Contract Procedure Rules Implications

N/A

4.3 Statutory, Legal and Risk Implications

N/A

4.4 Equality and Diversity Implications

N/A

4.5 Engagement and Communications Implications

N/A

4.6 Localism and Local Member Involvement

N/A

4.7 Public Health Implications

N/A

SOURCE DOCUMENTS

It is a legal requirement for the following box to be completed by the report author.

| Source Documents | Location |
|------------------|----------|
| None | |

ADOPTION ANNUAL REPORT

To: **Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee**

Meeting Date: **18 September 2019**

From: **Julie-Anne Saunders,
Head of Adoption**

Electoral division(s): **All**

Purpose: **To provide the Corporate Parenting Sub Committee with an update of Adoption Service activity 2018/19 and as part of the monitoring of the adoption agency required under the Local Authority Adoption Service Regulations 2003 and Adoption National Minimum Standards 2011.**

Recommendation: **The Sub-Committee is recommended to:**

- a) Consider and sign off the report for the purposes of Local Authority Adoption Service Regulation and Adoption Minimum Standards 2011.**

| <i>Officer contact:</i> | | <i>Member contact:</i> | |
|--------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|--|
| Name: | Julie Ann Saunders | Names: | Councillor Lis Every |
| Post: | Head of Adoption | Role: | Chairman, Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee |
| Email: | julie-anne.saunders@cambridgeshire.gov.uk | Email: | Lis.Every@cambridgeshire.gov.uk |
| Tel: | 01480372427 | Tel: | (office) 01223 706398 |

Summary:

This report describes the activity of Coram Cambridgeshire Adoption Agency between 1 April 2018 and 31 March 2019, and its functions as it relates to the provision of adoption services to the Council.

The report summarises performance across all of its functions including Recruitment and Assessment, Adoption Panel, Family Finding and Adoption Support. The report covers the key areas pertinent to the discharge of the service including; staffing, adoption panel activity, journey of children to adoption incorporating matching, recruitment and marketing activity, adopter's journey, and adoption support activity relating to adopted families, adopted children, adopted adults and birth parents. There is also an update on Cambridgeshire's performance on key national performance indicator (Adoption Scorecard).

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 On 1st August 2014, , Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) transferred the staff, operation and delivery of its adoption service to Coram Cambridgeshire Adoption (CCA), a Voluntary Adoption Agency (VAA) under a Framework Agreement. The organisation first registered with Ofsted (SC476782) in March 2014 for this purpose.
- 1.2 Cambridgeshire's Framework Agreement ended on 31.07.19 and the Adoption Service and subsequently adoption activity has been brought back into the Council.
- 1.3 This report is provided to the Corporate Parenting Sub Committee as part of the monitoring of the adoption agency required under the Local Authority Adoption Service Regulations 2003 and Adoption National Minimum Standards 2011. Please see Appendix 1 for the full report.

2. MAIN ISSUES

- 2.1 **Adoption Panel** – The adoption Panel was held on 29 occasions and heard 88 cases including 30 adopter approvals which also included eight adoptive households who were dually approved for early permanence / foster for adoption and considered 58 children's matches.
- 2.2 **Children and Adoption** – A total of 136 children were referred for family finding during the year and 65 children had a care plan for adoption agreed by the Agency Decision Maker. At the end of the year 59 children had been placed with their adoptive families. This includes 12 sibling groups and five children had been placed via early permanence. 62 children became the subject of Placement Orders although the time that it takes between children becoming looked after and their Placement Orders being granted is

increasing. 60% of children open to family finders are still in proceedings. 44 Adoption Orders were granted for children placed for adoption.

- 2.3 **Adopters** – work continues on adopter recruitment with 257 enquiries received, 22 Information Sessions were held with 136 individuals (121 households) attending, 43 households progressed to a Registration of Interest, 31 progressed to stage 2 and 30 attended panel and were approved by the Agency Decision Maker.
- 2.4 **Adoption Support** – 77 new referrals were received for an adoption support assessment of need, 205 children were open and received a service across 127 families. The team continue to provide a universal offer of adoption support including foundation's for attachment course for adopters of newly placed children, stay and play groups, living with aggression. 154 Families were referred to the Adoption Support Fund and received therapeutic services during the course of the year. Adoption support groups continue to run in 4 locations and in addition children's groups continue to run for older and younger adopted children. There have been 1096 indirect letter box exchanges between adopted children and their birth families. Two birth parent support groups are in place to support this work.
- 2.5 **Adoptive Adults and Birth Relatives** - The team received 36 new referrals for adult work, 36 open cases and there is a managed waiting list for this service. In addition there were 21 referrals for Birth Relative Outreach work.
- 2.6 **Adoption Scorecard** – Cambridgeshire's national scorecard performance for 2015/2018 was released during the period of this report. This is a three year average of performance in a number of key performance areas. For Indicator A1 Cambridgeshire is ranked 13th nationally and for indicator A2 it is now ranked 54th nationally with performance in 18/19 showing an improving picture.

