

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 –17th September 2019

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 July 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.

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 July 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 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.

- 2.5 Following feedback from Members at the previous Corporate Parenting Panel some amendments have been made to the format of the contents for the Key Activity page and to the Venn diagram covering education factors.

3. Summary of Performance – April 2019

- 3.1 The report contains key statistics and performance results against the targets for 26 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), which are assessed using a Red/Amber/Green (RAG) Status.

- 3.2 Of the 26 KPIs included in the report, the RAG status for July 2019 is as follows:

- 14 are rated Green – target achieved or exceeded
- 11 are rated Amber – below target but above floor standard
- 1 is rated Red – below floor standard

- 3.3 The CIC Scorecard submitted to the previous Corporate Parenting Panel on 25th July 2019 was for April 2019. During the period between the two reports the RAG status of five KPIs has changed. There were improvements in performance for the following:

3.3.1 **CIC Placement stability: Percentage with 3 or more placements in the last 12 months.** July's performance was 9.7%, achieving the 10.0% Target, moving the RAG rating from Amber (10.2% in April 2019) to Green. The July performance is the best level of performance that Kent has achieved since September 2015 (9.6%).

3.3.2 **Average number of days between court authority to place a child for Adoption and the decision on a match.** The average number of days reduced from 125 days to 110 days between April and July 2019, achieving the nationally set Target of 121 days and moving the RAG banding from Amber to Green.

There was a decrease in performance for the following measure:

3.3.3 **Percentage of Initial Health Assessments taking place within 20 working days.** Performance for this measure has moved from 85.1% in April 2019 to 62.4% in July 2019, with the RAG rating moving from Green to Red. This change is partly due to a change in the definition for the measure. Due to the National Transfer Scheme UASC were previously excluded from this measure as the responsibility for the initial health assessment would have been with the local authority taking responsibility for the young person. However, as that scheme is no longer in place the definition for this measure has been amended to include UASC. This decrease in performance cannot just be attributed to the change in definition as the comparative figure for July 2019, using the previous definition, shows a reduction in performance from 85.1% in April to 74.4% in July 2019. Health have advised that an increase in demand, particularly in East Kent, has put pressure on providers and the CCGs are seeking additional capacity to meet the increased demand

- 3.3.4 **Percentage of children in care who ceased to be looked after who were adopted (excluding UASC) or made subject to a Special Guardianship Order (SGO).** Kent's performance for July was 14.4% which was a slight reduction from the April performance of 15.0% when it achieved the Target. This drop in performance resulted in a change from a Green to Amber RAG rating.
- 3.3.5 **Percentage of Returner Interviews Completed for Children in Care.** Performance decreased by 0.9%, between April and July 2019, from to 89.3%. As this is now below the Target of 90.0% the RAG banding has changed from Green to Amber.
- 3.4 There are 12 measures which have not achieved their Target, 11 with an Amber RAG rating, and 1 rated as Red. Three of these measures are covered in points 3.3.3, 3.3.4 and 3.3.5 above. The remainder are as follows:
- 3.4.1 **Percentage of CIC for 18 months and allocated to the same worker for the last 12 months.** Performance decreased by one percentage point, from 54.8% to 53.8%, which remains below the Target of 60.0%. Performance has averaged at 53.0% over the last 12 months but has improved from the July 2018 performance of 48.6%.
- 3.4.2 **Percentage of CIC Foster Care in KCC Foster Care/Relatives and Friends (excluding UASC),** performance decreased from 82.2% to 81.4% between April and July 2019 which remains within in the Amber banding. The average performance over the last 12 months is 81.3%.
- 3.4.3 **Percentage of CIC placed within 20 miles from home (excluding UASC),** performance decreased from 76.5% to 75.3% between April and July 2019, remaining below the 80.0% Target. This is a local measure which measures distance regardless of LA Boundary. The National Measure is 20 miles from home, outside the LA Boundary and for 2018 was Kent was ranked 2nd in terms of performance (7.0% compared to an average for England of 15.0%).
- 3.4.4 **Percentage of children who ceased to be looked after who became subject to a Special Guardianship Order (SGO), excluding UASC.** This has increased from 8.6% to 10.7% and is now close to the Target of 11.0%.
- 3.4.5 **Percentage of Returner Interviews completed within 3 working days for Children in Care.** There has been a very slight improvement in performance, from 76.4% to 76.5% between April and July 2019 which remains below the 80.0% Target. Whilst timely completion remains an important factor, the focus remains on achieving the completion of Returner Interviews for children in care which is currently 89.3% and just below the Target of 90.0%.

- 3.4.6 **Percentage of Care Leavers in employment, education or training (of those we are in touch with).** Performance improved slightly from 64.6% to 64.3% which remains close to the 65.0% Target.
- 3.4.7 **Percentage of CIC team posts filled by KCC Permanent QSW.** Performance has improved from 77.8% to 79.6% and is anticipated to further improve following the appointment of Newly Qualified Social Workers due to commence in September 2019.
- 3.4.8 **Average Caseloads of social workers in CIC Teams (District Teams Only).** In the period between the two reports average caseloads increased slightly from 15.8 to 15.9, remaining above the target of 15 children and young people.

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 – July 2019

6. Contact details

Lead Officer

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

Lead Director

Sarah Hammond
Director of Integrated Children's Services
03000 411488
sarah.hammond@kent.gov.uk