

CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY 23 NOVEMBER 2022
6.00 PM

Bourges/Viersen Room - Town Hall

AGENDA

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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

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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

**MINUTES OF THE CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE MEETING (FORMAL)
HELD AT 6:00PM, ON
WEDNESDAY, 20 JULY 2022
SAND MARTIN HOUSE, ENGINE SHED, BITTERN WAY, PETERBOROUGH**

Committee Members Present: Councillor Yasin, (Chairman (Chair), Councillors Ayres, Barkham, Bisby, S Bond, Howard, Knight, Robinson and Sainsbury.

Officers Present: Jenny Goodes, Assistant Director Early Help and Social Care
Shalina Chandoo, Quality Assurance Lead
Tessa Bilson, Lead Nurse, Children in Care
Marie Saunders, Independent Review Officer (IRO)
Helen Card, Independent Reviewing Officer
Despina Kaoura, Fostering Service Manager
Sue King, Service Manager, Fostering Household Review & Practice Standards
Michaela Berry, Service Manager Corporate Parenting
Karen S Dunleavy, Democratic Services Officer

Also Present: Glen Crossland, Foster Carer Committee Representative

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Jones and Lane.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

3. MINUTES OF THE CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 16 MARCH 2022

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 March 2022 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

4. UPDATE FROM FOSTER CARERS COMMITTEE

The Corporate Parenting Committee received a report in relation to updates from the Foster Carer Committee. Members were provided with an overview of the responses received from a recent survey conducted.

The purpose of the report was to update the Committee about the activities of the Foster Carer Committee (FCC).

The Fostering Service Manager and Foster Carer Representative introduced the report and asked Members to note the contents and raise any queries they had with representatives.

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

- Members complimented the Foster Carers Committee for their contribution to Foster Carer retention.
- The Skills to Fostering four-day training course was delivered to prospective foster carers. The training course had become a little stale, so the decision was made to change supplier to Journey2Foster and a transition process was applied. The foster carers had been consulted and the decision was made with them to appoint the new training provider.
- There were inconsistencies across the country in terms of passport issuing for children and young people in care and there was an application back log of two and a half years. A task and finish group had been set up by the Fostering Service to explore the issues. The work would be incorporated into the Promise to CiC and YP in care. The task and finish group would look to start the passport application process when children or young people come into care. Members were also advised that the groups' findings would be reported back to Committee and support would be sought from Members to move the findings forward.
- The transport issues highlighted within the report were being reviewed and work was underway to launch a new transport booking and tracking application in September 2022, which was hoped to provide the foster carers with additional delegated authority and information on the whereabouts of their children during a taxi journey.
- Members were advised that the transport booking and tracking technology was available, however, tasks were being undertaken to ensure that all systems were synchronised and would work to the benefit of all parties.
- Members commented that they were aware of the issue of missing documents for passport applications and in some cases children in care had to attend interviews to prove that they were in care, which was felt to be distressing for the child.
- Members were advised that there had been several reasons that foster carers had switched to agency companies which included the level of allowances paid and a series of system frustrations they had experienced. In addition, it was advised that foster carers that had switched to the private fostering agencies had not realised that there were hidden costs involved such as mileage or set up costs for a child, which would not be met by the agency.
- Some foster carers had supported other carers during investigations and the transition to adoption. There would be training provided for them to support the foster parents.
- Members were advised that it was a difficult decision to place a child that had no passport into respite care during a family holiday. Often the respite care would be placed with another foster family known to the child or young person in care. The issues had arisen when a holiday had already booked before a child had arrived at the foster carer home.

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

AGREED ACTIONS

The Corporate Parenting Committee noted the report and agreed that the Assistant Director Early Help and Social Care would provide Members with a briefing note on:

- I. The work undertaken to improve the passport issues being experienced by foster families and to outline the progress of the task and finish group to date. In addition, the briefing note should include information on the delays experienced in retrieving documents required for passport applications and the actions being undertaken to rectify this.
- II. The transport issues being experienced by foster families and progress of the software application launch. The briefing note should also include the progress made on the delegated authority provision to foster carers to control transport arrangements for their foster children.

5. UPDATE FROM THE YOUTH VOICE COORDINATOR ON BEHALF OF 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 update Members on the Children in Care Council activities and participation services.

The Quality Assurance Lead introduced the report and asked Members to note the update and raise any queries they had with officers.

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

- Members were advised that there had been a report circulated which outlined the young inspectors feedback following the Contact Centres. In addition, it was advised that the young Inspectors would conduct a future visit to the Contact Centres and provide feedback. Some Members would also attend a visit to the Centres, which was to be organised following an action point raised at the informal meeting held on 15 June 2022.
- Each Councillor would receive a concertina cards, which outlined the Promise to Children and Young People in care. This had been arranged for a forthcoming Council meeting.
- The CiCC had undertaken several projects to support mental health issues for children and young people in care. The CiCC meetings would talk to professionals and foster carers with the aim to assist in the development of posters and other tools to raise awareness of the issues. The achievements in promoting support for mental health issues would be recognised through the Children and Young People in Care award events.
- Communications in relation to the award events would be sent through various contact opportunities such as the Foster Carer Team, IROs, strategies, conferences, and the feedback received had highlighted that foster carers felt somewhat overwhelmed by the amount of information they received.
- There had been 60 confirmations received for the CiC and CL award event.
- Members commented that the report had reflected the young people's confidence had grown. In addition, it was felt positive that the CiCC wanted to take on more ownership of the informal Corporate Parenting Committee meetings going forward, which Members welcomed.

- Some CiCC events offered were virtual, however some CiC and YP had been overwhelmed by the virtual environment at schools and similar activities, so would tend to avoid them.

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

AGREED ACTIONS

The Corporate Parenting Committee noted the report and agreed that the Quality Assurance Lead would provide the Committee's positive feedback to the CiCC and CLF about their involvement in informal meetings.

6. APPOINTMENT OF CHAMPION MEMBERS

The Corporate Parenting Committee received a report in relation to the Champion positions and nominations to those roles.

The purpose of the report was to set and approve the Corporate Parenting Committee Champion roles and positions.

The Democratic Services Officer introduced the report and asked Members to appoint to the relevant Champion positions.

The Corporate Parenting Committee considered the report and **RESOLVED** (Unanimously) to the appointment of Corporate Parenting Committee Champions and roles.

AGREED ACTIONS

The Corporate Parenting Committee agreed to appoint the following Champion roles and Councillors to those positions as nominated:

- I. Support for Care Experienced Young People (Housing, Finance and Asylum Issues) - Cllr S Bond
- II. 0-25 Education, Employment and Training (including the Combined Authority and Partners) - Cllr Sainsbury
- III. 0-25 Physical and Mental Health and Emotional Well Being - Cllr Robinson
- IV. Citizenship, Participation and Leisure activities - Cllr Barkham
- V. Placement Sufficiency and Care Planning - Cllr Jones
- VI. Fostering: Cllr Knight.

7. ANNUAL FOSTERING SERVICE REPORT

The Corporate Parenting Committee received a report in relation to the Annual Fostering Services.

The purpose of the report was to inform Members about the activity of the fostering service.

In addition, Members noted that there had been an impact to the service following resignations of foster carers and this had been as a result of the pandemic and elderly carers retiring.

The Service Manager, Fostering Household Review & Practice Standards, introduced the report and asked Members to note the content and raise any queries they had with officers.

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

- It was advised that Covid 19 had also impacted carer retention due to ill health and lost employment. There had also been a mix of retired carers and family commitments, that had also impacted the issues of FC retention.
- Members commented that there had been a focussed visit a year ago from Ofsted which received a positive outcome. Members also congratulated the Fostering Team on their successful work.
- Members were advised that the LGBTQ community, Christmas and Easter Fostering recruitment campaigns had been very successful.
- There were ways of knowing where the target audience was in order to recruit FCs; and the LA had commissioned a good public relations team to attract more enquiries. In addition, the Fostering Team would respond to enquiry emails from prospective carers immediately.
- If a foster carer was subject to an investigation, they were entitled to legal advice and could access the LA's Employee Assistance Programme.
- The Government had made a decision to receive unaccompanied Ukrainian children up to the age of 18. The LA would manage care for children up to the age of 16 under private fostering legislation. The older children between 16 to 18 years would be assessed under the child in need process. The children would need to be placed with a family in the UK that they had a link with.
- Peterborough had not received unaccompanied minors from the Ukraine however there had been 20 received in Cambridgeshire.

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

8. ANNUAL IRO REPORT 2021 - 2022

The Corporate Parenting Committee received a report in relation to the Annual Independent Reviewing Officer Service 2021-2022.

The purpose of the report was to provide Members with an overview of the statutory review and analysis of the Independent Reviewing Service

The Deputy Safeguarding Lead and Independent Review Officer introduced the report and asked Members to note the content and raise any queries they had with officers.

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

- Members were advised that the Independent Care Review was quite daunting for the team and discussions were currently underway but it was hoped that the role would continue.
- Quite often children and young people in care would raise issues such as contact, with their IRO instead of their Social Worker. This was thought to happen because children and young people had either experienced changes in Social Worker, or would be more open with an IRO, due to the stronger relationship. Members commented that this highlighted the importance of the IRO role.
- Members were advised that it was difficult to obtain feedback from service users in relation to the IRO service. Creative ways were being explored to obtain feedback such as the use of QR codes to make forms more accessible.

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

9. PERFORMANCE REPORT (PLACEMENTS OF CHILDREN IN CARE AND SCORECARD)

The Corporate Parenting Committee received a report in relation to performance data for Children in Care and Care Leavers.

The purpose of the report was to update Members in respect of the numbers of children and young people being looked after by the Council as of May 2022 by providing 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 advised that there was an error in the report and the information should state that there were 124 children placed with in house foster care instead of 138. In addition, the health assessments completed figure was inaccurate and this was due to system synchronisation, and plans were underway to improve this.

The Service Manager Corporate Parenting introduced the report and asked Members to note the contents and raise any queries with officers

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

- Members commented that the wording in the report on page 72 at paragraph 4.1 in relation to step down to foster placement should be reviewed.
- When children were ready to move from residential care into foster care, meetings be held with the step down to foster care group to ensure that the most appropriate placement was found. This had provided children with complex needs, the opportunity to enjoy a family environment.
- Members complimented the service in relation to the successful adoption placement figures.
- The Local Authority (LA) had performed to a high standard for adoption placements nationally.
- Members raised concerns in relation to an issue reported with Bear Care Services, there had been unregistered facilities used for independent living.

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

AGREED ACTIONS

The Corporate Parenting Committee noted the report and agreed that the Service Manager Corporate Parenting would:

- Review the use of step down to foster care descriptions and replace the term with more appropriate wording;
- Provide Members with clarification over the timeliness of adoption placement target figures used within the performance report; and
- Check and confirm to Members whether there were any children placed in care with Care Fostering Services.

10. PERFORMANCE REPORT (HEALTH)

The Corporate Parenting Committee received a report in relation to Health Services for Children and Young People in Care.

The purpose of the report was to provide Members with an update on the performance of Initial Health Assessments, Review Health Assessments and the Strength and Difficulties Questionnaire. 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 and young people in care. Members were advised of the services that were given priority such as dentistry.

Regular meetings were being attended by the Lead Nurse, to tackle the issues of dental care. Dentists were being approached to volunteer their services for children and young people in care. Members were also advised that improvements had been made on the strength and difficulties questionnaires such as training for foster carers and an update would be provided at a future the Committee meeting in due course. Initial Health Assessments and leaving care health passports were also being focused on.

The Lead Nurse, Children in Care introduced the report and asked Members 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 there was a dental emergency service offered through the dental access in Midgate Peterborough that could be accessed for children and young people in care. In addition, there was a mouth care tool available for Health Care Workers or Social Workers to identify dental issues and refer on priority cases as necessary.
- There had been opportunity to identify mental health issues within the initial health assessments, and young people were asked to rate their mood on forms. Mental Health Services and information would also be made available to children and young people in care should it be required.
- Members felt that the dental costs for children and young people in care should not be met by the Local Authority as the National Health Service (NHS) was adequately funded to do so.

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

AGREED ACTIONS

The Corporate Parenting Committee agreed to note the report and agreed that the Lead Nurse, Children in Care would:

- I. Ensure that Mental Health assessment statistics would be included within the health performance reports going forward.
- II. Provide Members with information about dental health costs being met by the Local Authority and the reasons why the NHS was not meeting the costs.

11. DRAFT WORK PROGRAMME 2022 – 2023 AND REVIEW OF WORK IN 2021 - 2022

The Corporate Parenting Committee received a report in relation to the draft work programme for 2022-2023 and the review of work in 2021-2022.

The purpose of the report was to enable the Committee to discuss its objectives and priorities and approve the draft work programme for 2022/23.

The Democratic Services Officer introduced the report and asked Members to review work conducted in 2021 – 2022 and highlight any areas for continued review and agree and set its priorities for 2022-2023.

- Members commented that the education items to be presented to the Committee would need to include information on the education services for children in care with disability needs.
- Members were advised that there was a requirement for co-opted members to originate from a specialised background in order to assist the Committee with their work. In addition, any suggestions would need to follow a recruitment and ratification process in order to adopt a co-opted member onto the Corporate Parenting Committee.

The Corporate Parenting Committee considered the report and **RESOLVED** (Unanimously) to note the contents and agreed the Work Programme for 2022-2023

AGREED ACTIONS

The Corporate Parenting Committee noted the report and agreed that the Head of Virtual Schools would include information in future education reports to Committee about services provided to children and young people in care with disability support requirements.

12. MEMBERS ISSUES

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

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

CHAIRMAN
END 8:01PM

CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE (FORMAL)	AGENDA ITEM No. 4
23 NOVEMBER 2022	PUBLIC REPORT

Report of: Nicola Curley	Nicola Curley, Interim Director of Children's Services	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Councillor Lynne Ayres, Cabinet Member for Children's Services	
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

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

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

1.1 This report is submitted to the Corporate Parenting Committee as a regular work programme item.

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?	NO	If yes, date for Cabinet meeting	
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4. BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

4.1 Overview of activity

This report has been prepared to update the Corporate Parenting Committee on participation activity and collaborative working with Peterborough Foster Carers, and to provide an overview of relevant service development activity.

The Peterborough Foster Carer Community (PFCC) continue to meet bi-monthly, and the Annual General Meeting will take place in December 2022.

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.

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 remains central to plans for service development.

The Fostering Service continues to attend 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 Children's Teams 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.

The Head of Service for Fostering continues to meet monthly with the Chair and Vice Chair of both the PFCC (and the Cambridgeshire Foster Carer Association), which provides the opportunity to discuss service developments and plans in more detail, and to review feedback from Foster Carers received at formal meetings. In October, the Head of Service alongside key managers also hosted an informal meeting attended by a number of Foster Carers from across both Local Authorities which raised a productive discussion on topics such as: Cost of Living, re-imburement for Childrens emergency clothing and other items, complex needs of children coming into the care system and support needs of carers, the updated Clinical Offer, and new transport Portal (amongst other topics).

The PFCC are invited to be involved in a range of work schemes being initiated within the service and are very proactive in providing their experience, knowledge, and skills to support service development.

- 4.2 The service continues to invite carers to be actively involved in and contribute to a range of new and established initiatives and working groups e.g., the existing carer retention working group. The carer retention work is ongoing with the group meeting monthly and continues to be supported by carers from both Local Authorities. The impact of the group and the work to develop our approach to carers at risk of stopping fostering (for any reason) has been evident in improved foster carer retention and positive feedback from carers.

It is clear our new approach, which is informed by carer experience, is having a positive impact on the way we respond to our carers, and is becoming embedded into daily practice e.g. supporting all carers undergoing any kind of investigation into their

practice with access to peer support as well as more formal support as part of policy and procedure.

The group includes staff from across the service in order that retention of carers becomes embedded into the culture of the service from the starting point of our foster carers' journey into fostering.

- 4.3 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. We are also supported in this area by our local elected Member Champion.
- 4.4 We continue to work together with carers to develop our Mentoring Scheme; mentors are allocated to and support carers who might be experiencing a difficult time in their fostering role, e.g., those who are subject to an allegation or Standards of Care investigation. Currently we have one Foster Carer Mentor who has been trained and supported by the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) to offer support to carers. We hope to increase this offer to at least two specialist mentors across the service. It is anticipated that experienced Foster Carer Mentors will be matched to and provide support to carers who are new to the service, in assessment or undertaking a fostering task which may be unfamiliar to them.
- 4.5 Face to face (in person) Support Groups for carers have returned (following the pandemic) and are being held in easily accessible community venues within the city. Some virtual Support Groups will continue for specific meetings i.e., for those times which may prove difficult for carers to attend, for instance evening meetings. There are two Support Groups for Peterborough Carers including the group focussed on child development for 0–5-year-olds. We are now offering a monthly (virtual) Support Group for both PCC and CCC carers of teenage young people and the very specific needs they present with. This has been welcomed by carers from PCC and CCC. Foster Carer forums have been very proactive in attending and supporting these groups.
- 4.6 The Service has fully supported carers from PFCC and CFCA to organise and attend a day out at Wicksteed Park with all the children and young people in their care and birth children. This activity proved to be very enjoyable for all, much fun was had by our children, carers and a meet and greet was hosted by our staff.
- 4.7 The service is busy organising the Annual Foster Carer Awards which is held to celebrate our Fostering Community. This is taking place on 18 November at Burgess Hall in St Ives. It is hoped that this event will be well attended and enjoyed by all.

The Fostering Service has implemented a 'Feedback Loop' System. This is a new initiative whereby specific issues raised by the Foster Carer forums are collated and discussed with the relevant areas of the wider children's services. Responses are collated and then shared with the Chairs and Vice Chairs.

- 4.8 The PFCC held two meetings in the second quarter of 2022. The following matters were raised/discussed:
 - 4.8.1 **Transport:** Foster Carers continue to experience issues with transport, particularly at the start of the new (Autumn) school term. Foster Carers report that there continue to be instances where taxis have not been provided for children's appointments or where a child's transport needs have needed to be changed, however carers are unable to

make these changes. Carers also report that they continue to have difficulties making contact with Social Workers to inform of changes to journeys in a timely manner.

Foster Carers have suggested a system whereby the Foster Carer arranges the transport or makes changes to transport arrangements when needed with the transport service which is then authorised by the child's Social Worker. Foster Carers feel as they are managing the children's daily activities that this would support improvement.

Service response: The Fostering Head of Service and Service Manager will be discussing the suggestions provided by Foster Carers with the Assistant Director for Education Capital and Placement Planning. It is anticipated that this meeting will take place by mid November. The service is also keen to explore a system whereby urgent requests for transport to school can be instigated by the Fostering Service at the point a child moves into a fostering household.

Representatives from the Fostering Service continue to attend all Transport Development meetings to share the experience of Foster Carers and the children they look after. The Team Manager for Passenger Transport Operations has also attended a Peterborough Foster Carer Support Group which carers found useful and Foster Carers heard that there has been some delay with the launch of the new transport portal and that the team continues to work with all departments to ensure all service area needs are met.

- 4.8.2 **Junior ISAs and Trust Fund Accounts:** Foster Carers continue to seek clarity in regard to procedures around the opening of ISAs/Trust Fund Accounts for Children in Care. Ideally Foster Carers would like one point of contact to advise on savings/ISA accounts and a dedicated email for this activity. Foster Carers have also asked for an update in regard to pocket money expectations, the policy being on hold whilst carer feedback was considered.

Service Response: The responsible Service Manager will be escalating their request for clarity to colleagues in the Corporate Parenting Service and will discuss the need to develop a clear procedure for Foster Carers and suggestions regarding a single point of contact. We apologise that there has been a delay in achieving clarity around expectations relating to the pocket money Foster Carers should be giving children. We recognise this is outstanding and a request for resolution has been raised with senior management.

- 4.8.3 **Rising energy costs:** Foster Carers have recently received an additional payment from the Local Authority in recognition of the rising energy costs. The majority of carers have responded to say they are grateful for his recognition by the Local Authority. Carers, however, did express their concerns and some anxiety with regards to the issues around the increasing cost of living.

Service response: The service recognises the national, local and fostering specific challenges related to the increase in energy costs and general cost of living. In addition to the financial recognition which has been made to carers, the service has also shared, and will continue to share via the newsletter, details of organisations offering advice and guidance and Foster Carers can also access the Council's Employee Assistance Programme which also offers additional source of information and advice.

- 4.8.4 **Children's passports:** Foster Carers have raised that they continue to experience delays in passports being applied for. Carers have requested guidance with regard to who can and who should apply for passports and when this should be done.

Service response: The Fostering Service has been working with the wider Children's Service to develop a passport procedure. The Passports for Children in Care Procedure has been drafted and shared for comment with the Chair and Vice Chair. Once comments have been reviewed, the procedure will be implemented. This is planned for mid November and the service will share this with both Foster Carer forums and staff followed by the wider Fostering Community in the December newsletter.

4.8.5 **Children's emergency clothing and personal items:** Foster Carers have raised that children newly into care can arrive at their home without the clothing and personal care items that they need. Whilst the cost for these is reimbursed to carers, Foster Carers are concerned that not all carers will have the funds to buy these items immediately.

Service response: The Fostering Service will ensure Supervising Social Workers are proactive in ensuring that carers are aware of what they can apply for in relation to the emergency clothing allowance as detailed in the Foster Carer Handbook. The Fostering Service is undertaking a review of its internal financial processes relating to this activity and will streamline where possible to ensure timely payment. Where there is uncertainty about who is responsible for funding certain items or activities, the Fostering Service is also responsible for resolving this with colleagues from across the wider organisation.

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

9.5 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

CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE (FORMAL)	AGENDA ITEM No. 5
23 NOVEMBER 2022	PUBLIC REPORT

Report of:	Nicola Curley, Interim 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

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

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.

This report supports the council's Prevention, Independence & Resilience corporate priority.

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?	NO	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 updated young people on the work of the Children in Care Council (CiCC), Care Leaver Forum (CLF) and other participation groups including the Young Inspectors, have advertised the 'Every Word Matters' project launch and the Virtual Art Exhibition, and have promoted other relevant opportunities including training opportunities with the Virtual School, the Children's Commissioner's Big Summer Survey, courses for Care Leavers and an Explore University event with ARU Peterborough.

4.2 Children and Young People started working on the 'Every Word Matters' project, looking at the language used around children with social care experience, sharing views and feelings on certain words and suggesting alternatives. In addition to supporting each participation group to provide their feedback on the project, the Participation Team organised focus groups for three different age groups in the October half term to gather views from young people. The focus groups included an engaging lyric writing workshop led by a local award-winning Music Practitioner and Rap Lyricist.

4.3 The annual Virtual Art Exhibition was launched in October 2022 and comprised of artwork submitted by children and young people in Peterborough and Cambridgeshire. Many of the art pieces were produced in workshops supported by the Participation Team and were gifted to local family contact centres so they can be enjoyed by children and families who use those spaces.

4.4 The CiCC continue to meet in person on a monthly basis to work on their own projects as well as look at consultation requests, meet professionals and give feedback on services. Recent consultations with children and young people in care have included a co-production request in relation to the Virtual School website revamp and looking at an ePEP App to seek views from children and young people about their educational progress and support needs.

4.5 The CiCC invited the Peterborough Youth MP to a recent meeting to look at what wellbeing meant to them. The Youth MP will feed their discussion into UK Youth Parliament research on health and wellbeing which will directly inform their national priorities and will return to share their research findings with the CiCC.

- 4.6 The CiCC has been working on its Mental Health Project for the last year and is focusing on creating a video aimed at teenagers to destigmatise mental health issues and signpost to available support, that can be shared widely. The group has created a script, drawn illustrations, taken example photos and videos and formulated ideas on what the final video will look like. They have recorded some of the audio and have met with professionals to confirm what they envisage the final video will look like.
- 4.7 The Children in Care Council (CiCC) enjoyed the opportunity to meet Corporate Parents at the face-to-face informal Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee in September. The group gave lots of positive feedback following the meeting, saying they understood a lot more than they had at previous meetings, felt they were at the centre of the meeting and enjoyed co-chairing the meeting rather than just listening. The young people brought cards to hold up if they had questions or found the meeting was getting too formal for them and found these useful if some of them did not feel confident enough to speak up.
- 4.8 The Children in Charge Youth Club continues to meet fortnightly during term time. The Youth Club attendees recently worked on creating new greeting card designs, using the 2022 Virtual Art Exhibition entries, which will be printed and shared with professionals for their use. They also started discussing words for the 'Every Word Matters' project, talking about the stigma attached to certain words and using scrapbooks to note down their thoughts and feelings. The group requested a visit from a police officer so they could learn more about the profession, and this was arranged by the Participation Team.
- 4.9 The Young Recruiters continue to be actively involved in recruitment and helped conduct Open University social work course interviews and interviews for a new Family Group Conference Coordinator. The Young Recruiters also helped choose a new Participation Officer to fill an existing vacancy, who will be starting the role in late November.
- 4.10 The Young Inspectors completed re-inspections of some of the Supervised Contact Centres in the October half term, to ascertain whether their recommendations had been implemented by the service. Further re-inspections are planned in the coming months, after which a new report will be drafted and shared by the group. The Young Inspectors were also involved in creating a mural for one of the centres alongside local artists during the October half term. The group has demonstrated its commitment to the project and was recognised by being nominated for, and winning, the Coram Voice 'A National Voice' Participation award on 25 October 2022.
- 4.11 The Young Trainers continue to deliver training to prospective foster carers and have received excellent feedback from attendees. The Fostering Service reported that some prospective carers widened the age range of children they would like to work with to include teenagers, following the training and discussion with young people. The Young Trainers are in the process of developing their training offer further by designing a session to deliver as part of the Assessed and Supported Year in Employment (ASYE) for Newly Qualified Social Workers.
- 4.12 The Care Leaver Forum (CLF) is a space for Care Leavers to discuss their own care experiences and look at how to improve the support and preparation for young people leaving care, working with the Leaving Care Service to share their thoughts and expertise. The group is trying to recruit new members to the forum and has asked the Leaving Care Service for support with this. Recent consultation requests include a request from the Designated Nurse for Children in Care for feedback on Health organisations and a request from the Leaving Care Service to discuss different accommodation options for young people when they become eighteen years old, if they cannot stay in the same place.

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.

The report contains no proposals, and therefore there are no decisions which will have an impact on carbon emissions.

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

CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE (FORMAL)	AGENDA ITEM No. 6
23 NOVEMBER 2022	PUBLIC REPORT

Report of:	Interim Director Children's Services: Nicola Curley	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education, Skills and the University Councillor Ayres	
Contact Officer(s):	Dee Glover Headteacher Peterborough Virtual School for CiC and CPIC (Children Previously In Care)	Tel. 07917133152

ANNUAL REPORT OF PETERBOROUGH VIRTUAL SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN IN CARE 2020-2021

RECOMMENDATIONS	
FROM: Nicola Curley	Deadline date: N/A
<p>1. It is recommended that the Corporate Parenting Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Notes the content of the report. ● Raise any queries they have with the lead officer. 	

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

1.1 This report is submitted to Corporate Parenting Committee following a request by members.

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

2.1 The purpose of this report is to inform on the activity of the Virtual School (VS) and the educational outcomes of Peterborough's Children in Care (CIC) for the academic year 2020/21. It reflects on achievements and identifies areas in need of development to achieve the best outcomes for this vulnerable group. Data contained in this report is for Children in Care who had been in the care of Peterborough City Council for a year or more on 31 March 2021.

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

2.3

The Annual report supports the city council's Prevention, Independence and Resilience corporate priority:

1. *Prevention, Independence & Resilience*
 - *Educations and Skills for All*
 - *Adults*
 - *Children*

2.4 Link to the Children in care Pledge:

1. **Respect** - We will respect you as individuals, with differing wants, needs and beliefs and tailor the service you get to fit you.

3. **TIMESCALES**

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	NO	If yes, date for Cabinet meeting	

4. **BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES**

4.1 The annual report attached at Appendix 1 includes information on the work that has been undertaken by Peterborough Virtual School in the period September 2020-July 2021. It includes information on attainment, inclusion, quality of provision, Personal Education Plans (PEPs), Pupil Premium Plus and the function of Peterborough Virtual School
Priorities for 2021-22
Members are requested to note the contents of the report

5. **CONSULTATION**

5.1 N/A

5.2 N/A

6. **ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT**

6.1 Corporate Parenting Committee have the Annual Report on the attainment of CiC, as well as the issues that can inhibit progress, and the emotional wellbeing of children. This ensures that Committee members are informed but can also challenge where necessary.

7. **REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION**

7.1 There are no recommendations for the committee to consider. The report is for information only.

8. **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

8.1 There are no alternative options to be considered.

9. **IMPLICATIONS**

Financial Implications

9.1 None

Legal Implications

9.2 None

Equalities Implications

9.3 None

Rural Implications

9.4 None

Carbon Impact Assessment Form

9.5 Neutral

The report contains no proposals, and therefore there are no decisions which will have an impact on carbon emissions.

Other Implications

9.6 The implication for children in care and care leavers is that they can be confident that PVS will provide the highest level of support in whatever area ensuring they have every opportunity to reach their potential, whatever that might be.

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 – Peterborough Virtual School Annual Report September 2020 – July 2021

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Peterborough Virtual School



Peterborough Virtual School

Virtual School Head Teacher Report

Peterborough Children in Care Academic Year September 2020-July 2021

PVS (Peterborough Virtual School) Vision

We will champion the individual needs of all our children, enabling them to learn, aspire, thrive, and achieve their potential.

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1 Purpose of the report

The purpose of this report is to provide information on the activity of the Peterborough Virtual School for the academic year 2020-2021. It reflects on achievements and identifies areas in need of development to achieve the best outcomes for this vulnerable group.

1.1 Context

The Children Act 1989 places a duty on the Local Authority (LA) to promote the educational achievement of children looked after by them, wherever they live or are educated.

- Discharge the LA's duty to promote the educational achievement of children in care wherever they live or are educated.
- To work in partnership with all agencies to ensure appropriate education provision.
- Ensure quality Personal Education Planning (PEP).
- Manage the Pupil Premium Plus funding for children in care.

The Children and Social Work Act 2017 added the duty to promote the educational achievement of previously looked after children. These duties are set out in the February 2018 statutory guidance 'Promoting the education of looked-after children and previously looked-after children'

In June 2021 we were given the additional task of promoting the education of children with a social worker. (See link to document below) A new role will be created to lead on this.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/994028/Promoting_the_education_of_children_with_a_social_worker.pdf

Peterborough Virtual School sits within the Schools Standards and Effectiveness Team and is accountable to the Service Director of Education Peterborough and Cambridgeshire. The Virtual School Head teacher (VSH) is line-managed and supported by the Service Director of Education for Peterborough and Cambridgeshire and reports to Corporate Parenting Panel and Corporate Parenting Board. The VSH is Dee Glover who has been in post since November 2013.

2 Role of the Virtual School

Our role is to:

- promote high aspirations and raise achievement through challenge, support, and targeted interventions for children in care
- ensure that children in care access high quality teaching and learning
- work closely with all those involved in the care and education of children in care; providing training and support to help understand the issues and challenges they face
- co-ordinate and quality assure all Personal Education Plans (PEPs)
- monitor and challenge schools to make the most effective use of Pupil Premium Plus Grant (PPPG)
- ensure effective transition is provided between schools or specialist providers
- ensure Special Education Needs or Disability needs are identified and supported appropriately with an integrated plan
- celebrate the achievements of our children in care
- lead training for Foster Carers, Designated Teachers, school governors and bespoke training for educational settings and staff in schools

In addition:

- provide advice and guidance to schools, parents and others for children previously in care
- promote the education of children with a social worker

The Virtual School is an additional resource, which exists to support and challenge all those involved in the education of children in care. It is involved in, or promotes nationally and locally, various initiatives to enhance the educational achievement of children in care. The Virtual School does not replace the school or educational provision of children in care. All children in care, from the age of 2 to 18 are monitored by Peterborough Virtual School. A Personal Education Plan (PEP) is reviewed termly for each child and includes their progress and attainment information as well as a record of interventions, often funded through the Pupil Premium Plus Grant, to ensure every child is given the opportunity to make accelerated progress.

Guiding Principles

- The voice of the child is of paramount importance.
- All children in our care will receive a high-quality education, which is inspiring and challenging, resulting in the best possible outcomes, aimed at reducing the educational gap between these children and those who are not in care.
- Every child in our care will have a positive educational experience which promotes social and emotional learning and wellbeing alongside academic success to ensure readiness for adulthood.
- Every setting will be empowered and able to lead the changes necessary to enable our children to thrive.
- The Virtual School will meet the needs of children in our care through effective liaison and integrated work with all key partners.

2.1 Structure of the Virtual School September 2020

LA Funded Posts	
<i>Post Name</i>	<i>FTE</i>
Virtual School Headteacher	FTE
Primary Education Coordinator	FTE
Post 16 Education Coordinator	FTE
Education Advisor for Children Previously in Care	P/T

Pupil Premium Funded Posts	
<i>Post Name</i>	<i>FTE</i>
Secondary Education Coordinator	FTE
Specialist Teacher of Maths Primary and Forest School Lead <i>(in partnership with Ravensthorpe Primary)</i>	P/T
Specialist Teacher of Literacy Primary <i>(in partnership with Nene Valley Primary)</i>	P/T
Early Years Advisor <i>(commissioned from Early Years Team)</i>	P/T
Educational Psychologist	FTE
Primary Higher Level Teaching Assistant <i>(in partnership with Nene Valley Primary)</i>	FTE
Business Support Officer	P/T

The Peterborough Virtual School aims to achieve improvements to the educational outcomes of CIC through a school improvement model. This allows for a small team, with sufficient influence and expertise, to improve outcomes through support and challenge to all education settings. Additional expert staff provide interventions for individual children who are identified as requiring support with learning or self-regulation.