3. **SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS**

3.1 **Resource Implications**

There are no immediate resource implications attached to this report

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

There are no currently no contract procurement implications relating to this report, as the procurement arrangements between Coram Cambridgeshire Adoption and Cambridgeshire ceased with the transition of the Adoption Service back to the Local Authority on 31 July 2019.

3.3 Statutory, Legal and Risk Implications

This Adoption Agency report is prepared as part of the monitoring requirements for the Adoption Agency under the Local Authority Adoption Service Regulations 2003 and Adoption National Minimum Standards 2011.

3.4 Equality and Diversity Implications

There are no Equality and Diversity implications to be considered.

3.5 Engagement and Communications Implications

There are no Engagement and Communications Implications attached directly to this report.

3.6 Localism and Local Member Involvement

There has been no Local Member involvement related to this report or the Adoption Agency

3.7 Public Health Implications

There are no Public Health implications attached to this report

| Source Documents | Location |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| None | |

ADOPTION AGENCY ANNUAL REPORT

For Cambridgeshire County Council

For the period

1st April 2018 – 31st March 2019

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SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

- 1.0.1 This report is provided to the Corporate Parenting Sub Committee as part of the monitoring of the adoption agency required under the Local Authority Adoption Service Regulations 2003 and Adoption National Minimum Standards 2011.
- 1.0.2 Since 1st August 2014, under a Framework Agreement, Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) transferred the staff, operation and delivery of its adoption service to Coram Cambridgeshire Adoption (CCA), a Voluntary Adoption Agency (VAA) first registered with Ofsted (SC476782) in March 2014 for this purpose. The establishment of the VAA for the LA's adoption service arose from a pre-existing partnership since 2011 between the Council and Coram, with the assistance of DfE grant funding made available in 2013 to expand adopter capacity.
- 1.0.3 Cambridgeshire County Council remains a registered Adoption Agency. It did not devolve its corporate parenting responsibility, nor the Agency Decision Maker (ADM) role for making adoption plans for children. CCA did not hold any cases of children who are in care.
- 1.0.4 This report describes the activity of Coram Cambridgeshire Adoption during the period 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019 ('the period') as it relates to the provision of adoption services to the Council.
- 1.0.5 The last Coram Cambridgeshire Adoption inspection by Ofsted as a Voluntary Adoption Agency was in the previous year. Ofsted rated the service as 'Good'.
- 1.0.6 Ofsted undertook an ILACS inspection (Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services) in January 2019. Whilst not an inspection of the VAA, as such, the inspectors spent a significant amount of time with CCA. The following paragraph in the Inspection report under the section: 'The experiences and progress of children in care and care leavers', referenced adoption:
When it is recognised that a child could benefit from adoption, this is progressed swiftly for most children. In part, this is because the local authority has been successful in increasing the pool of potential adopters. The response to people who enquire about adoption is timely and makes them feel welcomed. Pre- and post-adoption support for adopters is strong. Children have adoption support plans that help make sure that their needs are assessed, and that people know who should be meeting these needs. The plans make a real difference to the lives of children and their adoptive carers.

1.1 STAFFING/SERVICE STRUCTURE

- 1.1.1 CCA's structure at the end of the period comprised of a Recruitment and Assessment team; a Family Finding Unit and Post Adoption Support Team, all supported by a Director of the VAA; 1 Head of Service (for Family Finding and Adoption Support, Cambridgeshire); 1 Adoption Manager for the VAA, 1 Adoption Support Team Manager; 1 Agency/Panel Advisor and approximately

14 social workers and other practitioners plus Business support staff. In consultation with CCC over recent years, CCA has appointed a number of posts in addition to those in the original contract in order to meet the increasing demand in all areas of the adoption service.

- 1.1.2 Until the second half of the period, the service was supported by 1.5 clinicians seconded from the Council's Clinical Team. This has benefitted the service and the team enormously. Unfortunately the service lost both Clinicians in the period just prior to this. However, further funding was received from the Council to ensure that the services access to Clinical consultation was maintained.
- 1.1.3 The main office for CCA's operation has been at Lincoln House, The Paddocks, Cherry Hinton, Cambridge CB1 8DH. The Family Finding Unit is based at Scott House, Huntingdon, co-located with their Local Authority colleagues in children's services.
- 1.1.4 All staff are permanent, bar one social worker on a fixed term contract and the social workers are all registered with HCPC and have the required levels of post-qualifying experience for adoption work.
- 1.1.5 CCA also had a fostering arm (registered from April 2017 with Ofsted as an independent fostering agency as required by current regulations, called Coram Anglia Fostering) for the purposes of offering Early Permanence Placements (i.e. the authority to dually approve as foster carers and adopters).

