

12 December 2016

Agenda Item: 4

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE

PERFORMANCE REPORTING (QUARTER 2 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 July and 30 September 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.
4. Progress is expected across all outcomes over the course of the three years. In order to ensure that the associated planned activity is realistic, deliverable and focused, an Annual Action Plan has been developed, which is currently under review by the LAC Strategy Group and the Children in Care Council, to ensure that the key priorities remain relevant and deliverable.

Key Operational Data

5. At the end of Quarter 2 2016/17, a total of 792 children were looked after by Nottinghamshire which is the fourth consecutive quarterly drop. September actually saw the first rise in numbers on a monthly basis since January 2016. Quarter 2 has seen an increase in the number of children admitted into care since last quarter. The LAC rate per 10,000 of 48.7

remains significantly lower than the rates for our statistical neighbours and the England average as at the end of 2015/16, which were 59.8 and 60 respectively.

	2014-15			2015-16				2016-17	
	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2
Numbers of children in care (as at Quarter end)	851	856	851	855	875	867	839	798	792
LAC Rate per 10,000	52.3	52.6	51.9	52.6	53.7	53.1	51.1	48.9	48.7
Number of children admitted into care	82	94	100	103	100	87	77	64	75
Number of children discharged from care	90	95	109	92	82	90	104	91	70
Number of care leavers (as at Quarter end)+						302	224	219	226

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

	2014-15			2015-16				2016-17	
Age Range	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2
Under 1	33	40	41	40	43	37	27	27	30
1-4 years	150	125	118	123	128	131	112	90	93
5-9 years	166	176	170	168	168	171	163	151	147
10-15 years	293	302	312	317	335	341	345	344	335
16+ years	209	213	210	207	201	187	192	186	187
Total	851	856	851	855	875	867	839	798	792

	2014-15			2015-16				2016-17	
Gender	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2
Male	451	447	448	447	456	465	452	429	439
Female	400	409	403	408	419	402	387	369	353
Total	851	856	851	855	875	867	839	798	792

	2014-15			2015-16				2016-17	
District	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2
Ashfield	211	213	212	214	214	211	202	201	192
Mansfield	175	166	175	168	182	186	184	169	186
Bassetlaw	160	156	156	158	160	154	149	142	134
Newark	125	124	129	127	130	133	123	116	116
Broxtowe	55	54	55	57	56	54	51	49	46
Gedling	52	56	56	55	67	62	63	60	62
Rushcliffe	23	28	22	23	17	18	21	20	19
Out of County/Unknown	50	58	46	53	49	49	46	41	37
Total	851	856	851	855	875	867	839	798	792

6. The increase in looked after children this quarter is virtually all in Mansfield. The age profile of looked after children has changed slightly this quarter with the proportion aged 4 and under increasing from 14% to 16%. Overall, the age profile is younger than it was a year ago. The gender profile of looked after children has changed only slightly, with slightly fewer females (down from 46% in quarter 1 to 45% in quarter 2).

Other Options Considered

7. 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

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

Statutory and Policy Implications

9. 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

10. 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

11. 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 July to 30 September 2016.

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Constitutional Comments

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

Financial Comments (TR 17/11/16)

13. 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.

C0901