

CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY 15 MARCH 2023
6.00 PM

Bourges/Viersen Room - Town Hall

AGENDA

Page No

1. Apologies for Absence

2. Declarations of Interest

At this point Members must declare whether they have a disclosable pecuniary interest, or other interest, in any of the items on the agenda, unless it is already entered in the register of members' interests or is a "pending notification " that has been disclosed to the Head of Legal Services

3. Minutes of the Meeting Held on 23 November 2022 **3 - 16**

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 23 November 2023.

4. Update from Foster Carers **17 - 22**

5. Participation Report **23 - 26**

6. Annual Health Report **27 - 40**

7. Performance Reports **41 - 50**

- Placements of Children in Care
- Scorecard

8. Members Issues

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



There is an induction hearing loop system available in all meeting rooms. Some of the systems are infra-red operated, if you wish to use this system then please contact Karen Dunleavy on 01733 452233 as soon as possible.

"Did you know? All Peterborough City Council's meeting agendas are available online or via the modern.gov app. Help us achieve our environmental protection aspirations and view this agenda online instead of printing it."

Emergency Evacuation Procedure – Outside Normal Office Hours

In the event of the fire alarm sounding all persons should vacate the building by way of the nearest escape route and proceed directly to the assembly point in front of the Cathedral. The duty Beadle will assume overall control during any evacuation, however in the unlikely event the Beadle is unavailable, this responsibility will be assumed by the Committee Chair. In the event of a continuous alarm sounding remain seated and await instruction from the duty Beadle.

Recording of Council Meetings

Any member of the public may film, audio-record, take photographs and use social media to report the proceedings of any meeting that is open to the public. Audio-recordings of meetings may be published on the Council's website. A protocol on this facility is available at:

<http://democracy.peterborough.gov.uk/documents/s21850/Protocol%20on%20the%20use%20of%20Recording.pdf>

For more information about this meeting, including access arrangements and facilities for people with disabilities, please contact Karen S Dunleavy in the City Council's Democratic Services team on Peterborough 01733 452233 or by email at democraticservices@peterborough.gov.uk

Committee Members:

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

Substitutes: Councillors: Bi, Bond and Coles

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, 23 NOVEMBER 2022
BOURGES/MIERSEN ROOMS, TOWN HALL, PETERBOROUGH**

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

Officers Present: Ricky Cooper, Ricky Cooper, Assistant Director, Children's Services
Matthew Gladstone, Chief Executive Peterborough City Council
Elaine Redding, Interim Executive Director Children's Services
Nicola Curley, Children's Services
Myra O'Farrell, Head of Corporate Parenting
Katie Liddle, Designated Nurse Children in Care
Shalina Chandoo, Quality Assurance Lead
Amanda Carter, Team Manager, Resources Team
Dee Glover, Headteacher Peterborough Virtual School for CiC and
CPIC (Children Previously In Care)
Joanne Banks, Head of the Regional Adoption Agency
Katie Liddle, Designated Nurse for Looked After Children
Dr Aslam, Consultant Paediatrician
Karen S Dunleavy, Democratic Services Officer

Also Present: Glen Crossland, Foster Carer Community Representative

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Howard and Cllr Allen is in attendance as substitute.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

3. MINUTES OF THE CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 20 JULY 2022

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 July 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.

The purpose of the report was to update the Committee about the activities of the Foster Carer Committee (FCC). Key points highlighted included:

- The Foster Carer Community continued to grow in membership numbers and conduct successful meetings.
- Recruitment Ambassadors continued to work in the community to advocate and support recruitment activity.
- There was a Foster Carer Buddy (FCB) system which continued to support new Foster Carers (FC) and arrangements were underway to introduce the FCB to the FC approval assessment processes.
- Support groups were being held face to face.
- The Foster Care Team continued to work on improvements for transport arrangements, which included delegated authority to FCs to manage cancellations, local change of address, emergency arrangements and an annual renewal waiver for long term care arrangements. There would also be arrangements for emergency transport arrangements for new Children in Care (CiC) arrivals.
- A new procedure for passport applications was in place, which involved them being applied for earlier rather than just before the holiday.
- There had been an emergency payment for clothing set up, which FCs would receive by email for a child that had recently come into care.
- Retention visits for foster carers that experienced issues had been successful and many more had remained in the service as a result. Monthly meetings were also held to focus on the issues being raised by FCs and significant improvements had been implemented such as support groups for foster carers with teenagers, mentorship and a support for allegations made.