1.2 THE ADOPTION PANEL

- 1.2.1 CCA's Adoption and Permanence Panel contributes to the running and quality assurance of the Local Authority's adoption service, as delegated to CCA. It receives reports on the service and its performance and in so doing it has an overriding responsibility to promote good practice, consistency of approach and objectivity in all aspects of the adoption service's operation.
- 1.2.2 CCA's panel advisor prepares a six monthly Panel report, signed off by Panel Chairs and presented to CCA's Board in accordance with regulations, some of the content of which is included herewith.
- 1.2.3 The CCA Adoption and Permanence Panel's key function is to make recommendations on the following:
 - The suitability of applicants to adopt (the approval);
 - The suitability of applicants to be approved simultaneously to foster and adopt (dual-approval as foster carers and prospective adopters)
 - Whether a child should be placed for adoption with particular prospective adopters (the match)

- 1.2.4 The LA Adoption Agency retains an Adoption Panel (also operated by CCA) to make recommendations to the LA Agency Decision Maker regarding:
- Whether a child should be placed for adoption (only for children voluntarily relinquished by a parent)
 - There were three such cases considered and recommended in this period.
- 1.2.5 Panels are held approximately 2-3 times a month. Within this period the Adoption Panel met on 29 occasions and heard a total of 88 cases.
- 1.2.6 In accordance with regulations, The Adoption and Permanence Panel makes recommendations about the cases referred to the agency, not decisions. It is the role of the agency to make a decision. For this purpose a senior person within the agency is appointed as the Agency Decision Maker (ADM). The LA agreed in 2014 to delegate to CCA the ADM responsibility for (1) the approvals of adopters and (2) the proposed matches of CCC children who have a plan for adoption, with particular prospective adopters to CCA. Sarah Byatt, Managing Director of CCA is ADM for these cases.
- 1.2.7 The Agency Decision Maker for the decision regarding whether a child should be placed for adoption (the adoption plan) is no longer considered by a Panel, and remains the responsibility of the Local Authority. In this period, this has been Lou Williams, Service Director, Children and Safeguarding, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and Sarah-Jane Smedmor, Assistant Director Children, Cambridgeshire.
- 1.2.8 Formerly, the CCC ADM undertook the decision for prospective adopters to be dually approved as foster carers for the purpose of having children under concurrent planning arrangements. Since 1st April 2017, CCA has been registered with Ofsted as a Fostering Agency with a joint Adoption and Fostering Panel permitted to make recommendations regarding the dual-approval of prospective adopters as foster carers also.

1.3 ADOPTION PANEL MEMBERSHIP

- 1.3.1 As at 31st March 2019 and in the period, CCA Adoption and Permanence Panel Central List membership comprised:

| |
|---|
| Panel Chair, Independent, SW background |
| Deputy Panel Chair / Birth Parent |
| Medical Adviser (CCC) |
| Independent Member / Educational Psychologist (Retired) |
| Independent Member / Adoptive Parent |

| |
|--|
| Independent Member/Adopted Person |
| Independent Member / Social Worker |
| Fostering Senior Social Worker (CCC) |
| Independent Member/ Social Worker |
| Independent Member / Adopted Person |
| Independent Member / Social Worker |
| Senior Social Worker, Post Adoption Support Team (CCA) |
| Independent Member / Social Worker |
| Medical Adviser (CCA) |

1.3.2 In attendance but non-voting members are:

| |
|-------------------------------|
| Professional Adviser to Panel |
| Panel Administrator |

1.3.3 The Legal Advisors to the Panel are from Coram Legal Centre on behalf of adopters and Cambridgeshire County Council Legal Services on behalf of Cambridgeshire children to be placed for adoption.

1.4 PANEL AND AGENCY DECISION MAKER ACTIVITY

1.4.1 Between 1st April 2018 and 31st March 2019, the CCC ADM decided that adoption should be the plan for 65 children. This compares to 77 in 2017/18; 72 in 2016/17 and 65 in 2015/16.

1.4.2 In this period the CCA Adoption Panel met on 29 occasions, hearing a total of 88 cases of approvals (30) and matches (58). There was one resignation of previously approved adopters presented; this was a couple who became long term foster carers to 2 children whose plan was changed from adoption to fostering.

1.4.3 In relation to the approval of prospective adopters, the Panel recommended that 30 households were suitable to adopt. There were no non-recommendations for approval and no qualifying determinations made by the CCA ADM.

1.4.4 Eight of the 30 households were dually-approved as adopters and foster carers for Early Permanence placements.

1.4.5 The Panel recommended proposed matches for 58 children with particular prospective adopters, both CCA and other Agencies, and all received positive ADM decisions.

