

## **CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE**

**WEDNESDAY 20 JULY 2022**

**6.00 PM**

**Bourges/Viersen Room - Town Hall**

### **AGENDA**

**Page No**

- 1. Apologies for Absence**
- 2. Declarations of Interest**

At this point Members must declare whether they have a disclosable pecuniary interest, or other interest, in any of the items on the agenda, unless it is already entered in the register of members' interests or is a "pending notification " that has been disclosed to the Head of Legal Services
- 3. Minutes of the Meeting Held on 16 March 2022** **3 - 8**
- 4. Update from Foster Carers** **9 - 14**
- 5. Youth Voice Coordinator Update on behalf of the Children in Care Council (CICC)** **15 - 18**
- 6. Appointment of Champion Members** **19 - 22**
- 7. Annual Fostering Service Report** **23 - 46**
- 8. Independent Review Officer (IRO) Annual report 21-22 Report 2021 - 2022** **47 - 70**
- 9. Performance Reports** **71 - 76**
  - Placements of Children in Care
  - Scorecard
- 10. Health Report** **77 - 88**
- 11. Draft Work Programme 2022 – 2023 and Review of Work in 2021 - 2022** **89 - 106**
- 12. Members Issues**

Members that are not part of the core CPC membership, but hold Corporate Parenting responsibilities, are invited to raise any issues they have with regard to the services provided to Children in Care.



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#### **Committee Members:**

Councillors: Ayres, Barkham, Bisby, Bond, Howard, Jones (Chairman), Knight, S Lane, Robinson, Sainsbury and Yasin (Vice Chairman)

Substitutes: Councillors: Allen, Bi and Bond

Further information about this meeting can be obtained from Karen Dunleavy on telephone 01733 452233 or by email – [karen.dunleavy@peterborough.gov.uk](mailto:karen.dunleavy@peterborough.gov.uk)

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE MEETING (FORMAL)  
HELD AT 6:00PM, ON  
WEDNESDAY, 16 MARCH 2022  
AT THE ENGINE SHED, SAND MARTIN HOUSE, BITTERN WAY, PETERBOROUGH**

Committee Members Present: Councillors, Howard (Chairman), Councillors S Bond, Brown, Robinson, Sainsbury and Moyo

Committee Members Present Virtually via Microsoft Teams: Councillors Lane and Jones.

Officers Present: Ricky Cooper, Assistant Director, Regional Adoption and Fostering  
Dr Aslam, Doctor for Looked After Children  
Shalina Chandoo, Quality Assurance Lead for Participation and Independent Visiting  
Catherine York, Designated Nurse, Children in Care  
Anita Hewson, Fostering Service Manager  
Micheala Berry, Service Manager Corporate Parenting  
Karen S Dunleavy, Democratic Services Officer

**Also Present:** Glen Crossland, Foster Carer Committee Representative

The meeting was adjourned for 10 minutes to allow time for Councillors to join the meeting, in order to be quorate.

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ayres and Bisby. Councillors Brown and Moyo were in attendance as substitute.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were received.

**3. MINUTES OF THE COPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 24 NOVEMBER 2021**

The minutes of the meeting held on 24 November 2021 were agreed as a true and accurate record, subject to the following amendment:

- The word YOUnited was to replace United throughout the minutes.

**4. UPDATE FROM FOSTER CARERS**

The Committee received a report in relation to an update on the work of the Foster Carer Committee.

The purpose of the report was to inform the Committee of activity undertaken by the Foster Carer Committee and to update on fostering service developments and in response to the Foster Carer Survey.

The Foster Carer Committee and Fostering Service Manager introduced the report and asked Members to raise any queries they have with officers and note the content of the report.

The Corporate Parenting Committee debated the report and in summary, key points raised and responses to questions included:

- Members were advised that the Covid 19 lateral flow tests were becoming an issue to acquire from the Government for foster carers. It appeared that people could only order the Covid 19 tests if they were experiencing symptoms.
- Members commented that people were setting up accounts and able to order tests on a frequent basis.
- Members were advised that the Fostering Service was working with Public Health to resolve the lack of flow tests for foster carers.
- The foster carer annual review had been conducted in the home recently for some foster carers and it was believed that this was a trial as predominantly household checks would usually be conducted online. Members were advised that the physical household foster carer reviews would be conducted alongside a supervised social worker visit. It was understood that the visits had been received positively since they were introduced a year ago.
- The Junior Savings Trust Fund was a continuous piece of work and Members would be kept up to date on the progress.
- The Stepping Up booklet would be reviewed by officers who would present their proposals to the Children in Care Council once completed. The updates would be an ongoing process.

The Corporate Parenting Committee considered the report and **RESOLVED** (Unanimous) to note the report.

#### **AGREED ACTIONS**

The Corporate Parenting Committee agreed to note the report.

#### **5. UPDATE FROM THE YOUTH VOICE COORDINATOR FOR THE CHILDREN IN CARE COUNCIL**

The Corporate Parenting Committee received a report in relation to the work of the Children in Care Council and the outcome of their discussions at meetings and events organised.

The purpose of the report was to provide Members with an update from the Children in Care Council and Participation Services. Members were also provided with an update in relation to the review of the Children in Care Promise.

The Quality Assurance Lead introduced the report and requested that Members note the contents and raise any concerns they had with officers.

The Corporate Parenting Committee considered the report and **RESOLVED**(Unanimously) to note the report.

#### **AGREED ACTIONS**

The Corporate Parenting Committee noted the report and agreed that the Quality Assurance Lead would share the children and young people in care contact centre feedback report with Members at the next informal Corporate Parenting Committee meeting.

## **6. HEALTH ANNUAL REPORT**

The Corporate Parenting Committee received a report in relation to the Health Annual Report.

The purpose of the report was to update Members on both physical and mental health services for Children in Care. The report provided an overview of the Clinical Commissioning Group's (CCG) activities to ensure robust monitoring and quality assurance systems were in place to meet the health needs of Peterborough's Children in Care including those with a disability.

Members were also advised that the progress had been made in relation to the Committee's recommendations raised in November 2021 in relation to the health assessments for children and young people in care who were placed outside of the area and the backlog in dental checks. Members were advised that the Designated Nurse Children in Care had attended a meeting with National Health Service England (NHSE) to discuss the way forward for health assessments. In addition, the Designated Nurse Children in Care had joined a task and finish group in relation data, to work on the issues around dental assessments.

Work was also underway with neighbouring Authorities, Cambridgeshire and Lincolnshire to reduce the pressure being experienced in relation to Individual Health Assessments (IHA) for children and young people in care placed out of the area.

The Corporate Parenting Champion for Health also advised Members that a meeting had been held with the Designated Nurse Children in Care and praised the work being undertaken to reduce the pressure for IHAs. The Champion for Health would work with the Authority to improve the Strength and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ) system.

The Designated Nurse, Children in Care introduced the report and requested that Members raise and queries they had with officers and to note the content.

The Corporate Parenting Committee debated the report and in summary, key points raised and responses to questions included:

- Members were advised that the SDQ improvements would include work to improve the returns by liaising with the Fostering Team, Supervising Social Workers and training for Foster Carers. The Health Team had undertaken all they could to encourage the SDQ returns.
- Members were advised that the Designated Nurse Children in Care would leave the position in June 2022 and the Committee thanked her for her hard work over the years.

The Corporate Parenting Committee considered the report and **RESOLVED**(Unanimously) to note the report.

### **AGREED ACTIONS**

The Corporate Parenting Committee agreed to note the report.

## **7. PERFORMANCE REPORT (PLACEMENTS OF CHILDREN IN CARE AND SCORECARD)**

The Corporate Parenting Committee received a report in relation to Performance Report (Placements of Children in Care and Scorecard).

The purpose of the report was to update the Corporate Parenting Committee in respect of the numbers of children and young people being looked after by the Council as of 31 December 2021. The report provided a breakdown of the types of placements in which they were living. The report also provided information about the age, gender and ethnicity of those children and young people.

Members were also informed about the reduction in performance figures for statutory visits and placement stability. Work was underway to rectify the issues.

The Service Manager Corporate Parenting introduced the report and requested Members to raise any queries they had with officers and note the contents.

The Corporate Parenting Committee debated the report and in summary, key points raised and responses to questions included:

- It was acknowledged by officers that the 231 out of area placements reported at Children and Education Scrutiny Committee had not matched the performance report for Corporate Parenting Committee and this would be clarified for future meetings.
- The number of children in care had reduced in the past year and had been due to the effective family safeguarding model for Peterborough. In addition, the children that entered care were older children with significant vulnerable needs and sibling groups, which had made placements a challenge. In addition, where children were adopted, the data could look inaccurate as the system needed to catch up with the change in circumstance.
- There had been a rise in child protection cases, which had also impacted the data.
- The family safeguarding model had recently been evaluated and as part of the corporate leadership team, work was underway to publish the outcome. In addition, internal validation processes would be undertaken by Independent Reviewing Officers (IROs) to ensure that the right checks and balances were in place for children and young people in care or looked after.
- Peterborough suffered challenges in terms of foster carer recruitment, and this had been a national issue. There were several planned events to encourage recruitment, including foster carer ambassadors that had championed the campaign. Members were encouraged to guide people to the foster carer recruitment advertisements.
- There were 71 enquiries to become foster carers in Peterborough; 15 households had been accepted recently and six households were currently being assessed. In addition, the children that were 10 years plus and sibling groups were usually a challenge to place, however there had been 15 out of 27 recently that had been placed in foster carer and this was thought to be encouraging. The advertisement campaign had comprised the use of TV, BBC radio Cambridgeshire and social media platforms such as TikTok and Facebook.
- Members complimented the Fostering Team on their work for Foster Carer recruitment, and encouragement into the single parent and LGTBQ plus communities.
- The children and young people in care that had remained in placement for several years, had been because of the stable placements they were in.

The Corporate Parenting Committee considered the report and **RESOLVED**(Unanimously) to note the report.

## **AGREED ACTIONS**

The Corporate Parenting Committee noted the report and agreed that:

1. The Service Manager Corporate Parenting would investigate the anomaly with the data in relation to the performance report and ensure that the figures reported in the Corporate Parenting Scorecard going forward would be accurate or provide an explanation within the report for the difference in the figures where appropriate.
2. The Assistant Director, Regional Adoption and Fostering would provide Members with a briefing note on the current audits and checks that ensured a robust process was in place and working effectively to safeguard all children and young people.

## 8. MEMBERS ISSUES

Members that were not part of the core CPC membership, but held corporate parenting responsibilities, were invited raise issues they had in relation to the services provided to Children in Care (CiC).

The Corporate Parenting Committee considered and **RESOLVED** (Unanimously) that there were no issues to raise.

CHAIRMAN  
End meeting – 7:21PM

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<b>CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE (FORMAL)</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM No. 4</b>
<b>20 JULY 2022</b>	<b>PUBLIC REPORT</b>

Report of:	Nicola Curley Director for Children’s Services	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Councillor Lynne Ayres, Cabinet Member for Children’s Services, Education, Skills and the University	
Contact Officer(s):	Ricky Cooper, Assistant Director, Fostering, Regional Adoption and Specialist Young People’s Services	Tel.01223 699609

**Report from the Foster Carer Committee**

<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	
<b>FROM: Despina Kaoura, Service Manager Supervision and Support</b>	<b>Deadline date: N/A</b>
<p>It is recommended that the Corporate Parenting Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Notes the content of this report</li> <li>• Raise any queries they have with the lead officers</li> </ul>	

**1. ORIGIN OF REPORT**

1.1 This report is submitted to the Corporate Parenting Committee

**2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT**

2.1 The purpose of this report is to inform committee of activity undertaken by the Foster Carer Committee and to update on fostering service developments and in response to items raised by the Foster Carer Committee.

2.2 This report is for the Corporate Parenting Committee to consider under its Terms of Reference No. 2.4.4.6 To monitor the quality of care delivered by the City Council and review the performance of outcomes for children and young people in care, (d) Hold meetings with children and young people in care, frontline staff and foster carers to inform the committee of the standards of care and improvement outcomes for looked after children.

2.3 This reports to the Children in Care Pledge by focussing on respect for Children in Care and Care Leavers

**3. TIMESCALES**

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	<b>NO</b>	If yes, date for Cabinet meeting	
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**4. BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES**

## 4.1 Overview of activity

- 4.1.1 This report has been prepared to update the Corporate Parenting Committee on participation activity with Peterborough Foster Carers, and to provide an overview of development activity within the service.
- 4.1.2 The Peterborough Foster Carer Community (PFCC) continue to meet bi-monthly, and the Annual General Meeting will take place in December 2022.
- 4.1.3 Foster Carers representatives on the PFCC are:
- Mandy Nicholson, Chair of the Peterborough Foster Carer Community, Glen Crossland, Vice Chair, Andrea Hughes, Secretary & Events Coordinator, Lynne Bailey, Treasurer.
- 4.1.4 The PFCC have a wealth of fostering experience along with individual inter-personal skills which they bring with them to support the Foster Carer Community. The service works closely with the members of the PFCC throughout the year to ensure the voice and views of Peterborough Foster Carers is heard and central to plans for service development.
- 4.1.5 The Fostering Service has attended meetings with the PFCC to hear feedback from Foster Carers on what is working well and what Foster Carers feel needs to be considered or addressed by the Fostering Service and colleagues within the wider Children's Services. The Head of Service for Fostering, the Head of Service for Corporate Parenting and the Support and Supervision Service Manager for Fostering are also invited to attend the PFCC meetings.
- 4.1.6 The Head of Service for Fostering also meets monthly with the Chair and Vice Chair of both the PFCC and the Cambridgeshire Foster Carer Association (CFCA) which is a good opportunity to discuss service developments and plans in more detail and review feedback from Foster Carers received at formal meetings.
- 4.1.7 The PFCC are invited to be involved in the work being initiated within the service and are very proactive in providing their experience, knowledge, and skills to support service development. The Fostering Service has launched its new branding and logo in consultation with Foster Carers and the Children in Care Council. The branding is more dynamic and reflective of the new shared Fostering Service.



- 4.1.8 In April, there was a new initiative focused on carer retention. The working group meets once a month and Foster Carers from both Local Authorities are also part of this group. Focus so far has been on financial arrangements, feelings of isolation, managing complex behaviours and allegations and complaints. There has been good progress made in this quarter, demonstrated by improved carer retention.
- 4.1.9 The Fostering Recruitment Ambassadors from within the Fostering Community continue to work alongside the service supporting recruitment activity and raising the awareness of Private Fostering in their communities using their wealth of knowledge and experience of the fostering task.
- 4.1.10 Our Mentoring Scheme continues to be developed and one Mentor is currently being trained and supported by the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) to offer support to carers who are subject to an allegation or Standards of Care investigation. This is a voluntary arrangement for carers which we hope they will find beneficial. The role of a Mentor is to support carers when they are finding children's behaviours difficult to manage and to provide peer support particularly in the first year of carers approval.

4.1.11 The service involved some of our Foster Carers in reviewing the training course provided to applicant carers following feedback received in the Foster Carer Survey conducted in 2021. The service has now adopted the Journey2Foster course which has replaced the Skills to Foster course which has received positive feedback from applicant carers. The Young Trainers and our experienced Foster Carers provide an invaluable contribution to this training.

4.1.12 In person Support Groups for Carers have resumed. There are two Support Groups for Peterborough Carers including the Support Group focussed on child development for 0-5 year olds. A new monthly virtual Support Group has been introduced for carers of teenagers to support them to care for children in the older age range. The first group was held June, was well attended and received positive feedback. The CFCA and PFCC chair and other members of the Foster Carer forums are very proactive in attending and supporting these groups.

## **4.2 Update on changes from the Peterborough Foster Carer Community**

- The PFCC agreed by consensus to change their name from Peterborough Foster Carer Committee to Peterborough Foster Carer Community – generally known as the PFCC.
- The details of the newly named Peterborough Foster Carer Community have been shared to the Fostering Community via the bi-monthly newsletter produced by the service which also provided a link for carers to access the new (private) Facebook page where useful information and updates are posted to keep carers informed.
- The service has supported the PFCC in creating a new logo for the PFCC.
- The PFCC have created a document introducing the PFCC to carers who may be interested in joining.
- The PFCC have reviewed and updated their 'Terms of Reference'.

## **4.3 Meetings held and identified actions**

4.3.1 The PFCC held two meetings in the first Quarter of 2022. The following matters were raised:

- Foster Carers continue to experience some issues with transport, particularly instances where taxis have not been provided for children's appointments or where transport needs have changed. Carers have found that they are unable to inform anyone of the changes in a timely manner to make amendments to the journey or to avoid unnecessary journeys.

Service response: The Fostering Service Manager attends all Transport-related meetings about the development of the transport portal and reports the progress to the PFCC. A review of all transport arrangements for Children in Care is currently underway and both the Service Manager and Team Manager are working closely with the Transport Service to resolve issues. The Team Manager for Passenger Transport Operations has been invited to the next Peterborough Support Group.

- There continue to be ongoing discussions between the PFCC and the service about Junior ISAs and Trust Fund Accounts for Children in Care (CiC). The PFCC note that they still feel they do not have a clear understanding of the LA's policy & procedures around the opening of ISAs/Trust Fund Accounts for CiC and would like further clarity regarding roles and responsibilities.

Service response: The service will continue to work with the wider organisation and appropriate officers and will report back the PFCC and Elected Members regarding progress.

- Foster Carers acknowledge that the Additional Allowance Consultation and outstanding document are now complete and that the PFCC are pleased with this and the 2% increase in Foster Carer payments they received in April 2022.

- Foster Carers continue to experience delays within the application process for CiC passports. This leaves Foster Carers feeling frustrated and unclear about their role in this process. Carers have requested some guidance with regards to legal responsibilities for the application of passports for children, and some clarity regarding responsibility and accountability within the organisation.

Service response: The Fostering Service will endeavour to work with the wider organisation to provide carers with clear guidance and is waiting for the review being undertaken by Corporate Parenting colleagues regarding passport applications.

4.3.2

The service continues to invite the PFCC to contribute to the newsletter and the service welcomes material for future issues. The service works collaboratively with both the PFCC and the CFCA offering opportunities to attend events and contribute to service development.

In this quarter this included:

- Inviting both the CFCA and PFCC Chairs and Vice Chairs to the Fostering Transformation event held on 1 April 2022.
- Inviting the PFCC to the New Carers Event held on the 13 May 2002 to talk about their role and offer to Foster Carers and also to celebrate Foster Carers who have joined our community during the height of the pandemic to date.
- Ensuring Supervising Social Workers share information about the PFCC with the Foster Carers they support.

Service response: The Fostering Service will endeavour to continue to ensure that the PFCC are invited to events and contribute to service development as appropriate.

- The PFCC have requested that the service does more to raise awareness of the PFCC to ensure that all carers are aware of and are provided with the opportunity to be involved, be supported and to contribute.

Service response: The service is working with both the PFCC and CFCA Chairs to identify all opportunities to support this, for example the new Foster Carer Agreement will include a request to carers to agree to provide their personal contact details with the PFCC should they wish to learn more about the support it offers. The service is committed to supporting the awareness of the Foster Carer Community and Association within the wider Fostering Community.

## **5.0 CONSULTATION**

5.1 N/A

## **6. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT**

6.1 Foster Carer views will feed into the key priorities of the service

## **7. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION**

7.1 Corporate Parenting Committee members have a duty to review the performance of Children's Social Care.

## **8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

8.1 N/A

## **9. IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 **Financial Implications**

There are no financial implications associated with this report

9.2 **Legal Implications**

There are no legal implications associated with this report

9.3 **Equalities Implications**

There are no equalities implications associated with this report

9.4 **Other Implications**

This report relates to the services provided for Children in Care and Care Leavers and ties into the Pledge and Charter that the Local Authority respects the differing wants and needs for all.

**10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

10.1 N/A

**11. APPENDICES**

11.1 N/A

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<b>CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM No. 5</b>
<b>20 JULY 2022</b>	<b>PUBLIC REPORT</b>

Report of:	Nicola Curley, Director of Children's Services	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Cllr Lynne Ayres; Cabinet Member for Children's Services	
Contact Officer(s):	Shalina Chandoo, QA Lead	Tel. 01733 452540

## **CHILDREN IN CARE COUNCIL PARTICIPATION REPORT**

<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	
<b>FROM:</b> <i>Ricky Cooper, Assistant Director Children's Services</i>	<b>Deadline date:</b> <i>N/A</i>
<p>It is recommended that the Corporate Parenting Committee:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>Notes the content of the report.</i></li> <li>2. <i>Raise any queries they have with the lead officers.</i></li> </ol>	

### **1. ORIGIN OF REPORT**

1.1 This report is submitted to each formal and informal Corporate Parenting Committee.

### **2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT**

2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update from the Children in Care Council and participation services.