Covid-19 Support

The cohort of academic year September 2020 to July 2021 continued to face challenges due to Covid-19 with further school closures and disruption to examinations. Schools closed again in January 2021 but children and young people in care were again able to request a school or college place as part of the vulnerable group. Foster carers and social workers determined whether a child or young person would attend. There was increased pressure on school places due to the widening of the categories able to access a place. Most of our children and young people who wished to go to school were offered a place but there were some for whom only two or three days a week were offered.

Full PEP meetings held virtually took place during this closure to ensure transition plans for those children and young people moving to primary, secondary or Post 16 provision were in place.

There was a greater emphasis on academic progress during the January 2021 lockdown. The DfE set out the minimum amount of remote education which must be provided for each Key Stage – increasing the hours expected.

For Key Stage 1, three hours of remote education must be provided to include “both recorded or live direct teaching time, and time for pupils to complete tasks and assignments independently”.

Key stage 2 pupils should be provided with four hours remote education a day while this increases to five hours for both Key Stage 3 and 4.

Previous guidance stated that primary schools should set work totalling around three hours a day, and four hours at secondary.

This has put significant pressure on all parents and carers – PVS offered support to both carers and children and young people.

PVS support for children and stakeholders during school closures, in addition to business as usual.

- provided guidance for foster carers and social workers to support accessing school places for those children requiring the service and eligible within the 'vulnerable' group.
- Continues to provide a consultation phone line for all stakeholders with our PVS Specialist Education Psychologist, acknowledging heightened anxiety for some carers, children and colleagues
- continued to provide work and support to those children and young people already identified by the PVS Intervention team to sustain learning momentum
- continued to fund online tuition sessions from an external provider for children and young people living out of city
- held weekly virtual KIT meetings with designated school staff to monitor well-being of those children attending school
- collected and analysed school attendance data
- provided IT equipment to facilitate home working
- offered advice to carers to support learning at home and provided a resource guide to supplement work provided by schools
- challenged schools where their learning offer was not of an acceptable standard
- attended virtual transition PEP meetings for Early Years, Year 6 and 11 pupils and facilitated additional transition opportunities for the more vulnerable learners.
- January – February half term PVS set primary children a series of lockdown challenges with the incentive of a voucher, amount dependent on the number of challenges completed.

3 Cohort Characteristics - 31st March 2021

Peterborough Virtual School (<i>March 31st, 2021</i>)	Pupils	% of Total
Total number on school roll (pre-school to Year 13)	314	100%

Peterborough CiC - in Peterborough schools or education settings	201	64.0%
Peterborough CiC - in Out of Peterborough Schools or Education Settings	109	34.7%
Peterborough CiC - Pre-school or Post-16 with setting unmatched	4	1.3%

Academic Year Groups	Pupils	% of Total
Pre-school	20	6.4%
Reception	4	1.3%
Year 1	11	3.5%
Year 2	6	1.9%
Year 3	14	4.5%
Year 4	12	3.8%
Year 5	18	5.7%
Year 6	21	6.7%
Year 7	21	6.7%
Year 8	35	11.1%
Year 9	34	10.8%
Year 10	23	7.3%
Year 11	26	8.3%
Year 12	46	14.6%
Year 13	23	7.3%

Male	183	58.3%
Female	131	41.7%

Ethnicity - White British	207	65.9%
Ethnicity - Not White British	107	34.1%

*Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC)	18	5.7%
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**There is 1 in Year 11, 8 are in Year 12 and 9 are in Year 13*

Number of Schools/education Settings attended	167	
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Special Educational Needs	Pupils	% of Total Cohort
EHCP or Statement of SEN (Special Education Needs) 36 of the children attend mainstream settings, 7 attend residential school, 41 attend special schools and 1 is in a Young Offenders Institution	85	27.1%
Academic Year Groups of SEND Cohort	Pupils	% of SEN Cohort
Reception	1	1.2%
Year 1	1	1.2%
Year 2	3	3.5%
Year 4	7	8.2%
Year 5	4	4.7%
Year 6	3	3.5%
Year 7	10	11.8%
Year 8	7	8.2%
Year 9	13	15.3%
Year 10	13	15.3%
Year 11	9	10.6%
Year 12	8	9.4%
Year 13	6	7.1%

4 Training and Development

The Virtual School is committed to developing the practice of professionals working with CIC so that they have the relevant knowledge, information, and skills to enable them to fulfil their role in contributing to educational outcomes and raising aspirations. This has contributed to an improvement in the quality of PEPs and a greater understanding of the importance of advocacy on the part of carers. Social workers and carers are actively involved in the PEP process and more confident in challenging around Pupil Premium as an example. Our website and You Tube channel house all our training materials and are publicised through our email broadcast facility within our electronic PEP provider, foster carer newsletters and our Twitter page.

Our method of delivering training has, of course, been impacted by Covid-19 and there has been much more on a 1-1 basis using a virtual platform. This has been advantageous in that individual training rather than generic needs have been met. We will continue to offer bespoke training but will look to include 'live' events when possible.

4.1 Designated Teacher Training

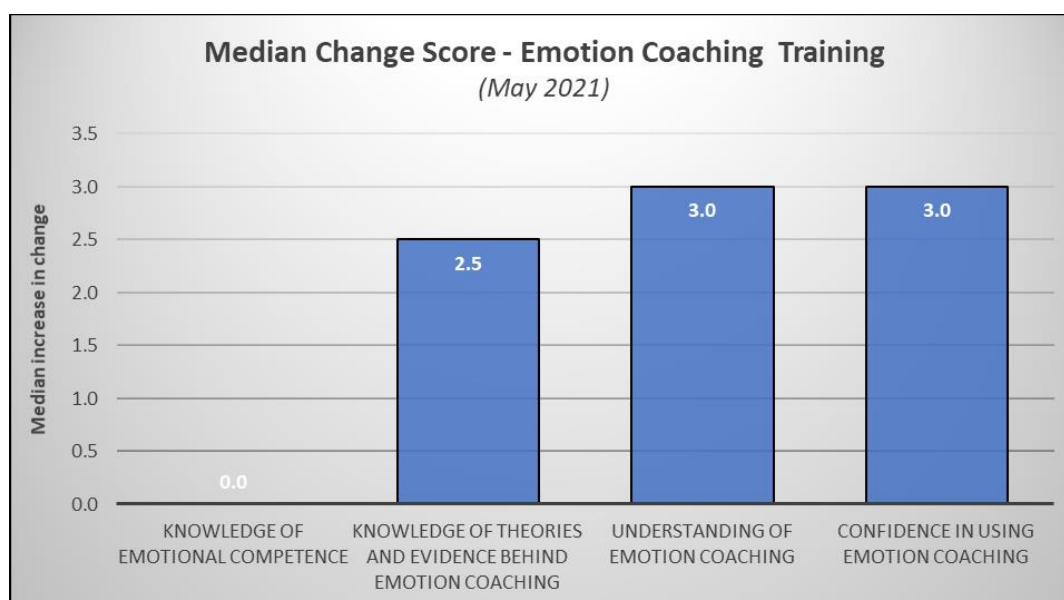
Training sessions for new to the role Designated Teachers, both in and out of city, addressing PEP completion specifically but also the wider role required are provided regularly. The sessions aim to equip school professionals with the necessary skills to maximise the achievement of children in care

through excellent education planning. Much of our training provision is now online with training videos for PEP completion, the role of the Designated Teacher and the setting of SMART targets available. We did not have Designated Teacher conference during academic year 2020-2021 due to the restrictions on public gatherings and the challenges of hosting a virtual conference. However, PVS staff-maintained contact with Designated Teachers in both a supportive and challenging role. Plans are in place for a virtual conference in the Autumn Term 2021. In addition, PVS Specialist Educational Psychologist offered virtual training.

Emotion Coaching Training Report

Emotion Coaching training (1 full day) was delivered to 50 school professionals in May and June 2021. All attendees will be offered follow up workshops in the academic year 2021-2022.

Quantitative Data – Emotion Coaching May 2021



The information above indicates that on average, attendees increased their knowledge and understanding of Emotion Coaching by 2.5/3 points and their confidence in using Emotion Coaching by 3 points from their initial baseline (median average used).

Qualitative Data – Emotion Coaching May 2021

The following is a sample from attendee feedback.

‘I now understand more about emotion coaching, and I can now embed this with our learners to help build a better relationship and to understand them and help them understand why they are feeling the way they are and how to manage themselves.’

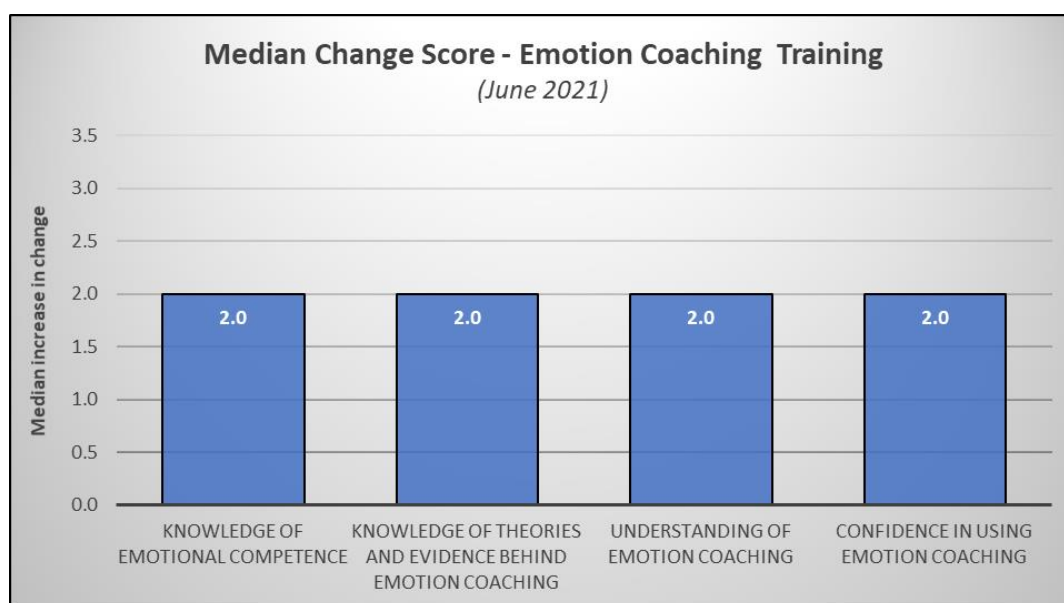
‘The training has provided me with a new skill that I can take with me to my workplace and to be able to help the young people that i work with giving them a better experience at school.’

‘Absolutely fantastic! I’m soooooo enthused to “get going” at introducing this approach in the autumn term.’

'This training will really help to support some specific children with complex needs. We have some of these strategies in place but really looking forward to sharing with the class teachers in order to better support them in the classroom. I will also share this with the Head teacher and ask them to consider a whole school approach.'

'Fantastic link to the Behaviour Steps approach - really supportive for staff, especially through the use of scripts which give that scaffold. I can see instantly how this could be applied to children across the school.'

Quantitative Data – Emotion Coaching June 2021



The information above indicates that on average, attendees increased their knowledge and understanding of Emotion Coaching by 2 points and their confidence in using Emotion Coaching by 2 points from their initial baseline (median average used).

Qualitative Data – Emotion Coaching June 2021

The following is a sample from attendee feedback.

'Knowing the strategies and scripts to use when dealing with children who are struggling is useful.'

'Thank you, the training was very informative and even if we may struggle to implement it as a "whole school approach" currently we are certainly hopeful we can improve our practice ourselves and helping / sharing with some of our colleagues.'

'It has made me think about the language to be used when supporting children and gave me a deeper insight to theory behind emotion coaching.'

'I have gained a greater understanding which has improved my confidence in this area.'

4.1 Social Worker Training

New social workers are referred to the VS for training in the completion of PEPs and other matters relating to education. To improve the offer, and maintain high levels of compliance and quality, fortnightly PEP clinics are held with VS staff available for training support and advice. Training has been provided by the Statutory Assessment and Monitoring Service to share the processes of requesting and securing an EHCP when required. This is particularly pertinent when children with an EHCP move to out of city schools following a care placement change. There are also training modules developed by the PVS team on our electronic PEP provider.

4.2 Foster Carer Training

We offer a range of training opportunities for foster carers, both in house and agency.

- Vocabulary Development
- Training Transition Training (general)
- KS2 to KS3 Transition Training
- Preparing for School Readiness
- Children Previously in Care
- PEP completion and PEP meetings.

We are increasing our offer for next academic year to include subject specific training and emotion coaching. Our Educational Psychologist is also available for consultation.

4.3 Connected Communities Project (Trauma Responsive)

The Connected Communities Project has developed over the last four years and this year, the cohort of schools in the project almost doubled to 21. The Connected Communities is a trauma-responsive project which aims to support schools to embed trauma-responsivity in their school environment, policy, culture, and practice. Each phase of schools undertakes a two-year programme supported by Peterborough Virtual School. The first year is a training phase and the second year takes the form of network meetings.

The Covid-19 pandemic delayed the training for both Phase 2 and Phase 3 cohorts by a term. The Phase 2 cohort finished the training phase (six full days) by December 2020 and progressed to the Network Phase, characterised by reflective practice, further embedding, and sharing of practice for the Local Authority.

Impact and outcomes

Despite disruption by the pandemic, the following impact and outcomes have been reported by the Phase 2 cohort:

- An increase in attainment results at G.C.S.E from the secure unit.
- A revised behaviour regulation policy in a village primary school.
- The development of safe spaces for children's regulation of emotions in a majority of the schools – some schools have reported better self-regulation skills in children.
- All schools are embedding Emotion Coaching which develops children's emotional self-awareness and regulation skills, reduces exclusions, develops nurturing relationships between

adults and children, increases attainment progress (Rose, McGuire-Snieckus and Gilbert 2015) and Gus, Rose and Gilbert 2017).

- All schools have delivered trauma-responsive training to their school communities and staff have increased knowledge which has translated to their daily practice.
- All schools have begun trauma-responsive action research projects with results to be published next academic year.

Evaluation Data Day 5 and 6

Pre and post evaluation data from respondents in Phase 2 for Day 5 and 6 is missing due to adapting to the pandemic by using virtual tools. Microsoft forms was used to capture this data but due unfamiliarity with the tool and how the information is recorded, an error occurred where the data could not be matched.

Qualitative Data Day 5 – The Importance of Relationships

The following is a sample from attendee feedback.

‘Very useful and interesting as usual. Help with the literature review is appreciated. More practical elements to take into school and we will plan in our next update for staff especially around PACE (Playfulness, Acceptance, Curiosity and Empathy).’

‘Given us more tools to help train our staff and time to reflect on where we may and who we may need to focus more attention.’

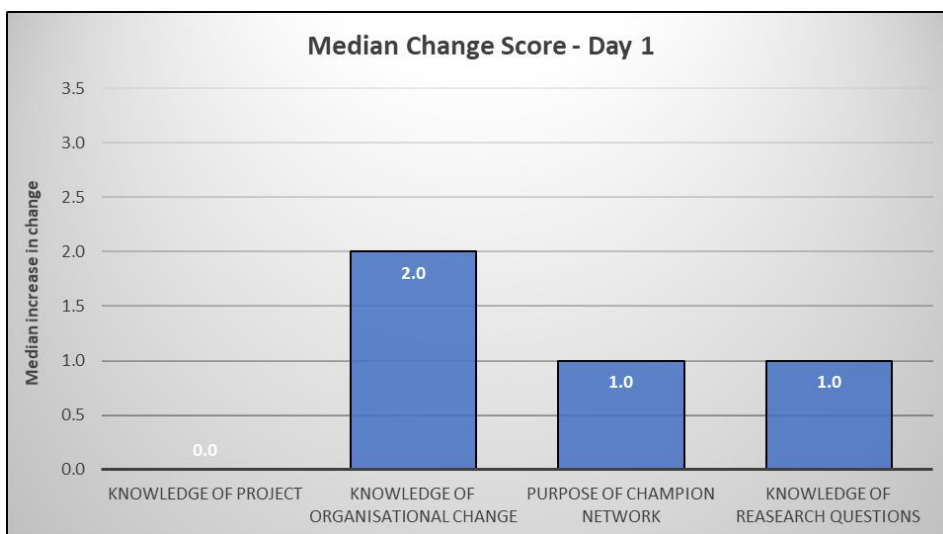
‘I have better understanding of how we can promote key adults and focused on our literature review.’

Qualitative Data Day 6 – The Thinking Brain

The qualitative data is missing from this day due to technology issues which caused the training to be abandoned and later completed virtually. Due to this and the demands of the pandemic on school staff, the response rate for evaluation forms was low.

Evaluation data Phase 3

Quantitative Data Day 1 - Introduction to Connected Communities and Organisational Change



Qualitative Data Day 1 – Introduction to Connected Communities and Organisational Change

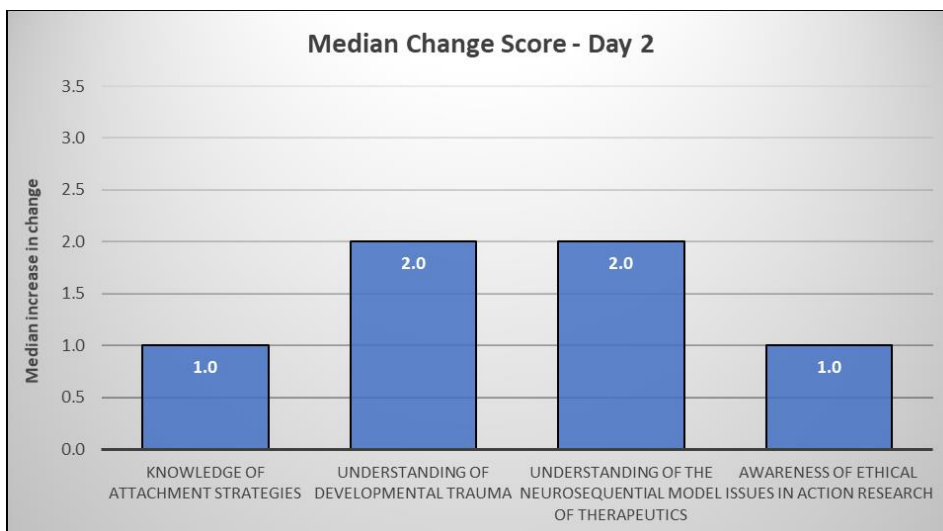
The following is a sample from attendee feedback.

‘Following the training I now have a clear vision of the project and the size of the impact that this will have on my setting. It has also provided some useful resources to support with implementing change within the setting, especially with those potential barriers that we might come up against.’

‘I have a better understanding of the vision and purpose of the project. Following the first day I feel more confident.’

‘Very informative and detailed.’

Quantitative Data Day 2 - Attachment and Developmental Trauma



Qualitative Data Day 2 – Attachment and Developmental Trauma

The following is a sample from attendee feedback.

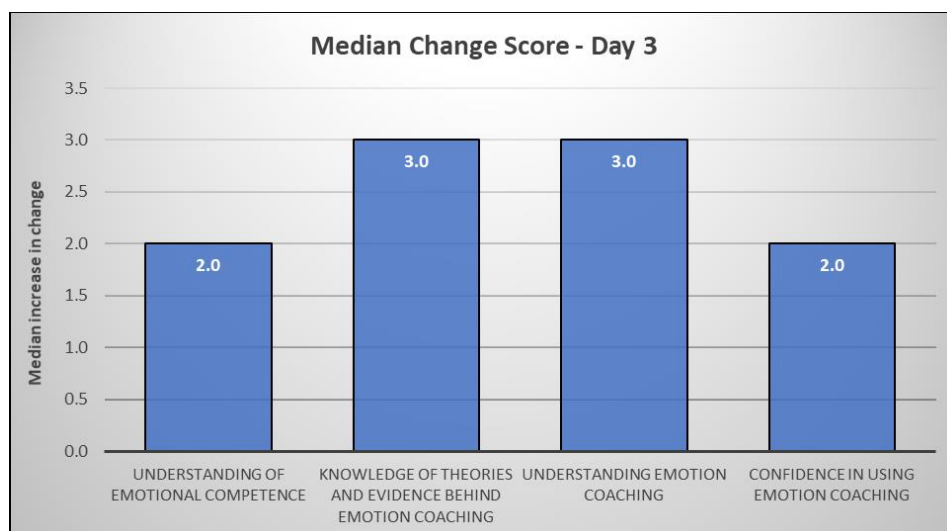
‘I have a deeper understanding of why the child is displaying difficult behaviour and reminding myself that the behaviour is communication.’

‘Such great training again. So informative I have pages of notes which I can use for the training in school. Thank you.’

‘It has given me a good insight on how trauma can be shown through behaviour as well as good understanding of how young traumas can effect brain development.’

‘I've gained a clearer understanding of attachment strategies, but more importantly, how to look at the strategies used at a particular moment and use this knowledge to support a child, or the adults supporting the children. Also, gained ideas in how to communicate this knowledge to adults in the school.’

Quantitative Data Day 3 – Emotion Coaching



Qualitative Data Day 3 – Emotion Coaching

The following is a sample from attendee feedback.

‘As ever such an interesting session and so thought provoking. So much to take in but all so relevant. Very much looking forward to delivering the training to staff.’

‘It was very useful to learn about the theories behind emotion coaching and I can see the benefits of emotion coaching as I use it regularly within the Nurture setting.’

‘I now understand more about how to help children regulate and how over time their thinking can change.’

‘Very informative. Practical advice and solutions.’

Further developments (Academic year 2020-2021)

The Phase 3 cohort have completed three full days of training and begun to plan trauma-responsive action research projects. Planning is in place for the advertisement of Phase 4 to recruit another cohort of schools beginning their training in April 2022. There will also be a Connected Communities Conference to take place virtually on 22nd November 2021. This will involve external speakers and schools from the project celebrating their successes and sharing best practice with other schools from the Local Authority.

5 Learning Outcomes

Formal examinations and assessments did not take place for a second year and grades were based on a range of information including centre assessed grades for KS4 and KS5.

The Department for Education have been clear that outcomes and other related data should only be used to ensure young people transition successfully to the next stage of their education, employment or training and aggregated data should not be used for comparisons or performance benchmarking. All those working with schools and colleges, such as Ofsted, Department for Education regional teams and local authorities, will use data from previous years when assessing school and college performance, and not the 2020 or 2021 data. Therefore, in line with these recommendations, there is not any aggregated data or comparisons included within this report.

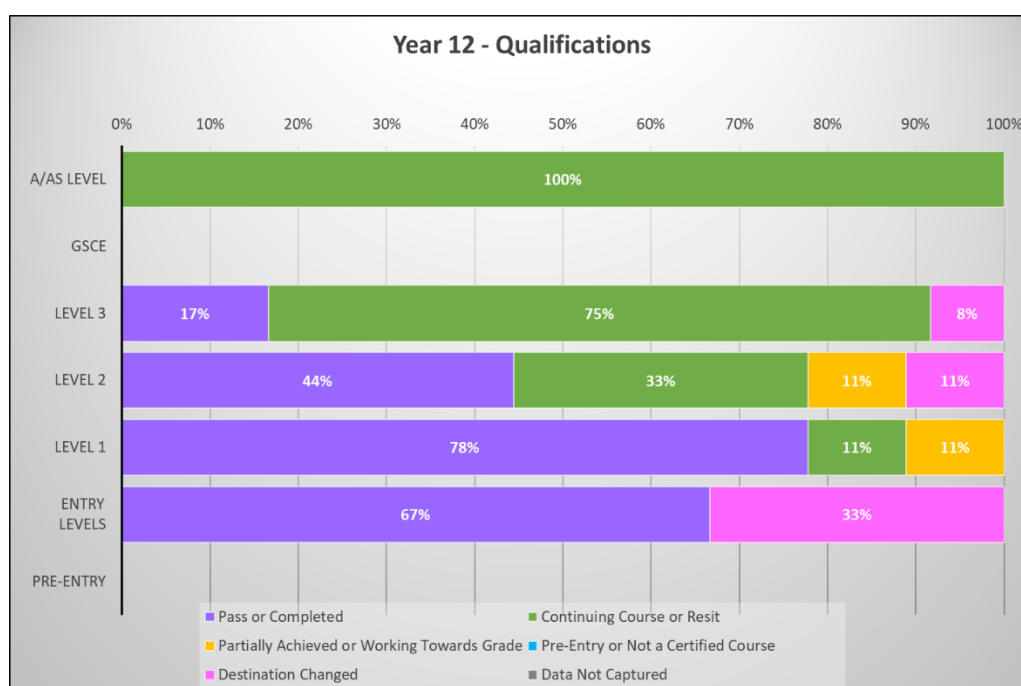
Grades were based on a range of information including centre assessed grades. A much-reduced data set is due to be published by DfE (Department for Education) in March/April 2022.

5.1 Post 16

Year 12

Of the fifty Year 12 students monitored and supported throughout the 2020-21 academic year over a fifth were unaccompanied asylum seeker children (UASC). They have primarily been doing the 'English for Speakers of Other languages (ESOL)' course at various levels. Some have moving on to 'Functional Skills' and one is working towards a GCSE Maths qualification.

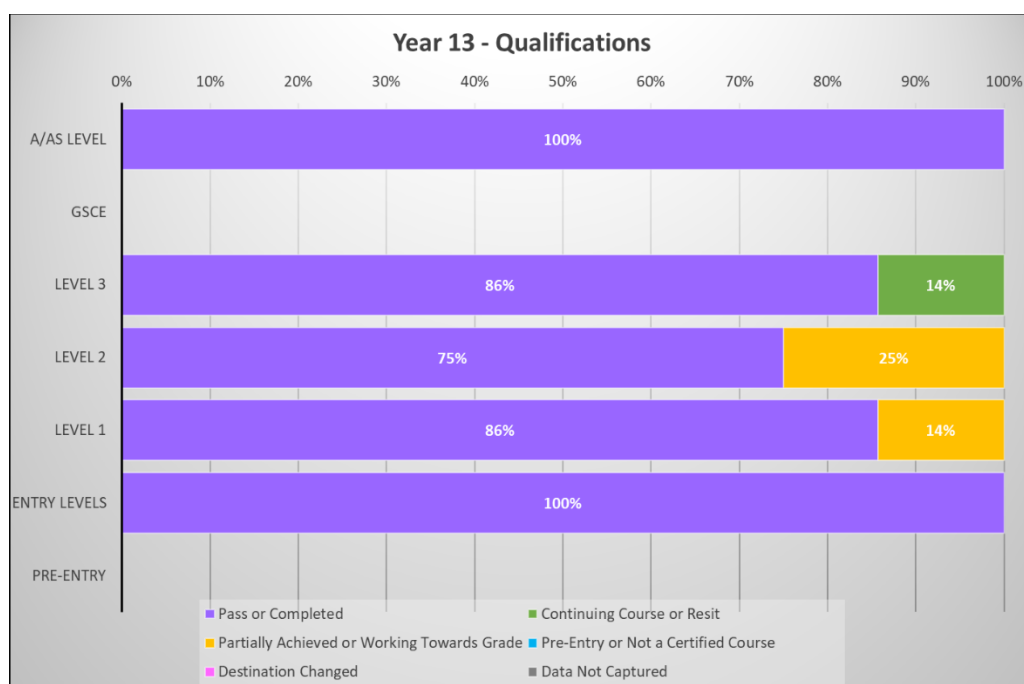
Of the remaining 38 young people, two refused any engagement with education/training and one was on an apprenticeship but had to leave due to health issues. Apprenticeships and employment accounted for another 4 young people. The rest are all on further education and training with providers ranging from Technical Colleges and Sixth Forms to various special school and providers such as NACRO. Some students are working on attaining the key English and Maths qualification with Functional Skills and GCSE courses.



Year 13

Over the course of the 2020-2021 academic year seventy Year 13 pupils were supported and monitored by the virtual school. An even higher proportion than Year 12 were UASC. This group equated to 29% of the whole Year 13 cohort. As with Year 12 the focus were the ESOL and Functional Skills courses, although some were doing certificate and diploma courses in such things as IT and carpentry.

The remaining forty-nine young people included 25% with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP). These students are mostly doing non certificated courses, with some at special schools, some at Further Education Colleges and four who are NEET either due to illness or awaiting a suitable opportunity. The thirty- six remaining students were spread across a range of provider types and their courses were as diverse as A/AS Level Law to Level 2 Vehicle Maintenance. Five young people were intending to continue study at university with three aiming for an apprenticeship.



6 Inclusion

6.1 Absence

Indicator	Peterborough - CiC (2018-19 data)	England - CiC (2018-19 data)	Statistical Neighbour Average - CiC (2018-19 data)
Percentage of lessons missed due to authorised absence	3.7%	3.5%	3.3%
Percentage of lessons missed due to unauthorised absence	1.2%	1.7%	1.7%
Percentage of lessons missed due to overall absence	5.0%	5.1%	5.0%
Percentage of looked after children who were persistent absentees	10.6%	12.0%	11.9%

Attendance data always runs a year behind the other data releases, the 2019-20 data is not due for release until March/April 2022.

Local, National and Statistical Neighbour figures are all showing a slight upward trend with the overall absence rate up by 0.5 percentage points across the board and persistent absence increasing by 1.0 to 1.5 percentage points

6.2 Exclusions

Indicator	Peterborough - CiC (2018-19 data)	England - CiC (2018-19 data)	Statistical Neighbour Average - CiC (2018-19 data)
Percentage of looked after children with at least one fixed period of exclusion	12.12%	11.38%	11.48%

As part of the attendance data set the Exclusion data is also a year behind the other data sets with the 2019-20 figures due out in March/April 2022.

There has been a very small decrease in exclusion with National down by 0.29 percentage points and Local and Statistical Neighbours down by 0.8 percentage points.

The Virtual School has a duty to work with Head Teachers to try and avoid the permanent exclusion of a child in care and make sure that they have the support in place to thrive and make progress. The Virtual School has been quick in its response to any fixed term exclusions or threat of permanent exclusions so that a joint plan for the child can be implemented. No children in care were permanently excluded in the 2020 – 2021 academic year. For those children and young people who had fixed term exclusions PVS staff attended return to school meetings to support the child and carers and to ensure robust plans were in place to minimise the risk of further instances of exclusion. We receive information on fixed term exclusions from our external attendance service or are advised of these by Designated Teachers, social workers, or carers. In the case of any repeat exclusions, additional PEP meetings are held to check that all necessary support is being given.

6.3 Alternative Provision

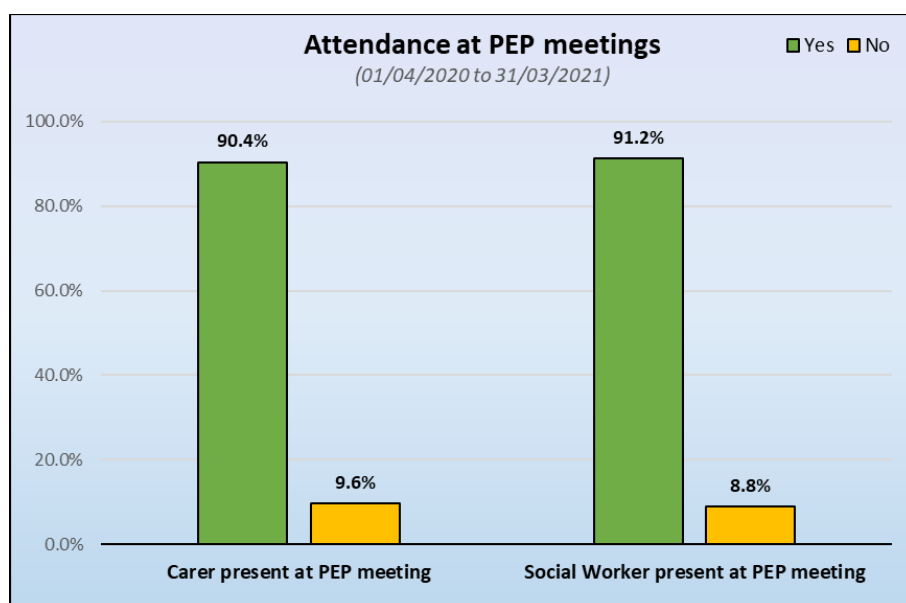
Establishment Type	Number
Number on school roll (<i>preschool to Year 11</i>)	267
Number in independent schools	11
Number in LA Special School in city	12
Number in LA special school out of city	22
Number in PRU / AP in city	2
Number in PRU / AP out of city	1
Number with EHCPs/Statements of SEN	85

6.4 Quality of Provision

% CIC attending school judged to be good or better	Peterborough (2020-21)	England (2019-20)
Year 2	85%	87%
Year 6	72%	82%
Year 11	65%	61%

The lower percentage of children attending a school judged to be good or better in Year 6 is due to those schools converting to academies not being inspected, therefore previous judgements remain. It is expected that conversion to an academy and membership of a multi academy trust will drive improvements. PVS monitors all children, but those in schools judged to be less than good, are subject to closer scrutiny.

7 Personal Education Plans (PEPs)



Between 1st April 2020 and 31st March 2021 there were 773 PEP meetings for 254 individual children. PEP compliance is consistently at 100%. PVS supports social workers and Designated Teachers in the management of the PEP process, offering training and a fortnightly PEP clinic. Every PEP is quality assured by PVS staff and those judged to be below an acceptable standard trigger additional support and challenge from the VS team. Our school improvement model does not require VS staff to attend every PEP meeting. VS staff meet at least once a term with the Designated Teachers in their allocated schools and track the progress of all the pupils in the setting. However, VS staff will attend the PEP meetings for all newly into care children or where a child is in crisis and attendance is requested by the school or social worker.

As illustrated above there are occasions when a social worker or care giver is unable to attend due to sickness or other unforeseen circumstances. It is at the discretion of the Designated Teacher and PVS staff whether the meeting takes place.

