

## Corporate Parenting Board 2018/19 Quarter 2 Performance Data Commentary

The rate of Children in Care has risen from 798 (69 per 10k) as at 31.3.18 to 825 (70 per 10k) as at 30.9.18. New starters in year (130) are less than new starters for the same period last year (147) However children leaving care in the same period have reduced to 99 this year from 131 in the same period last year. Work to address drift and delay in permanency for children in care had a major impact on numbers leaving care during 2017/18. We have also seen an increase in Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children as new starters with 13 starting care during 2017/18 and 15 in the first six months of 2018/19

Whilst this leaves us with an overall increasing number of children in care we have a changing population and it is understanding of this that is necessary if we are to meet the needs of our children in care.

Our current cohort are:

- A reduced number of children under a voluntary arrangement S20 down to 21% from a previous figure of 28%
- An increased number of children leaving care and achieving permanency within 12 months from 35% in 2016/17 up to 48% in 2017/18 and 50% at qtr. 2 of 2018/19. This is supported by Local Family Justice Board data which evidences us as a high performing authority in timeliness of care proceedings
- A decreased number of new starters aged 5yrs and under from 48% (2017/18) down to 37% year to date
- An increased number of new starters aged 10yrs and over from 39% (2017/18) up to 41% year to date.
- 45% of our current cohort of Looked After Children were received into our care in 2015 or before and whilst this is a reduction from the 59% as at April 2017, a reflection of work done to achieve permanency for even an older age child in care, it shows now a long term Local Authority care arrangement for a significant proportion of our children.
- 53% of our current cohort are aged between 11 and 15yrs and looking at the increasing number in the older age as new starters we are likely to see a sustained increasing number needing long term care.
- An increased number of children cared for by Friends Family and Connected persons and a decrease in both internal and external foster care
- A relatively sustained figure at 12% of children in residential care that is showing signs of reduction but is higher than Eng. average data (2016/17)
- A reducing number of children experiencing 3+ placements in 12months now in line with Statutory Neighbours but still above England average (2016/17 data)

So we have to understand what we can do differently to prevent children at the older age coming into care and also support those in care to move to a family based care arrangement. Our Edge of Care development is underway with public, professional and young people engagement survey out in November 2018, and work on our Sufficiency Strategy to increase family based care and support carers to prevent breakdown is part of our Service Improvement work.

We can see good and improving trends in the other KP's of this group of children with:

- Attendance in Care planning reviews up from an average of 53% (2017/18) up to 68% and Participation from 89% up to 96% year to date

- Health Assessment for Looked After children up from an inconsistent high of 60% last year to 70% year to date
- A reducing number of Looked After Children not in Education Employment or Training down from 25 to 21 and a significantly reduced % of this cohort
- An increase in the number of reviews held in timescale from an average of 82% in the last six months of 2017/18 up to 86% in 2018/19
- An increasing number of Care Leavers "in touch" from 83/84% in 2017/18 to a sustained 87/88% year to date
- A reduction of Care Leavers not in suitable accommodation down to 4/5% from 9% at the end of 17/18 although an increased percentage where this information is missing.

However a challenge remains for us in a negative trend on the % of care leavers not in Education Employment or Training from a figure of 41% average in 17/18 up to 43/44% average in 17/18 and a concerning position on the number of care leavers with no p-to-date Pathway Plan.