

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

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**To:** Corporate Parenting Panel – 27 March 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 January 2019 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 January 2019.

## **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 – January 2019

- 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 Of the 25 KPIs included in the report, the RAG status for January 2019 is as follows:
- 14 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 29<sup>th</sup> January 2019 was for November 2018. During the period between the two reports the RAG status of 2 KPIs changed, the details of which are provided below.
- 3.3.1 **Average number of days between court authority to place a child for Adoption and the decision on a match.** The average number of days increased from 119 days to 123 days between November 18 and January 19. The nationally set target for this measure is 121 days. As Kent's performance is 2 days over the target the RAG banding has moved from Green to Amber.
- 3.3.2 **Percentage of posts in the Children in Care Teams which are filled by KCC permanent qualified social workers.** In the period between the two reports, performance reduced from 87.6% to 84.2%, which is below the 85.0% target and therefore resulted in a change of the RAG status from Green to Amber. The reduction in performance represents a decrease in 4 Social Work posts held by KCC permanent Social Workers.
- 3.4 For the 11 KPIs rated as Amber: 3 have shown improved performance: 3 have remained at the same level as for November 18; and 5 of the measures have shown a decrease in performance. Of those that decreased, 3 of the 5 were less than 1%, 1 was an increase by 4 days (please see 3.3.1 above) and 1 was a decrease by 3.4% (please see 3.3.2 above). Detail on each of the 11 measures are provided below.

The 3 KPIs rated as Amber but showing improvement between November 18 and January 19 were:

- 3.4.1 **% of Initial Health Assessment referrals within 5 working days of becoming looked after.** Performance improved from 87.5% to 89.4%, which is now just below the 90.0% Target. The improved performance continues the trend of month-on-month improvements, 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.

3.4.2 **% of Initial Health Assessments taking place with 20 working days (of a child/young person coming into Care).** Performance improved from 83.4% to 84.4%, which is now 0.6% below the 85.0% Target.

3.4.3 **% of Returner Interviews completed within 3 working days for Children in Care.** Performance improved slightly from 74.2% to 74.7%. Whilst performance for this measure remains some way off from achieving the target of 85.0% it should be noted that this is a locally set target which has been set in the absence of any comparative data from other local authorities. The completion rates for Returner Interviews for children in care that go missing remains high at 89.5% and for some young people undertaking a Returner Interview outside of 3 working days will be appropriate.

The 3 KPIs rated as Amber where performance has remained unchanged since November 18 are:

3.4.4 **CIC Placement Stability: % with 3 or more placements in the last 12 months.** Performance for this measure has remained at 10.5%, just above the 10.0% Target. Improvements over the last 12 months have seen performance reduce from 12.4% in January 18, with the number of children/young people experiencing 3 or more placement moves in a 12-month period reducing from 209 (January 18) to 165 (January 19). There continues to be a clear focus on improving placement stability through early permanency planning and initiatives such as the Sense of Belonging project and enhanced support to Foster Carers through the development of a comprehensive training package, specialist support groups and developing and rewarding good practice

3.4.5 **CIC Placement Stability: % in same placement for last 2 years.** Performance remained at 69.8%, which is 0.02% below the Target of 70.0%.

3.4.6 **% of CIC Foster Care in KCC Foster Care/Relatives & Friends Placements (excluding UASC).** Performance remained at 83.3% which is close to the 85.0% Target.

The 5 KPIs rated as Amber where performance has reduced since November 18 are:

3.4.7 **% of Children in Care for 18 months and allocated to the same Social Worker for the last 12 months.** Although performance reduced slightly during the 2-month period between reports, from 53.7% to 53.1%, current performance continues to represent an improvement from the start of the reporting year when performance for April 18 was 45.3%.

3.4.8 **% of CIC Placed within 20 miles from home (excluding UASC).** Performance decreased by 0.05% from 76.6% to 76.1%.

- 3.4.9 **Average number of days between court authority to place a child and the decision on a match** – the average increased by 4 days, from 119 days to 123 days, which is slightly above the nationally set target of 121 days.
- 3.4.10 **% of Care Leavers in employment, education or training** (for those that we are in touch with). Performance decreased slightly, from 64.9% to 64.2%, but remains close to the Target of 65.0%.
- 3.4.11 **Percentage of posts in the Children in Care Teams which are filled by KCC permanent qualified social workers.** Performance decreased from 87.6% to 84.2%, representing a reduction of 4 permanent qualified social workers employed by KCC.

#### 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

Children in Care Scorecard – January 2019

#### 6. Contact details

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