8 Pupil Premium Plus Grant (Financial Year 2020-2021)

The Pupil Premium plus Grant allocation for Financial Year 2020/2021 was £640,185

This was based on a £2345 per pupil allocation for children who had a period of 24 hours or more in the care of Peterborough City Council.

£411,884 was devolved directly to the educational settings. This amount includes the cost of partnership staff, Attachment Awareness/ Connected Communities training hub and additional Covid Recovery direct pupil support. Payments to schools are made termly upon submission and approval of SMART targets within a quality assured and time compliant PEP. These targets are reviewed at each PEP meeting to hold the school to account and to ensure appropriate interventions are in place to support progress. In exceptional cases, educational settings applied for additional funding to support children requiring intensive short-term interventions tailored to their individual needs and circumstances.

The remaining £228, 301 was used to support the work and improvement of the VS.

Allocation	Cost £
Additional tuition	21,064
Letterbox Club (see report below)	9,950
External PEP and Attendance Services	33,641
Staffing – EP and Early Years	144,351
Data support	1,347
Additional BSO hours	6,245
Forest School (see report below)	11,703
TOTAL	228,301

8.1 Letterbox Club

Once again, the Letterbox initiative has been very well received by our Primary aged cohort of children in care, of whom 74 have received seven monthly packages during 2021. Each pack is posted out by our staff to the child's home address, ensuring they get to experience the excitement of a parcel arriving at home for them. This has the added benefit of the child realising that they have a proper place within this world.

We decided, following feedback, that the younger children had greater benefit from these packs, so prioritise those in FS, KS1 and KS2. The main reason behind this is that as children get older and more expert at reading, they also develop stronger preferences, and it becomes more important that they can select their own reading materials, if they are to get the best out of them. Younger children still need guidance in selecting texts and need to experience all the genres available and suitable for them whilst they are still finding out what they really enjoy or gain most from.

Each package includes at least two newly published books (which ensures no duplicate books are sent) items of stationary to inspire writing, puppets or small toys linked to the texts for the younger children and maths games suitable for home play for all ages. This year for the first time we have added a new pack for those children who are older but have lower than expected reading skills, including books of higher maturity but lower readability, which have proved extremely helpful and fun for some of our students with special educational needs. The aim of this initiative is to encourage reading at home and to further interaction with foster carers and wider family members. Developing a language rich home environment is a priority and many children within this cohort have not had experience of this. The project contributes to building that love of literature that we so want for all our children.

For our very youngest children in care, from new babies to pre-schoolers, we have signed up to Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, and these children are sent a high-quality picture book each month direct to their home. This initiative is a little trickier as permissions are needed from all adults involved as home address details are kept on a secure system in the USA. Additionally, as new young children come into care, we need to identify them and get them signed up to make the most of this offer, which is completely free to us.

8.2 Forest School Report

At the start of the academic year 2020/21, following feedback from children, PVS Forest School was rebranded as 'Outdoor Learning Adventure' (OLA.) The Covid-19 pandemic significantly affected OLA: it was completely closed in the Spring term in line with Government guidance. During this time, we renovated the site (following a Child Voice exercise) to ensure the site is engaging and inviting for all who attend.

In the Autumn and Summer terms, we were unable to mix children from different 'bubbles' or to allow support staff from other settings to attend. This resulted in us offering OLA sessions on a 1:1 basis to the children who were, at the time, unable to attend their main school on a full-time timetable. OLA sessions were part of their integration programme back into the mainstream classroom by developing their key skills of resilience, problem solving, relationship building and improved self-esteem. The Covid closures also enabled improvements in our onboarding protocols by utilising technology to ensure that children fully understood what OLA was and what it looked like; we introduced a video showing children OLA and then followed this with a video call to the child in their setting so they could meet the staff and ask any questions before their first session. This enabled children to start OLA happily and confidently from the first session.

In the Autumn term 2020, in conjunction with the Primary school where OLA is based, we wrote and implemented rigorous Covid-19 Risk Assessments to ensure the safety of all who attended OLA. During this time, one child attended the setting for 1:1 sessions as part of his school timetable. Developing his prosocial skills to enable him to be school-ready was the focus and by the end of Autumn 2, the child was attending his mainstream school full-time. In the Summer term 2021, OLA provided four weekly 1:1 session for one KS2 child and three weekly 1:1 session for a KS1 child. Both children were unable to attend their main setting full-time and the focus was to develop their emotional regulation and sense of self-worth, along with building their resilience and perseverance skills. Both children demonstrated increased resilience, perseverance and emotional regulation when attending OLA and this enabled them to increase their time spent in education. Undoubtedly, the inability for the children at OLA to mix with each other prevented children developing their team-working and peer-relationship skills, however, for the children attending on a 1:1 basis, this enabled them to have dedicated adult/child time.

8.3 Report of the Specialist Educational Psychologist

Type of involvement

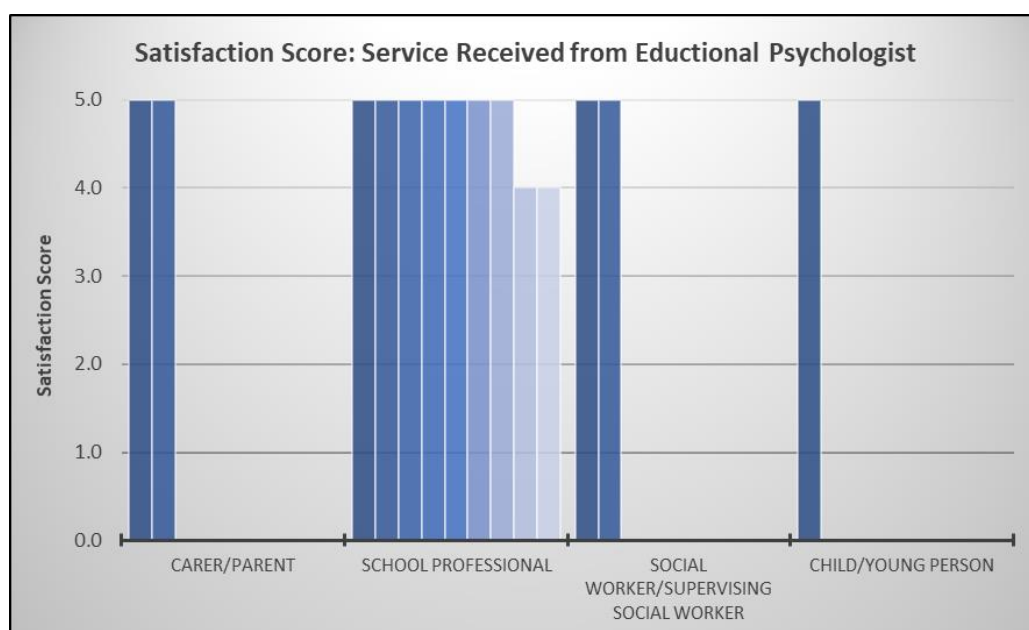
There has been Educational Psychology (EP) involvement for 39 children in care between September 2020 and August 2021.

The table below shows the breakdown of the types of involvement to support children in care between September 2020 and August 2021. Some of these involvements have overlaps (e.g., sustaining placement and consultation).

Type of involvement	Number of children
Assessment to identify needs	12
Consultation with school and foster carers (multiple times for some children)	27
Sustaining placement/risk of placement breakdown	10
Preparation for adulthood	5
Return to school during the pandemic	1
Consultation with social workers	6
Indirect involvement via consultation with Peterborough Virtual School team members	6
Multi-professional meetings (multiple times for some children)	7

Impact Data

The graph below demonstrates the satisfaction scores from children/young people parent/carers and professionals following EP involvement. Due to online working this year, there was a low response rate for evaluations as they were distributed online rather than face to face (n=14)



Of the 14 respondents, 12 rated their satisfaction at 5 (highest score) and 2 respondents rated their satisfaction as 4.

Further information was gathered from the question, 'what helped you?' Using thematic analysis, the following themes were formed from the data:

1. Thorough assessment
2. Understanding the needs of the child
3. Knowledge
4. Practical strategies and resources
5. Supportive relationship
6. Clear plan

The following examples demonstrate the themes above:

1.Thorough assessment

'Having a comprehensive assessment on X to identify whether she does have additional needs, if so, what they are and what level of support she will need to help her progress through her university years and adulthood.' (Social Worker)

2. Understanding the needs of the child

'A brilliant analysis of X's strengths and areas of support required for the future.' (Carer)

3. Knowledge

'Understanding around emotional literacy and how we can support X to support her understanding of showing and recognising emotions.' (SENDCo)

'Having an expert on hand to discuss both general and specific aspects of areas in which I am not trained. Having direct advice helps to both develop my knowledge and support X.' (Designated Teacher)

4. Practical strategies and resources

'Sensible advice given about reasons for behaviour, strategies to use. I always appreciate the advice given by the EP and find it useful.' (Assistant Head)

'Detailed report with substantial strategies to consider to support this student in school. Links to useful resources and ideas of how to deliver.' (Designated Teacher)

5.Supportive relationship

'The EP has been fantastic throughout, engaged with both X and myself well, in a way we both understood and with suggestions of strategies for the future. The EP has summed X up perfectly and we both enjoyed working with her.' (Carer)

'Supported the child but also provided feedback to support my own development in use of testing building my confidence in my own judgments. Prompt professional and effective service supporting named child and provision within school generally' (SENDCo)

'I felt I really got along with her.' (Young Person)

6. Clear plan

'To be able to discuss concerns for the young person and come up with a plan with a review date. I was able to discuss my concerns and together we formed an action plan. The EP also directed us to appropriate training and resources.' (Designated Teacher)

Impact of consultation (n=13)

Concerns before and after consultation are measured using a Likert Scale from 1 to 5 (1 meaning least concerned and 5 meaning most concerned). The following table shows the reduction in concerns following an initial consultation:

Reduction	Number of respondents
No change	4
1 point	3
2 points	5
4 points	1

Following initial consultation, 69% (9 out of 13 respondents) noted a reduction in their concerns.

10 Priorities for 2021- 2022

Priority One

To enable children and young people in care to achieve developmental outcomes, readiness for learning and increasingly meet their learning and aspirational goals.

- 1. To ensure the effect of Covid-19 on children/YP's education is minimised.**
- 2. Virtual School will offer a wide range of training opportunities including bespoke packages according to need.**
- 3. Educational Psychology needs assessments will be available for our children on request**
- 4. The achievements of our children with an (Education Health and Care plan will be recorded to reflect progress**

Priority Two

To ensure the voice of the child/young person is heard and acted upon at every opportunity.

- 1. PVS working partnership with Children in Care Council will improve**
- 2. Stakeholders will have access to information regarding the support of CYP (Children and Young People) (Children and Young People) mental health.**
- 3. Post-16 written assessments will be young person centred and accessible.**

Priority Three

To ensure professionals are equipped with the necessary skills and knowledge to effectively support children and young people in care.

- 1. Designated Teachers, Social Workers and Foster Carers will be empowered to complete a high quality and compliant PEP.**
- 2. Designated Teachers, Social Workers and Foster Carers will be able to identify their responsibilities across all processes linked to CYP with an Education Health and Care plan.**
- 3. Schools will be attachment aware, and trauma informed in their practice.**

Priority Four

To ensure that children and young people in care have access to high quality and appropriate provision which meets their holistic needs.

- 1. CYP, where appropriate, will be offered an AV1 device to allow their education to continue whilst physical attendance in a school setting is not possible**
- 2. S/W, DT and F/C will know the expectations of PVS to ensure positive transitions between schools.**
- 3. Provision not provided by the CYP main setting results in progress**

Dee Glover, Virtual School Head.

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CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE (FORMAL)	AGENDA ITEM No. 7
23 NOVEMBER 2022	PUBLIC REPORT

Report of:	Interim Director Children’s Services : Nicola Curley	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Cabinet Member for Children’s Services, Education, Skills and the University	
Contact Officer(s):	Dee Glover Headteacher Peterborough Virtual School for CiC and CPIC (Children Previously In Care)	Tel. 07917133152

REPORT ON YOUNG PEOPLE WHO ARE CURRENTLY NOT IN EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT OR TRAINING (NEET)

RECOMMENDATIONS	
FROM: Nicola Curley	Deadline date: N/A
<p>1. It is recommended that the Corporate Parenting Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notes the content of the report. • Raise any queries they have with the lead officer. 	

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

1.1 This report is submitted to Corporate Parenting Committee following a request by members.

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

2.1 The purpose of this report is to inform on the activity of the Virtual School (VS) in respect of YP who are NEET

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

2.3 This report supports the city council’s Prevention, Independence and Resilience corporate priority.

1. *Prevention, Independence & Resilience*

- *Educations and Skills for All*
- *Adults*
- *Children*

2.4 Links to the Children in care Pledge

1. **Respect** - We will respect you as individuals, with differing wants, needs and beliefs and tailor the service you get to fit you.

3. TIMESCALES

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	NO	If yes, date for Cabinet meeting	

4. BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

4.1

The number of YP who are “Not in Employment Education or Training” (NEET) can fluctuate from time to time for Children in Care (CiC). In September of any academic year the figure is normally low and increases around November when young people (YP) either decide not to continue their course or are withdrawn / excluded from the setting. In most cases, it is due to low attendance or lack of engagement / commitment. PVS works closely with all stakeholders to support YP and attend meetings where necessary to help sustain the education placement.

4.2

All NEET YP have regular NEET Support Planning meetings at least once every half-term by working closely with them and professionals to ensure all support is in place and efforts are made to remove barriers to re-engagement with ETE (Education, Training or Employment).

4.3

These opportunities can include Prince’s Trust (Team Programme), Job / Work clubs, online courses, practical courses such as park ranger, traineeships, Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS) card training, and various other course such as Prince’s Trust ‘Get Into’ initiative which cover a wide range of work experience opportunities.

4.4

NEET YP		Reasons for NEET)
Male	22/01/2005	Year 13 – waiting for employers to contact. CSCS Card.
Male	31/05/2005	Year 13 Not engaging with services / support offered.
Male	28/06/2005	Year 13 – NEET meeting to discuss situation. Withdrew from college and currently not interested in education. Applying for jobs .
Female	07/01/2005	Year 13 – MH issues previously. Waiting an update from SW about current situation.
Female	13/01/2005	Year 13- Waiting for a suitable employment opportunity
Female	21/08/2006	Year 12 – MH issues preventing ETE engagement. Carers supporting Maths & English at home.
Female	20/01/2005	Year 13 – working p/t – does not want to return to education or awaiting a suitable opportunity
Male	15/03/2005	Year 13 – placement breakdown- awaiting a suitable education opportunity. Moving to P’boro.

Female	21/06/2005	Year 13 – not engaging with support services. Looking for employment .
Female	25/02/2005	Year 13 – moved placement – looking for a suitable employment opportunity.
Male	02/08/2006	Year 12 – awaiting a suitable opportunity. withdrawn from course due to not having entry requirements. Possible placement move. Carers supporting with Maths & English.
Male	23/04/2005	Year 13 – MH issues led to withdrawing from college.
Male	12/12/2004	Year 13 – waiting to start an ESOL following as assessment
Male	01/01/2005	Year 13 – waiting to start an ESOL following as assessment
Female	16/08/2005	Year 13 – returned to Care just recently – awaiting a PEP meeting (MH issues)

4.5 This is the current situation of children in care who are NEET. (3/11/22)
 There are 15 Young People who are currently NEET = 17% of total Post 16 cohort

Barriers to engagement

Seeking education, employment or training, waiting for a suitable opportunity – 9

1 in p/t employment

5 looking for employment

2 waiting to start on ESOL courses

1 waiting to hear back from employers and completing CSCS Card training.

Not yet ready for education, employment or training - 4

Illness: Mental health - 4

Not engaging at present – 1

not engaging with opportunities put forward by professionals.

Housing / Accommodation issues – 1

Placement breakdown – in process of moving to Peterborough. Waiting for a suitable opportunity once move completed.

4.1

5. CONSULTATION

5.1 N/A

5.2 N/A

6. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT

6.1 Corporate Parenting Committee have a report on those YP who are currently NEET, and the reasons for this.
 This ensures that Committee members are informed but can also challenge where necessary.

7. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

7.1 There are no recommendations for the committee to consider. The report is for information only.

8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

8.1 There are no alternative options to be considered.

9. IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

9.1 None

Legal Implications

9.2 None

Equalities Implications

9.3 None

Rural Implications

9.4 None

Carbon Impact Assessment Form

9.5 Neutral

Other Implications

9.6 The implication for children in care and care leavers is that they can be confident that PVS will provide the highest level of support in whatever area ensuring they have every opportunity to reach their potential, whatever that might be.

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

CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE (FORMAL)	AGENDA ITEM No. 8
23 NOVEMBER 2022	PUBLIC REPORT

Report of: Regional Adoption Agency	Nicola Curley, Interim Director of Children's Services		
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education, Skills and the University		
Contact Officer(s):	Joanne Banks, Head of the Regional Adoption Agency	07442 046221	

ANNUAL REPORT - REGIONAL ADOPTION AGENCY

RECOMMENDATIONS	
FROM: <i>Head of the Regional Adoption Agency</i>	Deadline date: <i>NA</i>
<p>It is recommended that Corporate Parenting Sub Committee:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Notes the report</i> 2. <i>Raises any queries with officers</i> 	

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report is submitted to Corporate Parenting Committee to provide a summary of the Adoption Service for Peterborough City Council Children's Social Care as part of the scheduled work items

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an Annual Report on the business of the Regional Adoption Agency for Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Adoption.
- 2.2 This report is for 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 The Annual report supports the city council's Prevention, Independence and Resilience corporate priority.
- 2.4 This report supports all aspects of the pledge, and it relates to ensuring who are in a adoption placement is offered high quality permanence placements.

3. TIMESCALES

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

- 4.1 This report is the first Annual Report of Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Adoption – the Regional Adoption Agency for Cambridgeshire County Council & Peterborough City Council. The Agency is responsible for adoption services on behalf of Cambridgeshire County Council & Peterborough City Council. Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council collaborated to establish Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Adoption, which is a hosted model, hosted by Cambridgeshire County Council and started from December 2020. The Regional Adoption Agency was created in response to the legal requirement that authorities regionalise their adoption services. The vision and ambition of the two Local Authorities is for Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Adoption to ***make a life-long difference to the lives of children for whom adoption is in their best interests.***
- 4.2 Since December 2020, Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Adoption has had responsibility for recruiting, assessing and supporting prospective adopters, for non-agency adoption work including partner adoptions and intercountry adoptions. We have also had the primary responsibility for family finding for all children with adoption plans from the two Local Authorities. Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Adoption is also responsible for providing support to all parties affected by adoption, including adopters, adoptive families, adopted adults and birth relatives as well as supporting the partner local authority special guardians.
- 4.3 This Report provides a summary of developments for the period 01 April 2021 to 31 March 2022, the first full operational year of Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Adoption. The report fulfils the statutory requirement that an annual report be produced.
- 4.4 The Report is divided into subsections covering: an overview of Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Adoption, Performance, Service Update and Staffing Update.
- 4.5 The aims of the service have continued to be:
- Having a key role in the early permanency planning agenda within both Peterborough and Cambridgeshire and being instrumental in the care planning for children who have a plan for adoption
 - Recruiting adopters who can meet the needs of the children with adoption plans (specifically older children, sibling groups and children with additional vulnerabilities)
 - Offering high quality support to adopters, birth parents and carers and all parties involved with the children
 - Ensuring a culture of continuous challenge, innovation and improvement
 - Providing an accessible service to all parties affected by adoption and special guardianship (adopters, adoptees, birth families, foster carers, guardians and children in their care)
 - Developing a coherent and robust ‘Local Offer’ that provides the right support, at the right time to Adopters and Special Guardians
- 4.6 The current structure for the Regional Adoption Agency has continued in line with the proposals in the consultation where there are four distinct teams dedicated to delivering key focussed activity.
- 4.7 Recruitment and Assessment:

This service area recruits, assesses and supports prospective adopters to meet the needs of children waiting in each authority in line with their developed recruitment and marketing plan. In addition, the service undertakes annual reviews as required, assesses and supports parents or

partners and family relatives who wish to adopt a child on a non-agency basis and foster carers who are seeking to adopt a child in their care.

4.8 Family Finding:

This part of the service continues to take the lead responsibility for all aspects of the linking and matching of children with adopters. The service also provides support and advice to the child's Social Worker about the adoption process, coordinates other family finding activities and crucially increases the opportunities for children to be adopted who are older, have additional vulnerabilities or who are within sibling groups. Tracking children with a potential or actual adoption plan and reporting on adoption timescales against national and local indicators also takes place within this part of the service.

4.9 Adoption and Special Guardianship Support:

This service area undertakes assessments of Adopter and Special Guardian support needs or commissions these if required, undertaking applications to the Adoption Support Fund for children. The team also takes lead responsibility for reviewing financial allowances provided to families to inform what future allowances should be provided. The core offer also includes social events for children and young people, social/training events for adoptive parents, advice and signposting for adoptive families, independent support and advice to birth relatives, counselling and information to adopted adults post 18 years and independent support to birth parents including a letter box exchange service.

4.10 Panel and Quality Assurance:

This service area administers and supports Adoption Panels which recommend the approval of prospective adopters, matches between children and adopters and provides professional advice on best practice and regulations to the Agency Decision Makers within both Peterborough and Cambridgeshire. The Agency Advisor plays a key role in maintaining a high standard of practice and performance through the quality assurance of all services areas within the Regional Adoption Agency. The panel have remained a very active part of the Regional Adoption Agency and joining Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Adoption Panels together we have 4 Panel Chairs with a broad range of panel members who have supported the continued success in approving adopters and adoptive matches.

4.11 During its first full year of operation, between 01 April 2021 to 31 March 2022, Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Adoption has:

- Matched **58** children,
- Placed **65** children,
- Supported **69** children to be adopted,
- Placed **17** children in Early Permanence Placements,
- Commenced **40** prospective adoptive assessments
- Approved **42** adopters,
- Matched **41** adoptive families with children,
- Supported families with **£230,000** worth of Adoption Support Fund packages of support.

4.12 The RAA continues to make good progress in relation to the development of practice, systems and processes that operate across both Local Authorities to ensure that children and young people receive a consistent and child focused intervention that brings about securing

permanence arrangements where adoption is considered to be in their best interests. Continued effectiveness in developing additional support services for adopted children, young people and adopters, as well as special guardians, remains critical to the growth of the RAA, as well as utilising the Adoption Support Fund. The RAA will continue to have a presence nationally at the RAA Leaders' group and represent the views of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough residents to ensure we keep abreast of national trends and influence policy and government strategy where we can.

- 4.13 It is important to recognise that as this is the first Annual Report, throughout the period there has been significant focus on joining up and aligning systems, processes and bringing the staff group together. Whilst undoubtedly challenging, the Agency can report considerable success in doing so and this can be seen throughout this report.

5. CONSULTATION

- 5.1 NA

6. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT

- 6.1 NA

7. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

- 7.1 This report is just for noting.

8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 8.1 NA - Please see the Annual Report
There are no alternative options to consider.

9. IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

- 9.1 No financial implication

Legal Implications

- 9.2 No legal implications

Equalities Implications

- 9.3 NA

Carbon Impact Assessment

- 9.4 There is a neutral impact indicated in this report.
The report contains no proposals, and therefore there are no decisions which will have an impact on carbon emissions.

Other Implications

- 9.5 This report relates to children who are placed for adoption, and then adopted.

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 - Please see the Annual Report

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Cambridgeshire & Peterborough

Adoption

**CAMBRIDGESHIRE & PETERBOROUGH
ADOPTION**

ANNUAL REPORT

1ST APRIL 2021 – 31ST MARCH 2022

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1. Overview & Background

This report is the first Annual Report of Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Adoption – the Regional Adoption Agency for Cambridgeshire County Council & Peterborough City Council. The Agency is responsible for adoption services on behalf of Cambridgeshire County Council & Peterborough City Council. Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council collaborated to establish Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Adoption, which is a hosted model, hosted by Cambridgeshire County Council and started from December 2020. The Regional Adoption Agency was created in response to the legal requirement that authorities regionalise their adoption services. The vision and ambition of the two Local Authorities is for Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Adoption to ***make a life-long difference to the lives of children for whom adoption is in their best interests.***

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This Report provides a summary of developments for the period 01 April 2021 to 31 March 2022, the first full operational year of Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Adoption. The report fulfils the statutory requirement that an annual report be produced.

The Report is divided into subsections covering: an overview of Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Adoption, Performance, Service Update and Staffing Update.

During its first full year of operation, between 01 April 2021 to 31 March 2022, Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Adoption has:

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children and young people receive a consistent and child focused intervention that brings about securing permanence arrangements where adoption is considered to be in their best interests. Continued effectiveness in developing additional support services for adopted children, young people and adopters, as well as special guardians, remains critical to the growth of the RAA, as well as utilising the Adoption Support Fund. The RAA will continue to have a presence nationally at the RAA Leaders' group and represent the views of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough residents to ensure we keep abreast of national trends and influence policy and government strategy where we can.

It is important to recognise that as this is the first Annual Report, throughout the period there has been significant focus on joining up and aligning systems, processes and bringing the staff group together. Whilst undoubtedly challenging, the Agency can report considerable success in doing so and this can be seen throughout this report.

2. RAA Governance

Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Adoption is a hosted Regional Adoption Agency and there is a written Partnership Agreement that outlines the specific roles and responsibilities between the two authorities, as well as governance arrangements required for overseeing service provision and terms of the partnership.

The RAA is funded by a designated percentage contribution between PCC (30%) and CCC (70%), taking into account indexation in line with local pay awards, other changes in staff pay, changes in the type of service provided, or any changes in law, government policy, guidance and best practice.

Governance is provided substantially by the 'Regional Adoption Agency Partnership Board' which is chaired by the Assistant Director of Fostering, Regional Adoption & Specialist Young Peoples Services, and comprises key services - finance and safeguarding managers. The Partnership Board shall carry out a quarterly review of the operation with a report being provided to the Partnership Board by the Head of the Regional Adoption Agency. There is an annual review of the Regional Adoption Agency which the Director of Children's Services and Cabinet Leads from each Local Authority shall also attend.

Over the year there have been four Partnership Boards and there is an Annual Board meeting planned for August 2022. The membership of the Partnership Board has expanded to include Virtual School, Looked After Child Health and an Adoptive Parent to ensure the board has a breadth of knowledge around adoption to enable it to play an effective role in developing the services provided by the Regional Adoption Agency.

In March 2022 a Governance Audit was undertaken by the Internal Audit Service of Peterborough City Council and we are awaiting the final outcome. However discussions to date indicate that there are limited concerns and any changes needed are primarily around making adjustments to Partnership Board organisation and attendance.

3. Service Structure

The Regional Adoption Agency provides a range of services to children and their families including children who are requiring an adoptive placement, supporting those caring for children in a permanent placement, as well as the birth families for those children who are placed for adoption. Here is an overview of these services.

Recruitment, assessment, and approval of adopters – The team supports prospective adopters from the start of their interest in adoption with their initial enquiry, completing the assessment process to enable them to be approved as adoptive parents. The team continue to support the prospective adopters with identifying the children they wish to adopt, enabling the children to move in and until they become the sole legal parents for the children through an Adoption Order.

Family Finding – A key activity of the Regional Adoption Agency is ensuring that children are successfully linked with their forever family as early as possible. Dedicated Family Finding social workers will have developed a detailed knowledge of the child throughout their time in local authority care to ensure that the child's adoptive family can be identified and linked as soon as adoption is the plan for the child.

Adoption Panel – Alongside the Recruitment & Assessment and Family Finding teams is the Adoption Panel that considered all applications for approval from prospective adopters, and all applications for the approval of a match between a child/ren from the RAA and suitable adopters. Their recommendation goes to the Agency Decision Maker (ADM).

Early Permanence – Cambridgeshire and Peterborough have a passion for securing permanence at the earliest opportunity for children and have embedded practices of Early Permanence into the Adoption Service as well as the safeguarding teams. Early Permanence is where adoptive parents are also approved as foster carers so they can provide a safe and stable placement prior to adoption being confirmed as the plan for the child. This will prevent changes in the child's primary caregivers and enables these attachments to be developed at an earlier part of the child's life. Family finding will consider if Early Permanence is a suitable plan for the child and the adoption assessing social worker will prepare adopter to support children with these plans.

Adoption and Special Guardianship Support – The team provides support to adopters, special guardians, and their children to enable them to make positive changes to challenges that they face throughout their childhood and beyond. Their approach is rooted in developmental trauma and attachment. They work with a range of stakeholders to provide a child-centred comprehensive approach grounded by the evidence base. The team is responsible for the delivery of letter box contact, birth records, counselling and intermediary services.

4. Performance

4.1 Children with a plan for Adoption – (with a Should Be Placed For Adoption (SHOBPA) decisions and subject to Placement Orders)

Provisional ASLGB data indicates that over the year, 39 children in Cambridgeshire and 21 children in Peterborough had a plan for adoption and 35 children in Cambridgeshire and 16 children in Peterborough were made subject to Placement Orders.

The national trend is that the number of children with a plan for adoption and placement order has been falling significantly, however Cambridgeshire is not following that trend and the numbers are in fact increasing. In 2020-21, 26 children in Cambridgeshire had a plan for adoption and 32 children were made subject to a Placement Order. This has highlighted that Cambridgeshire continues to have a positive view about adoption and ensures that children have this as a permanence plan when there are no alternatives within the family.

However, there has been a decline for Peterborough¹ and, consideration has been given regarding the children who have been subject to a plan for adoption and a placement order over the past year. We have found that there has been a significant focus on younger children with very few children over the age of 2 having a plan for adoption or being subject to a Placement Order (80% of children made subject to a placement order and 91% of children with a plan for adoption were under 2 years old). The ADM and Family Court for both Local Authorities is the same and this ensures continuity and consistency in the decisions with regards to children.

It is important that we understand this further to ensure adoption is considered as a permanence plan for children over 2 years old. The Family Finding Team Manager attends regular meetings with the Service Manager for the safeguarding team and this will be monitored for the coming year.

4.2 Children Placed For Adoption

Over the year, 38 children in Cambridgeshire and 18 children in Peterborough were placed for adoption in mainstream adoptive placements, and an additional 9 early permanence placements became an adoptive placement (4 in Cambridgeshire and 5 in Peterborough). Giving an overall total of 65 children being placed for adoption (42 in Cambridgeshire and 23 in Peterborough). When comparing to the previous year, Cambridgeshire has increased the number of placements (2020-21 37 children), whereas there has been a decline in Peterborough (2020-21 30 children). It is important to acknowledge that 13 of these children (11 in Cambridgeshire and 2 in Peterborough) had been waiting for over a year since the Placement Order was granted due to having characteristics that has meant they were harder to place (including complex developmental needs and sibling groups). It is important to note that even though there was a reduction for Peterborough, looking at previous year's

¹ 2020-2021 – 28 children had a plan for Adoption and 29 children were made subject to a Placement Orders and in 2019-2020 30 children had a plans for Adoption and 27 children were made subject to a Placement Orders

data the decline is not so significant and 2020-2021 was an unusually high year so the decline is not a significant concern (2019-2020 – 25 children).

The Agency has a success rate of being able to place 80% of those children who have a placement order with Cambridgeshire and Peterborough adopters. Those placed outside are deemed harder to place with seven being part of sibling groups and the other four being over 4 years old or with complex developmental needs. This has been fed into the marketing strategy for 2022-2023.

4.3 Children Adopted

Over the year, 43 children were adopted in Cambridgeshire and 26 were adopted in Peterborough giving 33% of Cambridgeshire children and 22% of Peterborough children exiting care via adoption, which both are significantly higher than the target (18%) as well as the rates on a national (10%) and Eastern Region (12%).

For this cohort, the average numbers of days for A2² is 216 for children in Cambridgeshire and 126 for children in Peterborough. The national average is 182 days with the Eastern Region being 176 days.

For this cohort, the average numbers of days for A10³ is 474 for children in Cambridgeshire and 404 for children in Peterborough. The national target is 426 days with the Eastern Region being 412 days.

It is acknowledged that even though the timeliness of adoption is greater than the target, nationally local authorities and regional adoption agencies are struggling to achieve the target. With regards to Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Adoption, there have been a number of children who were deemed harder to place that we have secured adoption orders (40% were part of sibling groups and 25% were children over the age of 5 years) so these are known to come with longer timeframes. It is important that we continue to promote adoption for those harder to place children and this has fed into the marketing strategy for the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Adoption 2022-2023.

The national trend is that the number of children being adopted is falling, however in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough the numbers have increased. In 20-21, 42 children in Cambridgeshire and 14 children in Peterborough were adopted. We have had the advantage that Family Courts have continued to ensure Adoption Hearings take place and have found creative ways to enable the hearings to take place during Covid. This has been with a hybrid of virtual and in person hearings.

² (Average time between a Local Authority receiving Court authority to place a child and the Local Authority deciding on a match to an adoptive family, for children who have been adopted (days) - A low number shows good performance)

³ (Average time between a child entering care and moving in with its adoptive family adjusted for foster carer adoptions, for children who have been adopted (days))

4.4 Early Permanence

Seventeen children have been placed in early permanence placements during this period with early permanence carers (dually approved carers) and fostering for adoption families (temporarily approved as foster carers). We have continued to promote early permanence with our adopters and are working towards an 'opt-out' approach rather than the current 'opt-in' approach.

The success of early permanence over the past nine months has been due to lead practitioners in the Recruitment & Assessment and Family Finding teams who have developed close liaisons with the Safeguarding teams and attend Unborn Baby Panels to ensure the right children are identified and linked with carers.

4.5 Recruitment of Adopters

Year	April 2021- March 2022
A13 - Number of applications to be adoptive families (still being assessed)	39
A21 - Number of adopter approvals	42
A22 - Number of applications commencing Stage 1	40

The data to the end of March 2022 showed that Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Adoption had approved 42 adopters and in the context that there have been three Social Worker vacancies (33% reduction in resource) it highlights the strength in the performance of this areas of the RAA.