1.5 CCA PANEL TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

- 1.5.1 Panel training last took place in January 2018 and focussed on the impact of neglect and considerations for adoption. There is a plan for training on learning from disruptions in early autumn 2019. Panel chairs have taken up opportunities for training and practice forums with CoramBAAF, one of which was open to Panel Advisers. The Chairs also receive independent supervision.
- 1.5.2 All panel members have been appointed with relevant references and have up-to-date enhanced DBS checks. Individual Panel Member appraisals took place in November 2018 and Panel Chair appraisals with the ADM took place in February 2019.

SECTION 2: CHILDREN AND ADOPTION

2.0 CHILDREN REFERRED FOR ADOPTION

- 2.0.1 As of 31st March 2019, there were 136 children from Cambridgeshire open to the Family Finding Unit for permanence planning and tracking where adoption would be the alternative plan if no other options were available. This was slightly fewer than the previous year, however not all those referred do result in a final Care Plan for Adoption.
- 2.0.2 As of 31st March 2019, nearly 60% children referred to Family Finding are still in care proceedings. Once final Court dates are known, some early searching is started to minimise delay if a Placement Order is granted. Twenty nine children with Placement Orders have no active links (eleven of these were made in latter Quarter 4) and are subject to parallel family finding with CCA and external agencies. Nationally adopter supply is insufficient which is causing particular difficulty in matching children who are older, in sibling groups or with additional needs and complexities.
- 2.0.3 Cambridgeshire's permanency strategy is to avoid case drift or delay for children, social workers are expected to refer children for family finding when adoption is a possible, even if unlikely, outcome for that child. Permanence is considered by CCC forums for all children in care which ensures robust care planning is undertaken. In many cases, children return to parental care or are placed under other legal orders with extended family members.
- 2.0.5 Every child in care, who may need a new permanent family via adoption, has a CCA social worker from the Family Finding Unit allocated to take lead responsibility for finding a suitable family. The Family Finding social worker calls regular permanence planning meetings with other professionals involved

with the child. Should a child not be able to return to parents or extended family, adoption or long term fostering will be considered. The social workers are active in identifying suitable adoptive families who are able to meet the majority of a child's needs without delay to ensure a child is able to move to a permanent family in a timely manner. This includes consideration of whether placement via Early Permanence is appropriate for the child.

- 2.0.6 Early Permanence planning had been a strong feature of the partnership between Cambridgeshire and CCA. Five children were placed under these arrangements in the period compared with 4 in 17/18; 3 in 16/17 and 12 in 15/16.

2.1 OUTCOMES FOR CHILDREN WITH PLANS FOR ADOPTION

- 2.1.0 Sixty two children were made the subject of Placement Orders in the year. This was slightly less than the number of orders expected as there continues to be delays being experienced in proceedings. An analysis of children placed for adoption in 2018/19 compared to the previous year found that these children were on average waiting 36 weeks, which was 7 weeks longer between becoming looked after and their Placement Order being granted. In 2016/17 38% of care proceedings for this cohort had exceeded 26 weeks, in 2017/18 this was 59% and in 18/19 this had risen to 66%. However delays in care planning and proceedings are now being addressed through a number of forums attended by CCA where the timeliness of PLO work and court proceedings is monitored i.e. the multi-agency Unborn Baby Panel and Children in Care Tracking Meetings. CCA family finders continue to support units / teams in ensuring care planning is on course during Permanence Tracking meetings. In addition regional trends and patterns in judicial practice are raised as necessary through the Eastern Region Adoption and Special Guardianship Leadership Board.
- 2.1.1 Of the 68 children with plans for adoption agreed by the Agency Decision Maker during 2018/19, 28 have been placed for adoption, with a further 3 children matched awaiting placement at the end of the period. As of 31st March 2019; 11 children with Placement Orders had been linked with matches progressing, 29 children with Placement Orders are 'waiting' with active family finding on-going. These children have characteristics or additional – and multiple - complexities for family finding; such as being placed as part of a sibling group, autism, BME heritage, being aged 5 and over. Family finding for these children includes local, regional and national searches and children are featured at Adoption Activity Days, National Adoption Events, Adoption Link Maker and Adoption Match.

- 2.1.2 A total of 59 Cambridgeshire children were placed for adoption in the year. 30 of these were placed with CCA adoptive families and 29 were placed with other agency adopters.
- 2.1.3 Of the 59 children placed with adoptive families in 2018/19, over 60% were deemed complex under the DfE-defined 'harder to place' categories which are being 5 years or over; in a sibling group; BME; disability; or waiting over 18 months since court approval to place for adoption. Several of the children placed in 2018/19 had complexities in more than one of these categories
- 2.1.4 Sadly adoptive placements for four children have also disrupted in the period.

