

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

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**To:** Corporate Parenting Panel – 1<sup>st</sup> November 2018

**Subject:** Performance Scorecard for Children in Care

**Classification:** Unrestricted

**Electoral Divisions:** All

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**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 August 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.

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## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 Performance scorecards have been developed 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 August 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.
- 2.3 The Children in Care Scorecard is currently focused on information provided by Children's Social Care 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 – August 2018

- 3.1 The report contains key statistics and performance results against the targets for 24 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), which are assessed using a Red/Amber/Green (RAG) Status.
- 3.2 Of the 24 KPIs included in the report, the RAG status for August 2018 is as follows:
- 13 are rated Green – target achieved or exceeded
  - 11 are rated Amber – below target but above floor standard
  - 0 are rated Red – below floor standard
- 3.3 The CIC Scorecard submitted to the previous Corporate Parenting Panel on 19th September 2018 was for June 2018. During the period between the two reports the RAG status of 1 KPIs changed. The detail of this change is provided below:
- 3.3.1 **Average number of days between court authority to place a child and the decision on a match.** Performance for this measure increased from an average of 112 days in June, to 122 days in August. The increase in the average number has been impacted upon by five children where the circumstances included an adoption breakdown and subsequent matching, a sibling group of three children and an appeal against the adoption order.
- 3.4 For the 11 KPIs rated as Amber an update on performance is provided below.

Seven of these KPIs show improved performance between June and August 2018:

- 3.4.1 **CIC Placement stability: Percentage with 3 or more placements in the last 12 months.** Performance has improved from 11.2% to 10.7%, moving closer to the Target of 10.0%, which was set to be in line with the national average for England for 2016/17. This improvement in performance is a result of several initiatives put in place to improve placement stability. These include the Sense of Belonging Project, the creation of the Total Placements Service to centralise placement finding, which allows Fostering Social Workers to focus on providing support to in-house foster carers and a six-month pilot in West Kent to utilise resources from Early Help to provide support. Kent's latest performance is now in line with the 2016/17 average rate for its Statistical Neighbours (10.7%) and below the rate for the South East Region (12.0%).
- 3.4.2 **Percentage of CIC Foster Care in KCC Foster Care/Relatives and Friends placements (excluding UASC).** There was 0.1% improvement in performance, from 84.2% to 84.3% and performance remains close to the Target of 85.0%.

- 3.4.3 **CIC placed within 20 miles of home (excluding UASC).** There was a 0.1% improvement in performance, from 76.7% to 76.8%. As this is a local measure there is no direct comparative data. A similar measure, covering those placed more than 20 miles and *outside* the local authority boundary shows Kent's performance (including UASC) as 5%, compared to the average for England and Statistical Neighbours of 14% (figures are for 2016/17).
- 3.4.4 **Percentage of Initial Health referrals made to Health within 5 days of a child/young person coming into care.** Performance for this measure improved from 84.8% to 86.3%. Improvements in performance have been achieved by establishing systems for notifying Health of all children and young people when they come into care which prevents delays in arranging timely health assessments. This performance measure only includes the initial referral date, it does not consider any are declined by Health. Although the number of these is very low, additional tracking will enable the actual number to be included within the next performance report to Corporate Parenting Panel.
- 3.4.5 **Percentage of Initial Health Assessments taking place within 20 working days.** Performance against this measure improved from 80.1% to 82.8% continuing the trend of month-on-month improvements towards the target of 85.0%
- 3.4.6 **The Percentage of Returner Interviews completed within 3 working days for CIC** improved by 0.2% from 74.1% to 74.3%. Whilst performance against this measure remains some way off from the Target of 85.0% there is no national or regional comparative data available to benchmark performance. The completion rate of Returner Interviews for Children in Care, regardless of the timescale, is 89.1%.
- 3.4.7 **Percentage of CIC team posts filled by KCC Permanent QSW (excluding teams in the Fostering and Adoption services).** The number of permanent qualified Social Workers in the CIC Teams increased from 89.4 FTE in June 2018 to 90.5 FTE in August 2018, an increase of 1.1 FTE. Initiatives, such as a welcome payment, have been put in place to optimise the recruitment of permanent Social Workers.

The remaining 4 KPIs showed a decrease in performance between June and August 2018.

- 3.4.8 **Percentage of CIC for 18 months and allocated to the same Social Worker for the last 12 months.** Performance against this measure has fallen slightly from 48.4% to 47.7%, a decrease of 0.7%. Current performance remains above the March 2018 position of 42.3%
- 3.4.9 **CIC Placement stability: Percentage in the same placement for the last 2 years.** Performance has decreased from 69.1% to 68.8%, a

reduction of 0.3%, and remains close to the Target of 70.0% which has been set to be in line with the national average for England for 2016/17.

3.4.10 **Average number of days between Court authority to place a child for adoption, and a decision on a match.** Details of performance against this measure is covered in 3.3.1 of this report.

3.4.11 **Average caseloads of Social Workers in CIC Teams.** The average caseload for social workers in the Children in Care teams increased from 15.8 to 16.6, which is above the Target of 15 cases. The reduction of caseloads for Social Workers remains a key priority for the service and a programme of observed peer audits is planned over the next two months.

#### 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

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