2.2 This report is for the Corporate Parenting Committee to consider under its Terms of Reference:

2.4.4.1 To act as advocates for looked after children and care leavers.

2.4.4.6 To monitor the quality of care delivered by the City Council and review the performance of outcomes for children and young people in care.

*(a) Raise the profile of the needs of looked after children and care leavers through a range of actions including through the organising of celebratory events for the recognition of achievement.*

*(b) Ensure that leisure, cultural, further education and employment opportunities are offered and taken up by our looked after children and care leavers.*

*(c) Promote the development of participation and ensure that the view of children and young people are regularly heard through the Corporate Parenting Committee to improve educational, health and social outcomes to raise aspiration and attainments.*

*(d) Hold meetings with children and young people in care, frontline staff and foster carers to inform the committee of the standards of care and improvement outcomes for looked after children.*

2.3 This report links to the Children in Care Promise under:

*Respecting You: We will do everything we can to make you feel cared about, valued and respected as an individual.*

*Making Decisions Together: We will involve you in decision making so your views are listened to, and will explain when we make a decision you may not like or agree with.*

### 3. **TIMESCALES**

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	<b>NO</b>	If yes, date for Cabinet meeting	
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### 4. **BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES**

- 4.1 The Participation Team continues to promote opportunities for children and young people through regular newsletters, as well as creating event-specific publications to encourage engagement. Recent newsletters have advertised training and mentorship opportunities, encouraged young people to sign up to attend upcoming engagement events, and updated young people on the work of the Young Inspectors group.
- 4.2 The Children in Care Council (CiCC) has been discussing ideas on the annual CiC awards, which will take place in early August. The group has opted for a similar fun day style event to last year, and have decided what activities, entertainment and refreshments they want. Invitations have been sent to Children in Care and carers, and members of the Corporate Parenting Committee, and nomination forms have been shared with professionals.
- 4.3 The CiCC has also given their suggestions on the summer engagement events. Activities planned include a visit to a farm, a spy mission challenge, an outdoor adventure day with raft building, canoeing, crate stacking and archery and ice skating. A creative virtual session has also been planned for children and young people who prefer to join online.
- 4.4 The CiCC worked with their CCC counterparts to decide the themes of the annual art exhibition. In addition to the virtual art exhibition, the group has decided to ask children and young people to bring their art entries to the annual awards day, so the artwork can be seen by all attendees at the event.
- 4.5 The CiCC continue to meet in person on a monthly basis to work on their Mental Health project and consultation requests, meet professionals and give feedback on services. Recent consultations with children and young people in care have included reviewing and adding to screening questions used for potential foster carers.
- 4.6 Members of the CiCC attended the informal Corporate Parenting Committee in June, and enjoyed the opportunity to engage with Corporate Parents, ask their questions and share their feedback. The CiCC will be discussing and sharing ideas of how they can take more ownership of the meeting.
- 4.7 The updated Promise to Children in Care was launched by the Participation Team and CiCC, with copies being shared with frontline practitioners, managers, carers and the Corporate Parenting Committee. The CiCC would like to know how staff and corporate parents will ensure these promises are being met, and plan to seek feedback from frontline practitioners via the Young Inspectors group, and also from corporate parents through discussion at the Informal Corporate Parenting Committee meeting.



- 4.8 The Children in Charge Youth Club continues to meet fortnightly during term time and have recently recruited some new members. The venue for the Youth Club has a large outdoor space, and children and young people make the most of it by playing games and sports in the space, as well as using the indoor space for art and craft activities.
- 4.9 The Youth Club attendees were recently consulted on the Fostering Service's new joint logo and gave their feedback on the design and colours used, with some amendments being made in line with their comments.
- 4.10 The CiCC, Young Recruiters and Young Trainers completed their ideal worker video project, working with their CCC counterparts to launch a video entitled '[Our Ideal Workers](#)', which will supplement existing recruitment, training and development materials for staff.
- 4.11 Young Recruiters continue to be actively involved in recruitment and were involved in interviews of newly qualified social workers for the ASYE (Assessed and Supported Year in Employment) in June and have been asked to help conduct Open University social work course interviews in July.
- 4.12 The Young Inspectors published their report following their Supervised Contact Centre inspections across Peterborough and Cambridgeshire. A response has been received from the Supervised Contact Service and the Young Inspectors will meet to discuss the feedback and agree dates to go back to the centres and review progress against their recommendations.
- 4.13 In May, Young Trainers delivered training to prospective Foster Carers within the Fostering Team's training programme. The young people were supported by the Participation Team to facilitate an activity looking at Foster Carer skills and attributes and went through scenarios with the group on how to help young people settle into new placements. The Young Trainers were able to show their '[Ideal Foster Carers](#)' video at the training and were happy with the impact it made. The Young Trainers will be facilitating as part of the next course in July.
- 4.14 Care Leaver Forum (CLF) members have been discussing their own care experiences and focusing on improving the support and preparation for young people leaving care, working with the Leaving Care Service to share their thoughts and expertise. Recent consultation requests for the group include a request from Health to review the new CiC Health Assessment Service Specification, and a meeting with the Designated Nurse to discuss this has been scheduled for July.

## **5. CONSULTATION**

- 5.1 This report was completed in consultation with members of the Children in Care Council.

## **6. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT**

- 6.1 Improved engagement with Children in Care and Care Leavers.

## **7. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION**

- 7.1 N/A

## **8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 8.1 There are no changes required.

## **9. IMPLICATIONS**

### **Financial Implications**

9.1 *There are no financial implications.*

### **Legal Implications**

9.2 *There are no legal implications, as the report is for information only.*

### **Equalities Implications**

9.3 Participation is an essential service for Children in Care and Care Leavers and this report demonstrates the level of participation in various events and activities.

### **Carbon Impact Assessment**

9.4 Children in Care Council meetings are held face to face on a monthly basis. As the venue for Children in Care Council meetings is centrally located, young people have been able to use public transport to travel to meetings.

### **Other Implications**

Participation is an essential service for Children in Care and Care Leavers, offering activities and opportunities to provide feedback on Children's Services.

## **10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

10.1 N/A

## **11. APPENDICES**

11.1 N/A

<b>CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE</b>	AGENDA ITEM No. 6
20 JULY 2022	PUBLIC REPORT

Report of:	Nicola Curley Director for Children's Services	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Councillor Lynne Ayres, Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education, Skills and the University.	
Contact Officer(s):	Ricky Cooper, Assistant Director, Fostering, Regional Adoption and Specialist Young People's Services	Tel. 01223 699609

## **CORPORATE PARENTING CHAMPIONS REPORT - 2022 - 2023**

RECOMMENDATIONS	
<b>FROM:</b> Corporate Parenting Committee Chair	<b>Deadline date:</b>
<p>It is recommended that the Corporate Parenting Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Notes the content of the report,</li> <li>• Confirm the Corporate Champion Roles, and</li> <li>• Confirm the appointment of Corporate Parenting Champions</li> </ul>	

### **1. ORIGIN OF REPORT**

1.1 This report is submitted to Corporate Parenting Committee following the recent Cabinet and Committee changes made at Annual Council on 23 May 2022.

### **2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT**

2.1 This report will allow the Committee to review the current Corporate Parenting Champions positions and allocations, which is in line with the recent Cabinet and Committee changes made.

2.2 This report is for Corporate Parenting Committee to consider under its Terms of Reference 2.4.4.6 To appoint elected members as Champions for Children in Care, with the roles being decided and approved by the Committee at the first formal meeting of the municipal year. Suggested Champion roles are as follows:

- i) Support for Care Experienced Young People (Housing, Finance and Asylum Issues) - Councillor Sandra Bond
- ii) 0-25 Education, Employment and Training (including the Combined Authority and Partners) - Sainsbury
- iii) 0-25 Physical and Mental Health and Emotional Well Being - Councillor Robinson
- iv) Citizenship, Participation and Leisure activities – Councillor Howard
- v) Placement Sufficiency and Care Planning - Councillor Jones (Amendment Proposed)
- vi) Fostering – Vacant (Proposed)

2.3 The report addresses all areas of the Children In Care Pledge and the Care Leavers' Charter. It specifically addresses the requirement to deliver effective support to Children In Care by

validating and triangulating information to quality assure services.

### 3. **TIMESCALES**

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	<b>NO</b>	If yes, date for Cabinet meeting	N/A
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### 4. **BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES**

4.1 In November 2021 the Corporate Parenting Committee Champions and roles for 2021 – 2022 were confirmed as:

Champion Role	Councillor
Support for Care Experienced Young People (Housing, Finance and Asylum Issues)	Cllr Sandra Bond
0-25 Education, Employment and Training (including the Combined Authority and Partners)	Cllr Sainsbury
0-25 Physical and Mental Health and Emotional Well Being	Cllr Robinson
Citizenship, Participation and Leisure activities	Cllr Howard
Placement Sufficiency and Effective Care Planning	Cllr Jones

The Corporate Parenting Champion would be responsible for the following:

- a) Meeting with the Lead Officer
- b) Undertaking a site visit
- c) Meeting with a child in care / young person / service user / other officers and discuss their experience of the service for Children in Care
- d) Contributing to a brief report back to the Committee, jointly between Champion and Lead Officer

#### **Key Issues**

Following the Annual Council meeting held on 23 May 2022, changes to the positions of Champions have been reviewed at the Corporate Parenting Committee work programming session held on 26 May 2022 and at the informal meeting held on 15 June 2022. Corporate Parenting Committee members were asked if they wished to be considered as a Champion.

The following have expressed an interest:

Champion Role	Councillor
Support for Care Experienced Young People (Housing, Finance and Asylum Issues)	Cllr S Bond
0-25 Education, Employment and Training (including the Combined Authority and Partners)	Cllr Sainsbury
0-25 Physical and Mental Health and Emotional Well Being	Cllr Robinson
Citizenship, Participation and Leisure activities	Cllr Barkham (new nomination)
Placement Sufficiency and Care Planning (AMENDMENT PROPOSED)	Cllr Jones
Fostering	Cllr Bisby (new nomination)

The appointment of the Corporate Champions will be confirmed at its first formal meeting of Corporate Parenting Committee on 20 July 2022.

## **5. CONSULTATION**

5.1 Corporate Parenting Committee members were asked to express an interest in the Champion positions.

## **6. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT**

6.1 Ensure there is a more robust approach to supporting the experiences of children and young people in order to improve their lives.

## **7. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION**

7.1 Statutory requirement.

## **8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

8.1 N/A

## **9. IMPLICATIONS**

### **Financial Implications**

9.1 N/A

### **Legal Implications**

9.2 N/A

## **Equalities Implications**

9.3 N/A

## **Other Implications**

9.4 The appointment of Corporate Parenting Champions provides an opportunity to ensure that the level of service provided to Children in care and care leavers is to the highest standard.

## **10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

10.1 None

## **11. APPENDICES**

11.1 N/A

<b>CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE (FORMAL)</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM No. 7</b>
<b>20 JULY 2022</b>	<b>PUBLIC REPORT</b>

Report of:	Nicola Curley Director for Children’s Services	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Councillor Lynne Ayres, Cabinet Member for Children’s Services	
Contact Officer(s):	Sue King Fostering Service Manager	Tel. 01733 864001

**ANNUAL FOSTERING REPORT**

<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	
<b>FROM: Sue King</b>	<b>Deadline date:</b>
<p>It is recommended that the Corporate Parenting Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Notes the content of the report; and</li> <li>• Raise any queries they have with the lead officers</li> </ul>	

**1. ORIGIN OF REPORT**

1.1 This report is submitted to the Corporate Parenting Committee

**2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT**

2.1 The purpose of this report is to inform council about the activity of the fostering service in 2021 - 2022

2.2 This report is for the Corporate Parenting Committee to consider under its Terms of Reference No. 2.4.4.2 To receive statutory reports in relation to the adoption, fostering, commissioning, looked after children services and children’s homes with a view to recommending any changes.

2.3 This reports to the Children in Care Pledge by focussing on respect for children in care and care leavers

**3. TIMESCALES**

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	<b>NO</b>	If yes, date for Cabinet meeting	
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**4. BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES**

4.1 Please see attached the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fostering Annual Report 2021-2022

4.1.1

4.1.2 The reporting period of 2021- 2022 represents the first full year of operations for the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fostering Service, which launched on 1 December 2020.

4.1.3 Some of the core roles and functions of our fostering services have continued to remain separate, for example Cambridgeshire staff supervise Cambridgeshire foster carers, and Peterborough staff supervise Peterborough carers. There is a combined recruitment and assessment function, supervision and support function and a combined dedicated team that undertakes independent household reviews and monitors practice to ensure quality and compliance with the Fostering National Minimum Standards.

4.1.4 The report outlines the development of the key areas of the service and the progress made in each.

4.2 During the year, the Fostering Service has experienced the lifting of the Coronavirus restrictions, and the impact of this is referenced where relevant.

4.2.1

### **Key Performance**

4.2.2

In this reporting period, the service recruited 15 new fostering households.

4.2.3

As of 31 March 2022, there are a further 6 new fostering assessments in progress. This work will carry over into 2022/23.

4.2.4

In this reporting period, 12 fostering households resigned from fostering leaving an overall net gain of 3 households.

4.2.5

1 Foster Carer household transferred to an Independent Fostering Agency (IFA) from Peterborough.

4.2.6

On 31 March 2022 of the 244 children and young people in care living with Foster Carers, 139 (58%) were living with in house carers who were supported by the fostering service as opposed to 42% living with Independent Foster Agencies.

4.2.7

There was a total of 45 assessments of Special Guardianship applicants completed in the reporting period.

There was a total of 2 Private Fostering assessments completed in the reporting period.

## **5. CONSULTATION**

5.1 N/A

## **6. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT**

6.1 There is no significant impact anticipated as this is an Annual Report.

## **7. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION**

7.1 Corporate Parenting Committee members have a duty to review the performance of Children's Social Care.

## **8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

8.1 N/A

## **9. IMPLICATIONS**



### **Financial Implications**

9.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report

### **Legal Implications**

9.2 There are no legal implications associated with this report.

### **Equalities Implications**

9.3 There are no equalities implications associated with this report.

### **Other Implications**

9.4 This report relates to the services provided for children in care and care leavers and ties into the Pledge and Charter that the local authority Respects the differing wants and needs for all.

## **10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

10.1 N/A

## **11. APPENDICES**

11.1 Fostering Service Annual Report 2021 – 2022

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## Fostering Annual Report

### Cambridgeshire County Council & Peterborough City Council

Period Covered	1 April 2021 – 31 March 2022
Date Completed	May 2021
Name / position of author	Sue King Service Manager Practice Standards and Household Review

### Report Context

The Fostering Services Regulations 2011 require that the Fostering Service provides annual written reports on the management, outcomes and financial aspects of the Local Authority's Fostering Service. This report provides an overview of the activity of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fostering Service for the last financial year, April 2021 to March 2022 and covers the activity for both Local Authorities, reflective of the shared fostering service.

### Executive Summary

The reporting period of 2021- 2022 represents the first full year of operations for the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fostering Service, which launched on 1 December 2020.

Some of the core roles and functions of our fostering services have continued to remain separate, for example Cambridgeshire staff supervise Cambridgeshire foster carers, and Peterborough staff supervise Peterborough carers. There is a

combined recruitment and assessment function, supervision and support function and a combined dedicated team that undertakes independent household reviews and monitors practice to ensure quality and compliance with the Fostering National Minimum Standards.

The report outlines the development of the key areas of the service and the progress made in each.

During the year, the Fostering Service has experienced the lifting of the Coronavirus restrictions, and the impact of this is referenced where relevant.

### **Cambridgeshire County Council**

In this reporting period, the service recruited 12 new fostering households.

As of 31 March 2022, there are a further 13 new fostering assessments in progress. This work will carry over into 2022/23.

In this reporting period, 35 fostering households resigned from fostering leaving an overall net loss of 23 households.

3 fostering households transferred to an Independent Fostering Agency (IFA) from Cambridgeshire.

On 31 March 2022 of the 415 children and young people in care living with Foster Carer, 228 (55%) were living with in house carers who were supported by the fostering service (all fostering types) as opposed to 45% living with Independent Foster Agencies.

There was a total of 77 assessments of Special Guardianship applicants completed in the reporting period.

There was a total of 8 Private Fostering assessments completed in the reporting period and 11 school holiday boarding were received.

### **Peterborough City Council**

In this reporting period, the service recruited 15 new fostering households.

As of 31 March 2022, there are a further 6 new fostering assessments in progress. This work will carry over into 2022/23.

In this reporting period, 12 fostering households resigned from fostering leaving an overall net gain of 3 households.

1 Foster Carer household transferred to an Independent Fostering Agency (IFA) from Peterborough.

On 31 March 2022 of the 244 children and young people in care living with Foster Carers, 139 (58%) were living with in house carers who were supported by the fostering service as opposed to 42% living with Independent Foster Agencies.

There was a total of 45 assessments of Special Guardianship applicants completed in the reporting period.

There was a total of 2 Private Fostering assessments completed in the reporting period.

## **Audits and inspections**

### **Fostering Service Self- Assessment**

The Fostering Service carried out a self- assessment in March and April 2022.

It highlighted the following areas of positive progress:

- All Foster Carer annual reviews were in date by January 2022.
- Foster Carers consistently reported feeling well supported by knowledgeable fostering staff.
- Foster Carer participation in the development of services had increased in a variety of ways including the appointment of Recruitment Ambassadors to support recruitment activity for new foster carers and in training focus groups.
- Some Foster Carers Support Groups returned to in person following the lifting of Coronavirus restrictions, which was well received. The service will continue to offer a hybrid model of Support Groups as this model supports more carers to attend.
- Preparation training for Special Guardians was designed and implemented. The training is supported by a Special Guardian who attends every course which has received positive feedback from attendees.
- An extensive and wide-ranging Training Programme has been designed. It included delivery by internal staff and external providers, virtually and in person to meet the learning needs of as many Foster Carers as possible.

The areas where the service needs to improve are:

- Recruiting more Foster Carers: improving sufficiency of local foster homes for local children and developing a strong pipeline of confident foster carers who meet the care needs of our children and young people in care.
- Supporting and developing existing Foster Carers to expand their offer and enable them to care for our most vulnerable children and young people through extended offers of training, support from clinician services and more widely from relevant support services.
- There are insufficient Foster Carers able to care and provide short breaks to children and young people with disabilities.
- Developing the business intelligence systems to support better data collection and performance monitoring.
- Working more cohesively and collaboratively with our partners and stakeholders to ensure a streamlined and comprehensive service which benefits the children in foster care and Foster Carer households.

### **Ofsted Inspections**

Cambridgeshire children's services received a focused visit from Ofsted in March 2022. Inspectors looked at the Local Authority's arrangements for children in need and children subject to a protection plan. Inspectors considered the experience and progress of children, the application of thresholds, step-up/step-down arrangements, and children subject to edge of care or pre-proceedings support. There were no comments relating directly about the Fostering Service.

Peterborough received a focused visit from Ofsted in August 2021 when inspectors looked at the Local Authority's arrangements for Children in Care.

Ofsted considered that the quality of matching children to Foster Carers is an area of strength, and staff make best use of limited options. Foster Carers make informed decisions when they are asked to care for children, are highly committed to them and encourage and support children to engage in a wide range of social and leisure activities. Leaders value the role of carers and understand that they are key to improving children's lives and experiences. Carers are well supported and are active and influential in recruitment and marketing campaigns run by the authority.

## Summary Fostering Households Year End

### Cambridgeshire

The Fostering Service was supporting 181 Fostering Households which included:  
 150 Mainstream households (Professional Foster Carers)  
 12 Link households (short breaks for children with disabilities)  
 17 Connected Carer households (fully approved Kinship Carers)  
 2 Supported Lodgings households

### Peterborough

The Fostering Service was supporting 94 Fostering Households which included:  
 83 Mainstream households (Professional Foster Carers)  
 1 Link household (short breaks for children with disabilities)  
 7 Connected Carer households (fully approved Kinship Carers)  
 3 Supported Lodging households

## Foster Carer Recruitment and Retention

The 2021-22 Recruitment, Marketing and Communication strategy outlined the key aims and priorities for the Fostering Service in respect of increasing the number of Foster Carers, their diversity, skills and experience. The key priority was to recruit carers to look after teenagers and children and young people with disabilities. The following media campaigns took place during this reporting period:

March 2021	LGBTQ+ Week
May 2021	Foster Care Fortnight
July 2021	It's the little things campaign
Sept 2021	Faces of Fostering campaign
Oct 2021	Sons & Daughters Month
Nov 2021	November emergency fostering appeal
Dec 2021	Christmas Wishes campaign
Jan 2022	New Year New You campaign
March 2022	LGBTQ+ Week Private Fostering

Monthly Information Sessions for prospective enquirers have been held virtually either in the early evening or at lunch times. Virtual Information Sessions proved to be more successful in terms of attendance than the in-person events which the service previously held.

