

By: Roger Gough, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education

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To: Corporate Parenting Panel – 29th January 2018

Subject: **PERFORMANCE SCORECARD FOR CHILDREN IN CARE**

Classification: Unrestricted

Electoral Divisions: All

Summary: The performance Scorecard for Children in Care identifies the key performance data and targets that need to be monitored in order to promote the best outcomes for children and young people looked after by Kent County Council. The latest performance Scorecard for November 2017 is attached to this report

Recommendation: Members of the Corporate Parenting Panel are asked to **CONSIDER** and **COMMENT** on the performance data in the Children in Care scorecard.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Performance scorecards have been developed within Specialist Children's Services to identify and monitor progress on a range of areas where improvements in performance and practice will lead to better outcomes for children and young people.
- 1.2 This report includes the latest Children in Care Scorecard which is for November 2017.

2. Context

- 2.1 The Children in Care Scorecard has been developed to provide the Corporate Parenting Panel with an overview of the key performance measures for Children in Care.
- 2.2 The report is split into sections and includes a range of performance indicators and activity information.
- 2.4 The Children in Care Scorecard is currently focused on information provided by Specialist Children's Services. It is intended that performance reports from partners will also be shared with Corporate Parenting Panel so that

performance issues can be further understood across organisations resulting in improved outcomes for children and young people.

3. Summary of Performance – November 2017

- 3.1 The previous CIC Scorecard submitted to Corporate Parenting Panel was for August 2017. During the period August to November the number of citizen CIC increased from 1,408 to 1,428 and the number of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) decreased from 366 to 331, resulting in an overall reduction of 15 children in care in Kent. The rate of CIC per 10,000 Child Population (including UASC) for November 2017 was 53.2, which is below the latest published average rate for England of 62.0, and statistical neighbours 56.1. Both the England and SN rates are as at March 2017.
- 3.2 Two of the performance measures in the CIC Scorecard were significantly away from the target:
- (i) **% of Initial Health Assessments (IHA) taking place within 20 working days of a child coming into care.** This is a measure of the percentage of IHAs undertaken by Health and performance for November was 73.5%, against the target of 90.0%. There has been a slight improvement since the last report in August 2017 when performance was 72.9%. Included within this measure are those where the health assessment has yet to be recorded on Liberi and those where the young person has refused. The refusals (16 young people) account for 13.3% of those reported as being outside of timescale. Whilst performance remains below target there have been improvements in the year and current performance is 7.3% above the position as at March 2017. These improvements have been obtained by greater rigor in the notification process to health, improved communication and data sharing.
 - (ii) **% of cases where adoption was agreed as the plan within 4 months, for those children with an Agency Decision for Adoption.** For the 112 children in this cohort, a sole plan of adoption was made within 4 months for 64 children (a cumulative total of 57.1%) which was a decrease from 61.3% in August 2017. Of the remaining 48 children, 25 had a decision made within 6 months (a cumulative total of 79.4%). The definition for this measure requires adoption to be the sole plan at the 2nd Review, which is a maximum of four months of a child coming into care. For some children alternative plans are still being considered after this point, and this will be the correct course of action for these children. Of the 23 children where the decision exceeded 6 months: 7 children had their plan changed away from Adoption; 3 children were returned to the care of their parents; 7 are now in their adoption placements and the remaining 6 are in Foster Care, 4 of whom have been matched and are preparing to move in with their adoptive families.
- 3.3 Six performance measures have changed RAG banding between the August and November 2017 Scorecards. Those measures showing improved performance are:

- (i) **% Health Assessments held within the required timescale.** Performance has improved from 84.5% to 88.8%, moving this performance measure from a Red to Amber RAG rating and closer to the target of 90.0%
- (ii) **% of Returner Interviews completed within 3 working days for CIC.** Performance improved from 74.7% to 76.5%, changing the RAG rating from Red to Amber. The locally set target for this measure is 85.0%. Unfortunately there is no comparative data available for Kent to benchmark its performance against. Some Local Authorities have started to measure completion rates for returner interviews so in anticipation of comparative data being available in the future an additional measure will be added to future CIC Scorecards showing the total completion rate of Returner Interviews for CIC. For November 2017 the completion rate was 88.4%.
- (iii) **% of Care Leavers we are in contact with.** Performance improved from 83.6% to 87.9%, moving this performance measure from an Amber to Green RAG rating, and above the target of 85.0%.
- (iv) **% of CIC team posts filled by KCC Permanent Qualified Social Workers (excluding Fostering and Adoption Teams).** This increased from 78.5% to 85.9%, moving this measure from an Amber to Green banding, and above the target of 85.0%.

Those measures where performance decreased were:

- (v) **% CIC in Foster Care in KCC Foster Care/Relative and Friend Placement.** Performance has decreased from 86.0% to 84.9%, resulting in a move from a Green to Amber banding. Current performance is 0.1% away from the 85.0% Target.
- (vi) **Average number of days between court authority to place a child for adoption, and the decision on a match.** Performance has decreased from 115 days to 123 days, changing the RAG rating from Green to Amber. As the measure is a calculated for a rolling 12 months the drop in performance is a result of the increase in the average number of days for September to November 2017 (145 days) compared to the average for the same period in 2016 (102 days). Children adopted in the last three months, who were outside of the 121 day target, included some children who had been difficult to place but who have now been successfully adopted. The target of 121 days is a national target.

4. Recommendations

4.1 Recommendations: Members of the Corporate Parenting Panel are asked to **CONSIDER** and **COMMENT** on the performance data in the Children in Care scorecard.

5. Background documents

None

6. Contact details

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