

11 January 2016

Agenda Item: 4

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE

**PERFORMANCE REPORTING (QUARTER 2 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 July and 30 September 2015.

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. The 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 2 2015/16, a total of 875 children were looked after by Nottinghamshire. This figure has increased slightly although the rate per 10,000 of 53.8 remains lower than the rates for our statistical neighbours and the England average as at the end of 2013/14, which were 56.3 and 60 respectively.

	2014-15				2015-16	
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2
Numbers of children in care (as at the end of the Quarter)	866	851	856	851	855	875
LAC Rate per 10,000	53.2	52.3	52.6	51.9	52.6	53.8
Number of children admitted into care	119	82	94	100	104	100
Number of children discharged from care	86	90	95	109	92	86
Number of care leavers (as at the end of the Quarter)					196	207

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

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

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

5. The volume of looked after children has not majorly fluctuated between recent quarters and has remained between 800 and 900 children for the last two years. In comparison with previous years, the age split has altered considerably and we are now seeing a lower proportion of children under 1 year old and a higher volume of children aged 16 years and over. Despite the fact that the male population is consistently higher than the female population, the split of gender has levelled out over the last couple of years as more females are being admitted into care than before.

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 July to 30 September 2015.

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Constitutional Comments

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

Financial Comments (SS 08/12/15)

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.

C0751