The Recruitment Team (Front Door to the Fostering Service) has 3 full time Recruitment Officer posts, which includes a new Senior Recruitment Officer post whose role it is to support the consistency and the development of the team.

### **Fostering Recruitment Activity**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Annual figure CCC 2020/21</b>	<b>Annual figure CCC 2021/22</b>	<b>Annual figure PCC 2020/21</b>	<b>Annual figure PCC 2021/22</b>
<b>Enquiries</b>	329	239	161	78
<b>Initial Visits</b>	101	68	60	24
<b>Application forms received</b>	79	26	26	11
<b>Attended Skills to Foster</b>	47	22	16	14
<b>End of year assessments in progress (Form F commenced)</b>	10	13	10	6
<b>Approved</b>	25	12	6	15
<b>Number of resignations and de-registrations</b>	19	35	6	12
<b>Net gain</b>	6	-23	0	+3



## **Cambridgeshire**

The conversion rate from enquiry to assessment this reporting period was 11%

The conversion rate from application forms sent out to prospective carers and returned was 43%

## **Peterborough**

The conversion rate from enquiry to assessment in this reporting period was 14%

The conversion rate from application forms sent out to prospective carers and returned was 57%

For 2021-2022, the Fostering Service set aspirational targets to achieve a net gain of 45 new fostering households across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, specifically, 25 fostering households plus 6 Link Carers in CCC and 10 fostering households plus 4 Link Carers in PCC. This target was not achieved and in the current national climate following the impact of COVID-19, it is recognised that it was also not realistic.

Other Local Authorities are reporting a similar picture in terms of low net gains of new fostering households and an increase in the reporting of net losses. It is believed that this is partly due to the uncertain economic climate during the height of Covid-19 but also several Foster Carers who had been planning to retire have brought their plans forward or having taken on the care of older relatives, no longer felt they could foster.

We know there continues to be a need to recruit more carers for children aged 11 years and older, carers who can look after brothers and sisters keeping them together and children with more complex needs and disabilities. We also know that we need to challenge ourselves and our carers to maximise utilisation of vacant beds to ensure that children and young people do not move to live in externally purchased provision at a distance from their support networks.

The engagement and retention of carers has been a priority in the last year and remains so for the coming year.

In this reporting period the Fostering Service has

- Developed a Retention Working Party involving staff and Foster Carers to explore how Foster Carers can be actively supported to stay with the Fostering Service and to understand the barriers that they experience in fostering.
- Developed a mechanism to identify all Foster Carers who have indicated that they were considering leaving the service. Retention visits are carried out to discuss the Foster Carer's specific concerns and to seek a resolution where

possible. This individualised approach was successful in retaining 50% of the carers who were visited.

- An Exit questionnaire was introduced during the year. Foster Carers who decided to leave the service were requested to complete a questionnaire which provided valuable information on areas for improvement or development.
- Exit interviews were also conducted and Foster Carers told us what they were unhappy about. This included being unhappy about the limited number of children they were approached to care for (in the under 5-year age band), dissatisfied with the level of support provided in their first year of fostering and changes to fostering fees and allowances. Foster Carers also provided positive feedback to the service including compliments about the level of support they had received from fostering managers, the training offer especially in the first year of fostering and the level of communication between the service and Foster Carers.
- The service collated and monitored all reasons given by Foster Carers who choose to leave the service so that it can address these, where it can. In Cambridgeshire, the main reason given was retirement due to age and the second most common reason given was family reasons, including the impact of fostering on birth children. In Peterborough, the most common reason given was family and other commitments and the second reason given was retirement due to age. Other reasons given which relate to both Local Authorities were ill health, children in preferred age ranges not being available to foster (0-4 year olds), moving area, following an investigation and dissatisfaction with foster carer fees.

## **Core functions of the Fostering Service**

The Fostering Service's aim is to provide a high-quality responsive child-centred service in relation to its core functions and to recruit new local Foster Carers from within our diverse communities that reflect the needs of local children and young people in care.

The service prepares applicants through training to be able to manage with the range of issues that Foster Carers face when looking after children. The service assesses foster carer applicants for the following types of care arrangements: Mainstream/Professional Foster Carers, Connected Persons Carers, LINK Carers, Supported Lodgings Carers and those who offer Private Fostering. The service undertakes comprehensive assessments and checks to ensure that prospective carers are suitable to foster and able to carry out their role.

We supervise, support and develop the skills and knowledge of Foster Carers so that they are able to provide the highest standards of safe, therapeutically minded

family-based care to our children and young people in care so that their outcomes are improved.

The types of Foster Care offered include; Short Term/Time Limited, long-term; parent and child; short breaks LINK care for children with disabilities; respite, emergency, supported lodgings and PACE.

PACE: The Local Authority has duty to provide accommodation to children and young people under the age of 18 years who have been arrested and charged in relation to a criminal offence. PACE stands for Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 which placed this duty. PACE transfers take place in order to limit the amount of time children and young people are required to spend in police custody with the young person being transferred to Local Authority accommodation overnight before being presented to court the following morning.

The service also supports young people to stay with their foster carers beyond the age of 18 years in a 'Staying Put' arrangement if this is considered the best plan for the young person. This is not a regulated fostering activity, and the young person, having left care, no longer has a social worker and the Foster Carer no longer has a Supervising Social Worker, but the young person continues to receive support, advice and guidance from their Personal Advisor who is employed by the Local Authority.

## Safeguarding - allegations & standards of care

### Allegations against Foster Carers, outcomes and timescales

Allegations against foster carers	CCC	PCC
The number of allegations against foster carers made by fostered children	3	1
The number of allegations against foster carers made by other sources	5	1
The number of children who have made allegations against their foster carers	3	1
The number of foster carers who have been subject to allegations	8	2
Information about the categories of alleged abuse		
Physical abuse	5	0
Sexual abuse	0	0
Neglect	1	1

Emotional abuse	2	1
<b>Information about the outcome of investigations of allegations</b>		
Concern(s) resolved - no further action	3	1
Continued monitoring for an agreed period	1	0
Concern remained, referred to fostering panel to review foster carer approval	4	1
<b>Timescale for investigations</b>		
less than 21 working days	1	1
22-30 working days (4 - 6 weeks)	4	1
31-50 working days (6 - 10 weeks)	1	0
More than 50 working days (> 10 weeks)	2	0

10 fostering households were subject to allegations during this reporting year, which was lower than the previous year where there were 15 fostering households subject to allegations.

All investigations are carried out by Fostering Reviewing Officers who are independent of the Supervision Teams, providing objectivity to the process. Following an allegation, a Foster Carer's suitability to continue to foster will be considered by the Fostering Panel and Agency Decision Maker.

Being subject to an allegation or concern process can be very distressing for a Fostering Household and in recognising this, in this reporting year the service secured an offer of free and confidential emotional health and well-being advice to Foster Carers via the Councils' Employee Assistance Programmes. This support offer can be accessed directly by Foster Carers.

## Compliments and complaints

The following are a selection of the compliments received by the service.

Source	Summary of compliments about foster carers
IRO	Fostering 4 children from same family allowing them to grow up together, showing resilience and advocating for the children.
Young person	They were like a mum and dad to them, helped them to stop smoking, drinking and getting their life back on track.
Children's Social Work	Stuck by the young person and went above and beyond in providing a bridge to their next foster home.

Team Manager	
Child's social worker	Thank you as their support and organisation enabled family time to go ahead with the children being kept as the focus.
<b>Concerning staff type</b>	<b>Summary of compliments about our staff from foster carers</b>
Training team	They hold the staff in high regard for providing a training programme that delivered despite the pandemic.
Fostering Social Worker	They find her extremely supportive and would have struggled without her and she protects them from themselves.
Fostering Social Worker and Service Manager (Supervision & Support)	Exceptional support through a difficult time, and staff showing that they genuinely cared about her situation.
Assessing Social Worker	Warm and professional approach when discussing sensitive issues.

### Summary of complaints and outcome

COMPLAINANT TYPE	SUMMARY OF COMPLAINT	OUTCOME
<b>CCC</b>		
Foster Carer	Foster carer dissatisfied with decisions about child's care plan	Partially Upheld
Relative	Unhappy with care of child by foster carer	Partially Upheld
<b>PCC</b>		
Foster Carer	Foster Carer unhappy about support from their social worker	Upheld
Foster Carer	Used incorrect finance policy	Upheld
Foster Carer	Decision in relation to fostering enquiry	Not completed
Former Foster Child	Foster carer attitude	Partially Upheld

Of the six complaints made, two were upheld, three were partially upheld and none were not upheld. One is not yet completed.

The service always seeks to speak to the complainant directly to understand the complaint fully, and to seek early resolution of any concerns. Learning from complaints is taken back to the service to improve practice.

## **Foster Carer training and development opportunities**

The year saw a return to face-to-face training as the Covid restrictions lifted, with a hybrid delivery model being used. The Training survey that was carried out showed that Foster Carers value having a range of course delivery options. Virtual learning remains the most popular choice, with Foster Carers stating that this fits more easily with their lives when taking children to school and nursery, is greener and less expensive for them.

In this reporting year, 1205 course places were attended across 95 one day courses, and two, two-day courses. This comprised of courses from a range of sources internally delivered by our training lead and staff, from within the Local Authority by our Virtual Schools and Youth Offending Service (YOS) and from partner agencies such as CASUS (Children and Adolescence Substance Use Service). We also commissioned specialist courses which included first aid, courses on trauma, therapeutic parenting, autism, child development, gender and sexuality.

The feedback the service received confirmed that our Training Programme was very well received with many courses full and waiting lists in place for some.

E-learning was also offered to Foster Carers with 707 Foster Carers enrolling in ME Learning courses with 367 courses being completed and 2904 e-learning modules being completed via the Foster Carer Training Hub.

Special Guardianship Carer preparation training was developed and introduced from September 2021 with 47 prospective Special Guardians attending the training during this reporting period. A Special Guardian co facilitates the course alongside the service, which has been very valued by attendees.

A 'Next Steps' training framework has been developed for new Foster Carers which supports them to understand their role and responsibilities, encourages their engagement, and develops their understanding of the needs of foster children and the support available to them. The programme is co-delivered internally by the Fostering Service and Reunification and Placement Stability Service (RAPs).

## **Carer consultation, engagement and support**

Support Groups have operated for both Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Foster Carers throughout the year with face-to-face groups resuming when Covid-19 restrictions allowed. These groups are organised and run by the service in collaboration with Foster Carers. Alongside the local based Support Groups, a Support

Group for Foster Carers looking after children aged 0 – 5 years has offered the opportunity to explore age specific training needs in an informal setting and a specific Support Group is also provided for Foster Carers who offer short breaks to children with disabilities.

All new Foster Carers are linked with a Mentor who is an approved Foster Carer prior to their approval to offer peer support in the early stages of their fostering career.

Events have taken place throughout the year for fostering households to meet with each other and staff including day trips to Wicksteed Park and Christmas parties both of which were well attended.

The Assistant Director has held 'Coffee and Cake' virtual sessions which are an informal opportunity for Foster Carers to meet with Senior Managers and is a forum where they can raise questions and hear about developments in the service and wider children's services.

Senior Managers meet regularly with the Chairs and Vice Chairs of the Cambridgeshire Foster Carer Association and Peterborough Foster Carer Community and representatives also attend their respective meetings. This provides an opportunity to hear about what is working well for Foster Carers and areas that need to be addressed or developed.

During the year Foster Carers were consulted on the additional allowance payments which included mileage and payments for emergency clothing. This consultation concluded on 1 April 2022. Following further feedback from Foster Carers, expectations around the amount of pocket money provided to children and respite payments to Foster Carers remain under review.

A Foster Carer Survey was launched in the summer of 2020 which was supported by the established Foster Carer forums in both Local Authorities: Cambridgeshire Foster Carer Association and Peterborough Foster Carer Committee (now Peterborough Foster Carer Community). Foster Carer engagement with the survey was good and responses received have been considered by the service when developing a three year Fostering Strategy.

Foster Carers continue to be invited to formal Council meetings of the Corporate Parenting Committee in Peterborough and the Corporate Parenting Sub Committee in Cambridgeshire to represent Foster Carers and ensure their views are heard by Elected Members.

Bimonthly Foster Carer Newsletters from the Service provide an informal mechanism to update fostering households about any changes in staffing, new developments in the Service, training and support.

In addition to Foster Carer Ambassadors supporting recruitment and marketing activity, a Foster Carer Training Forum was established to support the training team to consider the needs of Foster Carers and hear their views on the programme and other aspects of training. Foster Carers were instrumental in developing a revised and streamlined Personal Development Plan for Foster Carers which is now in use.

## **Fostering Panel**

The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fostering Panels have continued to operate separately and virtually during this reporting year. The business of the Fostering Panel has remained the same, with both considering Foster Carer's suitability to continue to foster or to be Foster Carers, post allegation reviews, noting resignations, extensions of temporary approval and changes to Foster Carer terms of approval.

In Cambridgeshire, 24 Fostering Panels sat during the year and in Peterborough 16 Fostering Panels sat. Panel members have continued to receive medical advice and legal advice when required. The Fostering Panel Adviser role was held by Stuart Stapleton for both Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. Additional panels were convened to prevent drift and consider cases in a timely way. No panels were cancelled due to lack of quoracy.

In Cambridgeshire Richard Holland is the Panel Chair and Elaine Barry was appointed to Vice Chair.

In Peterborough Mick Cunningham is the Panel Chair and Fernley Copping is Vice Chair.

Panel training days were held for Peterborough on 6 October 2021 and for Cambridgeshire on 11 October 2021.

Appraisals for the chairs and panel members have been carried out during the year in line with requirements.

Fiona Van Den Hout, Head of Service for Fostering and Supervised Contact acted as Agency Decision Maker for the Fostering Panel.



Heads of Service Sam Nour, Samantha Howlett, Fiona Van Den Hout and Myra O'Farrell acted as the Local Authority's Nominated Officers for regulation 24 temporary fostering arrangements.

## Management arrangements

The management of the service was carried out by Lou Williams, Service Director Children's Services across both Local Authorities until February 2022 when Nicola Curley was appointed Interim Service Director for Children's Services.

Ricky Cooper, Assistant Director for Fostering, Regional Adoption and Specialist Young People's Services was appointed in the reporting year and has overall responsibility for the Fostering Service.

Fiona Van Den Hout, is the operational Head of Service for the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fostering Service. Fiona was supported by three lead Service Managers during this reporting year, who in turn were supported by their Team Managers as follows:

### Recruitment and Assessment:

Service Manager - Anita Hewson

Team Manager – Jo Laur

Team manager – Jenni Woodcock

Team Manager – Tasalla Shaiyen

### Supervision and Support:

Service Manager - Despina Kaoura

Team Manager- Amanda Carter (interim for Sharyl Acheampong)

Team Manager – Jayne Barrett McGrath

Team Manager – Mariepearl Camfield

### Household Review & Practice Standards:

Service Manager - Sue King

Team Manager – Jenny Braddock (now Stuart Stapleton)

Operational team meetings for staff and managers have been held monthly and both Council's have virtually provided corporate support opportunities for staff including monthly wellbeing sessions and weekly briefings by Senior Council Leaders.

## **Children in Care participation and consultation**

The Service works closely with the Councils Participation Teams who support children and young people in care to provide their views on specific topics via the Children in Care Councils and Care Leaving Forums. For example, the service consulted with on the Children's Guides for Fostering and included some of their artwork in the Guides. The Guides provide information to children and young people about living with Foster Carers and how to make a complaint if they are unhappy about the that they are receiving.

The annual Children in Care Awards are held annually by each Local Authority and is an event that the whole fostering household is encouraged to attend and is supported by staff from the Fostering Service.

The service attends the Participation Group and has collaboratively developed a service Participation Plan.

Young Recruiters have helped to interview applicants for social care roles, and Young Trainers have helped deliver training to carers and staff. The Young Trainers received excellent feedback from prospective Foster Carers.

Feedback has been sought from children and young people in care about their experience of living with in house Foster Carers as part of the Foster Carer's annual review process.

## **Private Fostering**

Local Authorities have a statutory duty to monitor the safety and wellbeing of children and young people living in Private Fostering arrangements. Private Fostering arrangements are made between parents or carers who have parental responsibility for that child and another individual in order that they can take on care of their child for a period of longer than twenty-eight days. This arrangement should be reported to the Local Authority for a safeguarding assessment and monitoring.

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough local authorities have established private fostering processes in place. The number of Private Fostering arrangements has continued to be affected by Covid-19 with language schools remaining closed throughout 2021-2022.

In Cambridgeshire, six notifications were received for mainstream children with two Private Fostering Arrangements being assessed as unsuitable. Notification was received from one boarding school of eleven children remaining resident over the Christmas school holidays.

In Peterborough, two notifications were received for mainstream children with two Private Fostering Arrangements being assessed as being unsuitable.

There were no Private Fostering notifications from Language Schools or other schools who take international students in either Local Authority.

At the end of March 2022, in Cambridgeshire there was one Private Fostering Arrangement in place and in Peterborough there were five.

The Private Fostering Communication Strategy was reviewed during this reporting period following the lifting of Covid-19 restrictions.

## **Connected Persons**

Connected Persons is often better understood as Kinship or Family and Friends care which is when a child or young person cannot live with their birth parents, and they are looked after by extended family members or others with whom they have a relationship or a connection. Most Connected Persons are related to the children they look after, and the majority are grandparents, aunts and uncles, siblings or other family members, but some are family friends.

The Local Authority has a duty to consider placing a child or young person (if care is needed) with a Connected Person rather than into foster care or residential care as part of legal proceedings and or childcare planning. The Fostering Service undertakes assessments of Connected Persons in order to recommend to the Court whether the Connected Person is suitable to act as a Special Guardian and care for the child or young person throughout their minority. In such cases the court is able to issue a Special Guardianship Order to the Connected Person which gives them residency and overriding parental responsibility enabling them to be the decision maker for the day to day needs of the child or young person.

The Local Authority has a duty to submit a Special Guardianship Support Plan alongside the assessment which sets out the Local Authority's post order support. This may include financial support and/or therapeutic support.

The Fostering Service received 84 new referrals relating to Cambridgeshire children and completed 77 Connected Person's assessments and received 52 new referrals relating to Peterborough children and completed 45 Connected Person's assessments.

## Service Priorities for 2022-2023

The Fostering Service is developing a three-year strategic plan to address the sufficiency need for local family-based care in both Councils. The strategic plan is built on four building blocks which includes the following priorities:

### **Recruitment**

We will focus our marketing and recruitment activity primarily on attracting new professional carers who are able to offer family-based care for children and young people aged 5 to 18 years old, carers who have the capacity in their home to offer to care for brothers and sisters so that they can remain living together and Foster Carers who have the skills to offer short breaks (Link Care) for children with disabilities.

We will also focus on expanding our cohort of Foster Carers who offer emergency and PACE care for children who need a local foster home in an unplanned way so that they can remain close to their family, friends and school.

We also recognise that we need to do more to increase the diversity of the Foster Carer Community so that it better reflects the needs of our children and young people. A Diversity Strategy will be developed early in the next reporting year to support marketing and recruitment activity alongside a Diversity Survey which our existing Fostering Community will be asked to complete to help the service to better understand our current carer demography for example ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, age, disability (hidden and/or otherwise).

We will continue to develop our Unique Selling Points as a not for profit, locally based Fostering Service to attract more applicant Foster Carers who want to foster for their Local Authority and provide family-based care for children and young people from within their local communities.

### **Reputation**

We recognise the uncertainty that our Fostering Community has experienced over the last several years and that we need to continue to build the trust and confidence of our Foster Carers. Through our continued work with the respective Foster Carer forums, we will continue to look at ways of engaging our local Fostering Community in building and improving our service.

