

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

Matt Dunkley, Corporate Director for Children, Young People and Education

To: Corporate Parenting Panel – 1 June 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 to promote the best outcomes for children and young people looked after by Kent County Council. The latest performance Scorecard for March 2018 is attached to this report.

Recommendation: Members of the Corporate Parenting Panel are asked to **NOTE** 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 March 2018.

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 – March 2018

- 3.1 The previous CIC Scorecard submitted to Corporate Parenting Panel was for January 2018. During the period January to March 2018 the number of citizen CIC reduced by 1, from 1,423 to 1,422 and the number of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) reduced from 264 to 233, resulting in an overall reduction of 32 children in care. For January 2018 the rate of CIC per 10,000 Child Population (including UASC) was 49.7, which is below the latest published average rate for England of 62.0, and Statistical Neighbours 56.1. Both the England and Statistical Neighbour rates are as at March 2017.
- 3.2 Four of the performance measures in the CIC Scorecard were significantly away from the target:
- 3.2.1 **% of CIC for 18 months and allocated to the same social worker for the last 12 months.** Performance for March 2018 was 42.3%, which is a slight reduction from the previously reported figure of 42.9% (January 2018), and below the ‘floor standard’ of 45.0%. The measure covers a rolling 12-month period and two factors have had a significant impact on performance for 2017-18. The restructuring within the Disabled Children and Young People’s teams has seen their performance fall from 63.8% in March 2017 to 29.8% in March 2018. We would expect to see performance for these teams start to improve 12 months following the start of the restructure, although there will be an impact of the transfer of cases at the age of 16 so performance will need to be regularly reviewed. Secondly there have been high rates of maternity leave, particularly in the South Kent Children in Care Teams who have had 10 Social Workers go on maternity leave in the past 12 months. This has resulted in their performance reducing from 59.7% in April 2017 to 23.0% in March 2018.
- 3.2.2 **% of Initial Health Assessments (IHA) taking place within 20 working days of a child coming into care.** Performance for March 2018 was 76.5%, which is an improvement from the last reported figure of 75.5% (January 2018). Performance against this measure has shown month-on-month improvement throughout the year, from a starting point of 66.4% in April 2017, but it remains significantly away from the target of 90.0%. The Health Service Target for this measure is 85.0%, so following agreement at Corporate Parenting Panel on 22nd March 2018, the KCC Target has been reduced to 85.0% for 2018-19. Current performance against an 85.0% Target, with a standard tolerance level of 10%, would be within an Amber banding.
- 3.2.3 **% of cases where adoption was agreed as the plan within 4 months, for those children with an Agency Decision for Adoption.**

For the 106 children in this cohort, a sole plan of adoption was made within 4 months for 55 children (51.9%). Of the remaining 51 children, 20 had adoption as the sole plan within 6 months. 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.

3.2.4 % of Returner Interviews completed within 3 working days for CIC. At 74.4% performance for March 2018 has fallen below the floor standard of 75.0% for the first time during the 2017-18 reporting year. Whilst the performance for this performance measure has decreased, the completion of returner interviews for Children in Care (regardless of the timescale) is 88.5%, which is above the target of 85.0%.

3.3 Five performance measures have changed RAG banding between the January and March 2018 Scorecards. Those measures showing improved performance are:

3.3.1 % off CIC who turned 18 during the month with a health history completed. Performance improved from 97.5% to 100.0%, achieving the target and moving the RAG rating from Amber to Green.

3.3.2 Average number of days between court authority to place a child and the decision on a match with an adoptive family. The average number of days reduced from 122 days (for the rolling 12 months to January 2018) to 110 days in March 2018. This measure is now achieving the threshold set by the Department of Education of 121 days, which has resulted in a change in the RAG rating from Amber to Green.

The three measures where performance decreased were:

3.3.3 % of CIC in Foster Care/Relatives and Friends placements (excluding UASC). Performance dropped from 85.2% in January 2018 to 84.6% in March 2018, which was just under the target of 85.0%, therefore moving the RAG rating of this measure from Green to Amber.

3.3.4 % of Returner Interviews completed within 3 working days for Children in Care. Performance for this measure reduced from 77.2% in January 2018 to 74.4% in March 2018. This is below the floor standard of 75.0% which changed the RAG rating from Amber to Red.

3.3.5 % of CIC posts filled by KCC Permanent Qualified Social Workers (excluding the Fostering and Adoption Teams). In January 2018 performance against measure was 85.2%, achieving the target of 85.0%. For March 2018 the percentage had decreased slightly to

84.3%, moving the RAG rating from Green to Amber. The reduction relates to the equivalent of 1 full-time equivalent Social Worker.

4. Recommendations

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

5. Background documents

None

6. Contact details

Lead Officer

Maureen Robinson
Management Information Service Manager
03000 417164
Maureen.Robinson@kent.gov.uk

Lead Director

Sarah Hammond
Interim Director, Specialist Children's Services
03000 411488
sarah.hammond@kent.gov.uk