2.2 PLACEMENTS OF CHILDREN

- 2.2.1 12 sibling groups were placed within the year.

2.3 TYPE OF ADOPTION PLACEMENT

- 2.3.1 Of the 59 children placed with prospective adopters, 30 were placed with adopters approved by Coram Cambridgeshire Adoption Agency (effectively internal), 29 children were placed with prospective adopters approved by other agencies and subject to an inter-agency fee. Of these children matched with other agency adopters, 19 were with other LA adopters and 8 were with other VAA adopter.
- 2.3.2 Fostering for Adoption (Early Permanence) places a child during the period that they are looked after and undergoing care proceedings with adopters who are also approved as foster carers. If the court agrees that the child should be placed for adoption the child can then be matched for adoption with those approved adopters. This ensures that the child benefits by experiencing consistency of care during the first months of their life.
- 2.3.3 Within this period 5 children have been placed via early permanence and all were matched in the period.

2.4 ETHNICITY OF CHILDREN PLACED FOR ADOPTION

- 2.4.1 Of the 59 children placed for adoption, 41 children were of White British heritage, 18 children were of black and minority ethnic heritage, including 7 White/Lithuanian, and 5 White/Black African.

2.5 AGES OF CHILDREN PLACED FOR ADOPTION

- 2.5.1 Of the 59 children placed for adoption by Cambridgeshire, 14 were under the age of 1 year; 10 children were under 2 years; 22 were between 2 and 4 years and 13 were over 5 at the point of placement.

2.6 GENDER OF CHILDREN PLACED FOR ADOPTION

- 2.6.1 Of the 59 children placed 29 were male and 30 were female.

2.7 ADOPTION ORDERS

- 2.7.1 Adoption Orders were made in respect of 44 children in the period. 31 Adoption Orders were granted within 12 months of placement.
- 2.7.2 There has been an increase in the number of parental challenges to the making of the Adoption Order. This has resulted in delays to orders being granted whilst the court considers their objections. In all of these cases the orders have been granted.
- 2.7.3 As of 1st April 2019, 59 children had been placed with their adoptive families. Forty seven are in pre-adoptive placements not yet adopted. It is expected that the majority of these children will have orders granted during 2019/20. There continues to be some delays in making of Adoption Orders due in part to an increase in parental challenge at the adoption order stage. In some cases, intensive packages of therapeutic and social work support is being provided.

SECTION 3: ADOPTERS

3.0 RECRUITMENT OF ADOPTERS

- 3.0.1 Adoption Agencies have a duty to recruit a range of adopters to meet the needs of the children they are seeking to place for adoption and for children nationally. The principal method for recruitment is via websites. Searches on CCC's website for adoption were automatically forwarded www.coramcambridgeshireadoption.org.uk.
- 3.0.2 The recruitment strategy in this period focussed on trying to address the insufficiency of adopters for sibling groups, older children with complex need and young children who could be placed via Early Permanence. Some targeted activity took place towards the end of the previous year and into this period, including lamppost banners, website updates and social media presence.

3.1 THE ASSESSMENT PROCESS: ENQUIRIES, ASSESSMENTS AND APPROVALS

3.1.1 CCA has a single point of contact to the service through a local rate telephone line and the website. An information pack was made available to all enquirers and a duty system is in place for three days a week. Social workers make arrangements to meet with enquirers and offer attendance at information meetings and initial interviews.

3.1.2 Information sessions are held once a month where current information on the needs of children requiring adoption and the process of assessment is given to those people who are interested in becoming adopters.

3.1.3 In this reporting period:

- 257 enquiries were received
- 22 information sessions were held
- 136 individuals attended information sessions, comprising 121 households
- 43 Registrations of Interest to proceed to stage 1 were received and accepted
- 11 did not proceed to stage 2 assessment phase (NB these are not all from 43 above)
- 31 started stage 2 assessment
- 30 households presented to panel for approval
- 30 approved

3.1.3 At 31st March 2019, there were 21 households in stage 1 of the process and 11 in stage 2 assessment indicating a steady pipeline.

3.1.4 Ethnicity of 30 households approved: 25 were White British, 1 White British & White American; 1 White British & White Australian; 2 White British and White European and 1 White Polish

3.1.5 The majority of adoption approvals were of heterosexual couples. Three were single females; 2 same-sex male couples, 1 same-sex female couple. There were three second time adopters and six approved applicants had birth children.

3.3 POST APPROVAL AND POST PLACEMENT SUPPORT

3.2.1 All approved adopters are supported by a Social Worker from the Recruitment and Assessment Team from approval through the process of matching and placement, to the making of an Adoption Order. Some families also receive

Adoption Support Fund funded interventions prior to the Adoption Order being granted.

3.2.2 At 31st March 2019, there were 16 households approved and waiting, of those one had been waiting for just over 6 months, and one for longer. Eight of the 16 households have prospective matches of CCC or other LA children booked into Panel in the first quarter of 2018-2019.