In relation to applications to adopt, at the end of March 2022 there were 40 applications commencing stage 1 with a total of 39 adopters in assessment. This also indicates positive progress, despite an initial drop at the beginning of Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Adoption going live (40 adopters in assessment), there has been a continued increase in the number applications to adopt and active assessment, with a 14% conversion rate from enquiries.

The RAA continues to seek ways to improve practice and one area is the timescales is in the timeliness of assessments. The ASGLB data indicates that stage 1 is not completed within the 60 days and 33% of stage 2 assessment are completed in 4 months with the average number of days being 155 days (target of 120 days). It is important to note that the average across England is 18% of stage 1s are completed in 2 months and 46% of stage 2s are completed within timescales with the average number of days being 141 days.

As a new Regional Adoption Agency, it was expected that timescales would increase due to significant changes of staff and processes around assessing adopters. There was a significant impact with the absence of a Panel Advisor (March 2021- January 2022) and a 33% staff vacancy in the Assessment Team. To manage this, we commissioned Independent Social Workers to undertake stage 2 assessments as well as expanded the role of the Recruitment Officer to allow some additional capacity for the Social Worker. Additionally, Covid has led to difficulties in adopters accessing an

adopter medical check and building up experiences with children, however, I am pleased to say these are no longer significant issues. Alongside this, the Team Manager has reviewed the processes around stages 1 and 2 to identify changes that could be made without compromising on the quality of the adopters being approved. Some changes have included introducing regular opportunities for reviews of adopters to enable them to start stage 2 as soon as possible and we are looking to introduce a tracker to identify drift in timescales.

A comparative analysis of the ASLGB data with our SN are in Appendix B and it highlights where the Local Authorities are performing well – for Cambridgeshire this is particularly with the number of placements, number of Adoption Orders and the proportion of these placements being with our own adopters. For Peterborough this is around the placement timescales and the number and length of time children are waiting for a placement. However, it also highlights where improvements can be made, and these were areas that had already be identified. For Cambridgeshire this is looking at the timeliness of adoption and for Peterborough the focus is around the number of children with a plan for adoption.

5. Financial Statement

The budget of Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Adoption is provided by the two Local Authorities and was set by the Partnership Agreement in 2020 with the financial management being overseen through Partnership Board that the Finance Officers for both Local Authorities attend. This ensures robust financial monitoring, with variance challenged and scrutinised.

The Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Adoption in 2021/2022 budget set by the Partnership Agreement was £2,145,980 with Cambridgeshire contributing £1,508,799 and Peterborough contributing £637,181. As outlined in the Annual Statement, the actual spend for the year was £1,857,872, an underspend of £288,108.28. The underspend was primarily as a result of staff vacancies. This has resulted in £288,108 being added to reserves for the Regional Adoption Agency.

As part of the financial planning for 2022-2023, it is clear that, despite the underspend, the budget allocated for the Regional Adoption Agency is not excessive and is vital for the running of the essential services. It is proposed that the reserves remain with the Regional Adoption Agency and there are proposals to use these funds to contribute towards further service development – these will be included in Business Cases regarding Commissioning and Adoption & Special Guardianship Support Team Resource.

6. Disruptions

There have been no disruptions during this period.

7. Service Overview

The Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Adoption Agency is overseen by a Head of the Regional Adoption Agency. There are four main service areas and each area has one team:

- Recruitment & Assessment
- Family Finding
- Adoption Panel
- Adoption Support

Recruitment & Assessment

The Recruitment and Assessment Team comprises of a Team Manger, 3 Senior Practitioners, 6 Social Workers and a Recruitment Officer. The Recruitment Officer was a new post for the RAA and started in May 2021. The Recruitment Officer has been a positive addition to the service as it has provided a consistent figure to support adopters at the start of their journey and ensure they feel positive about choosing Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Adoption.

Potential adopters who contact the Regional Adoption Agency will initially spend time talking with the Recruitment Officer to explore their interest in adoption. They will have the opportunity to attend an Information Session to understand more about adoption and the assessment process. Initially, due to Covid, we have stopped running information sessions as we did not have the facility to run virtual information sessions so we provided detailed written and information to adopters. However, after appointment of the Recruitment Officer we have started to hold Information Sessions over MS Teams as well as in person and have run alternate sessions. There will be a review of this approach, including gathering views from those enquiring, as to the future plans for Information Sessions.

Those that meet the criteria to be considered will be offered an initial interview by a member of the social work team; the Recruitment Officer remains their main point of contact during the enquiry phase all the way up to submitting their Registration of Interest, after which the prospective adopter will be allocated a social worker from the Recruitment and Assessment Team.

Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Adoption continues to operate a 2-stage assessment process in line with the statutory regulations; stage 1 includes completing statutory checks, and these must be completed and reviewed by the line manager before stage 2 can commence. In addition, the prospective adopters will be asked to complete a series of worksheets in order to increase their understanding in relation to adopting a child from care.

As highlighted earlier, in the reported year, we accepted 40 applications to adopt and had 39 adopters in assessment as of 31 March 2022.

The RAA's approach towards early permanence needed reviewing to align Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Authorities. Cambridgeshire took a concurrency approach where children were placed early in their looked after journey, whereas Peterborough would place children under a Foster to Adopt arrangement closer to the point where the court were considering the LA's proposed care plan of adoption. It was clear that there were benefits for both and the Agency needed to find a way to merge

the approaches so that children were able to achieve permanence as early as possible. A review of the marketing & training material was completed, and the Agency now has a clear approach for both models and messaging that enable adopters to understand each route. The Marketing Strategy for 2022-2023 includes focused social media posts and, alongside this, the Recruitment Team are moving towards an 'Opt-out' as oppose to 'Opt-In' approach to Early Permanence when adopters wish to adopt a child under the age of 2 years old. This will be a strength for the Agency as we will be able to offer permanence to children at an earliest opportunity. There is also work being undertaken by the National RAA team into Early Permanence looking at the definition and the training provided – it is reassuring to see the proposed approach mirrors our approach.

The Agency has a dedicated training lead who has undertaken a review of the training courses offered, as well as the material used. There is a clear whole team approach that even though there is a training lead, all members of the team take a proactive role in delivering training.

The training offer is:

Prepare to Adopt Training – Stage 1 & Stage 2

This is the part of the core training for prospective adopters and provides a baseline of information around adopting. The training includes practical information about the process of the adoption journey whilst also focusing of the developmental and attachment needs of children placed for adoption. This is the second part of the core training and this builds on the previous training. There is a focus on providing adopters the skills on parenting children with a detailed session around therapeutic parenting and involving case discussions to think about translating this theory into practice. There is also information around supporting children with their own identity and contact with birth families. The course will provide thinking around loss for children and how to support them with this. There is an opportunity to hear from adopters on their own experiences of adopting. It is also a valuable opportunity to build up support networks with those in the training.

Transitions Training

This training takes the next step for adopters to think about their journey after being an approved adopter. Covered in this training is the matching process as well the introductions and supporting the child with the move. This includes working with schools and provides some practical tools around talking about adoption and using Theraplay games to support developing the child's relationship with the adopter.

Early Permanence

This 2-day course is a course for all adopters who are interested in adopting a child under 2 years old. The course provides detailed information about the principles and processes around Early Permanence and gives the opportunity to consider this alongside the case examples.

Adopting Siblings

This course focusses on preparing adopters for caring for siblings. The course will help adopters to understand the impact of trauma on sibling relationships and also give the opportunity to hear from an experienced sibling adopter. Alongside this there will be

chance to gather some practical advice about managing time, emotional and practical resources within the family, and give space to think about applying theory into practice with some case examples.

Preparing existing children

This is a course aimed at prospective adopters who already have children in the family home, to provide some discussion and suggested tools and resources to support parents in preparing their children.

Marketing:

We have a small and dedicated Marketing & Communications Team with a Marketing & Communications Manager working with the RAA as well as the Fostering Service for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. During the year, it was agreed that we would appoint a time-limited Marketing & Communication Assistant who would provide dedicated marketing time for the Agency. This started in January as a half time post that will remain until December 2022. The addition of the Marketing Officer has enabled the Agency to take a proactive role around the current marketing approach.

Over the year marketing and communications have been planned, executed and delivered so that the service is able to meet the needs of the children and young people who need adoption. We have formed an activity plan which details events, campaigns, internal meetings, newsletter publish dates, department comms, light touch messages for social media, reports, supports groups, prepare to adopt, and campaign planning meetings. This means we have been able to co-ordinate all of our activity with the service and make sure that we hit deadlines and keep activity and awareness high. We have undertaken three large campaigns to date covering LGBT month, YOUCANADOPT and National Adoption Week – all co-ordinated throughout the year to help capitalise on adopters and those core groups highlighted in our marketing and recruitment plan for adoption.

One area we were keen to develop was creating new stories of those that have adopted in order for us to promote the real adoption messages. We have created four new profiles for our website and our marketing campaigns, as well as video promoting adoption of children with complex needs, and the benefits of caring for a sibling group. We aim to build on this in 2022 with a video promoting Early Permanence.

There was an acknowledgement that the website created for the launch of the RAA was in its infancy and would benefit from changes to improve usability as well as have an eye-catching design to encourage those considering adoption. We completed a review of the website and complete stage one of development which covered images, usability and support. The website has also been optimised for mobile use as we know a significant number of visitors come via mobile phones and tablets. The website has also had a number of changes made to improve the navigation for visitors and we have detailed a plan of action to develop stage 2 and 3, helping to improve each department. We have improved our language so that we are more conversational and more chatty and therefore more appealing.

The service launched its Facebook page in early 2021 with the aim of promoting the service. We have since added Facebook groups and are now engaging more agency support to help us spread the message about the need for more adopters. Our channel

works well and although we have more development work to do, we are seeing more interactions and engagement on the page which feeds back to enquiries (reported on in our quarterly reports). We plan to launch our Instagram page in June 2022 to help target audiences through visual representation and the use of videos. We are going to focus on our core groups of children and young people who need adopters. The service currently uses the corporate Twitter account as research show this will improve awareness – we are working on driving visitors to the website.

For the upcoming year we have conducted research and developed a targeting list for fertility clinics, churches, events and community groups so that we can promote adoption much more widely. This action plan is currently being worked through in conjunction with the adoption team managers.

The Adoption Service has a full suite of marketing and promotional materials to use for internal/external promotion and at events. We are working on branding each area into one distinct colour from the logo so that they each have their own identities and do not all look the same.

The Marketing & recruitment Strategy for 2022 – 2023 is Appendix C.

Family Finding:

The Family Finding Team comprises of a Team Manager, 2 Senior Practitioners and 2 Social Workers.

The Regional Adoption Agency has dedicated Family Finding Social Workers who have knowledge of all the children from Cambridgeshire and Peterborough who may need an adoptive placement. The Family Finding Social Workers will regularly review the permanency plan for the child and once it is clear adoption is the plan for a child active family finding will start.

Family finding activity includes early information sharing of children with a plan for adoption with the Regional Adoption Agency approved adopters, the use of exchange events and adoption activity days where required, as well as forums such as Link Maker.

When a child is identified by an adopter, there will be a series of meetings with the Regional Adoption Agency and the Local Authority, or other agency where applicable, to ensure that adopters have full information about the child – as far as is available. This will include meeting with the Medical Advisor, the current foster carer, the child's school, if at school age, and a Child Appreciation Day to gather detailed information about the child's experiences and history to date. Prospective adopters are entitled to all available information about the child that they are considering and will need to feel confident that all information about the child has been shared with them.

If a child is placed on an Early Permanence basis when the final care plan is not yet determined, the placement will be supervised, managed, and supported in line with fostering regulations.

As outlined earlier, over the year, 39 children in Cambridgeshire and 21 children in Peterborough had a plan for adoption and 37 children in Cambridgeshire and 22 children in Peterborough were made subject to Placement Orders and, despite the national trend indicating a decline in numbers, we have not seen this. In fact, our numbers are increasing. This has highlighted that both Local Authorities continue to

have a positive view about adoption and ensure children have this as a permanence plan when there are no alternatives within the family. The Should Be Placed For Adoption ADM and Courts for both Local Authorities are the same and this ensures continuity and consistency in the decisions with regards to children.

It is important to acknowledge that over the past year, 65 children have been placed for adoption and that this is a significantly higher number than anticipated. Within these placements, we have been able to secure adoptive placements for those children who have been waiting over 12 months. This is a positive story for the Regional Adoption Agency and has meant that in the current children waiting for adoptive placements, only one has been waiting longer than 18 months and this child is linked and hopes to be placed by September 2022.

The Regional Adoption Agency does not have a statutory role with the ADM for Should Be Placed For Adoption, however we have been working closely with the ADM to review the processes so we can align Cambridgeshire & Peterborough. As part of this strategy we are introducing the Agency Advisor to play a quality assurance role for the papers being presented for Should Be Placed For Adoption ADM. The new processes will be relaunched in August 2022, and this will be a joint approach of Children’s Social Care and the RAA.

At 31 March 2022:

	Cambridgeshire	Peterborough
Children being tracked	64	28
Children with PO	20	8
Children with Should be placed for Adoption	18	4
Children Linked	8	3

When considering the matching of children who have a plan for adoption, it is important to consider not only the numbers of children and adopters but the characteristics. The ASLGB refers to *The Adopter Gap: This is an analysis on the gap between the number of adopters available compared with the number of children needing adoptive parents*. The National Adopter Gap is +71% indicating that there is an excess of adopters available.

The Eastern Region has a +86% mirroring the national trend with there being an excess of adopters available. However, the data for Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Adoption is very different; we currently have a 12% adopter gap indicating that we have a small gap between the number of adopters available for children (24 adopters available for 22 children) – the adopter gap only considers those children with a Placement Order. However, internally, we monitor the number of children who have an ADM for adoption and this data indicates there are an additional 22 children where the plan for adoption has been ratified and waiting for the outcome of the Court. It is important to acknowledge that this is associated with Cambridgeshire and Peterborough authorities continuing to promote adoption as a care plan for children, where appropriate. The number of ADMs has remained higher than the national average (ADM Number per 10,00 population under the age of 18 years old is 3.01%, whereas the national average is 2.59% and the Eastern Region is even lower at 2.16%). Additionally, liaison with other Regional Adoption Agencies local to us has

indicated that they have excess adopters, however they also are struggling to match the adopters due to a mix match of the adopter offer and children available. All of this indicates the importance that we continue to have an active recruitment campaign for adoption to ensure we have a continuous flow of approved adopters to enable to timely matching for children.

Panel:

The Adoption Panel for the Region is constituted in accordance with legislation, regulations, and guidance. There is a central list of 24 approved panel members, including three Chairs and a Vice-Chair. The work of the panel is supported by a Panel Advisor and Panel Administrators. The Regional Adoption Agency has recently recruited an Adoption Advisor, Jade Cullum, whose primary role is Panel Advisor. She joined us in February 2022.

Members of the Adoption Panel include individuals with personal experience of adoption, adopters and adopted adults and other independent members with professional experience of adoption, fostering and looked after children. Panels are balanced as far as possible in terms of gender, age, ethnicity, and experience.

The purpose of the Panel is to consider all applications from prospective adopters for approval and makes recommendations to the Agency Decision Maker. The Panel considers all applications for the approval of a match between a child/ren from the RAA and suitable adopters. This recommendation goes to the Agency Decision Maker (ADM) for the relevant Local Authority of the child being placed. The Panel also considers placements for adoption where the birth parent(s) request their child be adopted. The recommendation goes to the ADM for the relevant Local Authority.

Over the year there were 41 Panels held that heard 50 approvals, 55 matches, 2 relinquished baby plans and 3 adopter de-registrations.

There was one match where Panel did not recommend the match – this took place in May 2021. This was a sibling group of 2 children who were aged 4 and 8 years old who had complex needs as result of their childhood experiences. The match was with adopters approved by another Adoption Agency. The concerns raised by Panel were around the preparation of the children, as well the readiness for the adopters to manage the potential complex needs. The Panel was held on Microsoft Teams. The ADM took on board the concerns, however, being aware of the coherent narrative from the social workers who felt it was a good match for the children, the ADM requested additional information by way of an independent second opinion report to inform the ADM decision. Having received additional information, the ADM agreed to approve the match and I am pleased to report that the placement progressed well with no concerns and the application for an Adoption Order has now been made.

The Panel will make a recommendation to the Agency Decision Maker (ADM), in relation to approval. The Panel members are provided with training, including mandatory courses, such as equality and diversity, safeguarding and other learning events relevant to panel activity. In January 2022 we arranged for New Family Social to run a training course on LGBT+ Adoption which gave Panel members a better insight in the routes LGBT+ individuals and couples take to adoption; it explored how we can improve our relationships with potential applicants and existing adoptive parents or foster carers. Feedback from the Agency Advisor and Panel members who

attended said that the course was a really useful and helpful course. A comment included:

I found it useful in as far as it gave insight into how same sex couples feel pressured to fit into a “mould” developed by more traditional relationships. It was interesting how different people feel about labels and how words such as ‘queer’, which I find so offensive, relate to a time where they were used in a derogatory way (which is probably why I find it so offensive) and how the younger gay community have turned it round and made it a word they are proud of.

Since Jade has been in post, she has taken a proactive approach to training and is developing a multifaceted approach to training for Panel members including ensuring all Panel members have access to a range of courses provided by Cambridgeshire County Council training department.

There is a detailed Annual Report completed by the Panel Chairs and this is Appendix D.

Adoption & Special Guardianship Support:

The Regional Adoption Agency has a broad offer of support, and this includes approved adopters and the partner local authority Special Guardians Support Order. Post placement adoption support is provided by both the allocated child’s social worker and the adopter(s)’ social worker or connected person social worker. Once a child is adopted or subject to a Special Guardianship order, the support is provided by the Adoption & Special Guardianship Support Team.

The Adoption & Special Guardianship Support team comprises of a Team Manager, 4 Senior Practitioners, 1 Social Workers, a Therapeutic Family Worker, a Birth Relative Outreach Worker and 3 Post Box Co-ordinators.

The Regional Adoption Agency provides a range of adoption support services including advice, guidance, birth relative outreach support, birth records counselling, support with contact arrangements (direct and letterbox), intermediary services, access to adopter peer support and more targeted support through access to therapeutic support via the Adoption Support Fund.

On receipt of a referral for support, an initial assessment will be completed to outline the identified needs for the family, but also the support to be provided to the family. Services can include advice and guidance, parenting support, family work and individual work with children. Some of these services are delivered through the Adoption Support Fund.

It is important to acknowledge that the past year has been a challenging time for the team, partially due to significant staff vacancies and sickness absences, as well as a high level of demand for support from families. Until March 2022, the team had 50% social worker capacity in the team which meant families have had to wait for support. Alongside this there are significant difficulties for families to access universal services, include CAMHS, and this has led to substantially higher numbers of referrals than expected from families requesting support from the Agency, when previously universal services would have given this. This has led to families waiting for an assessment of need and support being offered. On a positive note, there has been an agreement for the Adoption Support Fund to be available until March 2025.

However there has also been a considerably high demand for ASF commissioned therapeutic support, which in turn has meant that families are being placed on waiting lists for accessing therapeutic support. The Team have continued to offer duty support for families so that families can access advice and support in the meantime.

Three post box co-ordinators sit within the Adoption and Special Guardianship Support team facilitating indirect contact for children who Cambridgeshire and Peterborough have placed for adoption. The Team will also support families where there are plans for direct contact between the children and their birth families.

Birth records counselling and intermediary services are another key area of work for the Team and due to Covid-19 and the difficulties with office-based working, the provision of this support had previously been paused. It was acknowledged that there was a significant high number of people waiting, including many vulnerable due to age and health needs. As response to this, it was agreed that the Team would appoint a social worker on a fixed term contract for 6 months to focus on this area and enable the service to respond to these requests, without having an impact on the capacity of supporting families on the waiting list. We have appointed to this post and the worker will start in June 2022 until December 2022.

Another area that has become part of the Adoption & Special Guardianship Support Team is the review of Adoption & Special Guardianship allowances. The annual reviews are overseen by the Head of the Regional Adoption Agency who works closely with the respective Local Authority Finance teams to complete the annual reviews. Where there is a clear financial hardship a means test allowance can be provided. However, there are times where the needs of child indicate the need for an allowance by exception. In these situations, the Support Team will undertake a needs-based assessment to consider the needs of the child and the financial support that should be offered.

Alongside this, there has been a review of the Financial Allowance process for Adoption & Special Guardianship Allowances; the Finance and Resource Panel has been disbanded and replaced with a clear simplified process for allowances that are within the policy, as well as allowances that are an exception due to the needs of the child. The Head of the Regional Adoption Agency has worked with the Head of Fostering & Supervised Contact to create this process. It is due to be launched in July 2022.

Over the past year the Team has received:

Initial Assessment for family support	107 (49 – SG Families & 58 – Adoptive families)
BRC/Intermediary/GRO	48 referrals
Financial Assessment	68 – since June 2021
ASF initials /reviews	200
Value of ASF Applications	£230,000

The Team facilitate regular support groups for children and families across various locations. There 6 support groups that run on a minimum of a monthly basis. They are based across the local authorities with a focus to support adopters to build up their own support networks. Members of the Support Team attend to offer advice and

support. There is one support group that was set up to support Special Guardians and this is based in Peterborough.

We have been committed to increasing the therapeutic skills in the Team to enable them to provide therapeutic informed support and training to families. To achieve this, we will have provided training for the Team on the Trauma Informed Model as well as DDP Training. The plan is to be able to use this training to support the other teams in the RAA as well as Panel, in order to have a Trauma Informed approach to practice. There is also a desire to access training for this model with other areas of Children's Services, specifically Fostering and Children In Care.

It has become clear since the Regional Adoption Agency has been live that there is not adequate capacity in the Adoption & Special Guardian Support team to provide a timely response to referrals from families. After further exploration, a Business Case has been completed to identify options going forward. The Business Case is due to considering by identified members of the Partnership Board to agree a way forward to enable families to access support in a timely way.

8. Commissioned Services

There are a number of services that the Regional Adoption Agency (RAA) has to commission to fulfil the needs of the service costing approximately £298,460 on an annual basis.

	Annual Cost
Medical Advisor – this is to complete reports with regards to the <i>adopter medical reports that are a statutory requirement for assessment and review of approved adopters</i>	£7,000
Panel Chairs – we have 4 Panel Chairs that share the responsibility for chairing the Adoption Panel.	£4,000
Linkmaker – Online service to support linking for children with a plan for adoption and prospective adoptive parents across the England, Wales and Scotland	£17,000
Birth Relatives Counselling – this is a statutory provision and is currently provided by Adoption Plus.	£18,000
Intercountry Adoption – there is a statutory duty for the local authority to provide intercountry adoption where by the adopters are assessed in the UK and linked with a child that is not based in the UK.	£13,000
Adoption Support Fund – a DfE statutory service where the adoption support fund (ASF) provides funds to local authorities (LAs) and regional adoption agencies (RAAs) to pay for essential therapeutic services for eligible adoptive and special guardianship order (SGO) families.	£230,000 (approx.)

Coram BAAF membership – <i>this allows us to access support, advice and discounted training and resources to ensure that we continue to provide complaint and good practice.</i>	£8,500
New Family Social membership – <i>this is an agency dedicated at promoting adoption and fostering within the LGBT+ community. They also provide training, advice, support and resources that are valuable when supporting adopters in this community. there are different levels of membership with differing levels of promotion and resource access.</i>	£960

The partnership agreement outlines transferring the commissioned services and the responsibility for procurement activity for those services, however there is no resource within the Regional Adoption Agency or Cambridgeshire Country Council's Children's Commissioning Service to fulfil this.

As the Regional Adoption Agency is part of a Local Authority, all commissioning activity is subject to procurement & commissioning regulations. It is also vital that the RAA continues to explore efficiency savings as a result of the two Local Authorities coming together, and these opportunities will be explored in 2022-2023. As there is no dedicated resource in the Regional Adoption Agency there is a Business Case underway to devise a plan for this going forward. This will be considered by Board in August 2022 is due to be completed by June 2022.

9. Staff group – recruitment & retention, sickness

As with any service, the staff group is a vital part of the effective running of the Agency. It is important to acknowledge that there has been a lot of changes in the staff group, however the Agency ends the year in a strong position to move forward.

At the start of the year there were a number of identified vacancies, including many in the management group. These posts included the Head of the Regional Adoption Agency, 2 Team Managers and a Panel Advisor. These vacancies placed significant pressure on the Agency to have a stable base to grow the service. The Head of the Regional Adoption Agency was appointed and then following this the remainder of the management team were in place by February 2022. Some of the appointments were internal to the Agency by way of progression, internal transfer within the local authority and some new staff to the local authority.

Over the year:

9 members of staff have left	5 Business Support Officer, 2 Social Workers, 1 Team Manager
8 members of staff have joined	2 Management positions, 4 Social Worker positions, 2 Business Support Officers and a Marketing Assistant

4 members of staff have been promoted	3 Management positions and 1 Social Worker positions.
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As at the end of the year we have 2 Social Worker vacancies, however we have appointed to these vacancies with members of staff due to start in April and July.

Another area that has created pressure for the RAA has been around sickness and this is particularly so for the Adoption Panel and the Adoption & Special Guardianship Support Team. Over the 12 months the Service has lost 423 days to sickness over a total of 17 employees. The prevalent reason being stress with 276 days, followed by anxiety at 104 days. 315 days have been linked to long-term sickness. For all of those workers who have had a period of sickness, there is a return-to-work meeting and for those on long-term sickness, an Occupational Health assessment was completed and a there is a planned phased return over a 4-week period, with additional support to enable a successful return to work.

It is acknowledged that the Adoption & Special Guardianship Support Team has been under significant stress owing to high levels of referrals and families in periods of acute stress, and this has contributed towards staff sickness. In response to this we have provided the Team with additional resources including agency Social Workers and a permanent Full Time Business Support Officer, alongside reviewing the services offered and suggesting referrals to other services as appropriate.

10. Complaints

Over the past year we have received 18 Stage 1 complaints which have come from 16 families. 15 of the complaints related to the Adoption & Special Guardianship Support Team. We upheld 3 complaints, partially updated 12 and did not uphold 3.

Of these complaints

- 6 were regarding delays in accessing an assessment and support from the Adoption & Special Guardianship Support Team,
- 3 were with regard to delays around post box contact,
- 4 related to special guardianship allowances,
- 2 were regarding accessing birth records as an adopted adult,
- 1 was regarding a decision not to progress with an assessment as an adoptive parent,
- 2 were regarding delays in securing the adoption order for the child.

We have one Statutory Stage 2 complaint and one Statutory Stage 3. These were for the same family who raised a number of concerns regarding the support being provided by the Adoption Support Team. For the Stage 2 complaint there were a number of issues raised and one was upheld, 7 complaint issues were not upheld and 2 were partially upheld. There were 9 recommendations, 8 of which have been completed and 1 is in progress.

The statutory Stage 3 complaint was because the family were unhappy with the outcome of the Stage 2 complaint and at 31 March 2022, this is in progress.

11. Service developments

Despite the Regional Adoption Agency only being 15 months old and the significant staffing changes and vacancies, there has continued to be a drive to evolve and improve practice with the Service. Some of these are in the early stages and will be evolved further in 2022 – 2023.

One area that is starting in the Adoption & Special Guardianship Support Team is embedding Trauma Informed practice; this is a strengths-based approach, which seeks to understand and respond to the impact of trauma on people's lives. The approach emphasises physical, psychological, and emotional safety for everyone, and aims to empower individuals to re-establish control of their lives. Research has identified that this is a successful way to support families who are caring for children who have experienced trauma. We have a trained Senior Practitioner in the team who has been sharing this learning with the rest of her team, however there is a plan to broaden this across the whole of the Regional Adoption Agency. There are training dates planned for May & August 2022 so we can support the team and members of the Adoption Panel in embedding this approach.

We have a plan to hold a Regional Adoption Agency Service Away Day in May 2022 where we will bring the whole service together for the first time since we started in December 2020. We will aim to use to the day to look at each area of the Service and identify ways in which we can improve. This includes how we promote adoption to recruit adopters, increasing the voice of the adopters, embedding the child's voice within all the work we do, and introducing the Trauma Informed Model.

One of the successes for the past year is that we have an Adoptive Parent who has joined the Partnership Board and has been proactive in offering appropriate challenge and I would like to take this further. There is a plan to embed the Adopter's voice into all aspects of the service we offer. This is outlined in the Service Plan – Appendix E.

As I have already mentioned above, it has been acknowledged that the commissioning work in the Regional Adoption Agency is significant and an area where we need to undertake a Business Case to consider how we approach ensuring effective commissioning is undertaken as well as provide scope for further commissioning with the Agency as well as across other agencies.



Joanne Banks

Head of the Regional Adoption Agency.

27 July 2022

Appendix A : Financial Statement 2021-2022 & Budget Plans 2022-2023

Account	Account (T)	Current Budget	Actuals	Outturn Variance	
A0000	Pay	1,623,113.00	1,252,143.90	-370,969.10	
A4000	Agency Staff	10,000.00	65,717.50	55,717.50	
A6110	Recruitment Advertising	0.00	1,950.00	1,950.00	
A6200	Staff Training & Development	3,000.00	5,523.00	2,523.00	
A6400	Staff health & welfare Costs	6,500.00	0.00	-6,500.00	Expended under Internal recharges
B2005	Casual hire of facilities	1,000.00	1,064.00	64.00	
C5000	Car mileage and allowances - staff	38,758.00	4,309.85	-34,448.15	
C5010	Car mileage and allowances - other	1,690.00	1,188.40	-501.60	
D0230	Books and Multimedia Supplies	250.00	96.98	-153.02	
D3000	Printing	0.00	167.60	167.60	
D3100	General Office Expenses & Stationery	8,112.00	0.00	-8,112.00	
D3105	Unallocated Purchase card expenditure	0.00	748.98	748.98	
D4105	External Legal Fees	0.00	2,833.30	2,833.30	
D4110	Professional Fees and Hired Services	69,567.00	85,499.37	15,932.37	Ongoing adoption placement costs inc £5334 of PCC costs pre RAA
D4800	Advertising / Publicity (non Recruitment)	36,000.00	22,275.45	-13,724.55	
D5110	Mobile Phones	3,780.00	0.00	-3,780.00	
D6000	Staff subsistence	1,500.00	397.89	-1,102.11	
D7000	Subscriptions	51,460.00	58,747.78	7,287.78	
E7100	Adoption Agency	288,000.00	367,366.00	70,366.00	Inter Agency - Includes £9k of PCC IA costs pre RAA
F1010	Adoption Allowances	3,250.00	7,154.38	3,904.38	
G2000	Internal Recharges	0.00	2,155.75	2,155.75	
J2205	Other Funding Contributions	-637,181.00	-637,181.00	0.00	PCC RAA contribution
J2205	Other Funding Contributions		-274,197.00	-274,197.00	2020/21 carry forward
J2205	Other Funding Contributions	0.00	562,305.00	562,305.00	2021/22 carry forward into 2022/23
J4300	Other Cost Recovery	0.00	-12,468.41	-12,468.41	
		1,508,799.00	1,517,798.72	-0.28	
	Pay		-315,251.60	-288108	2021/22 underspend
	Non Pay		-48,556.68	-274197	2020/21 carry forward
	Inter Agency		61,366.00	-562305	2021/22 carry forward
	PCC				
	Recharge		14334		
			-288,108.28		

RAA Budget 2022/23

Cost Centre (T)	Account	Account (T)	Current Budget
Regional Adoption Agency	A0000	Pay	1,170,067.00
Regional Adoption Agency	A1000	NI	125,838.00
Regional Adoption Agency	A2000	Pension	246,884.00
Regional Adoption Agency	A3005	Other Allowances	48,600.00
Regional Adoption Agency	A3100	Apprentice Levy	5,850.00
Regional Adoption Agency	A4000	Agency Staff	10,000.00
Regional Adoption Agency	A6200	Staff Training & Development	3,000.00
Regional Adoption Agency	A6400	Staff health & welfare Costs	1,000.00
Regional Adoption Agency	B2005	Casual hire of facilities	1,000.00
Regional Adoption Agency	C5000	Car mileage and allowances - staff	25,575.00
Regional Adoption Agency	C5010	Car mileage and allowances - other	1,000.00
Regional Adoption Agency	D0230	Books and Multimedia Supplies	150.00
Regional Adoption Agency	D4105	External Legal Fees	1,000.00
Regional Adoption Agency	D4110	Professional Fees and Hired Services	37,000.00
Regional Adoption Agency	D4800	Advertising / Publicity (non Recruitment)	36,000.00
Regional Adoption Agency	D5110	Mobile Phones	500.00
Regional Adoption Agency	D6000	Staff subsistence	1,500.00
Regional Adoption Agency	D7000	Subscriptions	40,000.00
Regional Adoption Agency	E7100	Adoption Agency	338,710.00
Regional Adoption Agency	F1010	Adoption Allowances	40,000.00
Regional Adoption Agency	J2205	Other Funding Contributions	-637,181.00
Regional Adoption Agency			1,496,493.00

