

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

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**To:** Corporate Parenting Panel – 29 January 2019

**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 November 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 November 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 Children's Social Work 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 2018

- 3.1 The report contains key statistics and performance results against the targets for 25 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), which are assessed using a Red/Amber/Green (RAG) Status.
- 3.2 An additional KPI has been added to the November CIC Report which is “% Children in Care Plans rated as good or outstanding”. This is an existing KPI, providing a qualitative measure of the quality of Care Plans.
- 3.3 Of the 25 KPIs included in the report, the RAG status for November 2018 is as follows:
- 16 are rated Green – target achieved or exceeded
  - 9 are rated Amber – below target but above floor standard
  - 0 are rated Red – below floor standard
- 3.4 The CIC Scorecard submitted to the previous Corporate Parenting Panel on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2018 was for August 2018. During the period between the two reports the RAG status of 4 KPIs changed. Three of these KPIs achieved the Target, moving the RAG status from Amber to Green, and 1 KPI fell just below the Target, changing the RAG status from Green to Amber. The detail of these changes is as follows:
- 3.4.1 **Average number of days between court authority to place a child and the decision on a match.** Performance for this measure improved from an average of 122 days in August to an average of 119 days in November, achieving the National Target of 121 days and changing the RAG status from Amber to Green.
- 3.4.2 **% of Care Leavers in employment, education or training (of those we are in touch with).** Performance against this measure decreased by 0.02%, from 65.1% in August to 64.9% in November. This is now just slightly below the Target of 65.0% resulting in a change in the RAG status from Green to Amber.
- 3.4.3 **% of CIC team posts filled by a KCC Permanent Qualified Social Worker.** Performance against this measure has seen a significant improvement, from 78.8% in August to 87.6% in November. Performance is above the 85.0% Target, changing the RAG status from Amber to Green. The increase can be partly attributed to the intake of Newly Qualified Social Workers at this time of the year.
- 3.4.4 **Average Caseloads of Social Workers in CIC Teams.** The average caseload has improved from 16.6 in August to 14.3 in November, achieving the Target of 15 and changing the RAG status for this measure from Amber to Green.
- 3.5 For the 9 KPIs rated as Amber an update on performance is provided below.

Five of these KPIs showed improved performance between August and

November 2018:

- 3.5.1 **% of Children in Care for 18 months and allocated to the same Social Worker for the last 12 months.** Performance improved from 47.7% to 53.7%. This the highest performance achieved for this measure since October 2016 (54.9%).
- 3.5.2 **CIC Placement Stability: % with 3 or more placements in the last 12 months.** Performance improved slightly from 10.7% to 10.5% and remains slightly above the Target of 10.0%.
- 3.5.3 **CIC Placement Stability: % in same placement for last 2 years.** Performance improved from 68.6% to 69.8% which is 0.02% below the Target of 70.0%.
- 3.5.4 **% of Initial Health Assessment referrals within 5 working days of becoming looked after.** Performance improved from 82.8% to 87.5% continuing the trend of month-on-month improvements in the year-to-date and achieving the highest rate of performance for this measure since reporting commenced in April 2015. This is reflective of the ongoing work with colleagues in the NHS to improve the process of timely referrals for Initial Health Assessments.
- 3.5.5 **% of Initial Health Assessments taking place with 20 working days (of a child/young person coming into Care).** Performance improved from 82.8% to 83.4%, which is close to the 85.0% Target.

The remaining four KPIs rated as Amber showed a decrease in performance during this period.

- 3.5.6 **% of CIC Foster Care in KCC Foster Care/Relatives & Friends Placements (excluding UASC).** Performance fell 1.0%, from 84.3% to 83.3% but remains relatively close to the 85.0% Target.
- 3.5.7 **% of CIC Placed within 20 miles from home (excluding UASC).** Performance decreased by 0.02% from 76.8% to 76.6%.
- 3.5.8 **% of Returner Interviews completed within 3 working days for CIC.** Performance decreased by 0.01% from 74.3% to 74.2%.
- 3.5.9 **% of Care Leavers in employment, education or training (for those that we are in touch with).** Performance decreased from 65.1% to 64.9%, just below the Target of 65.0%.

#### 4. Recommendations

4.1 Recommendations: Members of the Corporate Parenting Panel are asked to <b>NOTE</b> and <b>COMMENT</b> on the performance data in the Children in Care scorecard.
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**5. Background documents**

None

**6. Contact details**

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