3.2.3 At 31st March 2018, 21 CCA families have CCC children living with them and 3 have other Local Authority children living with them.

3.3 TRAINING FOR ADOPTERS

3.3.1 CCA has a social worker dedicated to training and preparation who has focused this year, on evolving Stage 1 and Stage 2 training.

Prospective adopters attend two modules – Stage 1 and Stage 2 and these are presented by the training Social Worker and Social Workers from the Recruitment and Assessment team.

Prospective adopters attend training in stage one covering:

- Types of Abuse
- Children's experiences
- Child development
- Trauma and attachment
- Concurrent planning
- Understanding challenging behaviour

Further training is presented to adopters in stage two covering in more depth:

- The child's journey
- The adopter(s)' Journey
- Support children emotional regulation
- Impact of abuse and neglect
- Contact
- Identity
- Loss and grief
- Post adoption support

Additionally those prospective adopters interested in concurrency/foster to adopt attend a further two days training addressing

- Early permanence planning/the legal context
- Contact
- The fostering role

The dedicated social worker for training has now developed new workshops for adopters - Preparing adopters for placement, Preparing and assessing existing children in placement (birth and adopted children) and Adopting Siblings. She is also exploring ways to include broader perspectives into training, for example children's views, birth parents and adopted adults.

- 3.3.2 Stage one and stage two training is offered according to numbers of prospective adopters in the process but at least every other month. Training is evaluated at the end of each set of modules, with feedback from participants being consistently positive.
- 3.3.3 Adopters pre and post placement have access to the Annual foster carer training programme offered by Cambridgeshire County Council. This includes workshops on topics such as 'Building attachments', 'First aid for foster carers' and 'Nurturing your child's developing mind'.
- 3.3.4 Adopters with children early in placement are able to attend parenting groups such as Foundations for Attachment presented by clinicians and social workers from the Adoption Support team.

SECTION 4: ADOPTION SUPPORT

4.0 POST ADOPTION SUPPORT TO FAMILIES

- 4.0.1 CCA undertakes on behalf of CCC all the statutory responsibilities relating to the provision of adoption support services. The Adoption and Children Act 2002 established the right of adopted families to request an assessment of their adoption support needs.
- 4.0.2 In this period the Adoption Support team received 77 new referrals for assessment of need, a further increase on the previous year of 68. At March 2019, 205 children from 127 families were receiving a service.
- 4.0.3 Families either self-refer or are referred via other agencies such as school or health services. In such cases the team either provides direct social work support or where a specific need is identified, a specialist service may be commissioned.
- 4.0.4 The DfE Adoption Support Fund (ASF) has been available since May 2015 and now also provides for children in Special Guardianship families. In the period 18/19, 154 applications to the ASF have been made (twice as many as 2017/18). All have been accepted for the provision of ASF eligible therapeutic interventions to families. Of these, 122 have been delivered by external providers, commissioned through CCA.

- 4.0.5 The team have a mailing list of adoptive families who are sent newsletters, invitations to support groups for adoptive parents and family days.
- 4.0.6 Adoptive parents support groups have been run regularly throughout the year at 4 locations in the County and are well-attended. Children's groups have been held four times a year for two different age bands.
- 4.0.7 Each child placed for adoption is required to have a contact plan in relation to their family. The majority of these are indirect contact arrangements via the letterbox service. In the year the service dealt with 1096 exchanges, of which the slight majority were adopter contacts.
- 4.0.8 The team continue to offer the 'Foundation for Attachments' therapeutic parenting workshops and have recently piloted their own 'Living with Aggression' groups aimed at those families experiencing physical aggression from their children. The team has continued to offer training to schools around children with attachment and trauma issues.

4.1 SERVICES TO ADOPTED ADULTS AND BIRTH RELATIVES

- 4.1.1 The Adoption Support team provide an advice and counselling service to adopted adults seeking information and access to their birth records. For all residents of Cambridgeshire an access to records counselling service is offered. Information is also provided to other agencies that are supporting adopted adults living in their area who were adopted through Cambridgeshire.
- 4.1.2 Initial counselling interviews are offered to those seeking birth records and work is undertaken to locate records held by Adoption Agencies. Counselling and practical advice during tracing, an intermediary service and pre and post reunion support are also available to adopter adults and their birth relative.
- 4.1.3 Birth relatives seeking to make contact with adopted adults are offered information and advice and the Agency can act as an intermediary where appropriate.
- 4.1.4 The team received 36 new referrals for 'adult' work. At the end of the period there are 38 open cases with a managed waiting list of 77.
- 4.1.5 In accordance with regulation, the team offers a counselling and information service for birth parents and relatives affected by the adoption plan. The Birth Relatives Outreach Worker (BROW) is proactive in offering of support, advice and guidance and is independent of the child's social worker, and the worker receives independent supervision. This is a confidential service unless concerns arise about the welfare of a child.