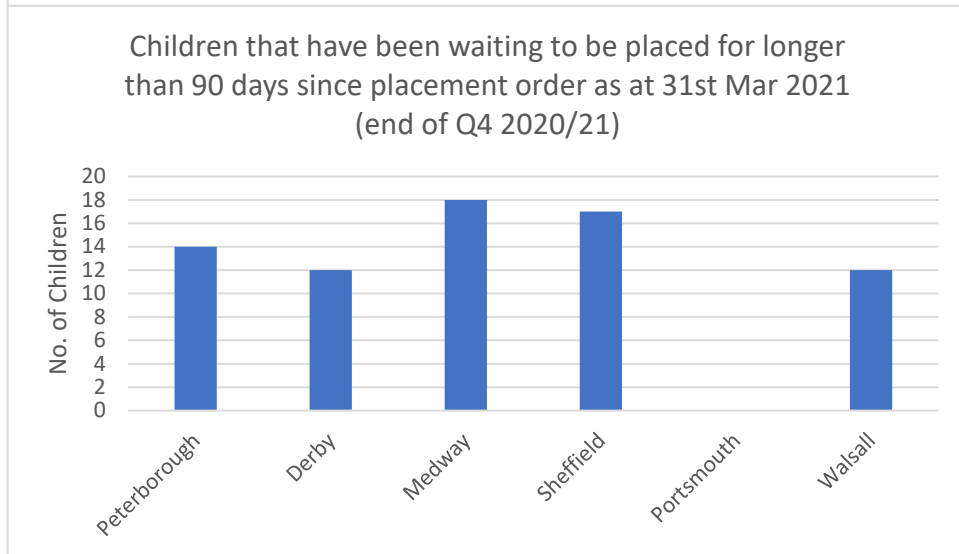
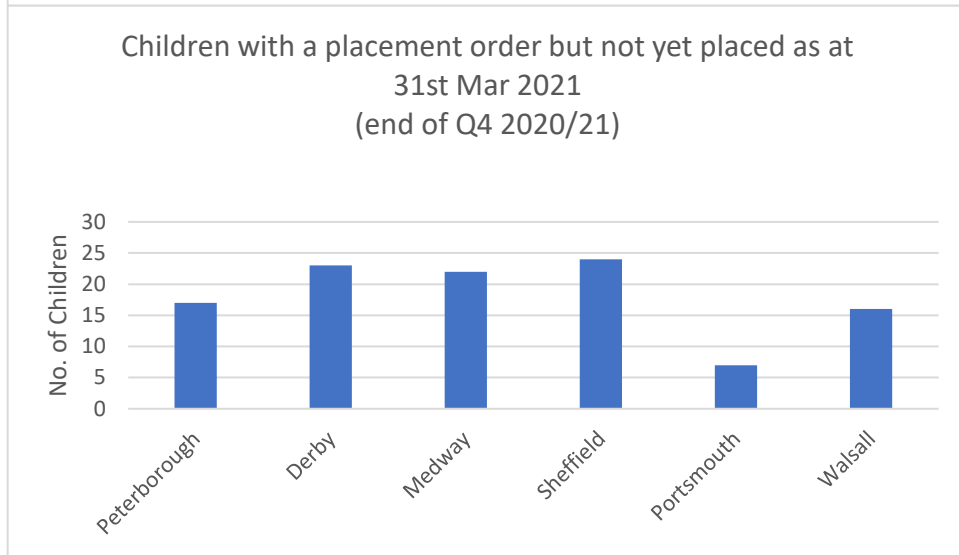
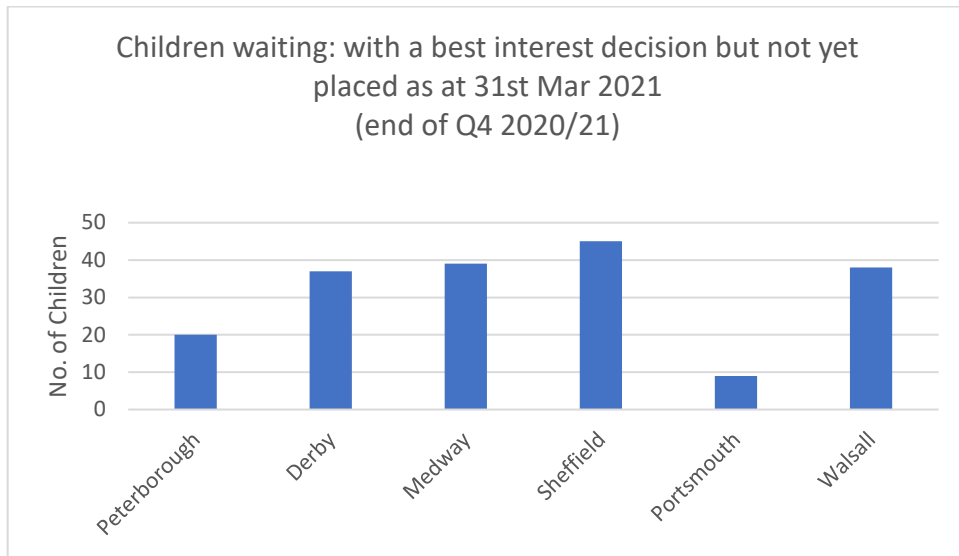
Note:

Additional budget to cover NI increase has been added to budget which would increase PCC contribution to £640102 (+2921)

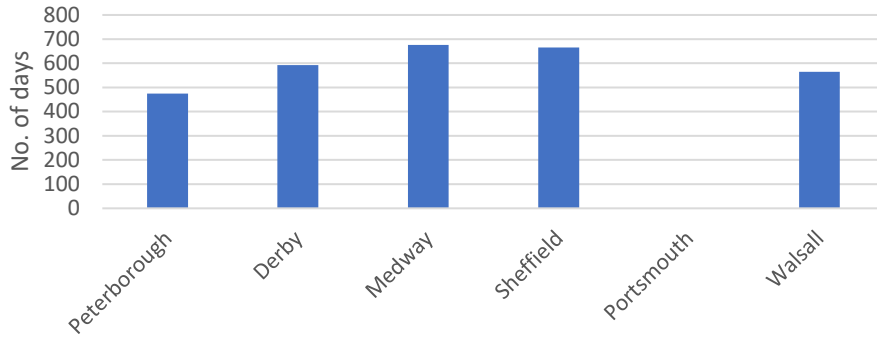
Additional budget will also be added to cover 1.75% CCC pay rise which will also necessitate an additional PCC contribution

Proposal is once final figure is known this is tabled at the Board for approval

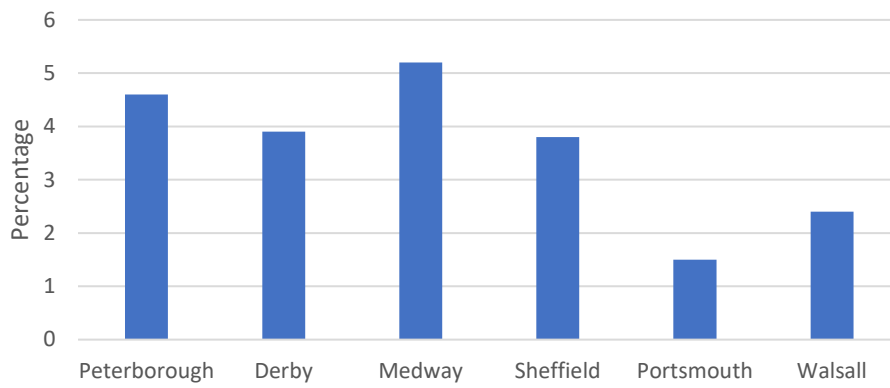
Appendix B – ASLGB Data SN Comparison - Peterborough



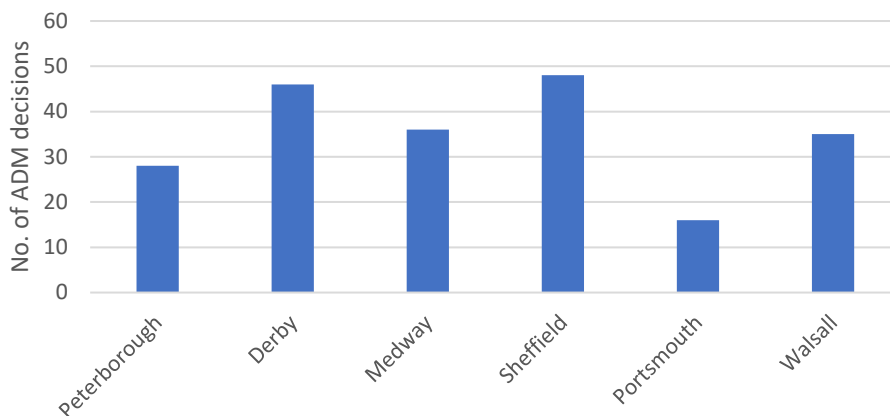
Average number of days spent waiting to be placed with placement order since entering care at 31st Mar 2021 (end of Q4 2020/21)

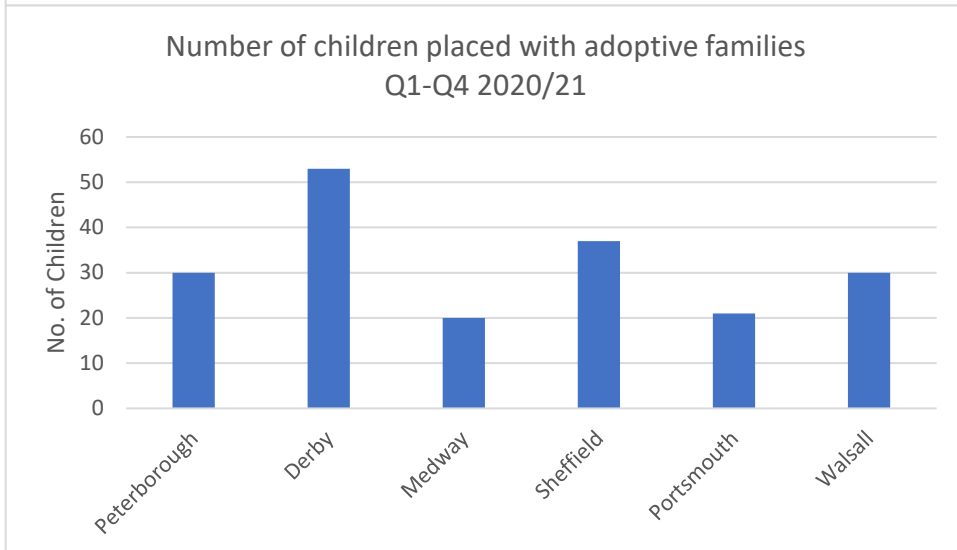
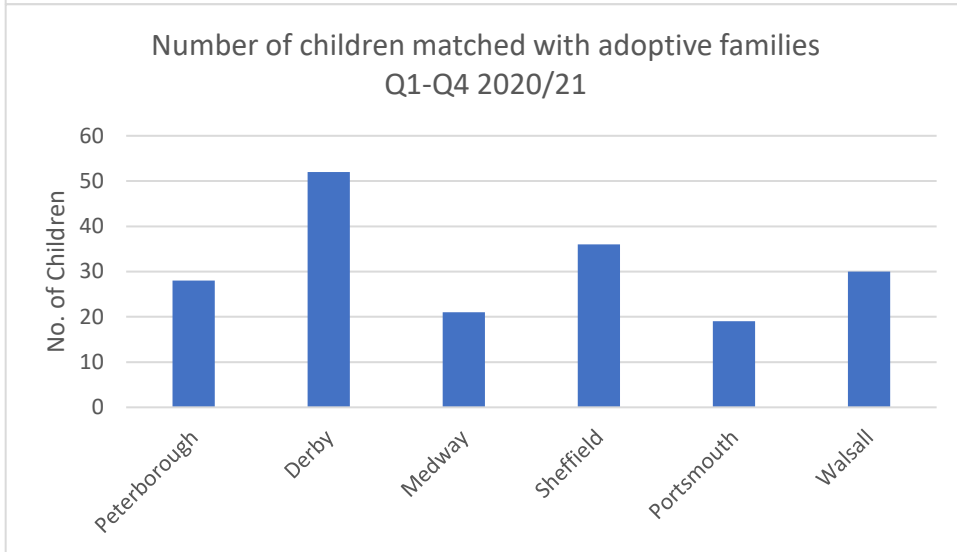


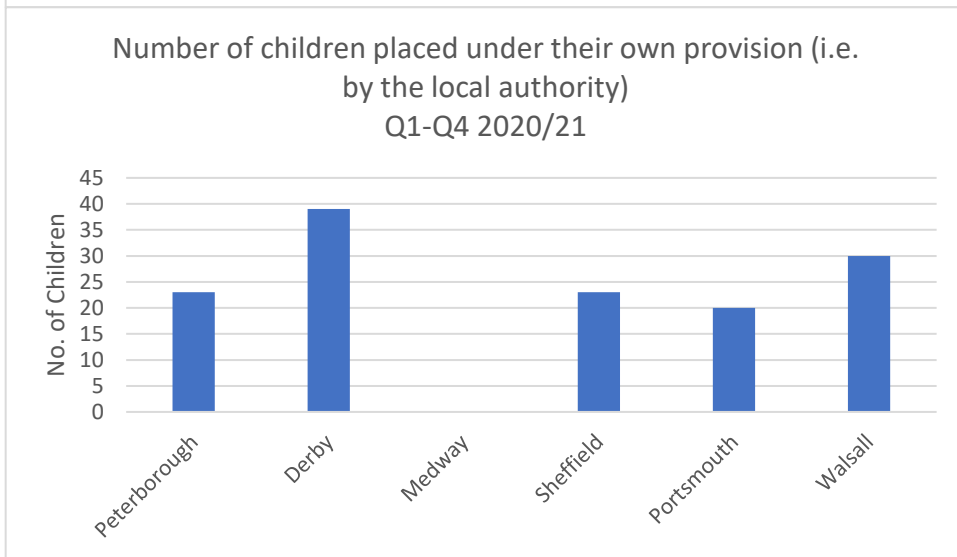
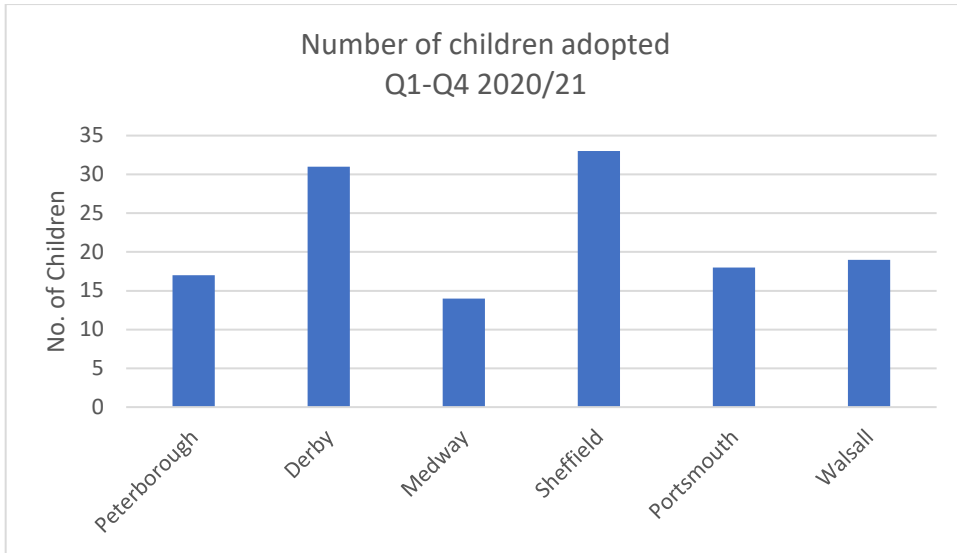
Percentage of children waiting to be placed with a placement order at 31st Mar 2021 per children looked after as at 31st Mar 2020



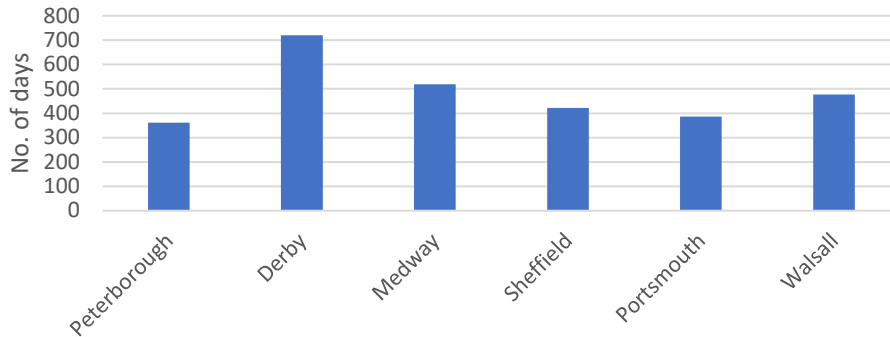
Number of ADM decisions Q1-Q4 2020/21



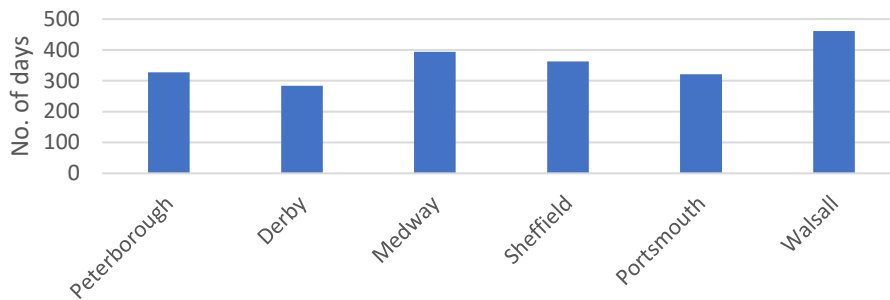




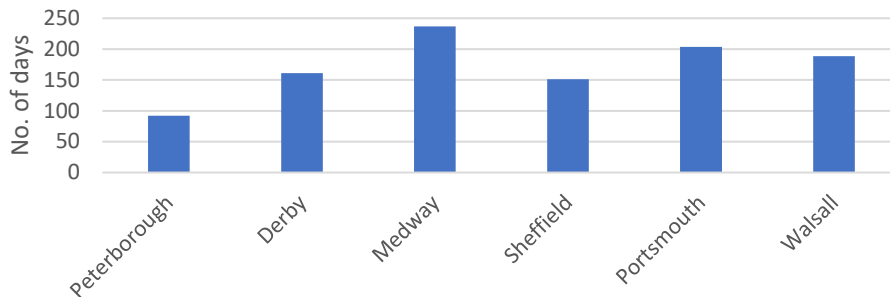
Average number of days between a child entering care and moving in with its adoptive family
(scorecard indicator A1)
Q1-Q4 2020/21



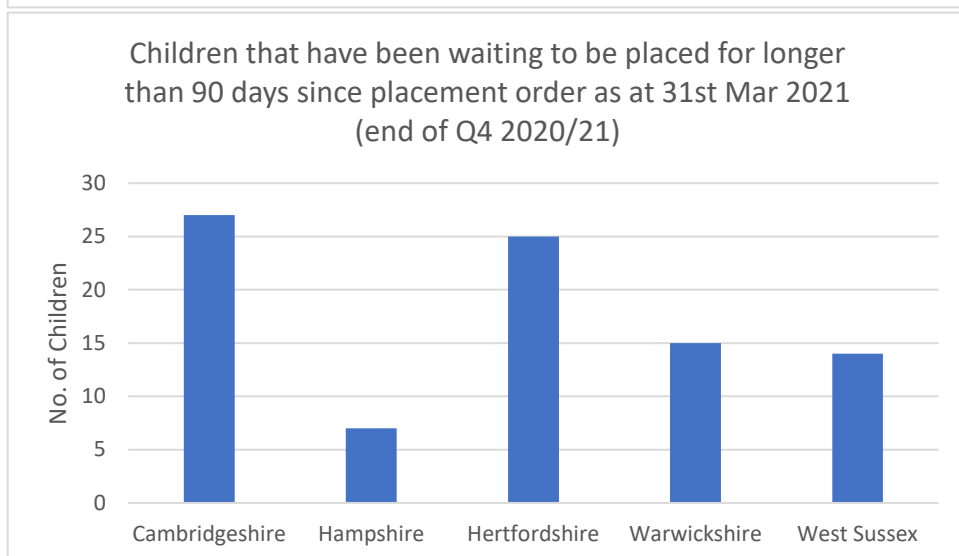
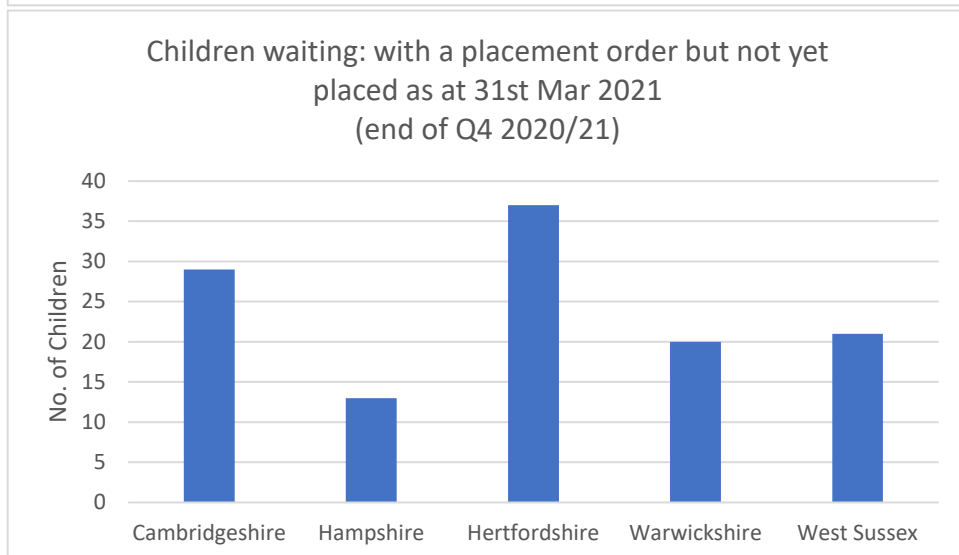
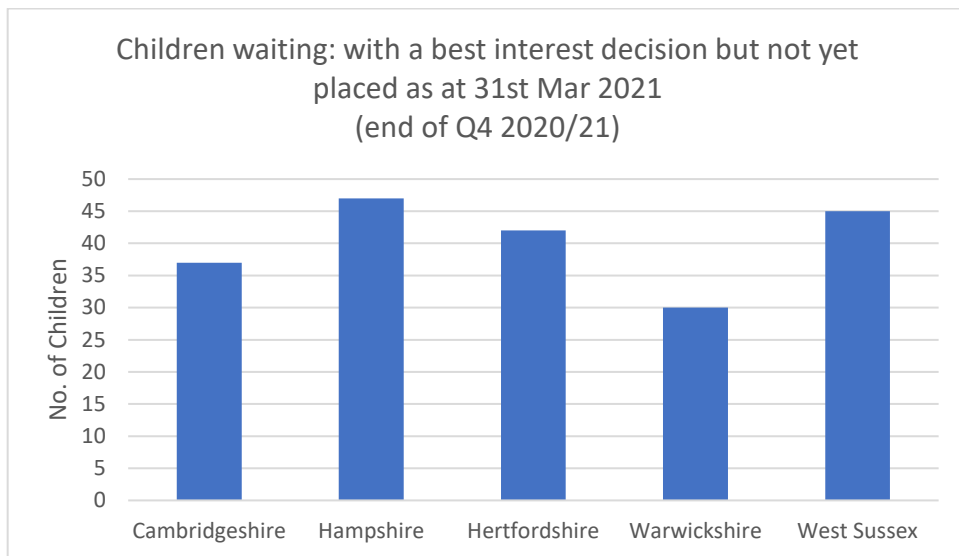
Average number of days between a child entering care and moving in with its adoptive family, adjusted for foster carer adoptions
(scorecard indicator A10)
Q1-Q4 2020/21



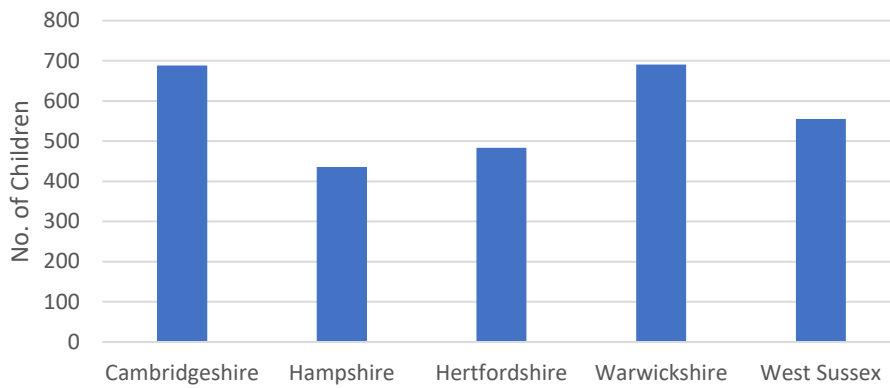
Average time between an LA receiving court authority to place a child and the LA deciding on a match to an adoptive family
(scorecard indicator A2)
Q1-Q4 2020/21



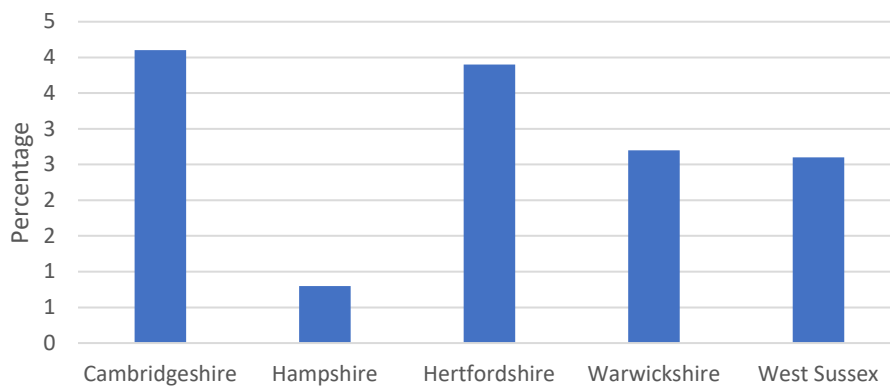
Appendix B – ASLGB Data SN Comparison - Cambridgeshire



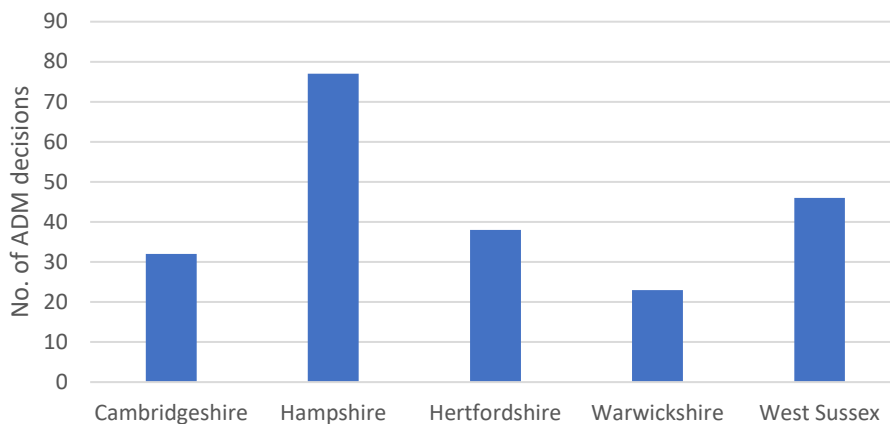
Average number of days spent waiting to be placed with placement order since entering care at 31st Mar 2021 (end of Q4 2020/21)

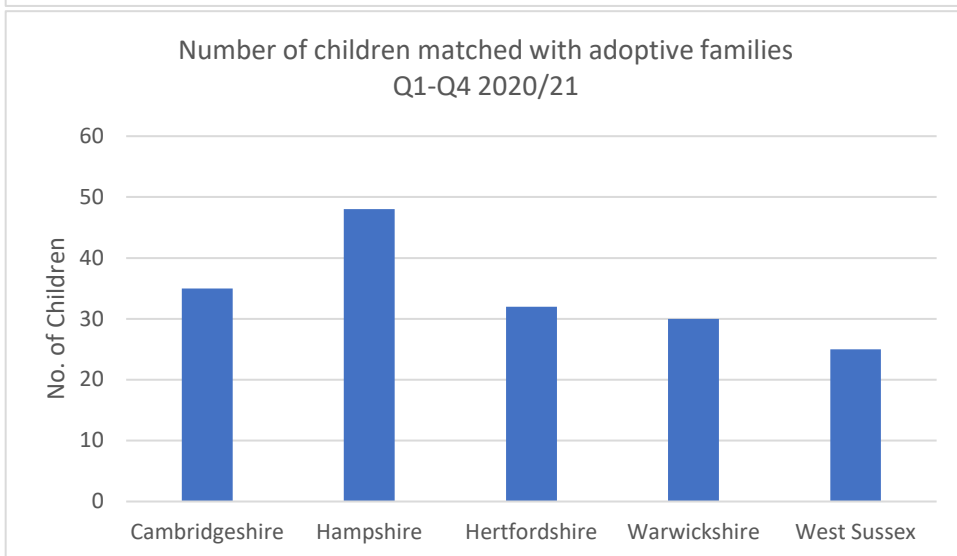
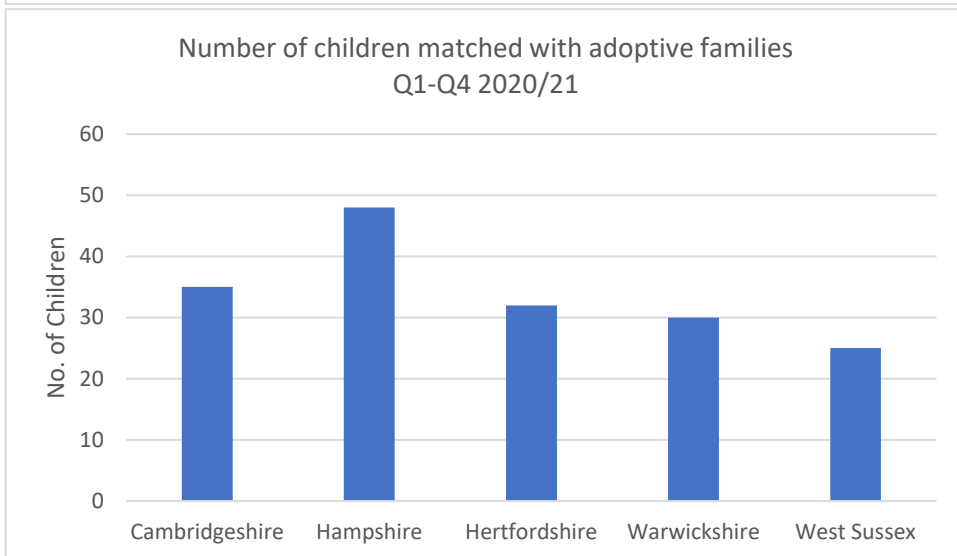
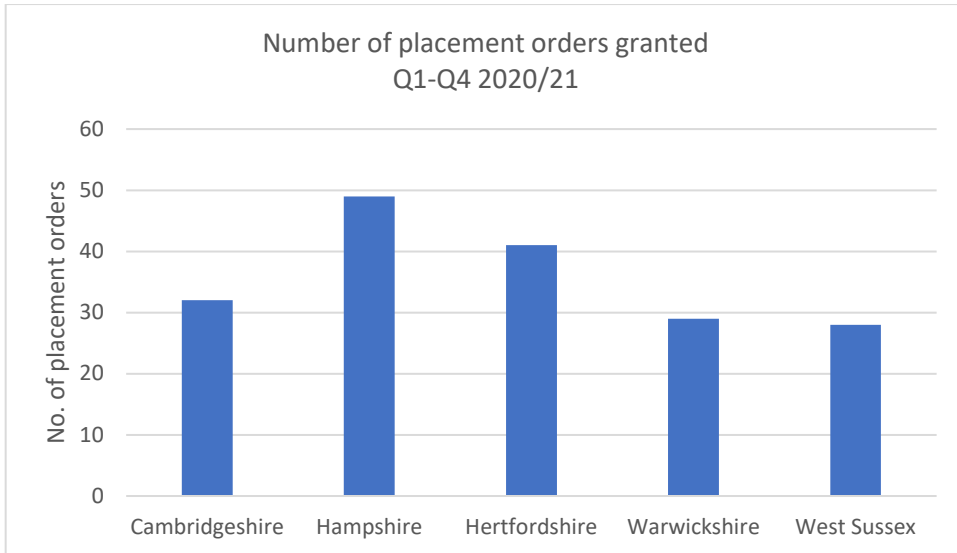