We will maintain a Customer Focus that is at the heart of service delivery, cultivating a culture of good customer service within the organisation and within our workforce by setting clear Customer Service Standards such as:

- We will aim to respond to telephone calls, emails and other requests within 24 hours, even if it is to let you know that we are going to need longer to respond to your request

- We will promptly pay you your weekly allowance and expenses on time and where we are unable to do this, we will let you know the reasons why and when you will expect to receive your payment
- Alongside standards as set out in Regulations we aim to progress your enquiry and application to Foster within four months and fast track applications sooner if prospective foster carers are suitable to foster children from specific high needs cohorts of where approved Foster Carers are wanting to transfer from another agency to us

We know there is much to do in supporting and changing the narrative of some of the perceptions about Foster Carers and in how they are treated, valued, cared for and respected. We will develop an Engagement Strategy alongside our Foster Carers which will include:

- Developing the role of Fostering Champions within the wider Children's services
- Developing our brand identity and defining and embedding our Customer Service Standards
- Improve the understanding of the role of and the challenges that Foster Carers experience to enhance relationships between the service, the wider service and the Fostering Community
- Celebrate compliments and learn from complaints
- Continue to engage meaningfully in participation activity with children and young people and use respectful language for example, we will not use 'placement' to refer to either children or where they live.
- Managers and Leaders will role model customer service principles, so staff feel confident and competent to use the same principles when interacting with Foster Carers and we will support Foster Carers to adopt the same principles when interacting with our staff. By walking the talk, we can achieve the best possible outcomes for children and young people

### **Resilience**

We will continue to build resilience in our Foster Carer Community to enable and equip them to care for the children and young people that we need them to and continue to improve on the number of children living with in house Foster Carers.

- We will continue to develop our wrap around support offer to Foster Carers and with our Foster Carers engage with the wider children's services to learn from unplanned and distressing endings in care arrangements to reduce these in frequency
- We will continue to review the training offered to Foster Carers through feedback and surveys
- We will focus on the training needs of our staff, identifying specialists training and access to resources so they have the right tools to do the job

- We will continue to make every effort to recruit to vacancies in our workforce in a timely way so that caseloads remain manageable, and staff have the time they need to support applicant and existing Foster Carers

### **Retention and Reward**

Foster Carers are the Local Authorities' most valuable resource for children and young people in care and are integral to the wider workforce of the Council and Children's Services.

- We will continue to annually review and monitor payments made to Foster Carers and will make all efforts to remain competitive in offering a fair and transparent payment scheme that is in line with market rates, including the cost of living
- We will encourage the need for Foster Carers to be viewed as having a professional status within the wider professional network and Council
- We will continue to embed our retention activity through retention visits and a 'Let's Talk, before you walk' interview, providing a solution focused approach to breaking down any barriers or challenges Foster Carers are facing. When Foster carers do choose to leave us, we will continue to consistently gather feedback to learn from their experience and develop our practice, disseminating this learning within the wider Children's service as necessary
- We will continue to streamline paperwork Foster Carers are required to complete and enhance our offer of developing technologies to make the fostering task easier where it relates to the recording and sharing of information remotely
- We will develop a quarterly feedback mechanism to be utilized by the Foster Carer forums demonstrating how the voices of Foster Carers have been heard and acted on where necessary
- To continue to run a series of events including regular support groups that evidences to Foster Carers that they are valued and respected by the organisation
- We will celebrate the achievements of Foster Carers at every opportunity

Completed by:

Sue King Service Manager: Household Review and Practice Standards Team

28.06.22

<b>CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE (FORMAL)</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM No. 8</b>
<b>20 JULY 2022</b>	<b>PUBLIC REPORT</b>

Report of:	Corporate Director People and Communities	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Insert name and portfolio of Cabinet Member(s)	
Contact Officer(s):	Marie Saunders – Deputy Safeguarding Lead	Tel. 07730613958

## **IRO ANNUAL REPORT 21-22**

<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	
<b>FROM:</b> <i>Alison Bennett – Assistant Director, Safeguarding and Quality Assurance</i>	<b>Deadline date:</b> <i>N/A</i>
<p>It is recommended that The Corporate Parenting Committee:</p> <p>1. Members are asked to note the report and raise any queries with the lead officers</p>	

### **1. ORIGIN OF REPORT**

- 1.1 This report is submitted to The Corporate Parenting Committee by the Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Department, Peterborough City Council (PCC) in line with annual requirements.

### **2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT**

- 2.1 a) The purpose of this report is to provide statutory review and analysis of the Independent Reviewing Service.  
b) The report shall be presented to Members of the Corporate Parenting committee as requested 20<sup>th</sup> July for their work programme.
- 2.2 This report is for the corporate Parenting Committee to consider under its Terms of Reference 2.4.4.2 To receive statutory reports in relation to the adoption, fostering, commissioning, looked after children services and children's homes with a view to recommending any changes.
- 2.3 This links to all areas of the Children in Care Pledge and Care Leavers Charter.  
*Link to the Children in care Pledge*

As above

### **3. TIMESCALES**

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	<b>NO</b>	If yes, date for Cabinet meeting	N/A
Date for relevant Council meeting		Date for submission to Government Dept. <i>(Please specify which Government Dept.)</i>	

## 4. BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

### 4.1 Executive Summary

This Children in Care Pledge and Care Leavers (IRO) report provides quantitative and qualitative evidence in relation to the IRO service in Peterborough as required by Statutory guidance. This report covers the period from 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022.

The key highlights of this report are:

- The number of children in care fell by 20 this year (from 364 at the end of March 2021 to 344 at the end of March 2022)
- A total of 933 Child in Care Reviews were held this year
- Timeliness of Reviews continues to be excellent at 99.7%
- The IROs Escalation Protocol continues to be fully embedded across the service.

The report concludes with the highlights of the IRO Service for 2021/22 and outlines areas for further development for 2022/23.

Members of the Committee are invited to consider the full report attached as Appendix A

## 5. CONSULTATION

5.1 Parents, carers and children were consulted as part of the review process

5.2 As contained within objectives for 2022-23, improved access to feedback forms maximising consultation

## 6. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT

6.1 To ensure there is a more robust approach to supporting the experiences of children and young people in order to improve their lives.

## 7. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

7.1 Statutory requirement

## 8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

8.1 N/A

## 9. IMPLICATIONS

### Financial Implications

9.1 *None*

### Legal Implications

9.2 *None*

### Equalities Implications

9.4 *None*



### **Carbon Impact Assessment**

9.5 *The assessment deemed Neutral.*

### **Other Relevant Implications**

9.6 *Child Care Reviews are held for all children in care.*

The purpose of the Child in Care Review is to bring together the child, parents, carers and other professionals to plan for the child and review the Care Plan. This ensures that everything that needs to be done to enable children to achieve the best outcomes and not drift in the care system is identified and being undertaken.

## **10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

10.1 None

## **11. APPENDICES**

11.1 Appendix A – Annual IRO Report

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# **Safeguarding and Quality Assurance**

## **Independent Reviewing Officer Annual Report**

**2021/22**

Author: Marie Saunders  
Deputy Safeguarding Lead, Peterborough City Council

## **Executive Summary**

This Annual Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) report provides quantitative and qualitative evidence in relation to the IRO service in Peterborough as required by Statutory guidance. This report covers the period from 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022.

The key highlights of this report are:

- The number of children in care fell by 20 this year (from 364 at the end of March 2021 to 344 at the end of March 2022)
- A total of 933 Child in Care Reviews were held this year
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The report concludes with the highlights of the IRO Service for 2021/22 and outlines areas for further development for 2022/23.

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## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 The Annual Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) report provides quantitative and qualitative evidence relating to the IRO Services in Peterborough as required by statutory guidance. This report covers the period from 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022.
- 1.2 The appointment of an Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) is a legal requirement under Section 118 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002. In March 2010, the government issued the 'Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (England) Regulations 2010 and Statutory Guidance.' They also published the 'IRO Handbook, Statutory guidance for IROs and Local Authorities on their functions in relation to case management and review of looked after children.'
- 1.3 In respect of this report, the IRO Handbook states: 'The manager should be responsible for the production of an annual report for the scrutiny of the members of the corporate parenting panel. This report should identify good practice but should also highlight issues for further development, including where urgent action is needed.' (IRO Handbook 2010, page 48, paragraph 7.11.)

## **2. Legal Context**

- 2.1 The appointment of an IRO for every looked after child is a statutory requirement of the Adoption and Children Act 2002, the Review of Children's Cases Regulations 2004, the Children and Young Person's Act 2008 and the Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (England) Regulations 2010.
- 2.2 The IRO Service sits within the Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Service with its core functions consisting of reviewing plans for children in care and monitoring the Local Authority in respect of its corporate parenting and safeguarding responsibilities. Independent Chairs in Peterborough operate a dual role and undertake both the role of the Independent Chairperson for child protection conferences (CPC) and Looked after Children responsibilities. For the purposes of this report, we will refer to the Independent Chair as the IRO.
- 2.3 Every child who is looked after by Peterborough City Council must have a Care Plan, which details the long-term plan for the child's upbringing, and the arrangements made to meet the child's day-to-day needs. All Local Authorities have a statutory duty to regularly review that Care Plan within legislative timescales (Care Planning and Case Review Regulations 2010).
- 2.4 It is the responsibility of Local Authorities to develop Care Plans and provide care that gives children in care positive life experiences and the best short and long-term life opportunities. The Children Act 1989 [amended 2004] and the Care Planning Placement and Case Review Regulations 2010 set out

the duty of the Local Authority to appoint an IRO when a child first becomes looked after.

- 2.5 The IRO should ensure that the Local Authority gives due consideration to any views expressed by the child and the IRO has a responsibility to monitor the Local Authority's performance of its functions in relation to the child's case. Statutory guidance and regulation clearly defines circumstances when the Local Authority should consult with the IRO; for example, proposed change of placement, change of education plan, or serious incident. The actions that the IRO must take if it is felt that the Local Authority is failing to comply with the regulations, statutory guidance and/or is breaching their duty to the child are also clear.
- 2.6 Every Local Authority is required to have a dispute resolution procedure that reflects the process for effectively resolving areas of disagreement raised by the IRO in respect of care planning. This includes access to independent legal advice for the IRO and referral to the Child and Family Court Advisory Support Service (Cafcass).

### **3. Structures and Management of the Team**

- 3.1 The team sits within the Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Service and is accountable to the Assistant Director of Safeguarding and Quality Assurance. There are two Deputy Safeguarding Leads within the service who are responsible for the team of Independent Chairs who are all permanent staff. The Deputy Safeguarding Leads line manage the Independent Chairs and will be referred to as Managers throughout this report.
- 3.2 All IROs are qualified social workers with the required knowledge and experience to fulfil the requirements of the role.

### **4. Supervision and Quality Assurance**

- 4.1 IROs receive monthly supervision and have access to informal supervision as and when needed. Managers remain committed to ensuring the level of supervision and support to IRO is effective, supportive and of a high standard.
- 4.2 The IROs attend team meetings twice a month. The meetings alternate between Practice Meetings and Business Meetings. Focus within business meetings is placed upon emerging legislative/ organisational changes and issues, and implementing processes which impact on the service, current themes and expectations and organisational agenda. The practice meetings give the IROs opportunities to identify, analyse and discuss practice issues, present research, and professional information, give feedback from individual

meetings with partners and social workers, identify areas of learning and development and define and support the implementation of good practice. Partner agencies and organisations such as Cafcass, NYAS and the Lead for UASC in the eastern region are regularly invited as well as others.

## 5. Workload Demand

- 5.1 The IRO Handbook recommends that a caseload of 50-70 children in care for a full-time equivalent IRO is appropriate. This means the IRO is able to fulfil all of their statutory functions to the best of their ability, thus providing a high-quality service for all children in care. During 2021/22 the average caseload per FTE IRO was consistently between 60 and 67 cases.
- 5.2 Effective business support staff use established systems to support the IROs; this does not include the typing of minutes, which the IROs complete themselves. All IROs ensure that they distribute the decisions from Children in Care (CIC) review meetings to the responsible Team Manager within five working days of the review; this is in accordance with the IRO Handbook and enables the responsible manager to identify any areas of disagreement and use the provision for challenging the decisions of the meeting in accordance with the IRO Handbook.
- 5.3 The IROs monitor the performance of the Local Authority, the progress of the plan and any decisions made at the review between reviews. This will include oversight of initial health assessments and other general health check-ups, missing episodes, and other key issues, so as to mitigate risk of drift and promote timely and optimum outcomes for children.
- 5.4 Each IRO will also aim to complete a young person's care plan audit bi-monthly. This is completed in conjunction with the young person and findings are sent to the Quality Assurance Team looking at themes and areas for improvement.

## 6. Quantitative Data up to 31 March 2022

- 6.1 The table below details the *total* number of children in care per 10,000 in the last three years for PCC:

Year	PCC Result
2019/20	73.0
2020/21	71.2
2021/22	67.4



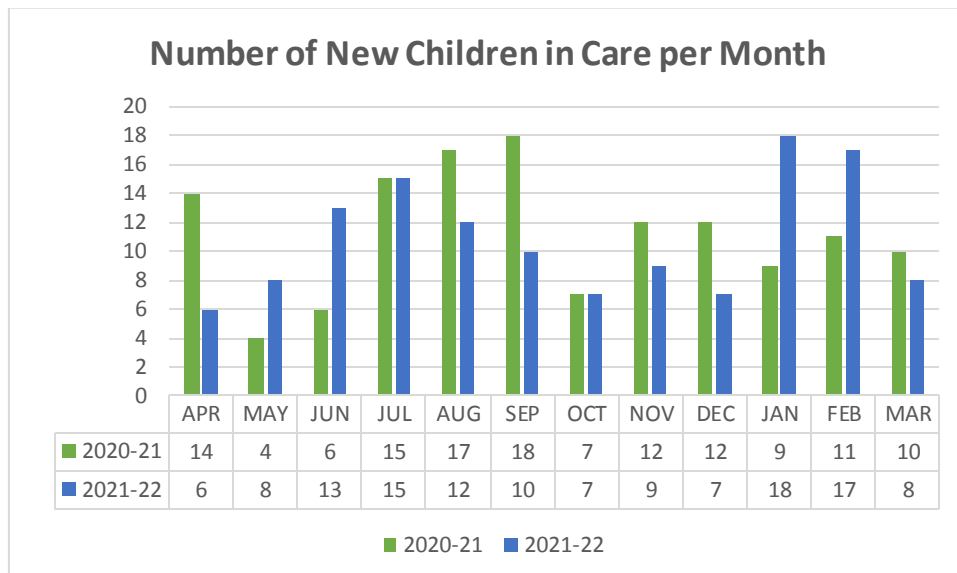
6.2 Peterborough City Council’s rate per 10,000 children in care for 2021/22 was 67.4, which is lower in comparison with last year. There were 344 children in care during 2021/22.

6.3 The table below details the number of *new* children coming into care per 10,000 in the last three years for PCC:

Year	PCC Result
2019/20	30.0
2020/21	26.4
2021/22	23.8

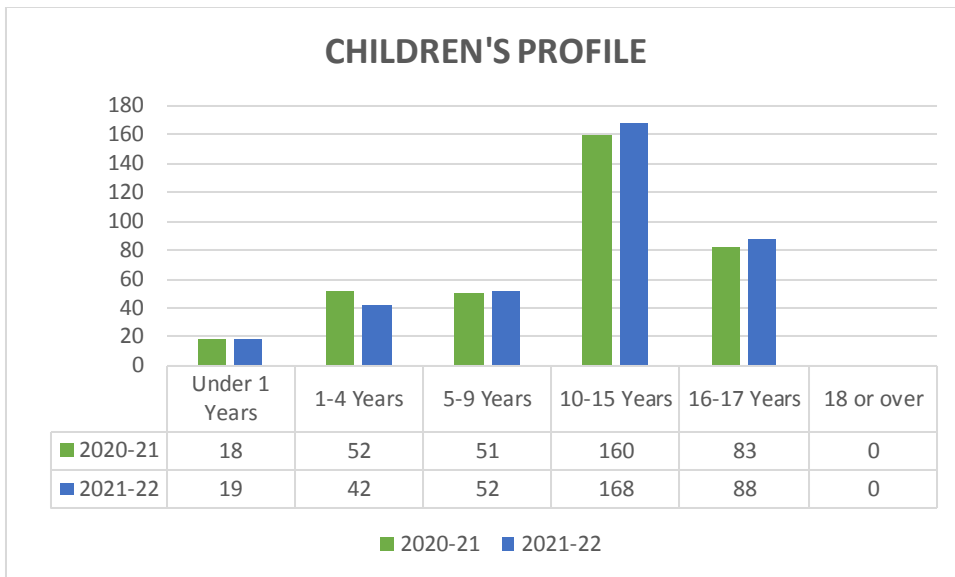
6.4 There were 123 new children who came in care during 2021/22. It could be assumed that the Family Safeguarding model implemented in 2017 is responsible for the decrease over the period. There were a total of 113 children who ceased to be looked after during the year.

6.5 The graph below shows the number of new children in care per month:



## 7. Children’s Profiles

7.1 The graph below shows the age of children in care covering 2021/22 in comparison to 2020/21. There was a total of 344 children in care in 2021/22, of which 216 were male and 152 female, compared to 364 in 2020/21 where 212 were male and 152 were female.

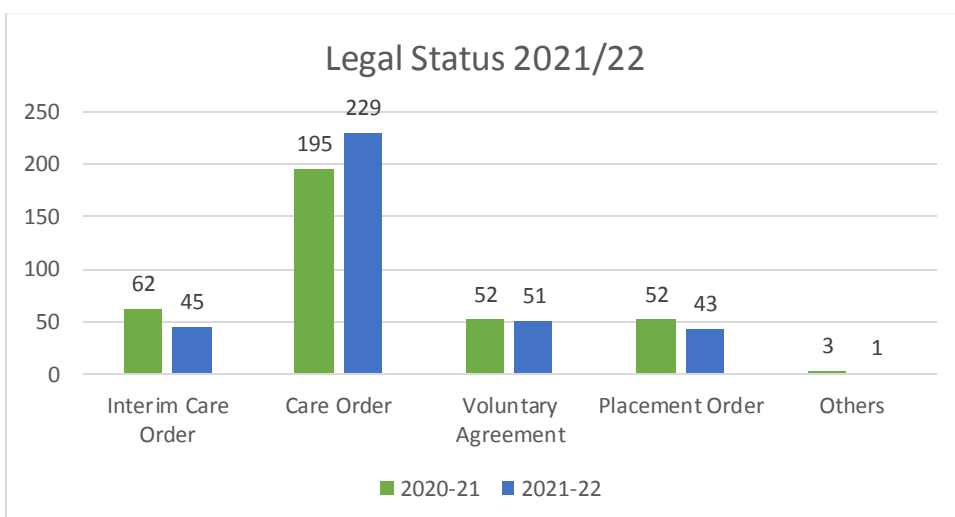


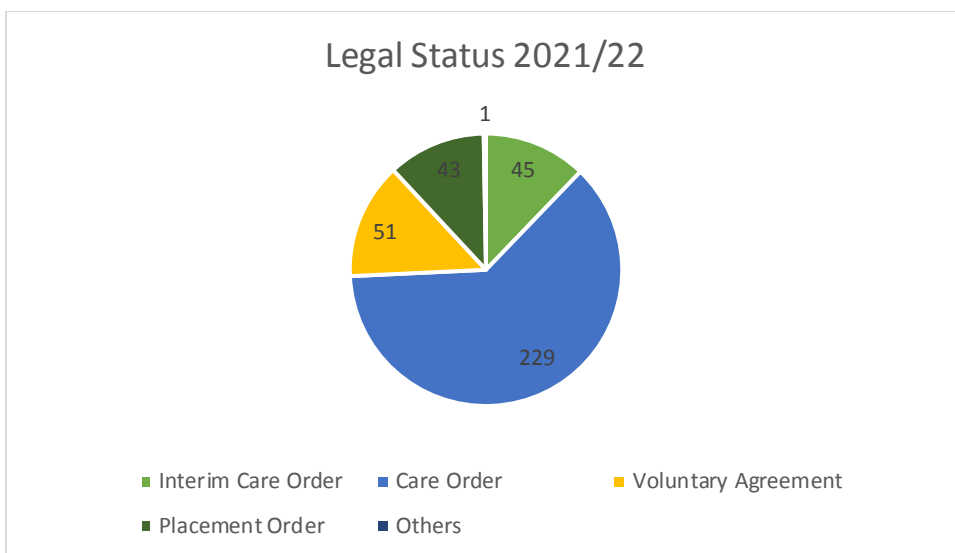
7.2 There continues to be a larger population of boys looked after in Peterborough which reflects similar consistencies within other Local Authorities.

There were 44 unaccompanied children seeking asylum (UASC) looked after during 2021/22 which is 36 more than 2020/21.

During the year, 3 young people were remanded in custody and one young person was supported in a Secure Accommodation Unit.