4.1.6 In the year, there were 21 new referrals to the BROW service, with 20 open at the end of the period.

SECTION 5: ADOPTION SCORECARD

5.0 CAMBRIDGESHIRE ADOPTION SCORECARD 2015-18

The Scorecard was introduced by the Department for Education in 2010, to address the delays in the adoption system. The indicators are based on a Local Authority's average performance over a 3 year period. This performance is based on timescales for children adopted in the reporting period.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/adoption-scorecards>

| Scorecard thresholds for: | Indicator timescales A1 | Indicator timescales A2 |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 2010 to 2013 | 20 months | 6 months |
| 2011 to 2014 | 18 months | 5 months |
| 2012 to 2015 | 16 months | 4 months |
| 2013 to 2016 | 14 months | 4 months |
| 2014-2017 | 14 months (428 days) | 4 months (121 days) |
| 2015-2018 | 14 months (428 days) | 4 months (121 days) |

National Indicators

A1: average time between a child entering care and moving in with its adoptive family, for children who have been adopted. The target for the 2013 to 2016 average (as measured during the 3 years i.e. 2013 to 2016) is 14 months (428 days)

A2: average time between a local authority receiving Court authority to place a child and the local authority deciding on a match to an adoptive family. The target for the 2013 to 2016 average (as measured during the 3 years i.e. 2013 to 2016) is 4 months (121 days)

A3: measures the number and percentage of children who wait less than 14 months between entering care and moving in with their adoptive family (as measured during the 3 years i.e. 2013 to 2016)

Cambridgeshire 3 year Average Scorecard Performance

| Year | 2011/2014 | 2012/2015 | 2013/2016 | 2014/2017 | 2015/2018 |
|---------------------------------|----------------|-------------|-------------------------|-------------|-------------------------|
| Cambridgeshire A1 (days) | 517 | 482 | 428 | 379 | 381 |
| Cambridgeshire National Ranking | LAs not ranked | Ranked 15th | Ranked 11 th | Ranked 7th | Ranked 13 th |
| National Average A1 | 628 | 593 | 558 | 520 | 486 |
| | | | | | |
| Cambridgeshire A2 | 78 | 114 | 120 | 129 | 172 |
| Cambridgeshire National Ranking | LA not ranked | Ranked 8th | Ranked 6th | Ranked 10th | Ranked 54 th |
| National A2 | 217 | 223 | 226 | 220 | 201 |
| | | | | | |
| Cambridgeshire A3 | 58% | 50% | 50% | 64% | 67% |
| National A3 | 51% | 47% | 47% | 53% | 56% |
| | | | | | |

Cambridgeshire Key Performance Indicators Yearly Performance

| Year | 2014/2015 | 2015/2016 | 2016/2017 | 2017/2018 | 2018/2019 |
|------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| A1 | 442 | 363 | 277 | 379 | 338* |
| A2 | 171 | 173 | 104 | 171 | 138* |
| A3 | 58% | 80% | 92% | 80% | 70 %* |

*Based on 44 AO's 20

Cambridgeshire children's placements

| Year | 01.08.14 – 31.03.15 | 2015 - 2016 | 2016 - 2017 | 2017 - 2018 | 2018 -2019 |
|---------------------|---------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|------------|
| Total Placements | 20 | 45 | 42 | 39 | 59 |
| | | | | | |
| Early Permanence | 2 | 13 | 7 | 5 | 4 |
| | | | | | |
| Internal Placements | 16 | 42 | 29 | 33 | 30 |
| | | | | | |
| External Placements | 4 | 3 | 13 | 6 | 29 |

VAA activity adopter approval and IA placements made

| Year | 01.08.14 -31.03.15 | 2015 - 2016 | 2016 - 2017 | 2017 -2018 | 2018 - 2019 |
|--|-----------------------|----------------|----------------|------------|----------------|
| Number house-holds approved | 33 | 40 | 31 | 25 | 30 |
| Number OLA children placed with CCA families | 9 | 8 | 13 | 4 | 7 |