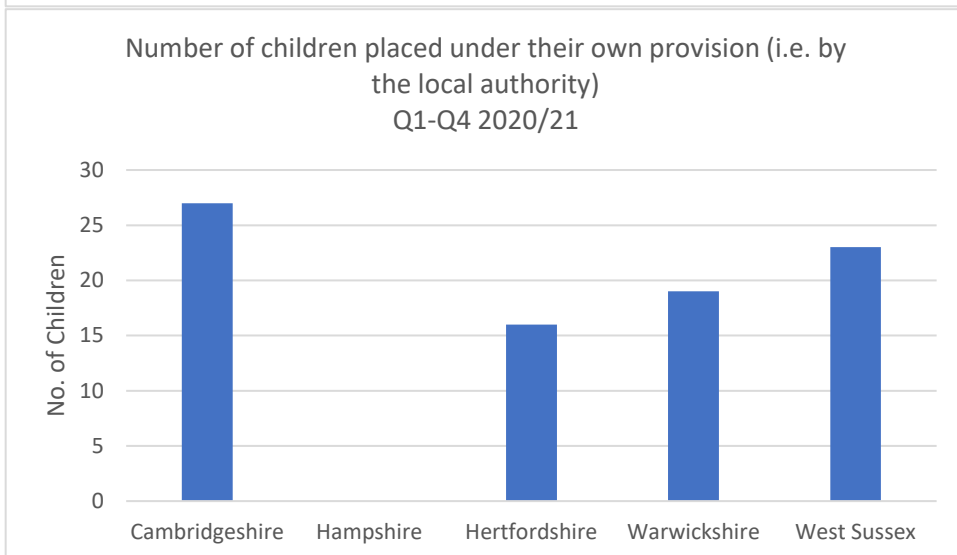
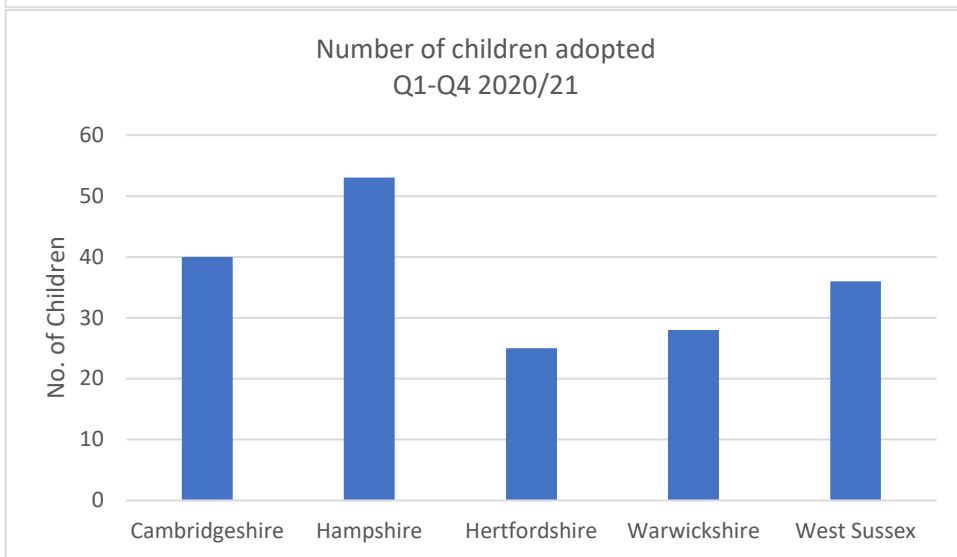
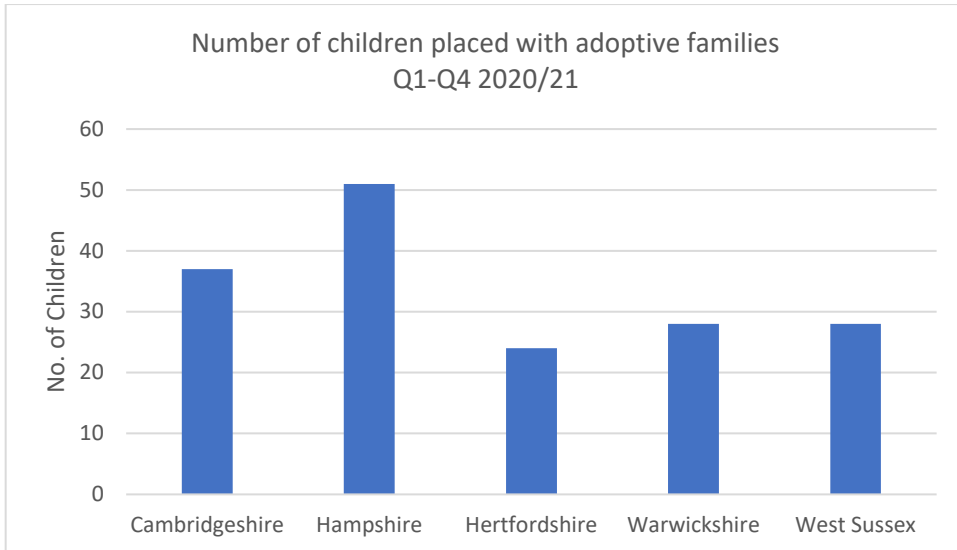
Percentage of children waiting to be placed with a placement order at 31st Mar 2021 per children looked after as at 31st Mar 2020

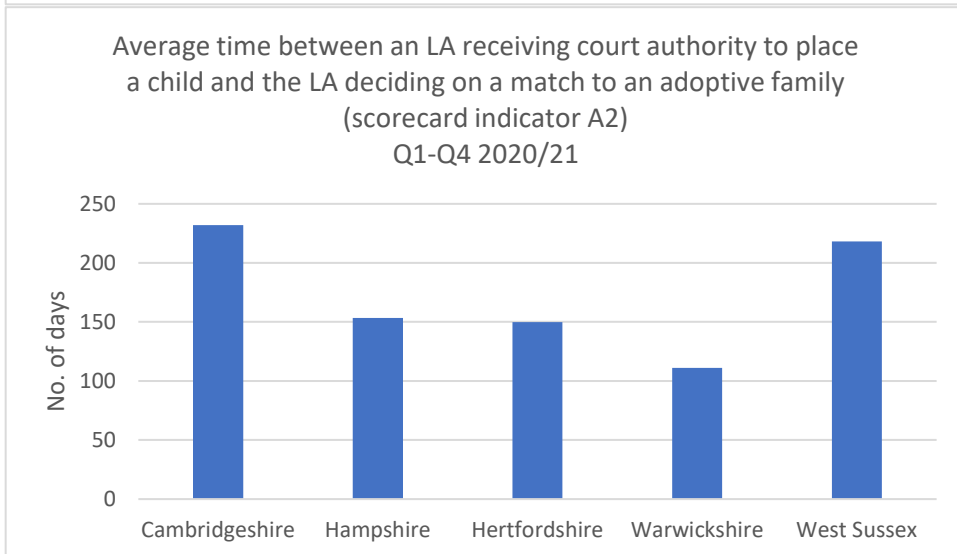
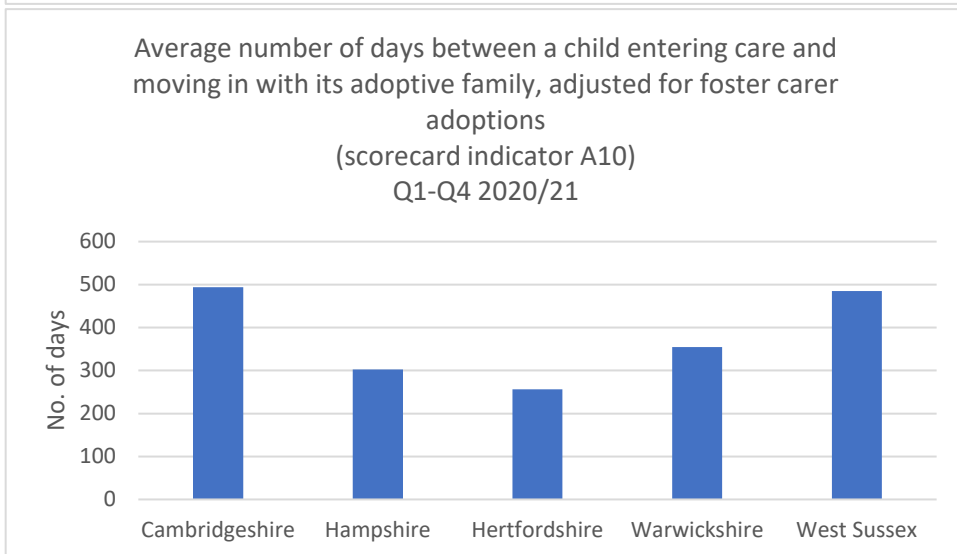
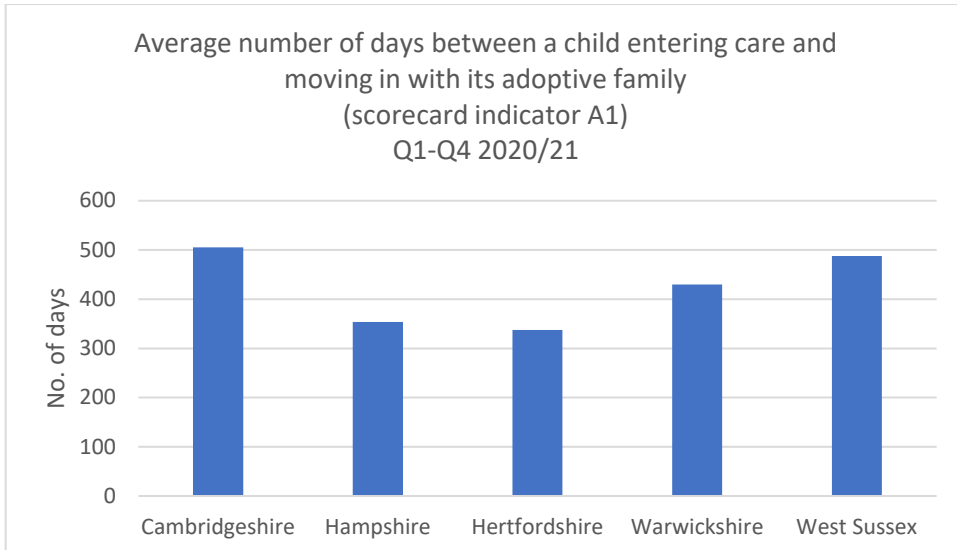


Number of ADM decisions Q1-Q4 2020/21









Appendix C Marketing Strategy 2022-2023

See Marketing, Communication & Recruitment Strategy 2022-2023 Attached

CAMBRIDGESHIRE & PETERBOROUGH ADOPTION

ADOPTION AND PERMANENCE PANEL REPORT – ANNUAL

1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022

1.0 Introduction

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Adoption, Regional Adoption Agency, was formed and was established from 01 December 2020.

The Adoption and Permanence Panels from both Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council have come together to form one Adoption and Permanence Panel for the RAA.

The detail and statistics for this report are for Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Adoption Agency Adoption and Permanence Panel.

All adoption agencies are required by law to have an Adoption Panel, the key role of which is to provide independent scrutiny of the proposals presented by an Adoption Agency. The Panel is asked to determine whether all the issues have been appropriately clarified and whether the proposal is sound, and to make a recommendation to an Agency Decision Maker (ADM) accordingly.

The proposals placed before the Adoption Panel are:

- The suitability of applicants to become adoptive parents, as presented in the Prospective Adopters Report,
- The match between a child or children and approved adopters, as presented in the Adoption Placement Report (APR) with the Prospective Adopters Report (PAR) and Child's Permanence Report (CPR),
- The plan that a relinquished child be adopted, as presented in the Child's Permanence Report (CPR),
- The Panel will also consider the renewed approval or termination of approval for adopters who have not been matched with a child after 3 years; and a 'Brief Report', ie the case made by the Agency that an applicant or applicants is/are not suitable to adopt.

Adoption Panels have the discretion to offer advice to the relevant Agency about:

- The approval range for prospective adopters (ie the number, age range and needs of a child or children to be matched),
- The preparation of applicants for Fostering for Adoption,
- The arrangements the Adoption Agency/local authority proposes to make for allowing any person contact with the child.

2.0 Adoption Panel

The Adoption Agencies' Statutory Guidance requires that each Adoption Agency must maintain a 'central list' of persons it considers suitable to be a member of an Adoption Panel. The Panel's business can only be conducted if at least 5 members are present, including the Chair or vice-Chair and a social work representative.

The central list membership stands at 24 active members:

Central List Membership (as of 30th March 2022)

Gary Shorter	Independent Chair (social worker, adopter and foster carer)
Fernley Copping	Independent Member/Vice chair/Independent Chair
Lesley Hamilton	Independent Panel Chair (Birth Parent)
Jackie Fernandez	Independent Panel Chair (Adopter)
Mervyn Cowdell	Independent Member
Cathie McCulloch	Social Worker, PCC
Sue Hogg	Independent Member (foster carer)
Kathryn Moore	Independent Panel Member (adopter)
Alison Cotterill	Social Work Rep, PCC
Christopher Offiler	Independent Panel Member
Geraldine Moyo	Independent Panel Member/Social Worker
Sabina Giga	Independent Panel Member
Deborah Ward	Independent Panel Member (adopted person)
Jackie Venables	Independent Panel Member (foster carer)
Horia Astalos	Independent Social Worker
Stephen Cook	Independent Member (Adopted Adult)

Patricia Cullen	Independent Social Worker
Rayna Wallis	Independent Member (Adopter)
Louise Fraser	Independent Member (adopted adult)
Laura Dilkes	Independent Social Worker
Darren Jenkins	Independent Member (Adopter)
Elaine Barry	Independent Social Worker
Hugh Minty	New member due to start. Independent Social Worker, (adopter and foster carer)
Dr Rachel Bower	Independent Panel Member & Medical Adviser (Designated Doctor for LAC)

The Regional Adoption Agency Adoption and Permanence Panel has a core membership of highly skilled, knowledgeable, committed individuals from diverse professional backgrounds including adopters, adopted adults and a birth parent.

Dr Tim Ladbrooke, Medical Adviser, provides adult medical advice to the Agency. Dr Rachel Bower focuses on children's medicals for Cambridgeshire County Council and when available sits on Panel for matches. Dr Gregory and Dr Augustic provide focuses on children's medicals for Peterborough City Council. Dr Bower, Dr Gregory or Dr Augustic meet with prospective adopters for each child to go through the child's and their family's medical history as far as it is known and provide comprehensive medical reports for adopters and Panel.

Panel members have been appointed subject to relevant references and have up to date enhanced DBS checks. There was no programme of member appraisals in place during the period before the current Panel Adviser took up the role. Individual Panel member appraisals are planned to take place in May 2022 and will be ongoing until all are completed. Feedback invited from Panel members will form part of the discussion, drawing in members' reflections (they each will be asked to complete a self-assessment) and observations of working with individual Chairs.

All Panel Chair appraisals were completed in December 2021.

The Panel members who sit regularly demonstrate a high level of commitment and passion for their role, and the recommendations made for prospective adopters and children reflect members' broad range of expertise and experience. Panel members are nearly always well-prepared and prompt for meetings and seek to contribute

helpful feedback to the agencies. It is also appreciated that Panel members have been accommodating and patient as new Panel processes are established.

Panel does work effectively and meets the statutory requirements in relation to the central list, including the Panel being quorate for each meeting.

Membership updates

Some Panel members, including one of the Panel Chairs, have been sitting on Cambridgeshire County Council Fostering Panel again this year which has the benefit of further helping them in reaching recommendations on fostering and adoption dual approval cases.

All Panel members have confirmed that they wish to continue as Panel members and be part of the central list for the RAA Adoption and Permanence Panel.

We have continued to look to increase and diversify our Panel members. As a result of this we have recruited three new Panel members: Laura Dilkes, Elaine Barry and Darren Jenkins. Laura is a qualified Social Worker with a long-standing experience in Adoption and Fostering. Laura joined Panel in July 2021 and has been a regular member of Panel. Elaine Barry is also a qualified Social Worker and currently sits on other adoption and fostering panels and works for ARU with support for Step Up To Social Work students. Elaine joined us in October 2021. Darren Jenkins is an adoptive father and has adopted 2 children on separate adoption applications. He brings the valued adoptive family view to Panel and is keen to provide a critically helpful view for Panel. He joined us in October 2021.

In March 2022 Hugh Minty joined us too, he is an experienced social worker and Independent Reviewing Officer who is also an adoptive parent and foster carer. Hugh has been observing panels and will be starting to attend panel as a member shortly.

There have been no Panel members leaving the Panel in the last 12 month period.

3.0 Panel operation

Panel is provided with written legal advice in advance for adoption matches by Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council Legal Services and this is presented to Panel.

There are 2 full time Panel administrators' posts; however, this has been an area of difficulty. Tracey Roberts was employed as an agency worker and was very experienced in the role but left in March 2022. A new full time worker Tracey Fifield started March 2022. Due to unexpected circumstances, Kristal remains unable to return as planned.

Benjamin Ness, agency worker began working for 2.5 days to support the service; however, this is temporary only as he will be ending his employment from July. A second full time post will hopefully be filled over the summer. Having 2 full time Panel Administrators will greatly improve the running of panels and enable the advisor to focus on development of the service.

4.0 Agency Advisor role

Between March 2021- February 2022 Panel advice has been provided by Joanne Banks, Head of the Regional Adoption Agency, following Andy Cussell's departure in March 2021. There has been active review of the role of the Panel advisor and in September 2021 the job was re-evaluated to include providing a role around Practice Standards for the RAA.

Jade Cullum was appointed as Agency Advisor in February 2022. Panel advice has been provided by Jade Cullum from this point on. Jade Cullum had worked as an advanced practitioner in Peterborough adoption team for 9 years and then as a Children's Guardian/Family Court advisor in Cafcass prior to joining the RAA.

The Should be placed for adoption processes have been a focus of work for the AA and service manager of the RAA in liaison with medical advisors, ADM and legal. This was to support robust systems being in place (noting importance of the Somerset Judgement) and aligning PCC and CCC process. A new practice guide, process flow chart for social workers and new templates have been created. There is currently a period of consultation before these are shared across teams.

5.0 Panel processes

Since the RAA started in December 2020, we have continued to operate as a paperless Panel and use Huddle or SharePoint as the method to securely share files. We are looking to move solely to using SharePoint and are creating a RAA Adoption & Permanence Panel SharePoint site.

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic it was not possible for Panel to meet in a physical space. Panel has been operating successfully on a virtual platform, Microsoft Teams. We have maintained a quoracy of five members. Panel meetings continue to be virtual at this time. The AA will be reviewing this over the next year.

The online panel processes have been continuously monitored and streamlined to offer continuity and same level of scrutiny across panels; the processes continue to be revised by the Agency Advisor and chairs.

With Panel operating on a virtual platform the Panel Chair and AA meet new applicants to have a pre-Panel discussion prior to joining Panel on the day. This discussion notes how panel will function, strengths in their application and question themes that will be asked. The applicants are then offered an opportunity to discuss with their social worker if they wished. Cameras are kept on by the Panel Chair, Panel member asking the question and applicants and their social workers. This is to assist with applicants being able to respond to questions without multiple images of people and uncertainty of who to direct answers to.

A system for Panel to feed back to the Agency on the quality of reports on a case by case basis has been established since March 2015 and has proved beneficial to the Agency and to Social Workers. This is an area where additional value could be obtained as the uptake on completion remains low.

Minutes: The format of the Panel minutes has been standardised by the new Panel admin in post during the reporting period. Draft minutes are sent for an accuracy check to the Chair and agency advisor before being then sent to Panel members.

ADM decisions: The Adoption Panel makes recommendations to the agency and there is a statutory requirement for the ADM to make their decision within 7 working days of receiving the finalised minutes. This is being achieved.

6.0 Panel Training

Adoption NMS set out a number of requirements regarding the training and induction of panel members:

NMS 23.13. The adoption agency provides each person on the central list with an opportunity of observing an adoption panel meeting before they sit on an adoption panel.

NMS 23.14. Each person on the central list is given induction training which is completed within 10 weeks of being included on the central list.

NMS 23.15. Each person on the central list is given the opportunity of attending an annual joint training day with the agency's adoption staff.

NMS 23.16. Each person on the central list has access to appropriate training and skills development and is kept abreast of relevant changes to legislation, regulation and guidance.

These standards have been met.

A Panel training day took place in February 2022. This was provided by New Family Social and focused on LGBT+ diversity awareness to aid Panel discussions. This was well attended by Panel members.

Panel Chairs attend the quarterly CoramBAAF meetings for Adoption Panel Chairs.

Jade Cullum has joined the Panel advisor Forum and attends quarterly CoramBAAF Panel forum meetings.

Panel chairs, Agency advisor and management within PCC/CCC have regular meetings (Panel Advisory Group).

Panel Chairs have 3 monthly supervision/discussion meetings facilitated by the agency advisor.

Planning is underway for Panel training in 2022 with various aspects currently being explored by the new agency advisor. Within Sharepoint there is a folder for Panel members to access files and videos

The next training event will address therapeutic models used in adoption support, the date is over the summer period.

The AA is currently exploring options for in person workshops/service days.

Online training via Cambridgeshire County Council's learning and development team is being explored by the AA.

During the year Panel welcomed a number of social workers, health professionals in training and new Panel members as observers

7.0 Panel Business – Number of Panels held

	01.04.2021 to 31.03.2022
Total Panels	41
Cases Considered	50 approvals; 57 matches; 2 De-Registration 2 Relinquished baby plans

The Adoption Panel has met 2-3 days per month. Two Panel meetings were cancelled in the period 01.04.20 to 30.09.21 due to lack of cases being booked.

Between September to April 2022 one Panel meeting was cancelled in this reporting period due to lack of cases being booked.

We have not needed to increase the number of Panel meetings that were originally planned; however would have the ability to do this as needed.

8.0 Panel feedback

Social workers, Panel observers and adopters continue to be invited to provide feedback on Panel activity. This is always considered by Panel as part of its post-Panel reflection with discussion and careful consideration about whether any changes are necessary. Few feedback forms have been received in the last year. Applicants are asked to electronically return their feedback forms. 10 responses between Sept 2021 and April 2022 have been received from adopters and feedback remains largely positive.

The agency advisor will work with Panel admin to look at increasing feedback numbers and quality from adopters and other professionals.

Feedback from September to April from 4 different applicants

1-Our feelings about our experience of the Panel are overwhelmingly positive. The questions that were asked to us were fair and gave us a good opportunity to express ourselves. The Panel members were all so friendly and certainly made us both feel at ease.

2-Adopters have favourably commented on how the meeting is managed in a virtual environment

We were given plenty of time to answer peoples questioned and we very much liked the way the only person on the screen was the person asking the question. This was fair less intimidating for us.

3-Virtual panels have been seen as positive by applicants

With panel being virtually we feel that we were more at ease as we were in our own home and would have been more relaxed especially as there is distance involved.

4-We both felt very comfortable and were made to feel welcome during the panel, which put us both at ease and helped us to confidently provide answers to all of the questions.

9.0 Approved Adopters

	1.4.21 to 30.3.22
Number of Adopters Approved (Households)	44 mainstream adoption approvals and 6 Early Permanence dual approvals

10. Ethnicity of Adopters

Ethnicity	Number of Approved Households 01.04.21 to 30.03.22
White British	39
British Black African/White European	2
White African/White British	3
White European/White British	3
Asian	1
Eastern European	1
American/White British	1

The majority of adoptive applicants were white British heterosexual couples. 6 of the approved adopters were single female; 2 of the approved households was a same sex female couple; 5 of the approved households were same sex male couples.

11.0 De-registrations

Two de-registration case was presented to Panel in the period 01.04.20 to 31.03.22. The adoptive couple had experienced employment changes and had decided that it was not the right time for them to pursue adoption and they withdrew. Panel noted this withdrawal of the couple as approved adopters. One case was a single adopter who had a child placed with her but unfortunately due to the complex needs of the child, the placement had ended. She subsequently moved to Germany and decided to withdraw as an adopter.

12.0 Quality of Reports

The overall quality of reports is good and this is reflected in the vast majority of the feedback sheets produced by the Panel on each case heard.

Panel Advisor and Chairs will continue to feed back to the Agency on the quality of reports received and the timescales of bringing cases to matching and approval. Panel would also welcome increased feedback from social workers attending.

Agency Advisor and Service Manager have been working to ensure reports are compliant and of an acceptable level to be heard at panel.

Within the CPR social workers have to sign to confirm whether they have met the regulatory requirements for the qualifications of the workers writing reports, and whether the information required in Schedules 1, 4 and 5 of the AAR is contained in the adoption reports.

Panel compile feedback on each case presented to them, which is reported back to the agency.

The Agency Advisor is aware that many agencies also provide a rating for reports to provide a more qualitative and informed judgement on how reports have improved or deteriorated over time and this is being explored.

13.0 Prospective Adopter Reports

The establishment of a more concise PAR has also become embedded in practice and is welcomed by Panel.

The PAR usually evidences well how prospective adopters can meet the needs of the child.

There is clarity and thoroughness, with clear ecomaps and genograms supplied. PARs are now more routinely explicit about whether Concurrency and Foster to Adopt have

been explored and discussed with the applicants. There is evidence that Fostering for Adoption had not only been discussed by the social worker, but that the applicants understood the implications. Feedback from Preparation Course facilitators is detailed and specific. The Agency has worked to ensure a consistency of format, content and quality of the PARs presented to Panel. It is positive to see that the majority of adopters have gained experience of working with children through volunteering when needed.

14.0 Child Permanence Reports

The quality of the Child Permanence Reports seen by Panel continues to vary; however, Panel has seen some improvement over the past year with some CPRs being of good quality.

There have been some concerns raised around the quality of the CPRs in the sense of a clear narrative on the child's journey in placement as different workers have contributed towards the report. This has been fed back and will become an area for further work.

Areas for continuous review by social workers, particularly prior to matching, are the consistent inclusion of parents' views and post adoption contact plans, in particular contact plans with siblings. As much background information as possible on a child's birth parents and siblings or halfsiblings, including photographs, is obtained.

There is ongoing work needed in respect of allocated social workers' ownership of the CPR regardless if written by someone else. This included attending to tasks from LAC and adoption medicals set out by the medical adviser.

The AA will be addressing the concerns regarding the Child's Permanence Report needing to be updated before matching to reflect the child and their birth family situation since the making of Care and Placement Orders. This should include the final position of the Guardian, the person tasked to represent the child's best interests in court, and whose view is therefore relevant to that child.

15.0 Adoption Placement Reports

Panel has noted-

- The APRs set out the child's journey to adoption, their needs and the family finding process well.
- The contributions by adopters were valued in the report.
- There continues to be concern regarding the progress of Life Story work when a match comes for consideration at Panel. The Panel Chairs understand that there is now a dedicated team within the local authority helping with progressing life story work in a timely way.
- APRs do not always include details of prospective adopters' plans for adoption leave and future child care plans. Adoption Support Plans would benefit from setting out more clearly the longer term plans.
- Transitions planning could be further addressed and the agency adviser did meet with the adoption managers to discuss how this could be done. It is very

helpful for Panel to have a full picture of the contact with adopters and foster carers, play dates, telephone calls or other pre panel contact there has been.

16.0 Adoption Matches

	01.04.21 to 31.03.22
Number of children matched	64 children

* Included in this figure are 8 x sibling group of 2 and 3 x sibling group of 3.

17.0 Adoptive Matches at Panel

Cambridgeshire children matched with adopters -	01.04.21 to 31.03.22
Cambridgeshire County Council Adopters	47
Voluntary Adoption Agency Placements	5
Other Local Authority/RAA Adoption Agency Placements	3

18.0 Relinquished baby plans

	01.04.21 to 31.03.22
Relinquished baby plans	2

19.0 Adoption Disruptions (Cambridgeshire children)

	01.04.21 to 31.03.22
Adoption Disruptions	0 child

There have been no disruptions of adoptive placements between April 2021 and April 2022.

20.0 Looking forward

Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Regional Adoption Agency has been running since December 2020 and throughout that period there has been a smooth transition for the Adoption and Permanence Panel. The Panels have gradually come together with central lists, processes, documents and practice being reviewed and merging together into the RAA Panel. This work is being continued by the AA, Jade Cullum, who has been in post 3 months.

The Panel Advisor will be exploring how to communicate regular updates for Panel members detailing progress of approved adopters with linking/matching and how matches heard at Panel are progressing. This task - relatively easy for a single Panel constituted from a small central list of members and serving a single local authority pre-regionalisation - has proved challenging where Panel line-ups vary widely. Nevertheless, it is recognised that for Panel members a short update on the progress of a match to which they have given much time and care helps to 'complete the circle' and brings its own reward. While recognising the constraints on social workers' time to provide updates for Panel, the Panel Advisor plans to introduce a level of reporting back for some cases if not all.

Panel will continue to respond to new case law to ensure a full and reasoned recommendation for adoption matches.

There are plans for training in July/Aug 2022 but there needs to be consideration about a training plan moving forward with the options of shorter workshop sessions to review practice being explored. We believe there is a strong argument for Social Workers joining some of these training sessions so the learning can be across the RAA.

Panel has been held virtually since April 2020 using the platform of Microsoft Teams and although there have been some technical challenges and it has been necessary for all to adjust to working on a virtual platform, Panel has always operated on the dates planned and no cases have been delayed being considered by Panel. We have been able to use the platform to ensure a better experience for adopters attending. A challenge moving forward is to consider the options for future Panel meetings whether virtual or if a return to a physical space should be considered and where the location might be.

The wider context of adoption panels across the area appears to be to remain virtual. In feedback from Panel members there appears to be a majority who prefer virtual and several who have stated they would not necessarily continue to be Panel members if the Panels reverted to in person.

Adjusting to a post-covid way of working while ensuring the robustness and credibility of the Panel role is still ongoing. This will be evidenced through further learning around, and development of, the potential of virtual platforms on the part of Panel Chairs, members and staff alike, all of whom will continue to review the effectiveness and limitations of Panel meetings held online. The needs of Panel members to feel part of a team through in-person events will also be considered, with plans for events being explored currently.

21.0 Chairs' Comments

Panel has continued to operate well despite the challenges brought about by Covid and the changes in the admin team. We are fortunate to have a new permanent Panel Advisor who is rapidly putting in place measures which will improve quality of reports presented to Panel and ensure regular training and appraisal programmes. Although adopters, social workers and Panel members have embraced virtual working and can see many advantages, it is of concern that the lack of personal contact has an impact on Panel cohesion – the sense of a ‘team’ – especially as the two formerly separate panels have come together without meeting in person. It is therefore good to know that there are plans for getting together. Lesley Hamilton

Panels have continued to run smoothly in the main and this report is an accurate reflection of panel business and activity. We have seen an improvement in the CPRs over the last few months. I would say most are of a good quality. CPR's that can sometimes lack flow tend to be those that have had more than one author or are updated and the updates are not always clear. I am pleased that panel have had access to training as this had been a little sporadic and it is very good news that panel members now have access to an on line portal where they can pick training events that they think will develop their knowledge to bring to panel. Panels have remained remote and I think panel members have adjusted well to this. We continue to offer a friendly and welcoming environment in order to put applicants and social workers at their ease. The applicants seem to quite like the remote method as they are in their own homes and it is therefore perhaps less daunting for them. The process has been adapted to fit and although it is never quite the same it is effective and runs smoothly in general. As chairs we always seek to ensure that feedback to the authors of any reports over improvement is done constructively and with care in order that they do not feel less valued and the massive amount of work they have put in remains recognised. There have been changes to those involved in making panels work with a new Agency Advisor and Admin staff. This has of course had an impact on panel members as they adjust but panel remains functional and in my view is run exceptionally well. I have been pleased to see new panel members coming on board and adding diversity and differing knowledge to discussion” Gary Shorter

It has been noticeable to me that a very positive feature of the initial development of the new RAA has been the willingness of chairs and members to work together with the agency to build an effective and consistent process. Whilst upholding the independent role of panel in scrutinising and challenging assessments and plans, a keenness to work together has been promoted by both panel and agency in the interests of securing the best possible outcomes. Fernley Coping

Over the last year, we formed Cambridge and Peterborough RAA. We spent the first few months ensuring all panels had similar structures in terms of how they were chaired and a cross-fertilisation of panel members across the counties - which has proved to be a success. The quality of the CPRs and PARs are improving, and I look forward to the year ahead. Jackie Fernandez



Lesley Hamilton

Panel Chair



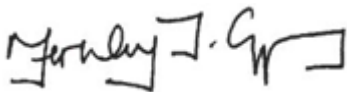
Jackie Fernandez

Panel Chair



Gary Shorter

Panel Chair



Fernley Coping

Panel Vice Chair



Jade Cullum

Regional Adoption Agency Advisor

Date. 30/5/2022

Written by Agency Advisor Jade Cullum in consultation with all Chairs.