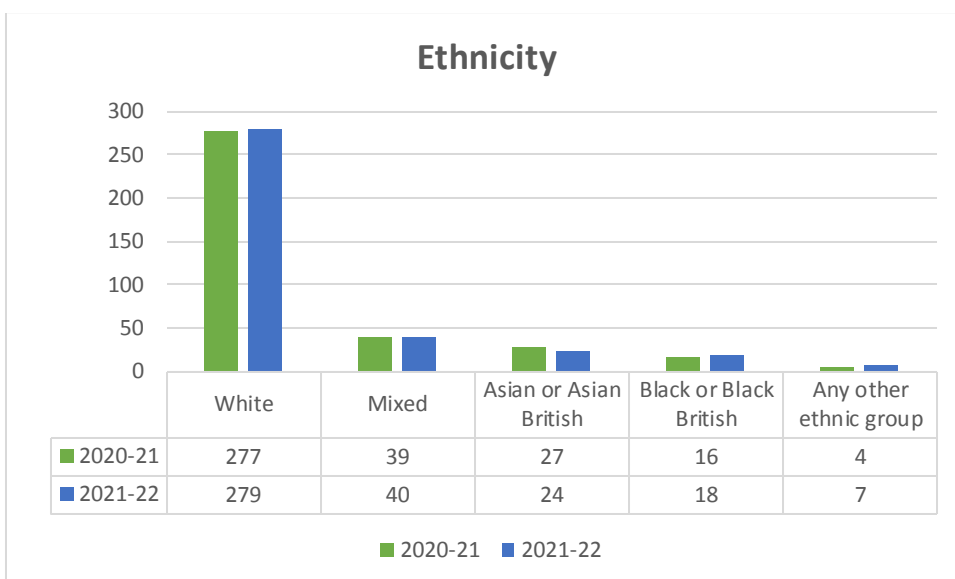
### 7.3 Legal Status





The number of Interim Care Orders have decreased whilst full Care Orders obtained for children have decreased over the year compared to 2020/21. Voluntary Agreements and Placement Orders have decreased. The decrease is reflected in the lower numbers of new children coming into care during the year.

#### 7.4 Ethnicity



The graph above indicates a consistent reflection in the ethnicity of children in care across the last two years.

## 8. Children in Care Reviews

- 8.1 Between April 2021 and March 2022, 99.7% of reviews took place within statutory timescales which continues to be excellent. The majority of reviews took place virtually during the year in response to restrictions of the Covid-19 pandemic.

A total of 933 CIC reviews were held in 2021/22.

<b>CIC Reviews held within timescales</b>	<b>2019/20</b>	<b>2020/21</b>	<b>2021/22</b>
	99.3%	99.9%	99.7%

- 8.2 The Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Service has systems in place, which enable CIC reviews to be held within timescales. These are as follows:
- At the beginning of each calendar month, business support staff send out the statutory due date for all CIC reviews. This means that responsible operational team managers, the manager of the conference and review service and IROs can monitor and ensure reviews do not go out of timescale.
  - Only the managers can authorise a change in a CIC review date. This endeavours to ensure that if a change of date is unavoidable, the new date is scheduled within statutory timescales. Where necessary and appropriate, meetings are adjourned, or the review held over more than one meeting to ensure the review is child centred and involves all of the necessary professionals.
- 8.3 IROs focus on the steps taken to progress adoption and permanency planning at CIC reviews. They address delays by raising their concerns with social workers, responsible team managers and heads of service using the well-established case alert process and where appropriate the Dispute Resolution Process – see also section 12.
- 8.4 IROs complete and update a spreadsheet record of remedial actions and the Deputy Safeguarding Leads monitor this for timely completion. Where remedial actions are not completed in a timely manner, IROs commence the dispute resolution process where appropriate.
- 8.5 IROs will arrange for CIC reviews to take place more frequently in certain circumstances, such as for children who live at a significant distance from Peterborough; and ‘where permanence planning is not being progressed in a timely manner’. These reviews include a high level of scrutiny and monitoring of decision-making and actions. This ensures they are in the best interests of the child and that there is minimal delay.
- 8.6 There is an ongoing arrangement between the Local Authority Children’s Social Work teams and IROs. This helps to ensure that IROs receive copies

of all documents including statements and reports that are filed with the court as part of care proceedings relating to children in care.

- 8.7 All IROs continue to deliver culturally competent practice and the child's individual needs, wishes and feelings are central to all reviews. IROs closely monitor the integration of a child's identity including culture, religion, ethnicity, and birth family values to care planning.
- 8.8 IROs continue to fulfil their responsibility to children remanded into youth detention accommodation (YDA). The key to this role is to ensure that all of these children have active individual care plans that meet their needs. In developing the care plan for children who become looked after solely as a result of being remanded, the IRO will be aware that some children will only be looked after for the period they are remanded. In many cases this period will be relatively short. However, consideration will be given to what longer term support or accommodation the child will need following the remand episode should the young person continue to be looked after at the end of the remand period.

## **9. Children in Care Reviews – Participation**

- 9.1 It is the role of the IRO to encourage and promote the participation of children aged four years and over on the review process. IROs record the method at the end of each CIC review, and these are coded in line with national guidance.
- 9.2 During 2021/22, 933 Child Care Review meetings were held. The vast majority of these were held in a hybrid manner with the IRO and Social Worker meeting face to face with the Child or Young person in placement and others joining via TEAMS. All children over the age of four participated in their CCR to inform the shaping of their plan, in the way that best suits them, attending part or all of their meetings, using the paper consultation booklet, the Mind of My Own app, or sending their views through their IRO or another trusted adult. 31% of children over the age of four years attended part or all of their meeting in person which is 3% less than the previous year. Of the children who did not attend their review, 36% sent their views in advance and 15% briefed their advocate with their views. Others gave their views via other means including meeting with the IRO prior to their review.
- 9.3 During the period, 706 Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) consultation/visits with children and young people were held. During 'lockdown', face to face consultations were reduced and risk assessed on a case-by-case basis. Face to face consultations increased as restrictions eased and IROs endeavoured to consult with their young people via Teams, telephone call or other virtual methods during periods where a face-to-face visit was not possible. The service continues to encourage older children to chair or co-chair their CCRs. This has been particularly effective with young people planning their transition to independence, in empowering them and helping

them to take increased ownership of their independence. However, during the year, there was a reduction in the number of children chairing and co-chairing their reviews. This is an area for improvement following lockdown restrictions easing as more reviews occur face to face.

- 9.4 The Mind Of My Own 'One' App is an app that helps young people communicate their views in a way that suits them. Young people create their own account, which can be used on any device at any time. The Mind Of My Own 'Express App' is a co-designed, innovative, and user-friendly app that helps children with learning disabilities and younger children express their views, wishes and feelings in a fun digital way that's easy for workers to understand and evidence.

The Mind Of My Own 'One' App was launched in Peterborough in April 2016 and the Mind Of My Own 'Express' App was introduced in December 2017.

- 9.5 There were 143 statements received in the year.
- 9.6 Young people sent in 26 statements and the remaining 74 statements were sent in by workers. The One app was used to send statements in relation to a variety of situations in the year, the most popular being in relation to 'preparation' 36% and 'about me' 36%.
- 9.7 The feedback from the consultation forms provide valuable information about the experience of children in care. In the main, the information suggests that most feel safe, listened to and well cared for. The consultation document is discussed with the child and with their consent, the IRO shares it with review participants.
- 9.8 IROs will always aim to spend time individually with children prior to a review to determine their wishes and feelings to identify if they have any concerns; and find out how they would like to participate in the meeting. This includes the time, venue, and attendance at their meeting though it should be noted this remains primarily the social worker's responsibility. It is noteworthy that many young people do not want their reviews to disrupt their school day or leisure activities for example. Each child is given the opportunity to engage with an advocate, particularly if this maximises the young person's contribution to their reviews.
- 9.9 There have been 890 monitoring activities carried out by IROs throughout the year.
- 9.10 The Children in Care Participation Officer coordinates and facilitates the Children in Care Council (CiCC) and liaises with the Corporate Parenting Panel and Cabinet Members to facilitate dialogue between all parties. Peterborough City Council's Looked after Children's Strategy reflects the council's priority for children in care. This strategy lists priorities for the children and young people ensuring that good outcomes are pivotal to processes. Children in care in Peterborough benefit from the continued robust commitment of elected members of the council.

9.11 Parental participation is noted within the minutes of the review and monitored by the IRO manager. There were a total of 933 CIC reviews completed in 2021/22. The level of participation by parents has remained fairly consistent over the year; 40% for mothers and just 20% of fathers. In accordance with the Care Planning, Placement and Review Regulations 2010, IROs offer to meet with parents outside of the main review meeting. This is particularly evident where a parent is prevented from attending. A number of parents have commented that they felt more able to attend meetings when permitted to join virtually as they would not have ordinarily been able to physically attend.

## 10. Feedback on the IRO service

10.1 Owing to increased pressures on capacity and adjustments required during the Covid-19 pandemic, Professional feedback forms were put on hold. Since restrictions have eased, we have started to see an increase on the number of these being completed (82 in total for the year), although this is still an area we would like to see increase further. Parental feedback forms have been sent out routinely where an email address has been provided to encourage feedback from parents' perspectives on the CCR process. The completion of these was minimal throughout Covid restrictions but we have started to see a slight increase in these being returned but still an area for vast improvement. We received a total of 16 for the year. IROs have been encouraging young people to complete feedback forms via email and where possible have supported in person to complete. Although uptake on these has also been poor, the few that have been completed all agree that they feel supported by their IRO; feel their IRO listens to them and all but one felt comfortable attending their meeting. We received a total of 21 during the year.

### Some comments from young people included:

*My IRO is always here for me and listens to my wishes*

*My iro is fantastic! She always listens to my opinions and wishes'*

### Some of the feedback from parents included:

*'It was good to see the IRO in person'*

'I feel really supported by everyone'

And below some examples of feedback received from professionals:

'Good meeting' In person attendance appreciated'

'A is very warm and friendly, very child centred and professional. She has been A's IRO for a long time and fully understands his needs'

'H is extremely efficient and professional throughout the review. She actively listens and takes on board comments, observations and the wishes and feelings of the child. She will challenge if required. All documentation is received in a timely manner '

'I feel we have another excellent IRO'

## 11. Positive Impact – 'You said, we did'

11.1 Within the service, we produce a report to highlight some of the examples of impact that IROs have on children's lives. Below are some examples:

### YOU SAID...

### WE DID...

<p>X is pregnant and under a care order. She wished to remain with her foster carers once the baby was born .</p>	<p>A case alert was escalated to Senior Managers who assessed the situation and approved for X to remain in the foster care placement with her baby.</p>	<p>X is able to remain within her supportive environment with her baby as she wished.</p>
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The IRO expressed concerns about the state of a placement.	Concerns were escalated to the Commissioning Team who will be completing a full inspection of the property and other properties owned by the same company.	Young people in care are given a clean, safe and homely environment.
X did not want to have a new social worker.	The IRO emailed X's views to team manager, and they agreed not to reallocate.	X is now confident to continue to work with their current social worker with whom they have a good relationship.
X raised concern around post-18 plans in relation to a move to a new home that would disrupt her education.	The IRO initiated the dispute resolution process and supported X to understand how to make a complaint.	X's Pathway Plan was amended, and they moved to provision they were happy with and in an area where they could continue at college.
X raised that he wanted to go back home. There was delay in assessments being completed to make this happen.	The IRO raised a dispute and monitored until all identified actions were progressed.	There is now a rehabilitation back home plan and all assessments have been completed to enable this to happen. X is happy with the return home plans.
X raised concern about the quality of care they received from their carers.	The IRO intervened and supported the YP in understanding the complaints procedure. X's concerns were escalated to senior managers.	The YP has moved to a new foster placement, is happier and settled.
X said that they would like to start living with their brother.	The review endorsed the change of Care Plan from adoption to long term foster care. A Case Alert was raised when the necessary paperwork was not completed in a timely way.	The IRO monitored progress to ensure a swift resolution. X is now able to stay living with his brother, whom he has a strong relationship and bond.
X did not want to move away from their family.	The IRO raised a dispute regarding the proposal to move X from extended family into a foster placement. The IRO ensured X had access to an advocate and could make a complaint.	X was not moved away from family and was able to continue to attend the same school.
B was living in a placement that was of poor quality.	IRO reported concerns to the SW and to ART who completed a full inspection and found further issues around safeguarding	The young person has since been moved to an appropriate placement and is doing well.
You told your IRO that the only present you wanted for your birthday was to spend time with your Mum.	The IRO contacted the mothers' interpreter to let her know that it would be looked into and contacted the team.	Contact was changed to nearer G's birthday which he was extremely happy about.

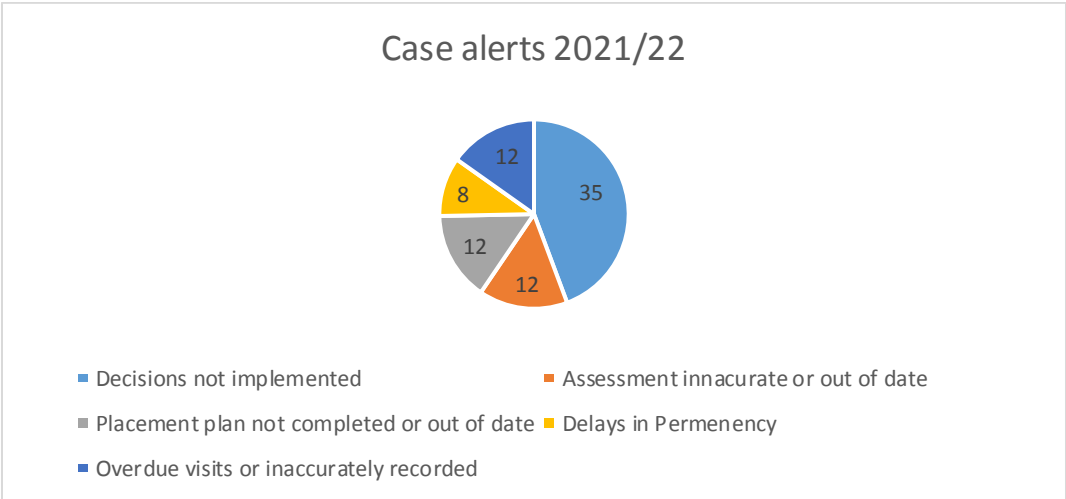
You did not understand why your allowance had been stopped..	The IRO raised this with the TM explaining that his needs hadn't changed in this regard and asked for this to be resolved.	X is now receiving his allowance again.
X is in foster care who has significant health issues and disabilities and is non- verbal. J's foster family advocated on his behalf to use part of his DLA money towards more appropriate equipment.	The IRO raised a case alert with the team manager and provided a copy of the DLA policy. As a result, the use of the DLA funds was agreed.	X is much safer and happier. He is also able to fully participate in family life which he loves.
X is a 17-year-old living in semi-independent accommodation. X requested overnight stays with her grandparents.	A case alert was sent and was resolved the same day with agreement for a viability assessment and PNC check completed.	X now has overnight stays with her grandparents as requested.

## 12. Quality Assurance and Audit of Children in Care Arrangements

- 12.1 The effectiveness of the IRO service and the difference they make to children's experiences of being in care in Peterborough is monitored through the activity of the Quality Assurance Team including the ongoing thematic audit programmes. In addition, team and senior managers undertake a programme of case file audits and use Ofsted judgements to grade cases. All cases where remedial actions are identified are monitored by the QA Team to ensure that appropriate action is taken in a timely manner. Audit themes and areas for development inform service improvement plans for each service.
- 12.2 All IROs complete a monitoring form after each statutory meeting. This is sent to the social worker and responsible team manager. If the IRO identifies an immediate cause for concern, they will raise a case alert. They will always discuss their concern with the case responsible manager/senior manager and agree a course of actions with timescales. This will then be followed up with an email to the responsible manager and Head of Service and any other managers as appropriate. This ensures that immediate action is taken to safeguard and protect the child.

### 13. Dispute Resolution

- 13.1 The IRO Handbook clearly describes the role of the IRO where there are areas of disagreement: ‘One of the key functions of the IRO is to resolve problems arising out of the care planning process. It is expected that IROs establish positive working relationships with the social workers of the children for whom they are responsible. Where problems are identified in relation to a child’s case, for example in relation to care planning, the implementation of the care plan or decisions relating to it, resources, or poor practice, the IRO will, in the first instance, seek to resolve the issue informally with the social worker or the social worker’s managers. The IRO should place a note of this initial informal resolution process on the child’s file. If the matter is not resolved in a timescale that is appropriate to the child’s needs, the IRO should consider taking formal action.
  
- 13.2 During 2021/22, the Independent Chairs raised 143 case alerts. Six formal DRP cases were raised throughout the year; most of which were addressed within timescale and two are outstanding with further discussions taking place. Of the 6, 2 were escalated to Stage 3, 1 was escalated to stage 2 and 3 were resolved at stage 1.
  
- 13.3 Updates are sent to Heads of Service and Service Managers on a two-weekly basis to ensure management oversight and to bring attention to outstanding alerts. The following themes were noted with regard to the case alerts raised:
  - Decisions not being implemented.
  - Practice issues, which include assessments and other paperwork not being completed.
  - Drift in care planning.
  - Statutory visits.
  - Placement issues.
  - Pre-meeting reports not completed, shared or of adequate quality.
  - Issues regarding placement.
  - Delays in achieving permanence.
  - Lack of supervision or management oversight.



13.4 Relationships between Cafcass and the IRO service continue to be positive with a named guardian and IRO providing a link between the two services. Cafcass attend the IRO team meeting twice yearly and the named IRO reciprocates this arrangement. This ensures joined up working and the sharing of information continues to be a priority between the professionals who maintain albeit differing degrees of independence from the operational social work teams.

## **14. Summary**

14.1 The IRO Service has continued to provide effective provision for reviewing and monitoring the Care Plans for children in care. It contributes to improved outcomes for children in care through increasing participation of children and young people in the decision making about their care, as well as making independent representations to operational teams and management on planning and practice issues. The independent scrutiny provided by the team is valued by social workers and management. IROs have shown continued strength and resilience throughout a very difficult year and have contributed to a creative and high delivering service.

## **15. Independent Reviewing Officer Achievements in 2021/22**

15.1 IROs have:

- Ensured robust oversight of all vulnerable cohorts in light of Covid-19 through enhanced audit activity.
- Maintained oversight of all key decision making and milestones in the child's journey.
- Worked to ensure all essential meetings were able to go ahead via a combination of face to face, virtual and hybrid meetings, providing additional support to families where required.
- Remained proactively responsive to the changing situation by leading the way and developing creative solutions.

15.2 a) Caseloads – Independent Reviewing Officers' caseloads have remained within the recommended guidelines of between 50 and 70. This has enabled the IROs to meet expectations for a high-quality service whereby all aspects of their role are undertaken.

b) Oversight and Quality Assurance – IROs have actively addressed concerns, poor practice, and non-compliance in a systematic and professional manner to promote the improvement of standards amongst social work teams and partner agencies. They have challenged as

denoted within the IRO Handbook and ensured that timescales are adhered to.

- c) IRO footprint – There has been clear evidence obtained throughout case audits, supervisions and dataset analysis of the consistent presence and oversight of the IRO and clear demonstrations of the IRO footprint on their caseloads.
- d) Children’s voices – There has been a consistent approach by IROs to maximise the engagement of children and the evidence within reports demonstrates an awareness and objective to ensure that the voice of the child is heard achieving 100% in the year. We have also improved the system for completing feedback forms via an electronic link to maximise the feedback we receive from young people.
- e) Themed audits – The Quality Assurance team continues to undertake a significant number of thematic audits across Children’s Social Care and a number of audits across the IRO service have evidenced robust systems and competent and effective practice and established performance.
- f) Learning and development – The IRO service continues to promote good practice and to develop and embed learning and supportive relationships within the wider sector. IROs take responsibility in organising and managing meetings with operational team managers to identify impacts and issues within the service and to recognise areas of good practice as well as areas for improvement. They work together in maintaining a respectful, transparent, and learning-abled forum within which to identify and design models of ideal working.
- g) The IROs also take turns to represent Peterborough City Council at the Eastern Regional IRO network.
- h) The IROs have contributed to the increase in dental checks and health assessments for children in care due to increased monitoring. They have also been instrumental in the increased oversight of children at risk of CSE or Missing episodes.
- i) The IROs have shown remarkable professionalism, dedication, and creativity since the outbreak of Covid-19 and have risen to the challenges of the virtual world, engaging young people in care, carers, parents, and professionals in timely and effective reviews. No reviews were cancelled as a result of implications caused by the pandemic in 2021/22.

