

12 September 2016**Agenda Item: 5****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE****PERFORMANCE REPORTING (QUARTER 1 2016/17) – SERVICES FOR
LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN AND CARE LEAVERS****Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with a summary of the performance of services for looked after children and care leavers between 1 April and 30 June 2016.

Information and Advice

2. The Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee agreed to receive quarterly performance reports on key indicators for looked after children (LAC) and care leavers on 14 September 2015. This report provides an update of the regular set of performance information, whereby the most up-to-date information is reported for each measure, unless otherwise indicated.
3. Performance information is set out in **Appendix 1**. Key indicators are aligned against the outcome statements in the Looked After Children and Care Leavers Strategy 2015-18. This strategy identifies six outcomes to be achieved, and these are listed below:
 - 1) Looked after children and care leavers are happy and healthy
 - 2) Looked after children and care leavers are safe
 - 3) Looked after children and care leavers achieve their potential
 - 4) Looked after children and care leavers are prepared for adulthood
 - 5) Looked after children and care leavers are listened to
 - 6) Looked after children and care leavers build positive relationships.

Key Operational Data

4. At the end of Quarter 1 2016/17, a total of 798 children were looked after by Nottinghamshire which represents a further drop since the end of Quarter 4. LAC numbers have been falling monthly since January 2016 and quarterly since Quarter 2 2015-16. Quarter 1 has seen the lowest number of children admitted into care for over two years. The LAC rate per 10,000 of 49.1 remains significantly lower than the rates for our statistical neighbours and the England average as at the end of 2014/15, which were 57.8 and 60 respectively. Data indicates that the reduction in numbers of LAC is due to a steady number of care leavers reaching 18 each quarter, but also due to a steady number of younger children exiting care each quarter, most likely related to the timeliness of court proceedings, adoption planning, and Special Guardianship Orders (SGO) arrangements now achieved.

2014-15					2015-16				2016-17
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
Numbers of children in care (as at Quarter end)	866	851	856	851	855	875	867	839	798
LAC Rate per 10,000	53.2	52.3	52.6	51.9	52.6	53.8	53.3	51.6	49.1
Number of children admitted into care	119	82	94	100	103	100	87	76	63
Number of children discharged from care	86	90	95	109	92	82	90	94	85
Number of care leavers (as at Quarter end)+							302	224	219

+Accurate care leavers data was only collected on a quarterly basis from Q3 2015-16 onwards

2014-15					2015-16				2016-17
Age Range	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
Under 1	37	33	40	41	40	43	37	27	27
1-4 years	152	150	125	118	123	128	131	112	90
5-9 years	182	166	176	170	168	168	171	163	151
10-15 years	289	293	302	312	317	335	341	345	344
16+ years	206	209	213	210	207	201	187	192	186
Total	866	851	856	851	855	875	867	839	798

2014-15					2015-16				2016-17
Gender	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
Male	459	451	447	448	447	456	465	452	429
Female	407	400	409	403	408	419	402	387	369
Total	866	851	856	851	855	875	867	839	798

2014-15					2015-16				2016-17
District	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
Ashfield	218	211	213	212	214	214	211	202	201
Mansfield	184	175	166	175	168	182	186	184	169
Bassetlaw	164	160	156	156	158	160	154	149	142
Newark	123	125	124	129	127	130	133	123	116
Broxtowe	57	55	54	55	57	56	54	51	49
Gedling	47	52	56	56	55	67	62	63	60
Rushcliffe	23	23	28	22	23	17	18	21	20
Out of County/Unknown	50	50	58	46	53	49	49	46	41
Total	866	851	856	851	855	875	867	839	798

5. All districts have seen a decrease in the number of looked after children since the last quarter. The age profile of looked after children continues to get older with 14% now aged 4 and under and 66% aged 10 or over, compared with 19% and 61% respectively a year ago. The gender profile of looked after children has remained static from Quarter 4 to Quarter 1.

Other Options Considered

6. No other options have been considered as the Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee is required to have oversight of the performance of services for looked after children and care leavers.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

7. The recommendations are made so that the Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee can effectively fulfil the role required of it.

Statutory and Policy Implications

8. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Safeguarding of Children and Adults at Risk Implications

9. Reporting on the performance of services for looked after children and care leavers will better enable the Council to ensure that children are effectively safeguarded.

Implications for Service Users

10. Reporting on the performance of services for looked after children and care leavers will better enable the Council to ensure that children and young people are in receipt of high quality services.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That the Committee notes the performance of services for looked after children and care leavers during the period 1 April to 30 June 2016.

Steve Edwards
Service Director, Children's Social Care

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Shelagh Mitchell
Group Manager, Access to Resources
T: 0115 977 74169

E: shelagh.mitchell@nottsc.gov.uk

Constitutional Comments

11. As this report is for noting only, no Constitutional Comments are required.

Financial Comments (TR 09/08/16)

12. As this report is for noting only, no Financial Comments are required.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 19.

Looked After Children and Care Leavers Strategy 2015-18

Developing arrangements for reporting performance to Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee – report to Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee on 14 September 2015

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

C0865