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 | <i>Fiona MacKirdy, Head of County Wide and Looked After Children</i> | 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 | <i>Jacqui Barry, Service Development Manager, District Safeguarding Manager</i> | 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 | <i>Lou Williams, Service Director,</i> | 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. | | | <i>Jenny Goodes, Head of Service – Integrated Front Door</i> | 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/ Access to Universal Credit and benefits for care leavers | To brief Members on the Local Offer and benefits available to care leavers | Medium | 14.06.19 | Kate Knight, Lead Corporate Parenting Manager/ DWP officers | Members' Seminar | All Members | Cllrs Ashwood, Bailey, Boden, Bradnam, Bywater, Costello, Count, Criswell, | 80% |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|-----|--|---|--------|-----|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | | | | | Every, French, Gowing, Hay, Hunt, Rogers, Sanderson, Wotherspoon | |
| 8. | Developments in Children and Safeguarding Services – Family Safeguarding | To brief Members on service developments and provide an overview of District Safeguarding work | High | TBC | | | | | |
| 9. | Permanence planning for children | To brief Members on the importance of permanence planning for children and the different types of arrangements including concurrency | High | TBC | Kate Knight Lead Corporate Parenting manager/Julie Ann Saunders | | | | |
| 10. | Accommodation provisions for Children in Care and Care leavers | To brief Members on the variety of provisions available for Children in Care and Care Leavers | Medium | TBC | Access to Resources TBC | | | | |
| 11. | The Role of the Personal Advisor and update on the Local Offer | To brief Members of the role of the Personal Advisors and specialist PA roles in the context of the Local offer and opportunity to meet with PA's | Medium | TBC | Kate Knight lead Corporate Parenting Manager | | | | |

CORPORATE PARENTING SUB-COMMITTEE FORWARD AGENDA PLAN

Published 9 September 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 18 September 2019 – 4.00pm – Room 128, Shire Hall | | | | | |
| | Minutes and Action Log | Democratic Services | Not applicable | | |
| | Virtual School (<i>Standing item</i>) | C Hiorns | Not applicable | | |
| | Performance Report (<i>standing item</i>) | K Knight | Not applicable | | |
| | Sub-Committee Workshop/ Training Plan (<i>standing item</i>) | F van den Hout | Not applicable | | |
| | Young People's Participation (<i>standing item</i>) | C Betteridge | Not applicable | | |
| | Adoption Annual Report April 2018 – March 2019 | J A Saunders | 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 (<i>Standing item</i>) <i>i. Un-validated exam results</i> | C Hiorns | Not applicable | | |
| | Performance Report (<i>standing item</i>) | K Knight | Not applicable | | |
| | Sub-Committee Workshop/ Training Plan (<i>standing item</i>) | F van den Hout | Not applicable | | |
| | Young People's Participation (<i>standing item</i>) | C Betteridge | Not applicable | | |
| | Education Transport for Children in Care and Care Leavers | C Buckingham | Not applicable | | |
| | A Guide to Corporate Parenting for Members | F van den Hout | Not applicable | | |
| | Independent Review Officers' Annual Report: April 2018-March 2019 | Olly Grant | 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 |
|---|--|----------------------------|---------------------------|--|--|
| | Emotional Health and Wellbeing of Children in Care and Care Leavers Task and Finish Group report and recommendations | P Parker | Not applicable | | |
| | Fostering Service Update | J Heron | Not applicable | | |
| | Update on the Local Offer (<i>bi-meeting update</i>) | K Knight | Not applicable | | |
| | Workforce Development (<i>quarterly standing item</i>) | A Cullen and Lesley Liston | Not applicable | | |
| | Agenda Plan | Democratic Services | Not applicable | | |
| Wednesday 15 January 2020 – 4.00pm – venue tbc | | | | | |
| | Minutes and Action Log | Democratic Services | Not applicable | | |
| | Virtual School (<i>Standing item</i>) <i>i. Validated exam results (if available)</i> | C Hiorns | Not applicable | | |
| | Performance Report (<i>standing item</i>) | K Knight | Not applicable | | |
| | Sub-Committee Workshop/ Training Plan (<i>standing item</i>) | F van den Hout | Not applicable | | |
| | Young People's Participation (<i>standing item</i>) | C Betteridge | 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 |
|---|---|---------------------|---------------------------|--|--|
| | Workforce Development (quarterly standing item) | 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 | | |
| | 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) | K Knight | Not applicable | | |
| | Sub-Committee Workshop/ Training Plan (standing item) | F van den Hout | Not applicable | | |
| | Young People's Participation (standing item) | C Betteridge | Not applicable | | |
| | Refreshed NEET Strategy: Reducing the number of Children in Care who are Not in Education, Employment or Training | M Cowdell | Not applicable | | |
| | Agenda Plan | 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 |
|---|--|---------------------|---------------------------|--|--|
| 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 (<i>Standing item</i>) | C Hiorns | Not applicable | | |
| | Performance Report (<i>standing item</i>) | K Knight | Not applicable | | |
| | Sub-Committee Workshop/ Training Plan (<i>standing item</i>) | F van den Hout | Not applicable | | |
| | Young People's Participation (<i>standing item</i>) | C Betteridge | Not applicable | | |
| | Workforce Development (<i>quarterly standing item</i>) | 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 | | |
| | Agenda Plan | Democratic Services | Not applicable | | |