## 16. Objectives for 2022/23

- a) IROs will continue to proactively contribute to improving outcomes for looked after children through rigorous monitoring and challenge of care planning and promoting timely permanency planning.
- b) To support the service in identifying and implementing effective and creative strategies for involving children and young people in the review process in a way that suits them.
- c) To increase the number of children/young people chairing/co-chairing their review.
- d) Review the existing mechanisms for a constructive feedback loop between the IRO Service and social care, so that the broader picture of what is working for children in care and what areas of practice may need attention in order to improve outcomes on a wider scale.
- e) Review the format of consultation forms for children so that they can be completed quickly and easily via an online form as well as through paper consultation forms.
- f) Continue to support placement stability as key to emotional wellbeing of our children and young people.
- g) Strengthening our oversight of pathway planning to support successful timely move into independence.
- h) Continue to ensure permanence plan identified at second review with clear robust contingency plan.
- i) IROs will continue to raise awareness amongst Social Workers of the need to keep the IRO informed of significant events between review meetings and to consult the IRO before important decisions are taken in respect of changes to the child's care plan.
- j) To continue to support in establishing good working relationships with Cambridgeshire County Council and to continue to improve processes and services across the two Local Authorities.
- k) To continue to build established relationships with partner agencies.

<b>CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM No. 9</b>
<b>20 JULY 2022</b>	<b>PUBLIC REPORT</b>

Report of:	Nicola Curley, Director Children's Services	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Lynne Ayres Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education, Skills and the University	
Contact Officer(s):	Myra O'Farrell, Head of Service Corporate Parenting	Tel. 01733 864391

## **PERFORMANCE DATA FOR CHILDREN IN CARE AND CARE LEAVERS MAY 2022**

<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	
<b>FROM:</b> Nicola Curley, Director of Children's Services	<b>Deadline date:</b> N/A
<p>It is recommended that members of Corporate Parenting Committee:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Note the content of the report, and</li> <li>2. Raise any questions with the lead officer</li> </ol>	

### **1. ORIGIN OF REPORT**

- 1.1 This report is submitted to Corporate Parenting Committee to each formal and informal committee as part of the standing work programme item in relation to performance.

### **2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT**

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Corporate Parenting Committee in respect of the numbers of children and young people being looked after by the Council as of 31 May 2022 providing a breakdown of the types of placements in which they are living. The report also provides information about the age, gender and ethnicity of those children and young people.
- 2.2 This report is for Corporate Parenting Committee to consider under its Terms of Reference No. 2.4.4.6 To monitor the quality of care delivered by the City Council and review the performance of outcomes for children and young people in care.
- 2.5 This reports to the Children in Care Pledge by focussing on the placements for children in care and care leavers.

### **3. TIMESCALES**

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	<b>NO</b>	If yes, date for Cabinet meeting	
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### **4. BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES**

- 4.1 At the 31 May 2022 there were:  
138 children placed with in house foster carers.

144 children placed with agency foster carers outside of the city boundaries. These agencies work with the council to provide foster placements on a contractual basis.

7 post-16 were living in semi-independent accommodation, who have an allocated social worker and a personal adviser. The focus is preparation for adulthood.

19 children were placed with family or friends (connected persons). These carers are formally assessed in the same way that in house foster carers are assessed and are presented to the Fostering panel for approval through the same process and standard. They are supported through the foster carer allowance.

5 children are currently living with their parents but are still considered to be 'looked after' because they are subject to full care orders. The Council is sharing parental responsibility with the birth parent. Such placements are made when there is a plan for reunification.

6 children are currently placed for adoption.

2 children are placed in residential educational placements.

70 children are placed in residential provision. These placements are most usually made when it is clear that foster care is not sufficient to meet the child or young person's needs. Residential care is nearly always accessed by the Adolescents Team and only used for younger children in very special circumstances. These are reviewed regularly to ensure children can step down to a foster placement when they are ready.

## **5. CONSULTATION**

5.1 N/A

## **6. CORPORATE PARENTING CHAMPIONS FEEDBACK AND NEXT STEPS**

6.1 Nothing to report

## **7. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT**

7.1 This is an accurate report of the current accommodation placements for children in care and care leavers.

## **8. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION**

8.1 The data included in this report is from the monthly performance report which includes live data.

## **9. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

9.1 None

## **10. IMPLICATIONS**

### **Financial Implications**

10.1 None

### **Legal Implications**

10.2 None as this report is for information purposes.

### **Equalities Implications**



- 10.3 The current recruitment campaign for foster carers is focussed on increasing placements for specific groups linked to sibling placement, older children and Link carer for children with disabilities.

### **Carbon Impact Assessment**

There are no recommendations made within this report and therefore there are no implications to carbon emissions.

### **Children in Care Implications**

This report relates to all children in care.

## **11. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

- 11.1 Monthly Performance Report

## **12. APPENDICES**

- 12.1 Appendix 1 – Performance Report May 2022

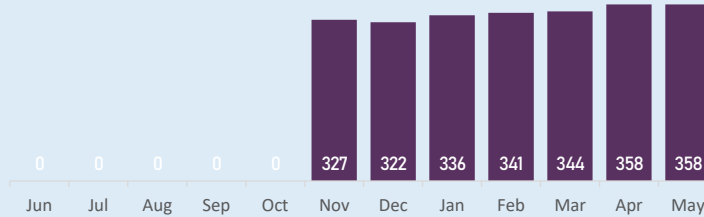
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## HEADLINE FIGURES

Number of children in care on the last day of May

# 358

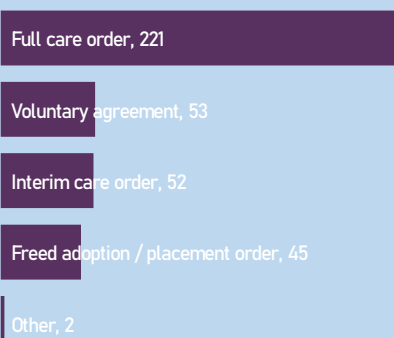
Target: Below 332



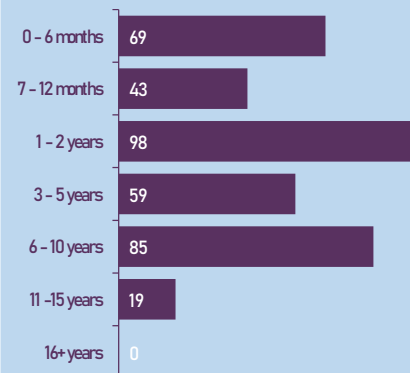
## Staffing

	Establishment	Average Caseload	Change	Performance
Family Safeguarding Qualified social workers	31.5	15	Stayed the same	-
Children in Care Qualified social workers	17	22	Deteriorated	-
Leaving Care Personal Advisors	8	20	Improved	-

## Legal status of children in care



## Length of time children have been in care



**Key**

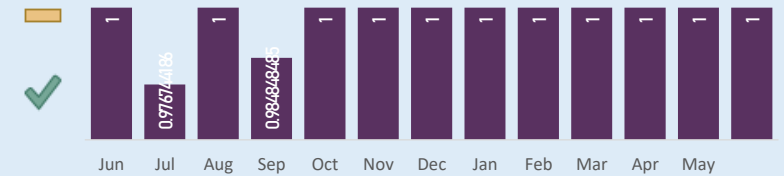
- Change since previous month: Improved (Green triangle up), Stayed the same (Yellow bar), Deteriorated (Red triangle down)
- Performance against target: Strong (Green check), Acceptable (Yellow exclamation mark), Poor (Red X)

## SERVICE STANDARDS

% of child in care reviews which were held on time (year to date, and during each month)

# 100%

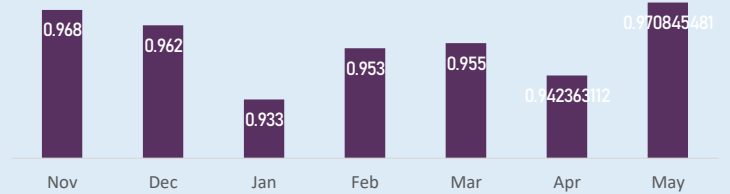
Target: above 98%



% of child in care statutory visits which were carried out on time (year to date, and during each month)

# 97.1%

Target: Above 98%



## PLACEMENTS

Placement stability

# 8.1%

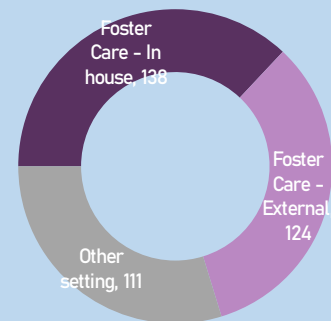
Target: below 8%

8.1% of children in Peterborough's care had 3 or more different placements in the last 12 months. Out of those children who have been in care for over 2.5 years, 70.0% have been in their current placement for two or more years.

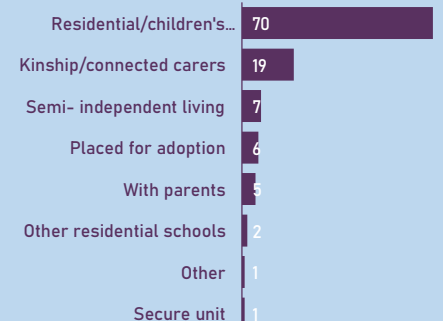
# 70.0%

Target: above 75%

## Type of placement of children in care

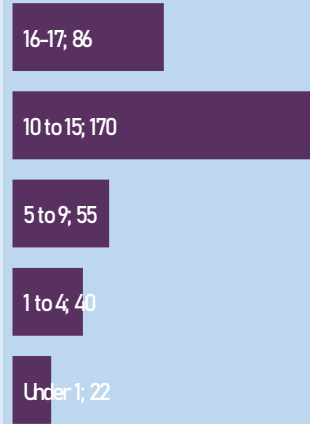


## Other settings breakdown



## EDUCATION

### Children in care by age group



### % of school-aged children in care who have a PEP in place

100.0%

Target: above 100%

A Personal Education Plan (PEP) was in place for 245 out of 245 school-aged children who were in care for at least a month by the end of May.

79.0%

79.0% of Peterborough's children in care are taught in good or outstanding schools.

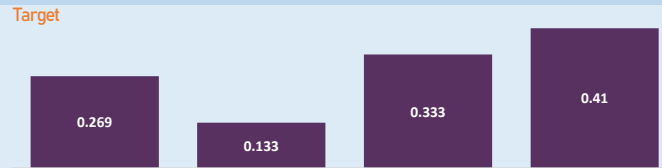
### % of school-aged children in care in good or outstanding schools

## HEALTH - SERVICE STANDARDS

### Children in care whose initial health assessment was completed on time (Year to date and by quarter)

29.3%

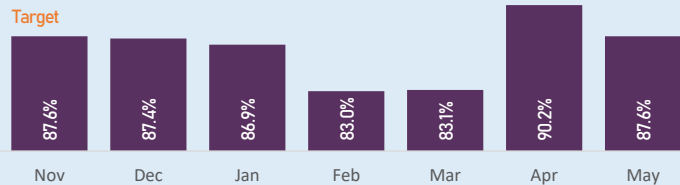
Target: above 95%



### Children in care whose annual health assessment was completed on time

87.6%

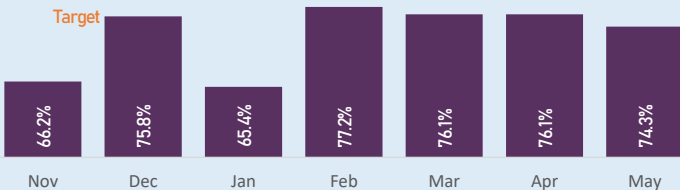
Target: above 93%



### Children in care whose annual dental examination was completed on time

74.3%

Target: above 93%



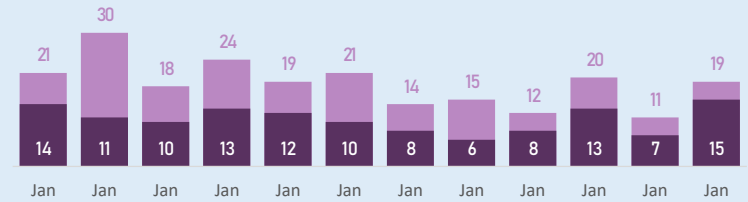
## Children in care who go missing (with number of episodes)

15

19

Episodes

Children

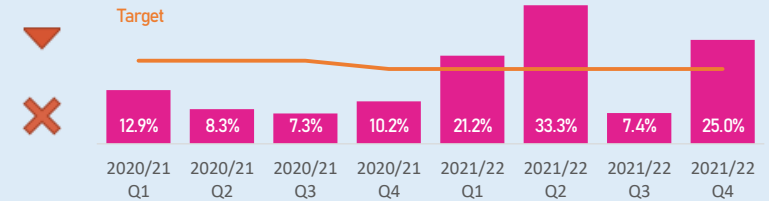


## ADOPTION

### % of children leaving care who are adopted (Year to date and by quarter)

22.1%

Target: above 18%



### Timeliness of adoption process

Time to placement

499

Target: below 426

For children adopted during the past 12 months, an average of 499 days passed between the child entering care and them moving into their adoptive placement. An average of 167.238095238095 days passed between their placement order being granted and approval of a match with their adopters.

Time to match

167

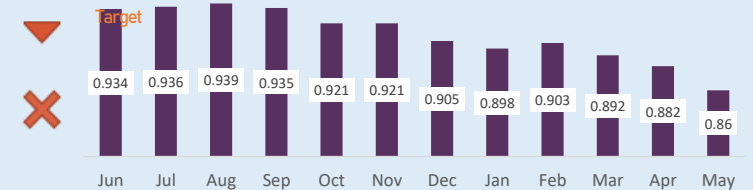
Target: below 120

## CARE LEAVERS

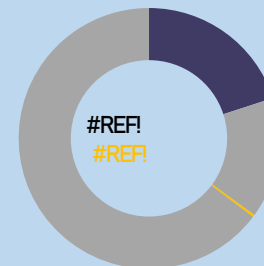
### Care Leavers who have a pathway plan in place

86.0%

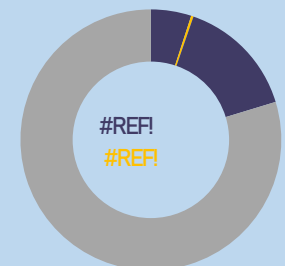
Target: above 95%



19 to 21 year old care leavers who are not in employment, education or training (NEET)



19 to 21 year old care leavers who live in unsuitable accommodation



<b>CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE (FORMAL)</b>	AGENDA ITEM No. 10
<b>20 JULY 2022</b>	PUBLIC REPORT

Report of:	Nicola Curley Director for Children's Services	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Councillor Lynne Ayres, Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education, Skills and the University	
Contact Officer(s):	Ricky Cooper, Assistant Director Children's Social Care Catherine York, Designated Nurse Children in Care	Tel:

## HEALTH ASSESSMENT AUDIT REPORT

RECOMMENDATIONS	
FROM: Assistant Director Children's Social Care	Deadline date: N/A
<p>It is recommended that the Corporate Parenting Committee:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Notes the content of the report</li> <li>2. Raise any queries with the lead officers</li> </ol>	

### 1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

- 1.1 A report from Health is presented to each formal Corporate Parenting Committee

### 2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

- 2.1 This report is the annual health assessment audit report for 2021/22. The report provides an overview of the Initial Health Assessment and Review Health Assessment audit process and findings undertaken by the Designated Professionals for Children in Care as part of the quality assurance systems in place by Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Integrated Care System (previously CCG).
- 2.2 This report is for the Corporate Parenting panel to consider under its terms of reference no: 2.4.3.6 (c) Promote the development of participation and ensure that the view of children and young people are regularly heard through the Corporate Parenting Committee to improve educational, health and social outcomes to raise aspiration and attainments.
- 2.3 This links to priority 4 of the Children in Care Pledge and Care Leavers Charter. Health issues of Children and young people in care

### 3. TIMESCALES

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	<b>NO</b>
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### 4. BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

4.1 **Audit of Initial and Review Health Assessments by Designated Professionals**  
**Report Date: 17<sup>th</sup> April 2022**

4.1.1 The health assessments reviewed within the audit were completed by the Team between 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022. The timescale concerned, fell within the continued COVID-19 pandemic when service delivery was adjusted and managed as per NHSE guidance, to reflect the national and local lockdowns and restrictions detailed by the Government and Public Health Services for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

As such, during this period:

Review Health Assessments (RHAs) were undertaken by the Attend Anywhere (AA) virtual platform until July 2021, at which time they were delivered by a combination with face-to-face appointments and AA appointments depending on the needs of the child/young person, the foster family or care setting and the national and local position at the time of the assessment. Where appointments were undertaken using a virtual platform, face-to-face follow up arrangements were utilised as required with GP, Health Visitor, Specialist Children in Care Nurse, or specialist services.

Initial Health Assessments (IHAs) were undertaken by a face-to-face consultation for those aged 0-5 years throughout the audit period, with those aged 6 years and over returning to face-to-face appointments from June 2021. Where appointments were undertaken using a virtual platform, face-to-face follow up arrangements were utilised as required with GP, Health Visitor, Paediatrician, or other relevant health team.

The cases for both the IHA and RHA audits were picked at random from the overall list of children and young people who had received their health assessment during the above period. The selection was made to include cases from across each of the following age groups: 0-4 years, 5-10 years, and 11-17 years, and included some Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC). The audit sample included children/young people placed out of area, however all the RHAs were undertaken by the CPFT Children in Care Team.

Pre Covid-19, the Designated Professionals would undertake their annual audit of health assessments by attending the Children in Care Team base and be given access to the records, however due to the pandemic records have been redacted and shared electronically. This method of accessing the records has resulted in the audit being restricted to the HAP, and in 3 cases the Leaving Care Health Assessment/Passport; further information regarding some parameters of the audit is often identified from the Health Assessment Questionnaire and/or the SystmOne record.

**Initial Health Assessment Audits**

4.1.2

5 Cases audited by Dr Mona Aslam, Designated Doctor Children in Care

Issue	Doctor's Assessment			Notes
County where child placed	N=1 0-5 years	N=2 5-11 years	N=2 11-17 years	Peterborough
Conducted by	Dr 100%	DR 100%	DR 100%	
Paperwork	F2F 100%	F2F 100%	F2F 50% Review of records 50%	11-17 category 1 UASC very little time for assessment as brought late to IHA. 1 child admitted to the ward night before, so the medical notes were used.
Neonatal blood spot testing	100%	NA	NA	NA- There is not a specific question for Neonatal blood spot testing in the over 5s.

Family History	100%	100%	50%	
Birth History	100%	50%	0%	There is no separate category for Birth History in forms for over 5-year-olds
Outstanding actions from previous HA	NA	NA	NA	Not applicable as this is their first health assessment.
Other Health professionals identified	100%	100%	100%	
Previous Health concerns identified	100%	100%	100%	
Dentist appointment date	0%/NA	50%	0%	0-5 years = not registered with dentist 5-11 years = 1 child still trying to book with a dentist 11-17 years = 1 young person needed urgent care and 1 needs to book an appointment.
IHA – Children < 3y Examination of both eyes	100%	NA	NA	
Vision appointment date	NA	NA/Yes	NA/Yes	5-10 years = 1 child booked 11-17 years = 1 child booked
Hearing – concerns	100%	100%	100%	Every child/young person were asked, but no concerns were identified.
	100%	NA	NA	0-5 years = identified that the neonatal hearing screening was passed.
Neonatal hearing screen recorded	100%	NA	NA	
Immunisations (Routine and additional immunisations)	NA	100%	100%	11-17 – UASC no immunisations documented but the need to commence the catch-up programme was documented in the HAP and the young person was advised to see a dentist.
Height, weight and BMI recorded	100%	100%	100%	
Head circumference (IHA all and RHA only in <2 years)	100%	NA	NA	
Gives picture of development	100%	50%	NA	Very detailed assessment of development.
Educational progress (school age only)	NA	100%	100%/na	11-17 years = 1 case was a UASC who had not yet commenced school.
SDQ score available (completed prior to assessment)	NA	0%	0%	

If not available, SDQ given to carers /young person	NA	100%	50%	11-17 years = 1 case it was not identified that this needed to be sent to the carer.
Emotional well-being discussed	NA	100%	0%	11-17 years = 1 young person not seen face to face and 1 UASC was late to their appointment so there was not enough time to discuss in detail.
CRAFFT screening used	NA	NA	50%	
Child/young person's view	NA	100%	0%	11-17 years = 1 UASC was late to their appointment so there was not enough time to discuss, and 1 young person was not seen face to face.
Lifestyle discussed > 10y	NA	NA	0%	No documentation of sign posting to relevant services. 11-17 years = 1 UASC was late to their appointment so there was not enough time to discuss.
Health issues documented in Action Plan	100%	100%	100%	
Health Action Plan SMART	100%	100%	100%	
Referral made	100%	100%	100%	Difficult to know if referral made as no access to the SystemOne record, but the requirement was captured in the Action Plan and relevant professionals were copied into this.
Are health professional's details clearly documented and paperwork dated?	100%	100%	100%	
Name//NHS Number	NA	NA	NA	All personal information redacted
Evidence has been gathered from S1/ Medical Records	NA	NA	NA	No access to SystemOne to enable checking

## Findings

### 4.1.3

Of the 5 health assessments were conducted face to face by a senior doctor. 1 child was not seen face to face as was admitted to hospital due to self-harm at the time of their appointment.

