

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD – PERFORMANCE REPORT
November 2017
PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

The purpose of this report is to provide the Board with the most up to date performance overview in relation to Children in Care and to highlight results from April 2017 to September 2017.

Area / Indicator	Statistical Neighbour Average	Out-turn 16/17	Outturn Q1/Q2	Service commentary
Number of children in care as at September 2016. (rate per 10,000)	651 (92.2)	616 (93.4)	628 (95.2)	We are currently above our target of 90 per 10,000 children in care. Demand for Social Care services remains high, with a significant number of requests for children to become Looked After in Q1/Q2. CAFCAS have stated that last year's national 30 year high in terms of children coming into care / court activity has continued in 2017. High quality support interventions with identified families are supporting some of our children on the edge of care to remain at home with their families. Exit planning continues to be a key focus. At 95 children per 10,000 in care our data is better than that of similar Councils. The monthly children in care analysis meeting provides further focus on our looked after children cohort, in terms of exit planning and monitoring. Our weekly Placement Panel also continues to examine all purchased placements; we continue to focus on reducing the number of high cost external residential placements with an aim of having more of our children cared for in family settings such as fostering. From October 2017 we have a weekly exit planning meeting to ensure that children and young people are supported to exit care in a timely manner when safe to do so.
Fostering & Adoption	<p>The current Service Manager for Fostering and Adoption retires in November, the new Service Manager will commence in post in December 2017. There is significant activity in relation to carer recruitment, which we hope will yield additional fostering households in Q3 and Q4 of the 17/18 financial year, and beyond. Extra funding of over £100,000 has been put in place to assist with the recruitment of City Council Foster Carers for our children. There were 188 children in internal foster care in March 17, and 203 in internal foster care at the end of September Q2. There were 183 active Fostering Households at the end of Q2. Regional adoption discussions continue; the D2N2 permanence hubs have been discussed and are being implemented. The Department for Education have now ceased support for inter-agency adoption payments. We claimed over £250,000 from that fund in 16/17. The DfE have also tightened the criteria for adoption support fund financial support, relating to therapy post adoption.</p> <p>In Q1/Q2 19 children were adopted, 5 were given Special Guardianship Orders and 1 on a Child Arrangement Order. This resulted in 25 children leaving our care under permanence arrangements between April and September.</p>			
Children's Homes	<p>Five of our seven regulated children's homes have had their Ofsted main 17/18 inspection; they have all been graded as 'Good with Outstanding Features'. Two homes are awaiting their main annual inspection; this will take place prior to the end of the year. All homes are showing improved or sustained effectiveness by way of Ofsted judgements. This is a strong performance under a new, tougher inspection framework. Our five semi-independent (unregistered) homes for our older young people now have their own monitoring framework in place.</p>			
Regulation 44	<p>In their inspection of five of our seven registered children's homes in this financial year so far, Ofsted have said we are compliant with statutory regulations and DfE requirements in relation to Regulation 44s to the Councils own oversight and management of Children's Homes.</p> <p>Our Regulation 44 inspectors constitute a wide range of professionals, who offer independence in their inspections of our homes. These include professionals from a number of settings within the Council, including the Portfolio Holder for Early Intervention and Early Years.</p> <p>Written reports are forwarded to Ofsted in line with statutory requirements. We have recently received positive feedback from Ofsted in relation to our compliance with the notification framework. We have now introduced similar quality assurance visits to our semi-independent homes that are not registered with Ofsted.</p>			
Health	<p>The percentage of Children in Care with an up to date Health Assessment stands at 88% at the end of Q1, and 80% at the end of Q2. Additionally, 78% of our children had an up to date dental check in Q1 and 66% in Q2. 92% had received relevant immunisations at the start of this financial year, because the holiday season falls in Q2 we do get data input and appointment delay in July and August. At the end of Q2, 56% of children in care who had been in care for 12 months or more had an up to date SDQ on file at the end of Q2, a further 38 SDQs received are currently being input by admin taking figure to 65%.</p> <p>Administration systems have been changed to provide a focus on these requests and appointments, as we are still below our target. A reminder has been sent to all staff re data inputting, to ensure we lift % in Q3. Monthly updates on health data will be provided again via Data Analysis colleagues from November as part of the Liquid Logic IT work stream.</p>			
Youth Offending	<p>Offending in the CiC population in Nottingham has reduced from nearly 20% in 2006, to 5.4% in 2016. This is based on the percentage of the CiC population aged 10-17, who have been in care for a year or more, who have received a Youth Caution, Youth Conditional Caution or conviction in that year. The 2016/17 data will be published in December 2017 and will be discussed at the Corporate Parenting Board in March 2018. This is historically good performance for the City and better than similar cities or national averages. The continued support of the Council in part funding the Children in Care Police Officer post has been a significant contribution in this area.</p>			
Self-Assessment on Inspection Readiness	<p>Work is taking place in relation to exit planning and reducing delays in the effective care planning for Children in Care. We are working with Business Support, Data Analysis and Social Work Teams to improve the administration of health and dental checks, including SDQs, to improve data related to these key indicators.</p> <p>Resources in the Leaving Care Service are being reviewed post-inspection, with a focus on safeguarding for our older young people. Great Workforce leads from HR are actively involved in all Children in Care Teams.</p> <p>The Adoption scorecard is a significant measure of our ability to manage Adoption Services. We have improved our timelines. Performance in this area is improving in terms of timeliness, and we are on track to meet our target for the number of children progressing to adoption. Residential inspection outcomes are positive in terms of our profile as a Local Authority. Regular performance meetings are taking place in relation to Children in Care data.</p>			
The percentage of applicable (Eligible, Relevant and Former relevant) young people with a Pathway Plan completed/authorised in the preceding 6 months	Not collected nationally.	80.8%		Below our tougher annual target awaiting development of data capture on liquid logic.
The percentage of Children in Care with a completed Personal Education Plan (PEP)	Not collected nationally.	90%		90% of children in care had a PEP completed in the last year. The Virtual School Head is currently gathering information and conducting an audit of data regarding PEPs, the governing body and the Virtual School PEP co-ordinator continue to hold regular meetings with the Children in Care management team to discuss the PEP completion rate and identify where they are incomplete. Under the latest Department for Education conditions of offer, the Virtual School Head will expect all schools to demonstrate how they will use the new Pupil Premium funding to close the gap for all LAC pupils. One-to-one tuition for pupils in Year 6 and Year 11 will continue, with an increased focus on analysis of impact. The Virtual School Head continues to drive PEPs and we are confident that we will continue to make progress towards all children having their PEP. The Virtual School Governing body chaired by the Lead Member also robustly monitors shortfalls in this data.
The percentage of care leavers in suitable accommodation (17-21 years old)	81.1%	89.6%	83.3%	The focus on preparing our young people for independence continues, this cohort measured of 65 is impacted upon by small movements, because some of our young people have returned to parents, impacting on this indicator, alongside some entries to custody. Challenges in the wider housing market do impact on availability of suitable homes for our young people but our strong links with Nottingham City Homes help in reducing the challenges.
The percentage of care leavers in employment, education or training (17-21 years old)	48.8%	65.9%	70.7%	This is good performance that exceeds both statistical neighbours significantly and our own target by 5%. The focus is to continue to support more of our young people into education and employment.