Appendix E: Service Plan 2022-2023

Key Performance Indicators – 2022-2023	
Recruitment & Assessment Of Adopters (CC)	
Number of Enquiries	300
Number of Registration of Interest Received	50
Number of Adopters Approved	45
Timeliness of stage 1	18% completed in 4 months
Timeliness of stage 2	50% completed in 4 months

Joanne Banks (JB) – Head of the Regional Adoption Agency

Chris Clipston (CC) - Team Manager

Tom Hey (TH) – Team Manager

Kelly Johnson (KJ) - Team Manager

Jade Cullum (JC) – Agency Advisor

Kat Heath (KH) – Senior Practitioner

Tony Darnell (TD) – Marketing and Commination Manager

Lottie Ettling (LE) – Recruitment Officer

Children (TM)	
Number of children with a plan for adoption	CCC - 36 PCC - 18
Number of children placed for adoption	CCC - 34 PCC - 16
Number of children adopted	CCC – 40 PCC - 20
Proportion of the children exiting care via adoption	18%
Number of Early Permanence Placements	10
A2 - Time between a local authority receiving court authority to place a child and the local authority deciding on a match to an adoptive family, for children who have been adopted (days) – A2	National Average - 182 CCC - 206 PCC - 126
A10 - Average time between a child entering care and moving in with its adoptive family adjusted for foster carer adoptions, for children who have been adopted (days) – A10	National Average – 445 CCC - 450 PCC - 404

Adoption Support (KJ)	
Referrals to be triaged by TM	5 working days
Referrals for support average waiting time	4 months
Initial Assessments completed in 4 months	80%

108

Objective	Action	Leads	Outcome	Performance Indicator	Target date for delivery
Communication & Recruitment (TD & CC)					
Increased adopters, specifically got for harder to place children – Siblings, children with additional needs, early permanence.	Social media presence to expand: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular social media posts Dedicated Instagram Page and Twitter Handle. Link to case studies of adopters 	TD, CC	Increase in the number of enquire in total and a higher proportion of interesting in adopting harder to place children.	Number of Enquiries	Review every quarter
	Improve the useability of the website.	TD			December 2022
	Early Permanence Video for external and internal marketing	TD, KH			September 2022
	Month long campaigns to promote adoption	TD, CC			March 2023
	Attend community events	CC			March 2023
	Develop relationships with external partners to promote adoption overall as well as with those employed – including (but not limited to) fertility clinics, hospitals, police force, fire brigade and community hubs.	TD, CC			March 2023
	Quarterly Newsletters				May 2022 onwards
Adopters to attend Information sessions.		November 2022			
Assessment of Adopters (CC)					

Recruiting Adopters – creating a stronger resource in line with the children’s needs.	<p>Recruitment Officer to take a lead on responding to enquiries and ensure the service focuses on what they can offer children. They will remain the consistent link for adopters throughout the enquiry process.</p> <p>Information sessions to be held virtually and in person and bring in the adopter voice into this.</p>	LE	<p>Increase the number of adopters in assessment and in the number of those open to adopt harder to place children.</p>	<p>Increase number of enquiries.</p> <p>Higher conversion rates</p>	
Consistency in practice	<p>Review of processes to identify strengths and areas for potential improvements.</p> <p>Feedback from adopters at different stages of the process</p> <p>Handbook of processes – internal for the RAA as well as clear outline for adopters</p> <p>Handbook for Adoption Panel to prepare adopters for panel.</p> <p>Timeframe for assessments – system to be embedded to monitor timeframes and highlight concerns.</p>	<p>CC</p> <p>CC, JC</p> <p>CC</p> <p>JC</p> <p>CC</p>	<p>Consistent experiences for adopters.</p> <p>Regional Dashboard to aid performance monitoring</p>	<p>Complaints</p> <p>Timeliness of approval</p>	<p>March 2023</p> <p>September 2023</p>

Comprehensive Training programme for adopters	Review the training content	CC, KH,	Brochure of training on offer	Disruptions & Fragile Placement numbers remain very low	August 2022
	Increase the involvement of adopters in the training	CC, KH	All training courses to involve adopters attending to present sections		March 2023
	Expand therapeutic training input – explore running Foundations For Attachment with the Adoption Support Team	CC, KJ	Support families early placement to strengthen relationships		March 2023.
Early Permanence (CC, TH, KH)					
Increase the number of placements.	Monthly linking meetings between Family Finding & Recruitment & Assessment	CC, TH	Identify early links.	Number of EP placements.	Review every quarter
	Close working between children's Safeguarding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend Permanence Planning Meetings and Unborn baby Panels offering workshops and sessions on Early Permanence 	CC, TH, KH,	Joint meetings to review potential links – PPM's and Unborn Baby Panels.		May 2022 onwards
	All UBB's to be monitored by Family Finding from referral.	TH KH			January 2023
	Family Finding to have a dedicated EP Lead.	JB, CC			May 2022 May 2022 November 2022

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	Develop links with CAFCASS to promote Early Permanence				
Improve practice in line with Early Permanence Quality Mark	Review of practice and process in line with Coram's guidance and Early Permanence Quality Mark. Work towards applying for the Early Permanence Quality Mark.			Number of EP placements.	June 2022 March 2023
Linking & Matching (TH)					
Consistency in practice	Review of processes for linking & matching to identify strengths and areas for potential improvements. Create process guide: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transitions plans for children • External linking • Play days Support Plans – review and ensure they are clear and child focused. Family Finding to play a QA role with Safeguarding and CiC around plans for children.	CC CC, JC CC JC	Consistent experiences for adopters, foster carers and children's social workers		March 2023 March 2023

<p>Clear Family Finding Role</p>	<p>Review the role of the Family Finding Social Worker</p> <p>Consider role post placements – EP, internal and external placements.</p> <p>Better communication between Safeguarding – particularly for expectations during court process. TH to raise at PPM’s.</p>	<p>TH</p>	<p>Clarity to CiC and Safeguarding on the role of the Family Finding SW and ensure FF can be proactive in informing the child’s care plan.</p>	<p>Number of Adoption Order Granted</p> <p>Number of children with a plan for Adoption</p>	<p>September 2022</p>
<p>Cross RAA working</p>	<p>Meet with TM for neighbouring RAA for potential Interagency linking – this to include sharing adopter and child profiles and consider profile events as necessary.</p> <p>Also share profiles of children coming through for adoption to inform recruitment strategies.</p>		<p>Speed up matching for children with local adopters</p> <p>Potential cost savings with mutual interagency placements</p> <p>Inform future plans for recruiting adopters.</p>	<p>Timescales for children waiting for adoption.</p>	<p>June 2022</p>
<p>Adoption Panel (JC)</p>					

<p>Ensure effectiveness of panel.</p>	<p>Panel training Programme to be developed for 2022-2023</p> <p>Ensure appraisals take place on a yearly basis and practice concerns are raised.</p> <p>Review Process for panel to identify strengths and areas for potential improvements. Meetings between JC, CC, TH to allow a continuous review. JC to meet with the Panel Chairs on quarterly basis.</p> <p>Feedback from adopters on their experiences via feedback from sent out.</p> <p>Meet with other panel advisors to inform development of panel.</p>	<p>JC</p> <p>JC</p> <p>JC</p> <p>JC</p> <p>JC</p>	<p>Ensure panel members practice and knowledge if kept up to date.</p> <p>Any feedback that improvements needed - respond to and jointly as a management group.</p> <p>JC to share ideas with panel chairs and create implementation plan.</p>		<p>September 2022</p> <p>March 2023</p> <p>June 2022</p> <p>May 2022</p> <p>June 2022</p>
<p>Panel Membership</p>	<p>Continuous recruitment of panel members to ensure we have sufficient and robust panel members.</p> <p>Increase diversity of panel members. JC to link with traveller community for panel membership.</p>	<p>JC</p> <p>JC</p>	<p>Sufficient panel members to ensure panel can take place.</p> <p>Panel recommendations & ADM decision to align.</p> <p>More diverse panel members.</p>		<p>March 2023</p> <p>March 2023</p>
<p>Child's Voice</p>	<p>Exploration of ways to bring the child's voice into panel. JC to discuss with CC, TH and panel chairs.</p>	<p>JC</p>	<p>Minutes from panel include child's voice</p>		<p>January 2023</p>

Adoption Support (KJ)					
Consistency in practice	Review of services and processes to identify strengths and areas for potential improvements.	CC	Consistent experiences for adopters.	Waiting time for an assessment.	March 2023
	Practice guidance to be completed including timelines for assessments	CC, JC		Timeliness of assessments	March 2023
	Lead workers for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-order Adoption support • Special Guardianship Support • Early support and advice • Postbox • BRC & Intermediary 	CC	Clear process for each area. Earlier support for SG's. Clear package of support for universal services.		September 2022
		JC	Clarity on number of post box exchanges. Decline in the number outstanding		December 2022

Increase Therapeutic offer	A SP to embed Trauma informed practice into the team and RAA as a whole via workshops	KJ, LB	Assessments use the Trauma Informed Practice in their analysis.	Case file audits	March 2023
	Therapeutic parenting to be baseline to practice – all workers to be DDP Level 1 Trained	KJ	All workers are trained.		December 2022
	Offer Foundation For Attachment training for adopters and special guardians. A SP to take a lead.	KJ	Course dates are booked in.		March 2023
	Explore additional resource to team to enable team to offer therapeutic packages of support to families	JB	Business Case completed and reviewed.		September 2022
Early Advice	A SP to form link with locality teams and early help.	KJ	Meeting dates are booked to meet with locality managers.		March 2023
	Website to have links for advice and resources. Families at enquiry stage are offered a pack of resources whilst waiting.	KJ	Website has the links and the pack is available for all families enquiring.		December 2022

ASF Framework	JB to work with procurement team to complete the preparation for the framework.	JB	Procurement framework to be launched		March 2023 June 2022
Regular Support Groups to be accessible	<p>Monthly support groups to be available in variety of locations and with different focus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stay and play with younger children., • Parents only • Family groups • New placements • Special Guardians <p>Brochure of the available support groups to share with adopters & special guardians</p> <p>Children & young people groups- link with the participation service for support</p>	<p>KJ</p> <p>KJ, CC</p> <p>KJ</p>	<p>Families have stronger local support networks</p> <p>More families accessing support groups</p> <p>Children & Young people have a social network</p>	<p>Referrals for the A&SG S Team.</p>	<p>September 2022</p> <p>November 2022</p> <p>January 2023</p>
Quality Assurance (JC)					

Clear awareness of the quality of the written work of the RAA.	Create an Audit Tool for the RAA.	JC JB, KJ, CC, TH, JC	Clear awareness of the quantity and quality of the recording of the service.	June 2022 August 2022 January 2023
	Monthly audits completed by the RAA Management team initially on their own and then with the workers from January 2023	JC	Themes can feed into service action plan.	September 2022 March 2023
	Panel Chairs & Panel Advisor (JC) to feedback on themes on QA of paperwork from panel and feedback to relevant teams.	JC & JB	Clear action plan for areas of concern of practice.	November 2022
	Self Assessment to be completed			

CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE (FORMAL) - 23 NOVEMBER 2022

CHILDREN AND EDUCATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM No. 9
12 JANUARY 2023	PUBLIC REPORT

Report of:	Corporate Parenting Committee Chairman	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Lynne Ayres Cabinet Member for Children’s Services, Education, Skills and the University	
Contact Officer(s):	Nicola Curley Assistant Director Children’s Services	Tel. 864065

REPORT ON WORK OF THE CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE FOR THE CHILDREN AND EDUCATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2021-2022

RECOMMENDATIONS	
FROM: Corporate Parenting Committee Chairman	Deadline date: Date to be confirmed
<p>It is recommended that the Corporate Parenting Committee:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Agrees that the annual report is an accurate reflection of the work of the Committee over the last 12 months; and 2. Agree to submit the annual report to the Children and Education Scrutiny Committee for noting as per the Corporate Parenting Committee’s Terms of Reference. 	

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

1.1 This report is submitted to Corporate Parenting Committee following Children and Education Scrutiny Committee requiring an annual report on the role of the Corporate Parenting Committee.

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is to advise the Children and Education Scrutiny Committee of activity carried out by the Corporate Parenting Committee in the municipal year 2021-2022
- 2.2 This report is for Corporate Parenting Committee to consider under its Terms of Reference number 2.4.6.4 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.
- 2.3 Link to the Corporate Priorities

This report aligns to the following Corporate Priorities:

1. *Our Places & Communities*
 - *Places and Safety (including any rural implications)*
 - *Lives and Work*
 - *Health and Wellbeing*
2. *Prevention, Independence & Resilience*

- *Educations and Skills for All*
- *Adults*
- *Children*

2.4 The report addresses all areas of the Children in Care pledge and the Care Leavers' Charter. It specifically demonstrates to Scrutiny how the Committee has been addressing the increase in the Children in Care population; the creation of the regional adoption agency, the fostering service and Children in Care and Care Leavers' education and training needs.

3. **TIMESCALES**

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

4.1 Following the changes engendered by the Ofsted Inspection of 2018, the Corporate Parenting Committee has continued to work to support the needs and ambitions of the Council's Children in Care and Care Leavers.

4.1.1 The meeting format has continued to work well, especially at engaging our young people, and in-depth discussion of issues relevant to our Children in Care and Care Leavers.

4.2 **Work Programme and Reporting Mechanisms**

4.2.1 The thematic meetings have continued with a rotating focus on three areas, placements, health and education. These are linked across the formal and informal meetings and have been effective in developing ideas and themes for Members to scrutinise. The well embedded approach enables a single topic to be considered thoroughly, enabling councillors to fully understand the complexity of the issue in the round along with scrutiny of the information presented.

4.2.2 Due to Covid restrictions the committee adapted its approach in September 2020 to being virtual and this remained in place for the whole of 2021. This year the committee has reintroduced face to face formal and informal committee meetings.

4.2.3 Power BI is now the standard reporting tool across Children's Services, and it is possible to monitor all current activity very effectively, the reports are produced from Liquidlogic which is the management tool used by all staff within Children's Social Care. The development of a static report (Dashboard) is now in place and a specific Corporate Parenting report developed.

4.3 **Corporate Parenting Committee**

4.3.1 **Champions:**

This has continued to be an effective use of Member influence. Champions are Members who sit on the Committee but have also volunteered to take a particular lead for an area that impacts on Children in Care and Care Leavers. The champions' scope has changed slightly in the last 12 months to reflect the changing priorities nationally.

The Corporate Parenting Champions 2021–2022 have been:

Focus	Champion	Officer Lead
Support for Care Experienced Young People (Housing, Finance and Asylum Issues)	Councillor Sandra Bond	Sean Evans

0-25 Education, Employment and Training (including the Combined Authority and Partners)	Councillor Sainsbury	Pat Carrington
0-25 Physical and Mental Health and Emotional Well Being	Councillor Robinson	Catherine York
Citizenship, Participation and Leisure activities	Councillor Howard	Nikki Hanks
Placement Sufficiency and Care Planning - Councillor Jones	Councillor Jones	Michaela Berry
Fostering	vacant	Fiona Van den Hout

4.3.2 In between each informal Committee the Corporate Parenting Champion has been responsible for the following:

- a) Meeting with the Lead Officer;
- b) Undertaking a site visit (Virtual where required)
- c) Meeting with a child in care / young person / service user / other officers and discuss their experience of the service for Children in Care; and
- d) Contributing to a brief report back to the Committee.

Outcomes from Corporate Parenting Committee

4.4

- Reviewed the Strengths and Difficulties questionnaire used by Health, Education and Children's Social Care to ensure it works seamlessly and promotes appropriate resource allocation for children in care.
- Wrote to NHS England advocating on behalf of Children in care about the lack of available dentists in the Peterborough area. This resulted in Health improving their offer to children in care, through clear pathways for foster carers and placements to access.
- Provided scrutiny on placements out of area to lead officers
- Provided scrutiny and constructive feedback on placement stability.
- Worked collaboratively with the CIC council and the care leavers forum on promoting 'goodbye cards' when a social worker ends their involvement with children.
- Worked collaboratively with the CIC council and care leavers forum to produce personalised bags for children when leaving their placement.
- Supported the OFSTED Focused visit on Corporate Parenting in 2021
- Supported the 'Young Inspectors' inspection of the supervised contact centre.

CIC Population

4.5

4.5.1 Between September 2020- March 2021 there was a steady increase in the number of children in care, and this peaked at 396. The impact of Covid on families has had a significant impact on Children's Services including the number of children in care.

4.5.2 As of the 31st of March 2022, there were 362 children in care. 97 out of 140 children were experiencing stable placements for over 2.5 years. This equates to 69.3%, which is 1.7% higher than last year. Performance is on a par with statistical neighbours.

4.5.3 Peterborough has continued to maintain stability of placements for children in care. At the end of April 2021 30 children had had 3+ moves within a 12-month period out of 358 children in care at month end. This is 8.4% and is a decrease in performance on last year by 0.9%.

4.5.4 We continue to be aspirational about the importance of placement stability. Performance when compared to statistical neighbours, the region and nationally is good as all of these are currently performing at 69% Whilst there has been a slight dip in performance this should be seen within the context of COVID the easing of restrictions and fatigue and significant challenges within the placement market as a whole.

- 4.5.5 Statutory visits to children in their placements during COVID were largely virtual. This was monitored weekly to ensure children in care were safe and well cared for in this challenging context. Face to face statutory visits resumed in March 2022. At the end of March 90.9% of children had been seen in their placements by their allocated SW. Meaning that out of 363 children who have a visit on a six weekly basis 350 were seen within this period.

Meeting Educational Needs

- 4.6 The Virtual School continues to promote the need for all concerned with children and young people in care to have high aspirations through training of carers, social workers and designated teachers, and scrutiny by PVS staff of all Personal Education Plans. The child's voice is a priority and the changes recommended by the Children in Care Council have been made to the section of the PEP seeking the views of children and young people. These views are a subject for discussion at the PEP meeting and targets are set with the child or young person to further any ambitions. Changes have also been made to the attainment section of the PEP to ensure greater accuracy of data.
- 4.6.1

- 4.6.2 Work across partners has focused on strengthening the data collected from strength and difficulty questionnaires. The assessment tool used by Health is now used routinely within the PEP meeting process termly to monitor and draw in timely resources for children in care.

- 4.6.3 The support of those children and young people placed out of city has been enhanced using the virtual meeting facility so PVS staff are able to attend more PEP meetings and have easier access to designated teachers. Children and young people have also found it easier to participate in their PEP meetings.

Placement Sufficiency

- 4.7 This remains a challenge in 2021-2022, with demand outstripping supply nationally, regionally and locally. The work to stabilise placements to prevent placement breakdowns has been critical in managing the market. However, there has been an increase in children entering residential provisions in the last year, some of which traditionally would have a foster placement offer but within the current climate there isn't this option.
- 4.7.1

- 4.7.2 Children entering the care system are entering with more complex issues particularly those that are older teenagers. As a result, placement packages have increased significantly.

- 4.7.3 In an authority like Peterborough that has worked hard to maintain children and young people at home wherever this is in their best interests and that has a low number of children in care as a result, it follows that a higher proportion of those children and young people will have more challenging and complex care needs. This has created challenges for our Fostering Service in terms of trying to meet the needs of these children and has led to more placements out of area and at higher tariffs.

- 4.7.4 The Sufficiency strategy 2021-2024 is supporting the investment in locally based placements. This is routinely monitored and scrutinised by the Corporate Parenting committee.

Independent Care Review

- 4.8 The Independent Care Review was published in June 2022. A number of recommendations were made, and if actioned would require legislative changes. The Government aim to review these recommendations in autumn 2022 and until this time no changes should be made.
- 4.8.1

Main Recommendations

4.8.2

The Independent Review is a very detailed and comprehensive document. There is an appreciation that the children and families we work with are very much products of their environments, and that a great deal of change is also required in public health, housing, income and deprivation before real inroads can be made into many of the issues impacting on positive outcomes for children.

The Care System

4.8.3

- In the care arena, the Review proposes the creation of regional care cooperatives. These organisations would have a regional sufficiency duty, and would ultimately become responsible for all fostering services, adoption services and residential provision in the region (these are not necessarily based on current regional splits). The Review envisages that other government departments, i.e., health and justice, will support these bodies as it also wishes to close all secure training centres and youth offending institutions and create more local secure units to meet the needs of these young people. There would be a national foster carer recruitment campaign, and an expectation that areas adopted an extended foster carer support model.

Leaving Care

4.8.4

- For those leaving care the Review proposes a refreshed Care Leaver Covenant, that provides those leaving care with statutory protections up to 25. It focuses on offering lifelong links programmes to young people leaving care, new powers around housing and homelessness (including legal changes) and enhancement to the leaving care grant. Staying Put, Staying Close and supported lodgings arrangements should be extended to 23, the Virtual School should provide its services until 25, and there should be extended apprenticeship support trying to address issues around education, employment and training for this group of young people. There should also be a renewed focus on the physical and mental health of those leaving care, including providing specific mental health services in local authority teams.

Links to the Children in Care Council and Care Leavers' Drop In

4.9

The Children in Care Council continues to meet on a monthly basis and has 8 regular members.

4.9.1

The group is well attended during school holiday periods when activities are offered in addition to the normal meeting. In the last 12 months, along with their co-chairing duties at the informal Corporate Parenting Committee meetings, the group has:

- Given feedback to foster carers, social workers, IRO's on the qualities they are looking for from them.
- Planned and delivered the annual celebration events for children in care.
- Spoken at Corporate Parenting Committee about their experiences in different placements.
- Co-chair the Informal Corporate Parenting Committee.
- Young Inspectors who are taking an active role in reviewing aspects of service delivery that they use. They have produced a report with an action plan on their activity.
- Designed 'goodbye cards' for social workers to share with children in care when they end their time with them.
- Have commissioned bespoke luggage for children in care so if they need to move they have their own luggage.

4.9.2

The 'Children in Charge' youth group for children aged between 8 and 12 continues to meet in alternating weeks. It is regularly attended by an average of 10 young people.

4.9.3

The children in care council and care leavers forum reviewed and revised the 'Our Promise to children and young people in care'.

1. We will work to keep you safe and help you 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 decide something 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 you 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 cannot support you to see we will explain why.
8. We will support you to achieve your goals and your potential, in your education, hobbies, and interests.

4.9.4 Even within COVID there has been a year of activity programme offered to children and young people in the summer encompassing a variety of activities and events curated by Children in Care Council members for young people to increase reach and engagement with this group.

Young people and their carers have consistently reported back how much they value this because they feel that they are part of a community.

5. CONSULTATION

5.1 The Children in Care Council has been fully aware and consulted upon the changes referred to in this paper. The feedback from them to date is that working with the Committee is a very positive experience, and that they value the opportunity to work with the Corporate Parenting Champions.

5.2 The report will be shared with Councillor Ayres, Cabinet Member for Children Services in line with the Corporate Parenting Committee Terms of Reference.

6. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT

6.1 If the Corporate Parenting Committee agrees the recommendations in this report, it will be presented to the next Children and Education Scrutiny Committee in the new municipal year

7. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

7.1 For presentation at Children and Education Scrutiny Committee.

8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

8.1 N/A

9. IMPLICATIONS

9.1 Financial Implications

None

9.2 Legal Implications

None

9.3 Children in Care and Care Leaver

This report provides information on the role of the Corporate Parenting Committee and relates to services provided to children in care and care leavers. This ensures that Scrutiny Committee are aware of changes to processes and the outcome for children in care and care leavers.

9.4 **Carbon Impact Assessment**

There are no proposals within this report and therefore there is no carbon impact.

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 None

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CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM No. 10
23 NOVEMBER 2022	PUBLIC REPORT

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 September 2022

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

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 30th September 2022 providing a breakdown of the types of homes in which they are living in. 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.

The purpose of this report is to provide background information relating to key performance information related to the Corporate Parenting scorecard and should be read in conjunction with this. The report is for the November Formal Corporate Parenting committee, 23 November 2022.

2.3 Link to the Corporate Priorities:

1. Our Places & Communities
 - Places and Safety (including any rural implications)
 - Lives and Work
 - Health and Wellbeing
2. Prevention, Independence & Resilience
 - Educations and Skills for All
 - Adults

- Children

2.4 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?	NO	If yes, date for Cabinet meeting	
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4. **BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES**

4.1 At 30th September 2022 there were:

125 children placed with in house foster carers.

114 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.

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

25 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.

11 children are currently placed for adoption.

1 child is placed in residential educational placements.

72 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 September 2022

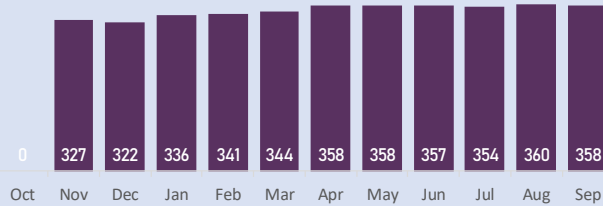
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HEADLINE FIGURES

Number of children in care on the last day of May

358

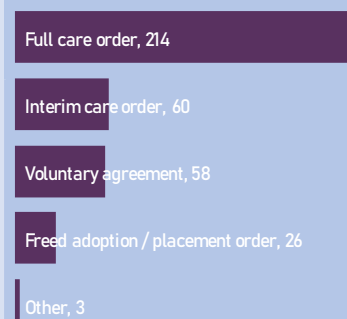
Target: Below 332



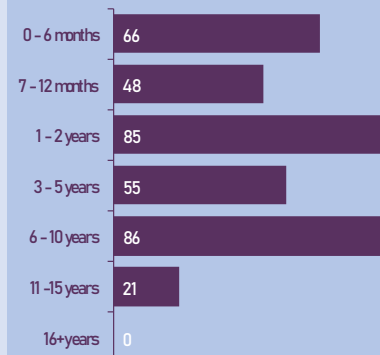
Staffing

	Establishment	Average Caseload	Change	Performance
Family Safeguarding Qualified social workers	31.5	15	▲	-
Children in Care Qualified social workers	17	17.5	▲	-
Leaving Care Personal Advisors	8	23	▲	-
Independent Reviewing Officers	9	67	-	-

Legal status of children in care



Length of time children have been in care



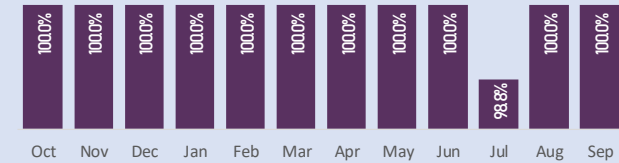
Key
 Change since previous month: ▲ Improved, ▽ Deteriorated
 Performance against target: ✓ Strong, ! Acceptable, ✗ Poor

SERVICE STANDARDS

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

100%

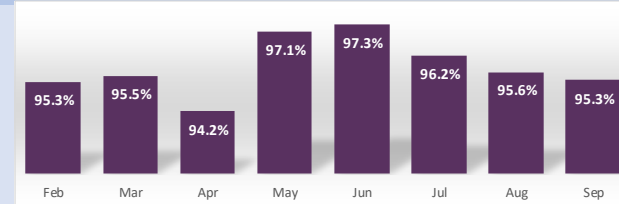
Target: Above 98%



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

95.3%

Target: Above 98%



PLACEMENTS

Placement stability

7.8%

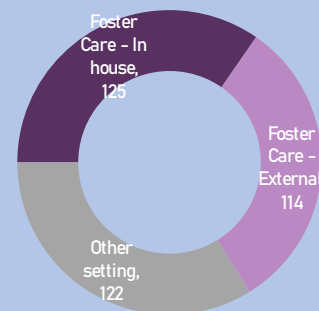
Target: below 8%

7.8% 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, 70.1% have been in their current placement for two or more years.

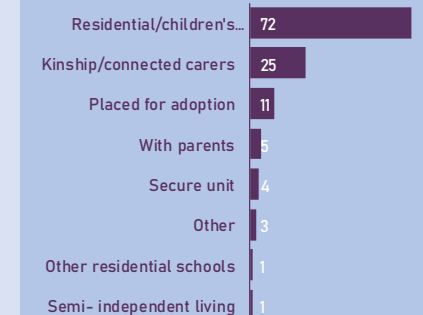
70.1%

Target: above 75%

Type of placement of children in care

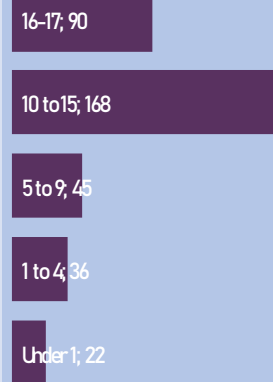


Other settings: breakdown



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 221 out of 221 school-aged children who were in care for at least a month by the end of September.

81.7%

81.7% of Peterborough's children in care are taught in good or outstanding schools.

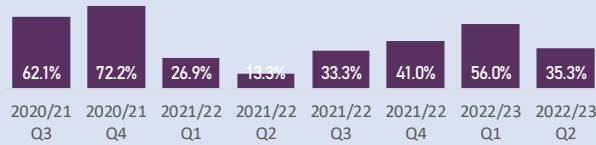
% of school-aged children in care in good or outstanding schools

HEALTH- SERVICE STANDARDS

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

44.1%

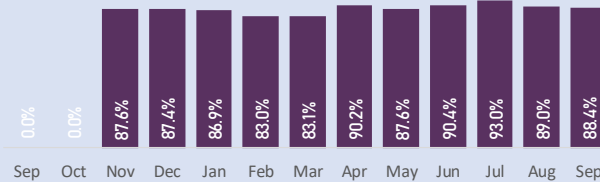
Target: above 95%



Children in care whose annual health assessment was completed on time

88.4%

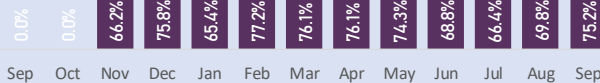
Target: above 93%



Children in care whose annual dental examination was completed on time

75.2%

Target: above 93%



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

12 Children

15 Episodes

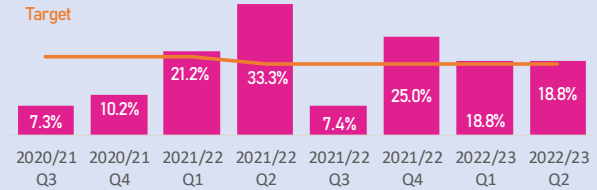
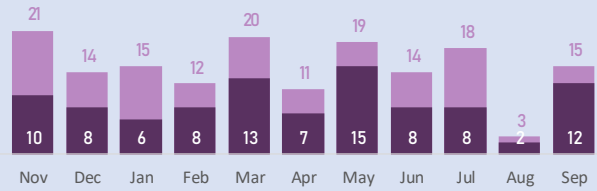
Children

ADOPTION

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

18.8%

Target: above 18%



Timeliness of adoption process

Time to placement

425

Target: below 426

For children adopted during the past 12 months, an average of 425 days passed between the child entering care and them moving into their adoptive placement. An average of 214 days passed between their placement order being granted and approval of a match with their adopters.

Time to match

214

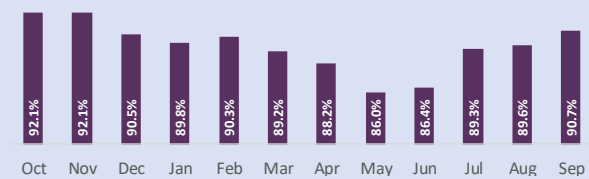
Target: below 120

CARE LEAVERS

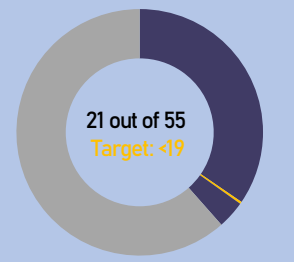
Care Leavers who have a pathway plan in place

90.7%

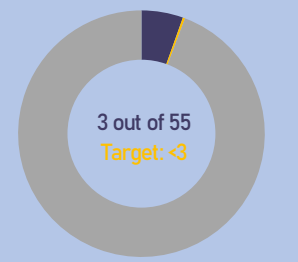
Target: above 95%



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



CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE (FORMAL)	AGENDA ITEM No. 11
23 NOVEMBER 2022	PUBLIC REPORT

Report of:	Nicola Curley, Director Children's Services	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Insert name and portfolio of Cabinet Member(s)	
Contact Officer(s):	Katie Liddle, Designated Nurse Children in Care	Email: katie.liddle@nhs.net

HEALTH REPORT

RECOMMENDATIONS	
FROM: Katie Liddle, Designated Nurse Children in Care	Deadline date: N/A
<p>It is recommended that the Corporate Parenting Committee:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Notes the content of the report 2. Raise any queries with the lead officers 	

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report is submitted to a formal Corporate Parenting Committee as part of a scheduled work programme item.

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

- 2.1 This report provides an update on health and dental services for children in care. The report provides an overview of the Integrated Care Board's (ICB) activities to ensure robust monitoring and quality assurance systems are in place to meet the health needs of Peterborough's Children in Care including those with a disability.
- 2.2 This report is for the Corporate Parenting panel 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. 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 Link to the Children in care Pledge

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

3. **TIMESCALES**

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

4.1 **Health Assessments**

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Integrated Care Board (ICB) commission the Children in Care (CIC) Health Team, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust to have oversight of the health needs of our children in care via Initial and Review Health Assessments; this means that the doctors and nurses within the team undertake the health assessments, or ensure provision by a health service in another part of the country for those children and young people placed outside of Peterborough or the agreed 20 miles radius. The Designated Nurse and Doctor for Children in Care work with commissioners and providers across social care and health to ensure the provision, quality and timeliness of the required health services including statutory health assessments and completion of the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire.

Initial Health Assessments (IHAs) are completed in a clinical setting, face to face with a paediatrician. Due to the increased number of requests for IHAs, senior managers within Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Foundation Trust (CPFT) have made the decision to cap the number of IHA appointments to 16 per month. This decision has been made due to the pressure on Community Paediatric Services and the delays on Paediatrician appointments as a result of the Pandemic. The ICB are assured that 16 slots is enough to accommodate the IHAs for Peterborough children but does have an effect on children and young people placed in Peterborough from other areas. When a request for an IHA from out of county is received, CPFT send a reply to advise there will be a delay in completing the IHA due to capacity within the team and if they would still like CPFT to go ahead they will see the child or young person as soon as they can but it will not be within the statutory timeframe. Cambridgeshire have agreed to complete their own IHAs for children and young people living in Peterborough. CPFT have capacity to complete all RHA requests – in and out of county.

The Designated Nurse is meeting with commissioners, finance managers and service managers to ensure that funding for Health Assessments for children placed out of county is available to increase the number of Health Assessments undertaken. Similarly, this meeting will ensure the ICB are effectively claiming for Health Assessments completed for children and young people placed in Peterborough whereby the Health Teams are allocated the work. This additional funding will help to enhance capacity.

An experienced paediatrician working in the CPFT Children in Care team is due to retire at the end of the year. A consultant Paediatrician has been appointed and will be able to undertake Health Assessments for children and young people new into care.

Initial Health Assessments performance data July-Sept 2022:

Children and Young People placed in Peterborough			
Month	Number of children new to care	IHAs completed within 20 working days of coming into care	Reason 20 day target not being achieved
July 2022	8	1	1 – 1 day late (Paediatrician capacity) 1 – 5 days late (Paediatrician capacity) 3 – 9 days late (Late referral from CSC and Paediatrician capacity) 1 – 12 days late (Late referral from CSC and Paediatrician capacity) 1 – 13 days late (Late referral from CSC and Paediatrician capacity)
August 2022	6 Including 1 new into care on 29.07.2022	3	1 - No longer LAC before IHA. 1 - IHA completed before moving to Peterborough LA. 1 - Late due to late referral and consent from CSC and Paediatrician capacity.
September 2022	13	5	1 - No longer LAC before IHA. 1 - Late as carer unwell 2- late due to carer availability 1 – late due to placement move 1 – late as query over previous IHA being completed or not, also DNA x 2. 2 – late due to late referral from CSC
In area total	27	9	
In area percentage	100%	33%	
Children and young people placed outside of Peterborough			
July 2022	2	1	Out of area team capacity
August 2022	4	0	
September 2022	2	0	
Overall Totals			
Number	35	10	
Percentage	100%	29%	

Review Health Assessments

Review Health Assessments (RHAs) are also face-to-face appointments completed in a clinical setting with Specialist Nurses. Virtual assessments can be undertaken if the agreed criteria are met as this will offer a degree of flexibility in certain circumstances. For those who decline their consultation a questionnaire is provided which enables a Health Action Plan to be created (in line with the Pathway).