There was good compliance with health checks overall

100% of children were asked about their immunisation history, and where these were outstanding for a UASC, this was identified as an action in the Health Action Plan.

100% of children/young people had their height, weight, and where appropriate head circumference, documented.

Access to dental health remains a concern, with only 1 of the 2 5-11 years old having been seen by a dentist, and neither of the two 11 -17 years old being seen.

100% Educational progress was noted. 1 UASC was still waiting to be registered in education.



Only 1 of the two (50%) of cases had the developmental progress recorded in the 5-10 category. 0% of SDQs were completed prior to the IHA. All carers were provided with a questionnaire at the end the IHA.

It was unfortunate that in the 11–17-year-old category, 1 young person had been admitted to hospital the day before his/her appointment and was not seen face to face, and that the other young person who was a UASC was brought late to his appointment. As a result, 0% of the child/young person's views and emotional well-being were considered and documented. Lifestyle issues were also not discussed.

## Recommendations

- 4.1.4 There needs to be a better understanding of the importance of SDQ (Strength and Difficulties Questionnaire) by carers: educating carers regarding the purpose of the SDQ and the importance of them completing it, how the SDQ result informs the holistic assessment and contributes to referral for appropriate services or interventions. To further develop the SDQ Pathway as a partnership with social care and education colleagues.

Time must be given for a better understanding of the young person's feelings and concerns. It may be that this already happens, but is not captured in the documentation, in which case the recommendation is to record this information.

For UASC there should be sign posting to the Refugee Council, Cultural and Religious and other charity organisations if appropriate so that the young person can get a sense of belonging. This sign posting may already have taken place by social care colleagues or the care provider, but this should be checked, and relevant information given if required; this should then be captured in the health record.

Lifestyle risks must be explored and signposting to appropriate services and information; this should then be captured in the health record.

Dental health remains a challenge as the Covid-19 pandemic greatly impacted on dental provision, and although provision is increasing, the back log still has implications for access to routine care. Urgent care is always accessible via NHS 111 and no concerns around accessing this was identified in this audit. NHSE Regional Dental Services are working with the Designated Professionals and Lead/Named Nurses to ensure that children and young people in care can access routine dental treatment, with data around need being collected and collated, and General Dental Practices being approached to provide this service to children and young people who they would not normally see. Social Workers and health professionals should continue to escalate issues of non-access to routine dental care to the Designated Professionals so that they can support management of this issue by escalating to NHSE Dental Services for support.

## Review Health Assessment Audit

- 4.2 15 cases were reviewed and audited by Catherine York, Designated Nurse Children in Care

4.2.1

Issue	Nurse's assessments	Notes
County where child placed	All cases reviewed were undertaken by the CPFT Team. The mode of assessment delivery was: Face to face = 6 (40%) Attend Anywhere (AA) = 6 (40%) Telephone = 3 (20%)	Reasons for Telephone as opposed to AA: Foster carer connectivity issues.
Age range of cases reviewed	0-4 years = 5 (33%) 5-10 years = 5 (23%)	

	11-17 years = 5 (44%)	
Conducted by	Specialist Nurse = 15 (100%) Paediatrician = 0 (0%)	
Paperwork	Y = 15 (100%) N = 0 (0%)	
Neonatal blood spot testing	Y = 6 (40%) – This included 100% of those aged 0-5 years. No – 0 (0%) N/A – not on HAP due to age = 7 (47%) N/A UASC = 2 (13%)	The HAP only has a Neonatal Blood Spot Testing field for those aged 0-5 years.
Family History	Y = 11 (73%) N = 2 (13%) UASC N = 0 (0%) Limited = 2 (13%) PH forms - Nil	No record that PH Forms were available for the younger children. It is likely that these were available via SystemOne, but this is not reflected in the HAPs audited.
Birth History	Y = 11 (73%) N = 2 UASC (13%) N = 0 (0%) Limited = (7%) MB forms - Nil	No record that MB Forms were available for the younger children. It is likely that these were available via SystemOne, but this is not reflected in the HAPs audited.
Outstanding actions from previous HA	Y = 1 (7%) N = 0 (0%) N/A = 14 (67%)	Yes = 1 outstanding action regarding visiting the dentist. It was recorded that the young person had not been able to get an appointment. This was carried through as an outstanding action on the HAP.
Other Health professionals identified	Y = 15 (100%) N = 0 (0%) N/A = 0 (0%)	
Previous Health concerns identified	Y = 15 (100%) N = 0 (0%) N/A = 0 (0%)	Each HAP contains evidence of discussions regarding ongoing health concerns, including sleep, nutritional, emotional, vision, heart issues, hearing, toileting, puberty related issues, sexual health and drugs and alcohol use.
Dentist appointment date	Y = 10 (67%) N = 2 (13%) N/A = 1 (7%) UASC had not been able to register with dentist due to Covid-19 = 2 (13%)	N/A answer = X 1 baby. Yes answer = X 1 identified that the child was attending the dentist regularly with the foster family to familiarise her with attending the dentist as she had never been. A date for her own appointment is arranged for the near future.
Vision appointment date	Y = 13 (87%) N = 0 (0%) N/A = 2 (13%) Vision discussed with both	Once HAP detailed referral to Ophthalmology at PCH.

Hearing – concerns	Y = 1 (7%) N = 0 (0%) N/A = 0 (%)  Hearing discussed with carer and young person = 15 cases (100%)	Only one child was identified as having a hearing problem and was under the care of the ENT specialist.  Although hearing problems/issues were not identified in 14 of the 15 (93%) cases, hearing was discussed in each of the cases reviewed (100%).
Hearing date of check (indicated if previous concerns)	Y = 4 (27%) N = 0 (0%) N/A = 11 (73%)	
Neonatal hearing screen recorded	Y = 6 (40%) N = 0 (0%) N UASC = 2 (13%) N/A = 7 (47%)	N/A – used for those aged 6-17 years as this not a prompt on the HAP.
Immunisations (Routine and additional immunisations)	Y = 15 (100%) N = 0 (0%) N/A = 0 (0%)	Yes - included 2 UASC on the catch-up programme.
Height, weight and BMI recorded	Y = 10 (66%)  Referred to other professional or under the care of another professional for growth measurements = 3 (20%)  N = 1 (7%)  Discussed clothes and body shape/size, but no arrangements for growth measurements = 1 (7%)  N/A = 0 (0%)	Due to virtual RHAs, the records identified the following around growth measurements: Foster Carer measured undertook weight and height measurements X 1 Recent Paediatrician appointment measurements used = 2 cases and HV measurements used = 1 case, providing a Yes answer. Arrangements made for HV, Paediatrician, and Diabetic Team to measure growth = 3 cases  No arrangements or follow-up was identified or discussed for 2 cases.
Head circumference (IHA all and RHA only in <2 years)	Y = 1 (7%) N = 0 (0%) N/A = 14 (93%)	
Gives picture of development	Y = 15 (100%) N = 0 (0%)	
Educational progress (school age only)	Y = 10 (67%) - 100% of school age cases N = 0 (0%) N/A = 5 (33%) – all of these were preschool children	The HAP captured details of progress within the pre-school settings for those it was relevant to.
SDQ score available (completed prior to assessment)	Y = 4 (27%) N = 3 (20%) N/A = 8 (53%)	N/A rationale: Global developmental delay = 1 case so not appropriate for use.

		Not age appropriate = 8 cases (too young or too old).  No answer – 1 HAPs stated that the SDQ was completed OOA, but did not show any score.
If not available, SDQ given to carers /young person	Y = 4 (27%) 100% of those with outstanding SDQ N = 0 (0%) N/A = 11 (63%)	
Emotional well-being discussed	Y = 15 (100%) N = 0 (0%) N/A = 0 (0%)	There was evidence of consideration and discussions at an age-appropriate level for each child/young person. The detail recorded was personal to each child/young person.
CRAFFT screening used	Y = 0 (0%) N = 0 (0%) N/A = 15 (100%) Questions about drugs, alcohol and sex were recorded = 5 (33%)	N/A rationale: LD, non-verbal = 1 Age of child/young person = 9  Cases where age appropriate to have discussions re drugs, alcohol, and sex = details of appropriate questions, discussions and information provided were recorded = 5 (33% of sample) / 100% of appropriate cases.
Child/young person's view	Y = 9 (60%) N = 0 (0%) N/A = 6 (40%)	Y = Child young person involved in the assessment or view included in the HAP. Voice of child/young person captured.  Child/young person has severe development delay or not able to provide own view, but the essence of each child clearly captured = 6 cases.
Lifestyle discussed > 10y	Y= 4 (27%) N = 0 (0%) N/A = 11 (63%)	
Health issues documented in Action Plan	Y = 15 (100%) N = 0 (0%) N/A = 0 (0%)	
Health Action Plan SMART	Y = 15 (100%) N = 0 (0%) N/A = 0 (0%)	
Referral made	Y = 3 (20%) N = 0 (0%) N/A = 12 (80%)	Yes, in all cases were identified as required.
Are health professional's details clearly documented and paperwork dated?	Y = 15 (100%) N = 0 (0%) N/A = 0 (0%)	
Name//NHS Number	All personal information redacted	

Evidence has been gathered from S1/ Medical Records	No access to SystmOne to enable checking	
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## Findings

4.2.2

The overall quality of the cases reviewed was found to be good, and in all cases the HAPs and Leaving Care Health Assessment/Passport felt personal to the individual child/young person. In cases where children were younger than 11 years of age, assessments were undertaken with the foster carer in the presence of the child in all cases except one, as the child was asleep.

It was identified that where appropriate, children above the age of 11 were asked questions directly and were very much included in their assessment.

In the 0–5-year age range, information relating to birth history and family history was limited in 2 cases, however it is recognised that this may be reflective of the auditors only having access to the HAP and the information may have been available at the time of the assessment on the health electronic record. This was an improvement from the previous year’s audit.

Neonatal blood spot testing in the 0 – 5-year age range was 100%. For those aged 6- 17 years the N/A option was utilised as the Neonatal blood spot testing is not a prompt on the HAP.

Immunisation uptake was found to be 100% across the age ranges. This included 2 UASC who were undergoing the catch-up programme.

Growth measurement performance has improved greatly from the previous year’s audit where performance was impacted negatively by most health assessments been undertaken using a virtual platform. In this audit period more children and young people were seen face to face, and where they were seen virtually better use of other health professional’s growth measurements of the child/young person were utilised. However, in one case the nurse had entered “Not known, no concerns” within this section.

Head Circumference measurement was undertaken for each case where the child was age appropriate.

There was clear evidence of discussions around dental care and routine appointments in each case, with records identifying 2 young people who were awaiting a dental appointment at the time of their assessment; this action was captured in the HAP.

SDQ was completed in only 3 of the 6 cases where the SDQ was applicable. There is recognition that the Children in Care Health Team email the SDQ to the foster carer for each case where it is appropriate, but that there is an issue with the number of returns the team receive from the foster carers. Health and Social Care colleagues are working together to address this issue, and this includes further developing the SDQ Pathway and working with the Fostering Service around training for foster carers. Where seen face to face, the foster carer is requested to complete the SDQ during the health assessment appointment, however due to the scoring process, the score is not available at the time of the assessment.

There was evidence of consideration and discussions regarding emotional wellbeing at an age-appropriate level for each child/young person. The detail recorded was personal to each child/young person.

The HAPs reviewed all felt personal to the child/young person and included the views of the older child and young person. For the younger child or those who were non-verbal due to disability, the HAPs clearly captured the essence of child.

100 % of cases demonstrated that children/carers had been asked about vision and hearing.

Appropriate lifestyle conversations were evidenced in 100% (4) of cases where this was age appropriate.

100 % of cases showed health issues documented in the Action Plan.

100 % of cases had a SMART health Action Plan.

Referrals were made in 100% of cases where the need was identified, which was 3 of the 15 cases reviewed.

100 % of cases showed that the health professional's details were clearly documented, and paperwork dated.

### **Recommendations**

4.2.3 The Covid-19 pandemic greatly impacted on dental provision, and although provision is increasing, the back log still has implications for access to routine care. Urgent care is always accessible via NHS 111 and no concerns around accessing this was identified in this audit.

NHSE Regional Dental Services are working with the Designated Professionals to ensure that children and young people in care can access routine dental treatment, with data around need being collected and collated, and General Dental Practices being approached to provide this service to children and young people who they would not normally see. Social Workers and health professionals should continue to escalate issues of non-access to routine dental care to the Designated Professionals so that they can support management of this issue by escalating to NHSE Dental Services for support.

SDQ: There is a need to improve performance for completion of SDQs for all children who are aged 5-17 years, and 4-year-olds if they are in full-time education. There is evidence via data reporting, that the Children in Care Health Team email the SDQ to the foster carer for each case where it is appropriate, but that there is an issue with the number of returns the team receive from the foster carers. Health and Social Care colleagues are working together to address this issue, which includes further developing the SDQ Pathway and working with the Fostering Service around training for foster carers.

Where seen face to face, the foster carer is requested to complete the SDQ during the health assessment appointment, however due to the scoring process, the score is not available at the time of the assessment; health practitioners should continue to do this so that the questionnaire is completed, and the score is available shortly after the health assessment but can be incorporated into the overall assessment.

Growth measurement should be undertaken for each child/young person, it is not sufficient to record "Not known, no concern". If not seen in face to face, arrangements should be made for growth measurements to be undertaken and recorded in the health record. If a young person declines, this should be identified in the record.

### **Conclusion for IHA and RHA Audits**

4.3 The audit of the IHAs and RHAs reviewed assessments that were undertaken during the second year of the COVID-19 pandemic, a time when all services within the NHS continued to be under extreme pressure, and mandated restrictions varied according to need throughout the year. The overall quality of the cases reviewed was found to be good, and in all cases the HAPs and Leaving Care Health Assessment/Passport felt personal to the individual child/young person.

There were improvements in performance compared to the previous year's audit, including the number RHAs completed face to face, birth and family history available, and completion of growth measurement.

Ongoing partnership working will contribute positively to the required improvements around accessing routine dental care and improving the number of SDQs completed by foster carers and

returned to the Children in Care Health Team so that they are available at the health assessment. The Children in Care Team Manager participates in the partnership working, where her expertise informs practice and improves health outcomes for children and young people in care.

The 2022/23 audit will need to include 10 IHA cases and 30 RHA cases (as per 2020/21), to ensure a wider review of cases. Quality control of both IHAs and RHAs is performed in real time within the Children in Care Team via peer review and use of a standardised template, thus providing the opportunity to identify any gaps and learning as they occur.

## **5. CONSULTATION**

N/A

## **6. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT**

6.1 To improve health and well-being, and health outcomes for children in care by ensuring that health assessments are of a satisfactory standard, that previously identified health needs have been addressed, that new health needs are identified, appropriate referrals or interventions are instigated and followed-up, and that all aspects of health are captured with a plan to ensure improved health outcomes for all our children and young people. Questions to ensure that safeguarding, physical health, emotional wellbeing, and health promotion are integral to each health assessment and that partnership working is captured are included within the audit tool.

6.2 The audit report provides the findings and recommendations to enable improvements and service

## **7. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION**

7.1 The Corporate Parenting Committee can receive assurances about the quality of health assessments, and the robust audit process that is in place.

## **8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

8.1 N/A

## **9. IMPLICATIONS**

### **Financial Implications**

9.1 N/A

### **Legal Implications**

9.2 N/A

### **Equalities Implications**

9.3 N/A

### **Other Implications**

9.4 This report supports the health needs of Children in Care and Care Leavers with the service supporting them to live a healthy lifestyle and ensure they are offered regular health checks and support to attend these.

**10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

10.1 None

**11. APPENDICES**

11.1 Appendix 1 – N/A

Appendix 2 – N/A



<b>CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM No. 11</b>
20 JULY 2022	<b>PUBLIC REPORT</b>

Report of:	Director of Law and Governance	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Councillor Ayres, Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education, Skills and the University.	
Contact Officer(s):	Karen S Dunleavy Email: karen.dunleavy@peterborough.gov.uk	Tel. 01733 452233

## **DRAFT WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2022/2023 AND REVIEW OF WORK IN 2021/22**

RECOMMENDATIONS	
<b>FROM:</b> Director of Law and Governance	<b>Deadline date:</b> N/A
<p>It is recommended that Corporate Parenting Committee:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. Notes the 2021/2022 year in review and makes recommendations on the future monitoring of these items where necessary.</li> <li>II. Determines its priorities, and approves the draft work programme for formal and informal meetings for 2022/23 attached at Appendix 1.</li> <li>III. Notes the Recommendations and Actions Monitoring Report attached at Appendix 4 and considers if further monitoring of these during the 2022/23 municipal year is required.</li> <li>IV. Notes the Terms of Reference for this Committee as set out in Part 3, Delegations Section 2 – Regulatory Committee Functions, 2.4.</li> </ol>	

### **1. ORIGIN OF REPORT**

1.1 The report is presented to the Committee on behalf of the Director of Law and Governance.

### **2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT**

2.1 To enable the Committee to discuss its objectives and priorities for 2022/23 and to approve the draft work programme for 2022/23 (Appendix 1).

The report also provides the Committee with the opportunity to review its work conducted throughout the municipal year 2020/21. A copy of the actions and recommendation made are attached at Appendix 4.

2.2 This item is being presented to Corporate Parenting Committee under its terms of reference 2.4.4.5): Raise awareness in Peterborough City Council and the wider community by promoting the role of Members as corporate parents and the Council as a large corporate family with key responsibilities.

2.3 In accordance with the Constitution, the Committee is responsible for agreeing a skeleton work programme annually which will be reviewed at each formal meeting. In reviewing the work programme, the Committee may agree to request reports on particular matters of their own preference or as advised by the lead officer.

2.4 The Work Programme links into all of the Children in Care Pledge Priorities and Care Leavers

Charter.

### 3. **TIMESCALES**

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	<b>NO</b>	If yes, date for Cabinet meeting	N/A
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### 4. **BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES**

4.1 The Corporate Parenting Committee was established by Council at its meeting on 13 July 2016. The Committee is scheduled to meet six times a year bi-monthly preceded by an agenda setting meeting.

4.2 Three meetings are formal Committee meetings and three informal meetings. The purpose of the informal meetings will be to engage with looked after children, young people and their representatives.

As part of the Committee's programme of works it can also:

- Make formal recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Children's Services, and to Cabinet collectively;
- Formally report any issues to the relevant Scrutiny Committee, to full Council, or other bodies, such as the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership and the Health and Wellbeing Board.

4.3 The Committee Membership consists of:

- Eleven elected Members
- Up to four Children in Care Council Representatives – with no voting rights
- Up to four Foster Carer Forum Representatives – with no voting rights

4.4 In addition, the Committee has the ability to appoint non-voting co-opt members to help them undertake their work and responsibilities if they feel necessary.

4.5 A work programming session was held on 26 May and at the informal meeting on 15 June 2022 with Members of the Corporate Parenting Committee (CPC) and the Children in Care Council representatives at a meeting in order to prioritise the work of the CPC for the municipal year 2022/2023.

### 5 **REVIEW OF 2021/22**

5.1 During the year 2021/2022, the Committee considered the following issues:

#### **Information/updates**

- Annual Adoption Report
- Annual Independent Reviewing Officer Report
- Annual Virtual School Report
- Annual Corporate Parenting Committee Report to the Children and Education Scrutiny Committee 2020-2021
- Annual Health Report

#### **Standing Agenda Items Include:**

- Updates from Foster Carers (formal meetings)
- Children in Care Council (informal meetings)
- You Asked We Did (informal meetings)
- Various Case Studies (informal meetings)
- Corporate Parenting Champion Updates (updates listed below in the report)

- Members Issues

**Monitoring Items Include:**

- Performance reports, Placements of Children in Care and Scorecard
- Health report
- Case Studies (informal meetings)

**Corporate Parenting Committee Champion Briefing Notes:**

<b>Corporate Champion</b>	<b>Topic</b>
Support for Care Experienced Young People (Housing, Finance and Asylum Issues)	Housing for care leavers
0-25 Physical and Mental Health and Emotional Well Being	Health
0-25 Education, Employment and Training (including the Combined Authority and Partners)	Virtual School and Forest School
Placement Sufficiency and Effective Care Planning	Effective Care Planning for Children and Young People in Care and Foster Carers
0-25 Physical and Mental Health and Emotional Well Being	SDQ's

5.2 For the information of the Committee, a copy of the progress on actions and recommendations raised during the year are attached at Appendix 4

**6. CONSULTATION**

6.1 N/A

**7. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION**

7.1 To ensure the Corporate Parenting Committee fulfil the requirements as set out in the terms of reference attached at Appendix 2.

