

13 March 2017

Agenda Item: 4

## **REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE**

### **PERFORMANCE REPORTING (QUARTER 3 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 October and 31 December 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.

Progress is expected across all outcomes over the course of the three years.

4. In order to ensure that the associated activity for each outcome is realistic, deliverable and focused, an Annual Action Plan has been in operation throughout 2016/17. The Annual Action Plan is monitored and reviewed by the multi-agency Looked After Children and Care Leavers Strategy Group. Key successes of the Strategy in 2016/17 to date include:
  - Implementing a robust process to ensure that Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) placed in Nottinghamshire receive the same health provision as other Looked After Children in the County. There is ongoing liaison between health and the Local Authority to ensure there continues to be adequate planning for services.

- A recent audit indicates that there is a sound process in place to ensure that children and young people are seen alone by their social worker, to ensure that they are given the opportunity to raise any concerns about where they are living.
- Social workers are working collaboratively with the Fostering Service and Supported Accommodation providers to ensure that appropriate placements are identified for children and young people, and that appropriate and relevant support is provided to placements.
- Since 1 July 2016, The Children’s Society have been commissioned to deliver a Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) / Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) service for children and young people where significant concerns around CSE/CSA have been identified. The Children’s Society CSE workers are now well embedded within the Looked After Children Team and have been working positively with the LAC social workers.
- A rolling training programme has ensured that all LAC and Leaving Care staff are C-Card trained, to support young people with their sexual health needs.
- All 16 and 17-year-old Looked After Children have access to “Get Ready For Adult Life” materials.
- A series of workshops have been held with 25 Looked After Children and Care Leavers to support the County Council in the development of an “app” for participation; the technical development is now underway.
- The Children in Care Council Sub-Groups and No Labels have met six times since April 2016, to ensure that Looked After Children and Care Leavers have had the opportunity to be actively involved in sharing their views and opinions on the services they access.

5. The Annual Action Plan for 2017/18 is currently being developed by the Looked After Children and Care Leavers Strategy Group. Feedback from the Children in Care Council, following their review of the Strategy, is being utilised to ensure that key actions and priorities align with needs and wishes of our service users.

## Key Operational Data

6. As at the end of December 2016, a total of 798 children were looked after by Nottinghamshire which is a rate of 49.1 per 10,000 children. This figure has consistently remained below our national and statistical neighbour comparators. The number of children being admitted into care has remained relatively stable from the previous quarter. However, there has been a slight decrease in the number of discharges from care.

	2014-15		2015-16				2016-17		
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3
Numbers of children in care (as at Quarter end)	856	851	855	875	867	839	798	792	798
LAC Rate per 10,000	52.6	51.9	52.6	53.7	53.1	51.1	48.9	48.7	49.1
Number of children admitted into care	94	100	103	100	87	77	64	80	84
Number of children discharged from care	95	109	92	82	90	104	91	81	64
Number of care leavers (as at Quarter end)+					302	224	219	226	238

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

	2014-15		2015-16				2016-17		
Age Range	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3
Under 1	40	41	40	43	37	27	27	30	46
1-4 years	125	118	123	128	131	112	90	93	95
5-9 years	176	170	168	168	171	163	151	147	137
10-15 years	302	312	317	335	341	345	344	335	335
16+ years	213	210	207	201	187	192	186	187	185
<b>Total</b>	<b>856</b>	<b>851</b>	<b>855</b>	<b>875</b>	<b>867</b>	<b>839</b>	<b>798</b>	<b>792</b>	<b>798</b>

	2014-15		2015-16				2016-17		
Gender	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3
Male	447	448	447	456	465	452	429	439	445
Female	409	403	408	419	402	387	369	353	353
<b>Total</b>	<b>856</b>	<b>851</b>	<b>855</b>	<b>875</b>	<b>867</b>	<b>839</b>	<b>798</b>	<b>792</b>	<b>798</b>

	2014-15		2015-16				2016-17		
District	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3
Ashfield	213	212	214	214	211	202	201	192	196
Mansfield	166	175	168	182	186	184	169	186	187
Bassetlaw	156	156	158	160	154	149	142	134	132
Newark	124	129	127	130	133	123	116	116	124
Broxtowe	54	55	57	56	54	51	49	46	45
Gedling	56	56	55	67	62	63	60	62	54
Rushcliffe	28	22	23	17	18	21	20	19	16
Out of County/Unknown	58	46	53	49	49	46	41	37	44
<b>Total</b>	<b>856</b>	<b>851</b>	<b>855</b>	<b>875</b>	<b>867</b>	<b>839</b>	<b>798</b>	<b>792</b>	<b>798</b>

7. Much of the increase in looked after children this quarter is in Newark. Quarter 3 has seen the third consecutive quarterly increase in the proportion of looked after children that are babies (under 1). It is now 6% of the total, double what it was in quarter 1. The other age groups have remained in largely the same proportions. The gender profile of looked after children is the same as it was in quarter 2.

### **Other Options Considered**

8. 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**

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

### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

10. 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**

11. 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**

12. 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 Sub-Committee notes the performance of services for looked after children and care leavers during the period 1 October to 31 December 2016.

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### **Constitutional Comments**

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

### **Financial Comments (TMR 14/02/17)**

14. There are no direct financial implications arising 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.

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