Review Health Assessment Performance Data July – Sept 2022:

Children and young people placed in Peterborough			
Month	Number of RHAs due	RHAs completed within timescale	Reason timescale was not achieved
July 2022	21	13	2 – Late due to moving from OOA to Peterborough 6 – Late due to carer availability / Children unwell.
August 2022	21	15	1 – Late due to previous DNA's 3 – Late due to carer availability 2 - Late as Children unwell.
September 2022	27	22	3 – late due to placement move 1 – Late due to previous DNA's 1 – previous cancellation
In area total	69	50	
In area percentage	100%	72%	
Children and young people placed outside of Peterborough			
July 2022	6	4	Out of area team capacity
August 2022	12	8	Out of area team capacity
September 2022	12	5	Out of area team capacity
Overall totals			
Number	30	17	
Percentage	100%	57%	

4.2 **Strength and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ)**

Response rate for SDQs has improved. The questionnaire is now sent electronically with health appointments via email. An information leaflet accompanies the SDQ questionnaire to enable carers to have a better understanding of the reasons for the SDQ and its implications. If the SDQ has not been returned by the time of the appointment, they are completed at clinic to increase the response rate.

September

14 sent

7 received back

50%

October

23 sent

15 received back so far

65%

4.3 **Dental Services**

Dental health remains a challenge as the Covid-19 pandemic greatly impacted on dental provision, and although provision has improved, the back log still has implications for access to routine care. NHS England (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.

Health Education England have devised a Mini Mouth Care Matters Mouth Check Tool (Appendix 1) and a Dental Access guide (Appendix 2) for children in care.

The mouth check is a triage tool to prioritise which children need to be seen first. Professionals are expected to complete these as part of their assessments. The Lead Nurse for CIC Peterborough has shared the tool with professionals in health and social care and reports that it is working well.

Difficulty finding an NHS dentist to register new patients is not just local to Peterborough – it is a National Dental crisis. The expectation to register privately is unrealistic for Children in Care. NHSE have devised a link to locate an NHS dentist via postcode who are able to take on CIC as NHS patients (a screen shot of the map can be seen via appendix 3)

Unfortunately there are no volunteer dentists in Peterborough. Dental practices have been approached, and Bretton was able to offer some appointments for CIC recently, but they too have sadly had to remove themselves from the list due to issues with capacity. The closest Dental Practice to Peterborough is Ely and Littleport in Cambridgeshire. With the spiralling increased cost of living asking carers to take CiC/Care leavers to another geographical area is costly and sometimes a barrier to accessing dental treatment.

Dental Services are due to be delegated to the Integrated Care Board (ICB) in 2023. Date not yet confirmed. The ICB is committed to supporting dental provision for CIC in Peterborough. The Designated Doctor has scribed an email inviting dental practices to be involved in the Children in Care Network for volunteer dentists. This is to be sent via the ICB Communications Team and it is hoped some dental practices will register.

It is also a challenge when CIC move placements with regard to their orthodontic treatment. This was raised in the recent NHSE dental meeting and will be shared in the Regional Dental Meeting to find resolution.

Despite the difficulties locating dental services for routine and preventative dental provision, urgent care is always accessible via NHS 111 and emergency treatment centres. There have been no concerns raised around accessing urgent dental care.

4.4 **Unaccompanied Asylum-seeking Children (UASC)**

Over the summer, Peterborough saw an increased number of requests for IHAs for UASC. This is due to the increase in the number of housing providers in Peterborough. As a result, UASC are placed in Peterborough as that is where the semi-independent accommodation is located; thus increasing demand on the CPFT CIC health team.

Some of the staff working in the newer housing providers are inexperienced. The LAC health team have plans to work with the new providers to share expectations and encourage introductions to social, recreational and places of worship. They are also devising a template to send out with the IHA appointment with information that is required to be brought to health assessments.

The Designated Doctor recently contacted Councillor Qayyum to find additional support for UASC in Peterborough. Councillor Qayyum directed the Designated Doctor to Peterborough Asylum and Refugee Community Association (PARCA). In October, the Designated Doctor and Lead Nurse from CPFT attended PARCA to find out what they can offer. PARCA is a charity based in Peterborough and offers translation/interpretation, youth and adult activities, employment help, English classes, assistance with form filling support with employment. PARCA is a space for UASC and asylum-seeking families and offers an opportunity to meet with people who have had similar experiences. They hold weekly breakfast clubs and youth groups. PARCA have been invited to talk at the CIC Team Meeting to share with clinicians what services they can offer.

The Refugee council provides support and a social space. They are also able to offer lower level counselling support to UASC. The funding is due to end in November 2022. The Designated Doctor is awaiting a response to confirm whether funding has been extended. The Designated Doctor has suggested an event with Social Care and partner organisations to raise awareness and involvement of other organisations that may be able to volunteer to help with UASC.

4.5 **Mental Health Service update**

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Mental Health System Strategy is focused on children and young people who have an identified health need up to the age of 25 years. A priority area of this strategy is focused on children and young people identified to be at higher risk of developing mental health concerns; Children in Care would be considered part of this priority group.

YOUUnited offers help to children and young people with their emotional wellbeing and mental health who are registered with a GP in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. It is available to those up to the age of 25 and offers a range of support including therapies, counselling and guided self-help.

If a child or young person is experiencing mental health symptoms they are referred to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) for core assessment or Neurodevelopmental Service (NDS). If the referral does not meet criteria for core CAMHS or NDS YOUUnited will signpost to other appropriate services.

The Young People's Counselling Service (YPCS) is a child and adolescent counselling/mental health charity providing free counselling to children aged 11-18 years (up until their 19th birthday)

Centre 33 supports young people up to the age of 25 years living across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough with mental health, caring responsibilities, housing and sexual health.

The Local Authority clinical team support carers' and carry out some 1:1 work with young people. Unfortunately, they have very limited capacity at the moment due to staffing.

Young people are referred to the adult mental health team if over 17 years of age.

The Refugee council offer counselling support for UASCs.

There is not a separate pathway for CIC to access Mental Health support, particularly with regards to developmental trauma/attachment difficulties. Social Care are able to request funding for specialist therapies (play therapy, art therapy) as required.

4.6 **Health of CIC Partnership group and workplan**

The Designated Doctor for Children in Care chairs our monthly partnership meeting.

Current projects within the Workplan:

Template of Health Information required

CPFT CIC clinicians are in the process of devising a template of what health information is required for Health Assessment appointments. This will assist the clinicians to complete the Health Action Plans as information will be readily available. This will be particularly helpful when seeing UASC from some of the new providers who attend appointments with little or no information.

Combine physical disability/LAC health assessments

CPFT CIC Team is working to combine paperwork and appointments for Children in Care who are under the Paediatric team for health appointments. This will prevent children, young people and their carers from attending multiple appointments and repeating the same questions and answers. This will have huge benefit to both children, young people, their carers and health services.

Designated Nurse to attend Children in Care Council (CICC)

The Designated Nurse has sent an application to meet with the Peterborough Children in Care Council. This is an opportunity for the CICC to share their thoughts and experiences with health services and to offer suggestions for improvements. This is also a time to comment on areas which seem to work well and areas that are a concern and require collaboration.

5. **CONSULTATION**

N/A

5.1 *List here any consultations already undertaken / completed, with dates and outcome. Include consultation with Ward Councillors where relevant.*

5.2 *Suggest here other consultation(s) which could be undertaken.*

6. **ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT**

6.1 To improve health and well-being, and health outcomes for children in care by ensuring adequate assessment of health and suitable health provision; addressing areas where there may be a lack of provision or improvements required.

7. **REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION**

7.1 Corporate Parenting Committee have requested a health update at all formal committees.

8. **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

N/A

9. **IMPLICATIONS**

Financial Implications

9.1 **NA**

Legal Implications

- 9.2 **NA**
Equalities Implications
- 9.3 **NA**
Rural Implications [
- 9.4 **NA**
Carbon Impact Assessment
- 9.5 **NA**
Other Relevant Implications
- 9.6 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 – Children in Care Mouth Check Tool
Appendix 2 – Children in Care Dental Access Guide
Appendix 3 – Children in Care Volunteer Dentists



Mouth check for:

Date of Birth: Today's Date:

Any medical conditions/ disability which can affect mouth care:

Any obvious dental problems e.g. facial swelling/ falls causing broken teeth?

Any changes to eating/ sleeping/ behaviour?

If yes please specify

Yes No

Yes No

Please lift the lip and check all areas of the mouth. Tick what applies and record any concerns in the box beneath each section:

Saliva:

- (G) Mouth moist, visible saliva
- (A) Visibly dry mouth
- (R) Thick, stringy saliva

Lips, tongue and soft tissues (inside of cheeks, roof of mouth, underneath tongue):

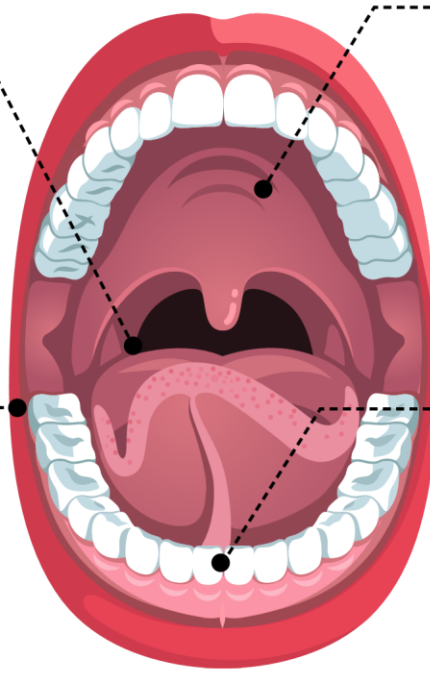
- (G) Smooth, moist, clean
- (A) Dry, cracked, coated
- (R) Sore, ulcerated

Gums:

- (G) Firm gums, no bleeding
- (A) Some bleeding on brushing, slightly inflamed
- (R) Puffy and inflamed gums, lots of bleeding on brushing or gum swelling present, bad breath

Teeth:

- (G) Clean teeth, little to no plaque
- (A) Some plaque and tartar present
- (R) Decayed or broken teeth, very wobbly or loose teeth (not including baby teeth)



Mouth Check Completed Yes No

If no, please give reason

Mouth Check Result

- If all **GREEN (G)**: book routine dental check-up.
- If any **AMBER (A)**: book routine dental check-up and inform dental practice of amber risk.
- If any **RED (R)**: book urgent dental check-up / treatment.

Mouth check completed by:

Name:

Signature

Job Title:

Next mouth check due:



Mouth Care Guide

Use this guide to help you complete the Mouth Check and see what actions to take next.

Green - Low Risk

Amber - Medium Risk

Red - High Risk

Teeth



Clean teeth



Some plaque and tartar present



Decayed, broken teeth

Lips, tongue and soft tissues (inside of cheeks, roof of mouth, underneath tongue)



Smooth, moist, clean



Dry, cracked lips or coated tongue



Sore, ulcerated lips or tongue

Gums



Firm gums, no bleeding



Some bleeding, on brushing, slightly inflamed



Puffy, inflamed gums with lots of bleeding or gum swelling present

Saliva



Mouth moist, visible saliva



Visibly dry mouth



Thick, stringy saliva

Book routine dental check-up. Continue with current mouth care routine.

Book routine dental check-up as soon as possible. Give tailored oral health advice as trained. If mouth is dry, encourage sips of water.

Book urgent dental check-up as soon as possible. Give tailored oral health advice as trained. If in pain, use painkillers as appropriate and book emergency dental appointment.



Dental Access Guide (SHORT TERM)

The first line of action should be to try to book an appointment for the Child in Care with the Foster Family's regular dentist, whether for routine or urgent dental care.

If this is not possible, then please use this Guide to find a dentist for the child.

Routine dental check-up needed (GREEN) (AMBER)

Find a nearby dentist on the [Volunteer ChiC Dentist map](#) / Search 'Dental Service' on [NHS Service Finder](#)

Call dental practice and ask to book a routine dental check-up for a Child in Care

Urgent dental check-up needed (RED)

Child not in pain

Child in pain

Find a nearby dentist on the [Volunteer ChiC Dentist map](#) / Search 'Dental Service' on [NHS Service Finder](#)

Call dental practice and ask to book a dental check-up for a Child in Care showing signs of oral disease

Call [NHS 111](#) / Use the [Volunteer ChiC Dentist map](#) / Search 'Emergency Dental Service' on [NHS Service Finder](#)

Call dental practice and ask to book an urgent dental appointment for a Child in Care in pain

If your child has significant medical and/or behavioural comorbidities and clearly requires additional support for dental examination and treatment, please refer to your local [Community Dental Services](#) via the methods outlined in the table [below](#).

In case of medical emergency i.e. severe swelling of face affecting the eye or airway, transfer your child to A+E immediately.



NHS Service Finder user guide

Any health or care professional can set up an account with NHS Service Finder with their work email address; if you use an nhs.net email address you will be able to use the Service Finder immediately.

NHS Service Finder New search Help Sign out

Search for a service

Type of service
For example, Needle Exchange or Care Home ?

Clinical keywords
For example, fracture or epilepsy ?

Contact details Contact details search >
Search by partial address or service name

Service Finder in your area
Work is underway to make more services available to search.
[find out more >](#)

What's new - December
Saved locations. Our latest improvement is aimed at users who...
[continue reading >](#)

NHS Service Finder New search Help Sign out

Enter a service type

Type at least 2 characters to search for service types such as GP practice or falls service.
Enter 'ALL' to list all service types available. Select as many service types as you need.

Select as many services as you need

Dental Service
Dentist

Emergency Dental Service
Out Of Hours / Urgent Dentist OOH Dentist

Selected service types

Dental Service

Next >

NHS Service Finder New search Help Sign out

Enter a search location

Choose a new location

Start typing an address or postcode
We display information for services in England only

+ Use my current location

Use a saved location

You do not have any saved locations.

To add one, search for a location and select the 'save this location' button when it appears.



Community Dental Services

Areas	CDS Provider	Method of referral (NB. 'form' refers to individual forms available on the CDS Provider's website)
Bedfordshire	CDS-CIC	Referral Management System (RMS) // Email form to cds.referrals@nhs.net
Essex	CDS-CIC	Email form to cds.essexreferrals@nhs.net
Norfolk and Waveney	CDS-CIC	Email form to cdsnorfolk.referrals@nhs.net <i>(Dentist only)</i>
Cambridgeshire & Peterborough	CCS	Online form https://portal.dentalhealthcareeoe.nhs.uk/dentalreferral/ <i>(Dentist only)</i>
Suffolk	CCS	Online form https://portal.dentalhealthcareeoe.nhs.uk/dentalreferral/ <i>(Dentist only)</i>
Hertfordshire	HCT	Via Referral Management System (RMS) // Email form to hct.hertsdentaladmin@nhs.net
Milton Keynes	CNWL	Via Referral Management System (RMS) // Email form to bpds.mk@nhs.net

'*Dentist only*' means that this CDS Provider will only accept referrals from general dental practitioners; in this case, please try to book an appointment with a local dentist first.

If the child has clear additional needs which prevent this (e.g. not compliant enough to enter the dental practice) then please explain this to the dentist when making the appointment and ask if they would be happy to attempt an examination with a view to referring to CDS.

If this is not possible, then as a last resort please contact NHSE (england.dentaleast@nhs.net) to request special circumstances to refer the child directly to CDS.

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Volunteer ChiC Dentists

ChiC Dental Practices



Bromley Road Dental
Surgery/Oracle dental group



St Mary's Dental Practice



Paul Rolfe & Associates



Berry Lane Dental Clinic



Bedwell Dental Surgery



Houghton Regis Dental Centre



Hitchin Dental



Luton Dental Centre



Hemel Smile Studios,
Marlowes



Littleport Dental Surgery



Foxhall Dental Practice



Ware Dental Care



High Street Dental Practice



J G Plummer & Associates

Within Caister Medical Centre



John G. Plummer & Associates

Dental Surgeons - Costessey



John G. Plummer & Associates

Dental Surgeons - Thorpe St

Andrew



John G. Plummer & Associates

Dental Surgeons - Wymondham



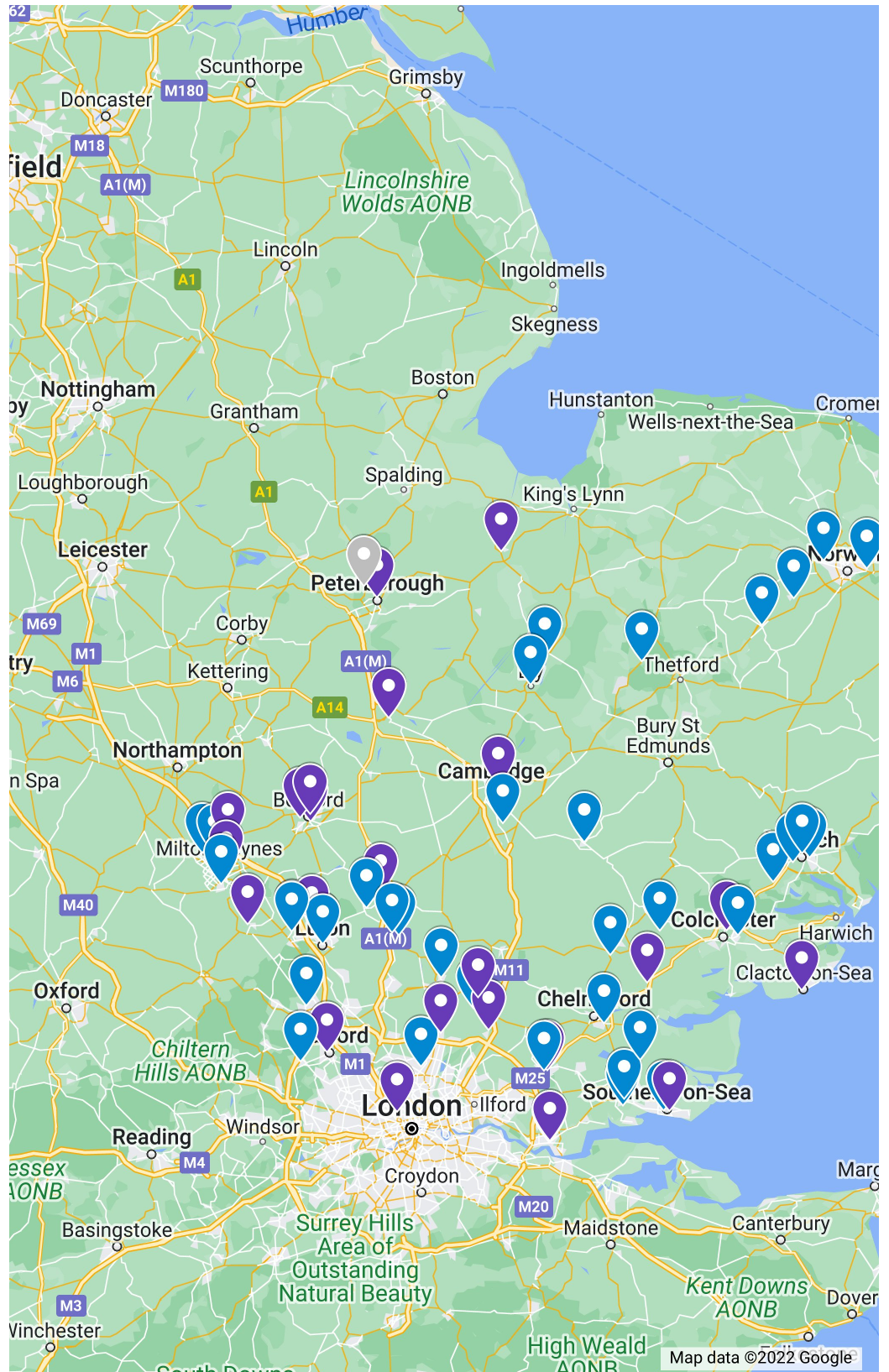
John G. Plummer & Associates

Dental Surgeons - Bradwell



John G. Plummer & Associates

Dental Surgeons - Lowestoft





John G. Plummer & Associates
Dental Surgeons - Oulton Broad



John G. Plummer & Associates
Dental Surgeons - Gorleston



John G. Plummer & Associates
Dental Surgeons - Gt Yarmouth



John G. Plummer & Associates
Dental Surgeons - Hemsby



Brickfields Dental Care



Ongar Road Dental Practice



Baddow Dental Practice -
Chelmsford



Broadway Dental Care



shephall dental surgery



Bletchley Dental Practice



White Enamel



Church Street Dental Practice



Westcliff Dental Practice



Bupa Dental Care Brandon



The Capel Dental Practice



Haverhill Dental Practice and
Cosmetic Centre



The Essex Dental Clinic



Grays Dental Centre



The Barbara Castle Dental
Practice



Benfleet Dental Studio



The Benfleet Dental Clinic



Braintree Dental Studio



Dental Suite Ltd



Abbey Dental



Bretton Dental Practice (TBC)

This map shows the NHS dental service providers in the East of England which have kindly agreed to accept Children in Care (ChiC) who do not have a regular dentist.

This map will continually be updated; please use the live link to see the most up-to-date information.

Created by the East of England LDN, Paediatric Dental MCN, and NHSE/I



Cheshunt Community Hospital
(HCT)



Letchworth clinic: Nevells
Road Surgery (HCT)



Hemel Hempstead clinic (HCT)



Grays Health Centre (CDS-CIC)



Southend: Warrior House (CDS-
CIC)



Harlow: Addison House Surgery
(CDS-CIC)



Brentwood Community
Hospital (CDS-CIC)



Witham Health Centre (CDS-
CIC)



Epping: St Margaret's Hospital
(CDS-CIC)



Colchester Primary Care Centre
(CDS-CIC)



Clacton & District Hospital
(CDS-CIC)



Bedford Dental Care Clinic
(CDS-CIC)



Luton Marsh Farm (CDS-CIC)



Liverpool Road Dental Clinic
(CDS-CIC)



Houghton Regis Health Centre
(CDS-CIC)



Queens Park Health Centre
Dental Department (CDS-CIC)



Leighton Buzzard Health
Centre (CDS-CIC)



London Road Health Centre
(CDS-CIC)



Milton Keynes Health Centre,
Hospital Campus
(CNWL/BPDS)



Shipley Court Dental Clinic
(CNWL/BPDS)



Cambridge Dental Access
Centre (CCS)



Huntingdon Dental Access
Centre (CCS)



Wisbech Dental Access Centre
(CCS)



Peterborough Dental Access
Centre (CCS)



Watford clinic: Peace Prospect
(HCT)

CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE (FORMAL)	AGENDA ITEM No. 13
23 NOVEMBER 2022	PUBLIC REPORT

Report of:	Nicola Curley Interim 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):	Jenny Goodes, Assistant Director Early Help and Social Care	Tel. 01733 864102

UPDATE TO CORPORATE PARENTING CHAMPIONS ROLES - 2022 - 2023

RECOMMENDATIONS	
FROM: Corporate Parenting Committee Chair	Deadline date: N/A
<p>It is recommended that the Corporate Parenting Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notes the content of the report, • Confirm the amended Corporate Champion roles, • Confirm the appointment of the revised Champion roles, and • To confirm the responsibilities of the Corporate Champion roles and reporting requirements. 	

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report is submitted to Corporate Parenting Committee following a recent review of the Champion Roles.

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 thematic areas in relation to services for children in care and young people.

- 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 and amendments 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) - Councillor Sainsbury
- iii) 0-25 Physical and Mental Health and Emotional Well Being - Councillor Robinson
- iv) Citizenship, Participation and Leisure activities – Councillor Barkham
- v) Placement Sufficiency and Care Planning (to be deleted)
- vi) Fostering – Councillor Knight (to be deleted)
- vii) Fostering Retention - (to be agreed and Councillor Knight to be appointed)
- viii) Fostering Marketing and Recruitment - (to be agreed and Councillor Jones to be appointed)

- 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?	NO	If yes, date for Cabinet meeting	N/A
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4. **BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES**

- 4.1 In July 2022 the Corporate Parenting Committee Champions and roles for 2022 – 2023 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 Barkham
Placement Sufficiency and Care Planning	Cllr Jones
Fostering	Cllr Knight

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
- e) Contributing to the Corporate Parenting Committee's annual report to Children and Education Scrutiny Committee.

Key Issues

Following the Annual Council meeting held on 23 May 2022, changes to the positions of Champions were discussed at a work programming session on 26 May 2022 and at the informal CPC meeting on 15 July 2022 and finally agreed at Committee on 20 July 2022. Corporate Parenting Committee members were asked if they wished to be considered as a Champion.

Work during the municipal year 2022 on Champion roles had begun, however it has become apparent that the Fostering Champion role required a dedicated focus on retention, marketing and recruitment. It was therefore proposed at an agenda setting meeting, that the role would be

split into two areas of responsibility with a focus on foster carer retention and another on marketing and recruitment.

A document attached to this report sets out the thematic areas of the Champion role to be covered, the responsibilities and lead officer support.

The following outlines the champion roles that had been appointed to at the July meeting along with expressions of interest for the fostering champion roles to include:

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
Placement Sufficiency and Care Planning	To be deleted
Fostering Retention	Cllr Knight (new nomination)
Fostering Marketing and Recruitment	Cllr Jones (new nomination)

The amendment and appointments of the Corporate Champions will be confirmed at the formal meeting of Corporate Parenting Committee on 23 November 2022.

5. CONSULTATION

5.1 The Chairman of Corporate Parenting has been consulted on the proposals.

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 N/A

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 Corporate Parenting Champion Roles, Appointments and Responsibilities.

Corporate Parenting Champions Peterborough

Every elected member is, by definition, a corporate parent, and has the responsibility to champion children looked after and care leavers within all their work to ensure this group of young people are recognised and their individual needs met.

It is appreciated that not all elected members will have the same knowledge or level of involvement and it was suggested at an agenda setting meeting that having in place thematic Champions to support and ensure that there is a focus on children looked after and care experienced young people would be beneficial.

This role is an active one and each respective champion will be expected to develop their knowledge and understanding of the area of activity relating to their Champion role. The responsibility of the Champion would be, to question, and where necessary to challenge and to be involved in opportunities to meet and work with children who are looked after and care leavers so that they can ensure that the quality of care provided is good and that our children and young people secure good outcomes.

These roles carry clear responsibilities for knowledge, scrutiny and advocacy.

Possible thematic areas to be covered

Permanency/ Stable and secure home environment/ sufficiency of homes for children/how we look after our children living out of city
Raising attainment – education, access to higher education, training and employment
Rights and Participation
Health (including mental health) and wellbeing
Housing
Foster carer recruitment and retention

Champion Role	Councillor	Officer Contact	Reports to Feed Into
Support for Care Experienced Young People (Housing, Finance and Asylum Issues)	Cllr Sandra Bond	Mick McCarthy, Service Manager for Corporate Parenting (Care Leavers)	Placements
0-25 Education, Employment and Training (including the Combined Authority and Partners)	Cllr Oliver Sainsbury	Dee Glover Head of the Virtual School Mick McCarthy Service Manager for Corporate Parenting (Care Leavers)	Education

0-25 Physical and Mental Health and Emotional Well Being	Cllr Lucinda Robinson	Catherine York Designated Nurse Children in Care Lauren Smith, Team Manager Corporate Parenting	Health
Citizenship, Participation and Leisure activities	Cllr Simon Barkham	Marie Hennessey- Quentin, Team Manager Corporate Parenting (Shalina Chandoo, Quality Assurance Lead)	Children in Care Council Feedback
Foster Carer Retention	Cllr Kirsty Knight to confirm appointment	Despina Kaoura, Service Manager Fostering Anita Hewson, Service Manager Fostering	Placement
Foster Carer Marketing and Recruitment	Cllr Dennis Jones to be appointed	Despina Kaoura, Service Manager Fostering Anita Hewson, Service Manager Fostering	Placement
Placement Sufficiency and Care Planning	To be deleted	Michaela Berry, Service Manager, Corporate Parenting	Placement

Expectations

To raise the profile of children in care and care leavers to make sure their voice is heard in all council forums

To seek opportunities to participate in any key events that take place during the municipal year.

To hold up to 3 meetings each municipal year with the identified service lead to develop knowledge and understanding of successes and challenges.

To provide a verbal update on the improvements/challenges for lead area at the informal corporate parenting committee

To provide a short-written report at the end of the municipal year to feed into the Corporate Parenting Annual Report.

An Induction for Champions will be provided by the service and access to training as required

CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE (FORMAL)	AGENDA ITEM No. 14
23 NOVEMBER 2022	PUBLIC REPORT

Report of:	Rochelle Tapping, Director of Legal and Governance and Monitoring Officer	
Contact Officer(s):	Karen S Dunleavy, Democratic Services Officer	Tel. 01733 296334

CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE MEETING START TIME 2023-2024

RECOMMENDATIONS	
FROM: <i>Rochelle Tapping, Director of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer</i>	Deadline date: N/A
It is recommended that the Corporate Parenting Committee agree the start time for all formal and informal Corporate Parenting Committee meetings for the Municipal Year 2023-24.	

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report is submitted to the Corporate Parenting Committee meeting following the Full Council decision on 24 July 2019 to allow Committees to decide their own start times for the Municipal Year 2022-23.

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is to allow the Corporate Parenting Committee to discuss and agree the start times for meetings from the beginning of the Municipal Year 2023-24. The draft schedule of meetings will be agreed at Full Council on either 26 January or 2 March 2022.
- 2.2 This report is for the Corporate Parenting Committee to consider under Council Standing Order section 4.4.1

The timings of normal committee meetings will be agreed by the committee for the next municipal year in January of the preceding municipal year (or as near to this time as possible).

3. TIMESCALES

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

- 4.1 At the Constitution and Ethics Committee on 8 July 2019 the Committee agreed by majority to recommend to Council that all Committees can agree their start times for the Municipal Year 2020-21. This was again agreed by majority at the Full Council meeting on 24 July 2019.
- 4.2 The Council standing orders have been updated to reflect this decision and gives Committees the opportunity to decide their own start time.
- 4.3 In order for the start times to be incorporated into the draft meeting schedule it is important for the Committee to make a decision on this before the January 2023 Full Council meeting.

- 4.4 Council standing orders allow the Committee to agree its start time every Municipal Year, thereby allowing the Committee to change the start times if it is felt that the start time was not suitable.
- 4.5 The Committee will need to decide the best start time and will need to weigh up attendance at meetings and the impact on the Council and members of the public.
- 4.6 The Committee start time over the past three years has been 6.00pm for the formal meetings and 5.30pm for informal meetings. The formal meetings are public and the informal meetings are non-public and attended by the Children in Care Council. There is generally no public interest in the formal meetings and there have been no public in attendance recently.

5. CONSULTATION

- 5.1 Consultation has already taken place with the Constitution and Ethics Committee and all Councillors at Full Council.

The members of the Children in Care Council have also been consulted in regard to their preference to the start time of informal meetings.

6. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT

- 6.1 It is anticipated that the Committee will agree a start time for both formal and informal meetings for the Municipal Year 2023-24 and this will be proposed as part of the draft meeting schedule.

7. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

- 7.1 The recommendation allows the Corporate Parenting Committee to debate the start time of the meeting and make recommendations following debate.

8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 8.1 N/A

9. IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

- 9.1 There are no financial implications.

Legal Implications

- 9.2 There are no legal implications

Equalities Implications

- 9.3 There are no equalities implications

- 9.4 **Children in Care**

It is important to seek the Children in Care Council's opinion in order to promote continuity of participation of the young people in care.

10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

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

- 10.1 Minutes of the Constitution and Ethics Committee 8 July 2019
Report to Full Council 24 July 2019

11. APPENDICES

11.1 There are none.

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Updated 11 November 2022

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DRAFT CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2022/2023		
15 June 2022 Informal	Theme: Placement	
	Part 1	
Priority	Topic	Contact Officer
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	Part 2	
Priorities 2 - 6	Case Study – Supervised Contact	Andie Markham

	The CiCC also to provide their perspective about supervised contact.	
Priorities 2 - 6	Members Issues	All Councillors
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

20 July 2022 (Formal)	Theme: Placement	
Priority	Topic	Contact Officer
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	Sue King (Fostering)
2. Effective care planning	Annual IRO Report 2021 - 2022	Marie Saunders
	Members Issues	All Councillors
All Priorities	Performance Reports: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Placements of Children in Care • Scorecard • Health Report 	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

21 September 2022 (Informal)	Theme: Education	
	Part 1	

Priority	Topic	Contact Officer
2. Effective care planning	Ice Breaker and 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	Children in Care
2. Effective care planning	Children in Care Council Asked and 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
All Priorities	Performance Update Presentation	Myra O'Farrell
All Priorities	Update from Corporate Parenting Champions	Corporate Parenting Champion
Priorities 2 - 6	Part 2	
Priorities 2 - 6	Case Study: Virtual Schools, Operations And Placements	Dee Glover
Priorities 2 - 6	Members Issues	All Councillors
Priorities 2 - 6	Work Programme	Karen Dunleavy/Ricky Cooper/Myra O'Farrell
Priorities 2 - 6	Questions from the Children in Care Council	CiCC

23 November 2022 (Formal)	Theme: Education	
Priority	Topic	Contact Officer
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 Councillors

All Priorities	Performance Reports: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Placements of Children in Care • Scorecard • Health Report 	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
N/A	Start time of meetings for 2023/24	Karen Dunleavy
Priorities 2 - 6	Work Programme	Karen Dunleavy/Ricky Cooper/Myra O'Farrell

18 January 2023 Informal	Theme: Health	
	Part 1	
Priority	Topic	Contact Officer
2. Effective care planning	Ice Breaker and 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	Performance Update Presentation	Myra O'Farrell
All Priorities	Update from Corporate Parenting Champions	Corporate Parenting Champion
Priorities 2 - 6	Part 2	
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
	Questions from the Children in Care Council	CiCC

15 March 2023 (Formal)	Theme: Health	
Priority	Topic	Contact Officer
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
Priorities 2 - 6	Annual Health Report	Designated Nurse for Looked After Children
Priorities 2 - 6	Members Issues	All Councillors
All Priorities	Performance Reports: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Placements of Children in Care ● Scorecard 	Myra O'Farrell

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