**8. IMPLICATIONS**

**Financial Implications**

8.1 None.

**Legal Implications**

8.2 Continuous improvement and approval of the coming year's Corporate Parenting priorities providing a planned and focussed approach to the work of Corporate Parenting, is in keeping with good governance.

**Equalities Implications**

8.3 None

**8.4 Other Implications**

Setting and agreeing the draft work programme for 2022/23 and reviewing the past year's work provides an opportunity to ensure that the level of service provided to children in care and care leavers is to the highest standard.

**9. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

9.1 Minutes of the Council meeting held 13 July 2016.

## **10. APPENDICES**

- 10.1 Appendix 1 - Draft Work Programme 2022/23  
Appendix 2 - Terms of Reference  
Appendix 3 - Children in Care Pledge and Care Leavers Promise  
Appendix 4 - Progress on actions and recommendations made in 2021/22

**DRAFT CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2022/2023**

<b>15 June 2022 Informal</b>	<b>Theme:</b> Placement	
	<b>Part 1</b>	
<b>Priority</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Contact Officer</b>
2. Effective care planning	Update from Children in Care Council (CiCC) b) To encourage those children & Young people to express their views, wishes & feelings c) To take account of the views, wishes & feelings of those children & young people  To include young inspectors briefing note	CiCC  Shalina Chandoo/Marya Ali
2. Effective care planning	You Asked We Did b) To encourage those children & Young people to express their views, wishes & feelings c) To take account of the views, wishes & feelings of those children & young people	Shalina Chandoo/ Sika Smith
Priorities 2 - 6	Draft Work Programme 2022 - 2023 and Review of Work in 2021/2022	Karen Dunleavy/Ricky Cooper/Myra O'Farrell
Priorities 2 - 6	Role of Champion Members d) to help those children and young people gain access to, and make the best use of, services provided by the local authority and its relevant partners	Karen Dunleavy/Ricky Cooper/Myra O'Farrell
Priorities 2 - 6	Update from Corporate Parenting Champions	Corporate Parenting Champions
Priorities 2 - 6	<b>Part 2</b>	
Priorities 2 - 6	Case Study – Supervised Contact  The CiCC also to provide their perspective about supervised contact.	Andie Markham
Priorities 2 - 6	Members Issues	All Members

Priorities 2 - 6	Performance report circulated as a briefing note. Any issues can be raised in the Members Issues section of the agenda.	For Information
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<b>20 July 2022 (Formal)</b>		<b>Theme: Placement</b>
<b>Priority</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Contact Officer</b>
2. Effective Care Planning	Update from Foster Carers d) to help those children and young people gain access to, and make the best use of, services provided by the local authority and its relevant partners	Foster Carers/ Despina Kaoura
2. Effective Care Planning	Youth Voice Coordinator Update for CICC d) to help those children and young people gain access to, and make the best use of, services provided by the local authority and its relevant partners	Marya Ali/Shalina Chandoo
Priorities 2 - 6	Appointment of Champion Members d) to help those children and young people gain access to, and make the best use of, services provided by the local authority and its relevant partners	Ricky Cooper/Karen Dunleavy
All Priorities	Annual Fostering Service Report	<b>Sue King (Fostering)</b>
2. Effective care planning	Annual IRO Report 2021 - 2022	Marie Saunders
	Members Issues	
All Priorities	Performance Reports: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Placements of Children in Care</li> <li>• Scorecard</li> <li>• Health Report</li> </ul>	Myra O'Farrell Designated Nurse for Looked After Children
Priorities 2 - 6	Draft Work Programme 2022 – 2023 and Review of Work in 2021 - 2022	Ricky Cooper/Myra O'Farrell/ Karen Dunleavy

<b>21 September 2022 (Informal)</b>		<b>Theme: Education</b>
<b>Priority</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Contact Officer</b>
	<b>Part 1</b>	
2. Effective care planning	Update from Children in Care Council (CiCC) b)To encourage those children & Young people to express their views, wishes & feelings	Children in Care

	c) To take account of the views, wishes & feelings of those children & young people	
2. Effective care planning	You Asked We Did b) To encourage those children & Young people to express their views, wishes & feelings c) To take account of the views, wishes & feelings of those children & young people	Shalina Chandoo/ Sika Smith
All Priorities	Update from Corporate Parenting Champions	Corporate Parenting Champion
Priorities 2 - 6	<b>Part 2</b>	
Priorities 2 - 6	Case Study: Virtual Schools, Operations And Placements?	Dee Glover
Priorities 2 - 6	Members Issues	All Members
Priorities 2 - 6	Work Programme	
Priorities 2 - 6	Performance report circulated as a briefing note. Any issues can be raised in the Members Issues section of the agenda.	For Information

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<b>23 November 2022 (Formal)</b>	<b>Theme:</b> Education	
<b>Priority</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Contact Officer</b>
2. Effective care planning	Update from Foster Carers d) to help those children and young people gain access to, and make the best use of, services provided by the local authority and its relevant partners	Foster Carers
2. Effective care planning	Youth Voice Coordinator for CICC d) to help those children and young people gain access to, and make the best use of, services provided by the local authority and its relevant partners	Shalina Chandoo/ Marya Ali
Priorities 2 - 6	Virtual School report	Dee Glover
	Annual Adoption report	Joe Banks (Adoption)
	Members Issues	
All Priorities	Performance Reports: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Placements of Children in Care</li> <li>Scorecard</li> <li>Health Report - Report to include an update progress for dental appointments for cic</li> </ul>	Ricky Cooper/Myra O'Farrell Designated Nurse for Looked After Children
All Priorities	Annual Corporate Parenting Committee Report to Children and Education Scrutiny Committee	Ricky Cooper/Myra O'Farrell

Priorities 2 - 6	Work Programme	Karen Dunleavy/Ricky Cooper/Myra O'Farrell
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<b>18 January 2023 Informal</b>	<b>Theme: Health</b>	
	<b>Part 1</b>	
<b>Priority</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Contact Officer</b>
2. Effective care planning	Update from Children in Care Council (CiCC) b) To encourage those children & Young people to express their views, wishes & feelings c) To take account of the views, wishes & feelings of those children & young people	CiCC
2. Effective care planning	You Asked We Did b) To encourage those children & Young people to express their views, wishes & feelings c) To take account of the views, wishes & feelings of those children & young people	Shalina Chandoo/ Sika Smith
All Priorities	Update from Corporate Parenting Champions	Corporate Parenting Champion
Priorities 2 - 6	<b>Part 2</b>	
Priorities 2 - 6	Case Study – SDQ update to also include an update on the dental provision for Children and Young People in Care	Designated Nurse for Children in Care
Priorities 2 - 6	Members Issues	All Members
Priorities 2 - 6	Work Programme	Karen Dunleavy/Ricky Cooper/Myra O'Farrell
Priorities 2 - 6	Performance report circulated as a briefing note. Any issues can be raised in the Members Issues section of the agenda.	For Information

<b>15 March 2023 (Formal)</b>	<b>Theme: Health</b>	
<b>Priority</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Contact Officer</b>
2. Effective care planning	Update from Foster Carers d) to help those children and young people gain access to, and make the best use of, services provided by the local authority and its relevant partners	Foster Carers
2. Effective care planning	Youth Voice Coordinator Update for CiCC d) to help those children and young people gain access to, and make the best use of, services provided by the local authority and its relevant partners	Shalina Chandoo/ Marya Ali



	Annual Health Report	Designated Nurse for Looked After Children
	Members Issues	
All Priorities	Performance Reports: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Placements of Children in Care</li> <li>• Scorecard</li> </ul>	Myra O'Farrell

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<b>2.4</b>	<b>Peterborough Corporate Parenting Committee</b>
2.4.1	It is advised that Members undertake relevant training within the past three years in order to hold a seat on this committee.
<b>2.4.2</b>	<b>Terms of Reference</b>
<b>2.4.2.1</b>	<b>Our Commitment to Children and Young People in Care:</b>
	Peterborough City Council is committed to raising the quality of life of everyone living within the city. For children in particular, the city council aims to provide high quality opportunities for learning and ensure children are healthy and safe. It is important that the Corporate Parenting Committee members ensure that the Council provides such care, education and opportunities that the Committee would be afforded to their own children.
<b>2.4.3</b>	<b>Purpose:</b>
2.4.3.1	To ensure that the Council effectively discharges its role as Corporate Parent for all children and young people in care and care leavers and holds partners to account for the discharge of their responsibilities.
2.4.3.2	On behalf of the Council and partners of the Local Authority to ensure that all services directly provided for children and young people in care and care leavers are scrutinised to deliver to a high standard and to all statutory requirements.
2.4.3.3	To raise the aspiration, ambitions and life chances of children and young people in care, narrowing the gap of achievement between children in care and their peers.
2.4.3.4	To ensure that the Council effectively discharges its role as Corporate Parent for all children and young people in care and care leavers and holds partners to account for the discharge of their responsibilities.
2.4.3.5	To ensure that all elected members are aware of their corporate parenting responsibilities and that all Council services are mindful of the needs of children in care and respond accordingly within their particular remit.
<b>2.4.4</b>	<b>Functions of the Committee:</b>
2.4.4.1	To act as advocates for looked after children and care leavers.
2.4.4.2	To receive statutory reports in relation to the adoption, fostering, commissioning, looked after children services and children's homes with a view to recommending any changes.
2.4.4.3	Ensure that the needs of looked after children and care leavers are addressed through key plans, policies and strategies throughout the Council overseeing interagency working arrangements.
2.4.4.4	Review complaints from looked after children to ensure officers have dealt with these appropriately and made any recommendations for change.

2.4.4.5	Raise awareness in Peterborough City Council and the wider community by promoting the role of members as corporate parents and the Council as a large corporate family with key responsibilities.
2.4.4.6	<p>To monitor the quality of care delivered by the City Council and review the performance of outcomes for children and young people in care.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Raise the profile of the needs of looked after children and care leavers through a range of actions including through the organising of celebratory events for the recognition of achievement.</li> <li>2. Ensure that leisure, cultural, further education and employment opportunities are offered and taken up by our looked after children and care leavers.</li> <li>3. Promote the development of participation and ensure that the view of children and young people are regularly heard through the Corporate Parenting Committee to improve educational, health and social outcomes to raise aspiration and attainments.</li> <li>4. Hold meetings with children and young people in care, frontline staff and foster carers to inform the committee of the standards of care and improvement outcomes for looked after children.</li> <li>5. Monitor the ongoing commitment to providing support, training and clarity of expectations to foster carers to achieve excellent and high quality care.</li> <li>6. To appoint elected members as Champions for Children in Care, with the roles being decided and approved by the Committee at the first formal meeting of the municipal year.</li> </ol>
<b>2.4.5</b>	<b>Work Programme</b>
2.4.5.1	The Corporate Parenting Committee will formally agree a skeleton work programme annually which will be reviewed at each formal meeting. In reviewing the work programme, the Committee may agree to request reports on particular matters of their own preference or as advised by the lead officer.
<b>2.4.6.2</b>	<b>Performance Monitoring</b>
	<p>The Corporate Parenting Committee will scrutinise and monitor outcomes for children in care and care leavers. To this end, the Committee will develop and agree a core data set which it wishes to receive at each Committee meeting. Additional detailed monitoring reports will be presented in accordance with the agreed work programme on the following key aspects of care:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Placement stability</li> <li>2. Independent child care reviews</li> <li>3. The performance of all care standards regulated services</li> <li>4. Adoption and adoption support</li> <li>5. Fostering</li> <li>6. Children's homes</li> <li>7. Service to care leavers, including accommodation, education, employment and training</li> <li>8. The health needs of children in care</li> </ol>

	9. Educational attainment of children in care
2.4.5.4	The Corporate Parenting Committee will report to the Cabinet Member for Children’s Services and to the Scrutiny Committee on an annual basis or more frequently if required.
<b>2.4.7</b>	<b>Membership of the Committee</b>
2.4.7.1	There will be a standing membership of the Corporate Parenting Committee to provide continuity and consistency. Councillors outside the standing membership will be invited to discuss issues and raise questions within a standing agenda item.
2.4.7.2	The membership of the Corporate Parenting Committee must include the Cabinet Member with the responsibility for Children’s Services.
2.4.7.3	All Councillors are invited to attend the informal meetings. The Committee may also co-opt non-voting members. Membership may include up to four foster carers and representatives from the Children in Care Council. The Committee may invite participation from non-members where this is relevant to their work.
<b>2.4.8</b>	<b>Children in Care Council</b>
2.4.8.1	Representatives from the Children in Care Council may attend the Corporate Parenting Committee up until and no later than 8pm.

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# Our Promise to Children and Young People in Care

This promise was written by your Children in Care Council and Children's Services to make sure you are getting the right services and support.

1



We will work to keep you safe and help you to keep yourself safe.

2



We will do everything we can to make you feel cared about, valued and respected as an individual.

3



We will be honest with you and explain if we are unable to do something we said we would do. We will not make unrealistic promises to you.

4



We will involve you in decision making so your views are listened to, and will explain when we make a decision you may not like or agree with.

5



We will work to keep you in a supportive and caring environment where you feel safe and happy.

6



We will support you to maintain a healthy lifestyle and help look after your physical and mental health.

7



We will help you see your family, friends and other people who are important to you. If there are people we can't support you to see, we will explain why.

8



We will support you to achieve your goals and reach your potential, in your education, hobbies and interests.

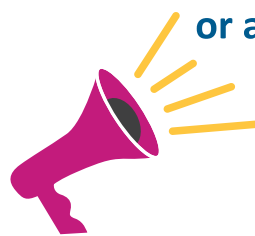
9



We will work with you to give you all the help and support you need to make a success of moving on from care to adult life.

10

We will make sure you have the up-to-date information you need, including who is working with you and how to give us your views or ask us for help.



To give us feedback on how well Children's Services are keeping these promises, contact the Participation Team:

[participation@peterborough.gov.uk](mailto:participation@peterborough.gov.uk)



PETERBOROUGH  
CITY COUNCIL

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Meeting Type	Meeting Date	Item	Recommendation	Actions	Referred to	Response/ Outcome	Needs Follow Up
Informal	16/06/21	5. Work Programme		The Corporate Parenting Committee agreed that the Assistant Director for Children's services would include information on the following within forthcoming reports:  1. Arrangements of residential care homes for Children and Young People in Care. 2. Exam results and the impact of Covid 19. 3. Apprenticeships and career opportunities available to young people in care. 3. A progress report to be provided on the Regional Adoption Agency.	Nicola Curley	Ongoing	completed
Informal	16/06/21	6. Corporate Parenting Champion		The Corporate Parenting Committee Members would confirm their preferred corporate Parenting Champion Role.	Members	Completed and approved at the formal meeting on 21 July 2021	completed
Formal	21/07/21	10a. Performance Report - Placements of Children in Care and Scorecard		The Committee noted the report and agreed that the Assistant Director, Regional Adoption and Fostering and Specialist would explore whether comparative data with statistical neighbours and historical data could be provided for future performance reports going forward.	Ricky Cooper	Work is ongoing with the performance team to identify what reports are available	completed
Formal	21/07/21	10b. Performance Report - Health		The Committee noted the report and agreed that the Designated Nurse for Looked After Children would explore the reasons for delay in relation to receiving paperwork from other service areas which had delayed health assessments being conducted.	Catherin York - Designated Nurse		Needs Follow Up
Formal	21/07/21	12. Work Programme		In addition, Members asked for further information to be included in reports in relation to: 1.The impact on young people Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET) during the Covid-19 pandemic; and 2.The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the health of children and young people in care.	Nicola Curley	The impact of the pandemic has been included in reports	completed
Informal	22/09/21	5. Corporate Parenting Champion Update		Members noted the report and agreed that the Democratic Services Officer would include the participation officers in the circulation of the Champion briefing notes so that these could be sent to the CiCC representatives.	Karen Dunleavy	Completed 27/09/2021	completed
Informal	22/09/21	5. Corporate Parenting Champion Update		The Democratic Services Officer would send the participation officers a list of champion members to circulate to the members of the CiCC so they know who to contact.	Karen Dunleavy	Completed 27/09/2021	completed
Informal	22/09/21	7. Members Issues		Members agreed that an agenda item would be included for informal meetings to provide the opportunity for the CiCC to discuss and raise questions in relation to services for children and young people in care.	Karen Dunleavy	To be discussed at the agenda setting meeting 29 October 2021.	completed
Formal	24/11/21	5. COMMITTEE START TIME FOR 2022/2023		Corporate Parenting Committee RESOLVED to that the start time for formal and informal meetings would be as follows:  Formal 6:00PM Informal 5.30PM	Karen Dunleavy	Completed	completed
Formal	24/11/21	6. UPDATE FROM FOSTER CARERS COMMITTEE		The Head of Service Fostering and Supervised Contact Service would provide Members with the figures of how many people engaged in the specialist learning need training, including Autism.	Ricky Cooper		Needs Follow Up

Meeting Type	Meeting Date	Item	Recommendation	Actions	Referred to	Response/ Outcome	Needs Follow Up
Formal	24/11/21	9. Report on the Work of Corporate Parenting for the Children and Education Scrutiny Committee		<p>That the annual report was an accurate reflection of the work of the Committee over the last 12 months;</p> <p>To submit the annual report to the Children and Education Scrutiny Committee for noting as per the Corporate Parenting Committee's Terms of Reference;</p> <p>The report would include a further explanation on the outcome of the independent care review. The additional information would be circulated to the Corporate Parenting Committee Members once the Children and Education Scrutiny Committee report had been updated; and</p> <p>The Children and Education Scrutiny Committee report date would be corrected prior to submission.</p>	Myra OFarrell	Completed	completed
Formal	24/11/21	11. PERFORMANCE REPORT (PLACEMENTS OF CHILDREN IN CARE AND SCORECARD		<p>The Head of Corporate Parenting would explore the inclusion of a broader and pictorial target indicator to be included within the performance reports to demonstrate that the number of children and young people in care was reflected in a more meaningful way; and</p> <p>The Assistant Director, Regional Adoption and Fostering would explore whether a performance report could include numbers of children and young people in care that were waiting for adoption but had not been placed.</p>	Ricky Cooper		Needs Follow Up
Formal	24/11/21	12. PERFORMANCE REPORT (HEALTH)	<p>The Committee recommended that a letter would be written on their behalf to the National Health Service (NHS) England to highlight the concerns raised at the Corporate Parenting Committee meeting about:</p> <p>1. The shortfall in the current NHS dental provision for children and young people in care, and ask how it was planned to resolve this nationally and support the local regional efforts to mitigate the issue; and</p> <p>2. The national management and prioritisation of initial health assessments and Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaires (SDQs) for children placed outside of their home Local Authority and ask them to explain how this longstanding issue would be addressed.</p>		Nicola Curley	Update provided within Annual Health report by Designated Nurse	16-Mar-22
	24/11/21	12. PERFORMANCE REPORT (HEALTH)		<p>1.The Assistant Director, Regional Adoption and Fostering would the highlight issues in relation to the return of SDQs at the foster carer mentoring meeting, with the view to raising awareness through the mentoring programme.</p> <p>2. The Assistant Director for Early Help and Children's Services would highlight the dental appointment concerns raised with the Department for Health.</p>	Ricky Cooper Nicola Curley	Completed	Item 1 Needs Follow Up
Formal	16/03/22	5. UPDATE FROM THE YOUTH VOICE COORDINATOR FOR THE CHIDLREN IN CARE COUNCIL		the Quality Assurance Lead would share the children and young people in care contact centre feedback report with Members at the next informal Corporate Parenting Committee meeting.	Shalina Chandoo		Completed 15 June 2022 at the informal meeting
	16/03/22	7. PERFORMANCE REPORT (PLACEMENTS OF CHILDREN IN CARE AND SCORECARD)		The Service Manager Corporate Parenting would investigate the anomaly with the data in relation to the performance report and ensure that the figures reported in the Corporate Parenting Scorecard going forward would be accurate or provide an explanation within the report for the difference in the figures where appropriate.	Michaela Berry		Completed
	16/03/22	7. PERFORMANCE REPORT (PLACEMENTS OF CHILDREN IN CARE AND SCORECARD)		The Assistant Director, Regional Adoption and Fostering would provide Members with a briefing note on the current audits and checks that ensured a robust process was in place and working effectively to safeguard all children and young people.	Rick Cooper		Needs Follow Up