

13 June 2016

Agenda Item: 5

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE

PERFORMANCE REPORTING (QUARTER 4 2015/16) – 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 January and 31 March 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 4 2015/16, a total of 839 children were looked after by Nottinghamshire which represents a drop since the end of Quarter 3. It is the third consecutive quarter where the number of LAC has fallen. The rate per 10,000 of 51.6 remains lower than the rates for Nottinghamshire's statistical neighbours and the England average as at the end of 2014/15, which were 57.8 and 60 respectively.

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

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

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

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

5. The volume of looked after children fluctuates a little but is now at the lowest level since the end of 2013/14. Over the course of this year, the age profile of looked after children has altered slightly, with a small increase in the proportion of children aged 10-15 years. The proportion of very young children continues to fall with 16% aged under 5 years now compared with 19% in Quarter 1. The gender profile of looked after children has remained static from Quarter 3 to Quarter 4 with 54% male and 46% female. Historically, the Council has tended to see a slightly higher proportion of females. Gedling and Rushcliffe

are the only districts to see a small increase in the number of looked after children this quarter.

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 January to 31 March 2016.

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Constitutional Comments

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

Financial Comments (SS 09/05/16)

12. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

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.

C0823