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 were advised that there had been a change of the focus for the foster carer newsletter to cover the cost-of-living issues and provided advice.
- There was a lot of support in the fostering community for issues such as provision of school uniforms. In addition, Facebook acted as a good community tool to help foster carers support one another.
- The Foster Carer Representative advised Members that there had some significant changes over the last few months for FC support, however the transport issues seemed to be taking a long time to resolve. Members commented that there needed to be a Committee, focus to ensure that the transport issues for foster carers were resolved.
- It was important to ensure that all foster carers were looked after and happy with the service as some of the enquiries received for prospective foster carers had come from FCs recommendations.
- The Foster Carer Representative commented about the John Lewis shopping store Christmas advert to encourage more people to become foster carers, which had received a positive impact. In addition, the John Lewis shopping store had been exploring the option to install a recruitment stand within their shops in the new year to attract new FCs.
- Members were advised that the recent Foster Carer awards had been successful, and some had received awards for 45 years' service.

- There was a business support resource that managed the junior Individual Savings Accounts (ISAs) and trust fund saving options for the children's allowances.

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

AGREED ACTIONS

The Corporate Parenting Committee noted the report.

5. CHILDREN IN CARE COUNCIL (CICC) PARTICIPATION REPORT

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.

Key points raised in the discussion included:

- The CiCC had been working on a project to review the wording used for the service provision to young people and children in care. The project would review what language the children preferred the Council to use.
- The Children in Care (CiC) artwork was being used from a recent exhibition to design the new goodbye cards.
- The Peterborough Youth Member of Parliament (MP) recently attended a meeting of the CiCC to talk about health and well-being. Discussions would be fed back by the MP to the youth pilot research currently being conducted on well-being. It was expected that a further visit from the Youth MP would take place to share the findings with the CiCC.
- The Young Inspectors had been recognised recently with an award for their participation work.
- Young Trainers with FCs would be transferred to social worker training.

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 commented that it was a great plan to have an authentic voice from the Young Inspectors for social worker training.
- Members suggested that the children and young people should be encouraged to become youth MPs and that hopefully, the recent visit would encourage them.
- The Chief Executive of Peterborough City Council advised Members that he had been scheduled to visit the Contact Centre and asked Members to direct any service issues they had with the family support facility to him.
- There would need to be sensitivity about when Councillors could visit the Contact Centre, and it was anticipated that these would need to take place out of hours.
- The CiCC had given feedback on the performance scorecard update presented at a recent informal meeting. It had been agreed that although they appreciated that certain aspects of the data provided was important, they would only like to receive a cribbed version of the report, with a fuller version provided to Councillors.

- Members commented that the CiCC should be congratulated in creating a platform of service improvements for children and young people in care for years to come and asked the Quality Assurance Lead to feed this back to the CiCC Members.
- There had been a representative from the Anglia Ruskin University (ARU) Peterborough visit the CiCC to talk about access to higher education. The Participation Team was working with ARU to provide feedback to the young people in care that had raised queries about the courses on offer.
- There were around 40 young people that had engaged on CiCC event groups, such as youth club, virtual and recruitment events. Information was also shared with foster carers and Independent Reviewing Officers (IROs) to raise awareness and encourage children and young people to get involved in CiCC opportunities. In addition, IRO's and Personal Assistants (PAs) would also put forward potential candidates to become Young Inspectors.
- Members were advised that any service consultation presented to the CiCC would be tracked in terms of what stage it was at, by way of a report. This allowed the CiCC to track the progress of consultations and whether their feedback had been incorporated. Once the CiCC were satisfied that their feedback had been incorporated, it would be signed off on the report.

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:

1. Members would feedback any service issues they had about the Contact Centre with the Chief Executive, so that these could be investigated.
2. The Assistant Director, Children's Services would follow up on Members visits to the Contact Centres.
3. The Quality Assurance Lead would provide Members with the number of young people from the Children in care Council that had attended the ARU open day.

6. VIRTUAL SCHOOLS

The Corporate Parenting Committee received a report in relation to the Annual Report for Children in care for 2020-2021.

The purpose of the report was to inform Members 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 reflected on achievements and identified areas in need of development to achieve the best outcomes for this vulnerable group. Data contained in the report was for Children in Care who had been in the care of Peterborough City Council for a year or more on 31 March 2021.

The Headteacher Peterborough Virtual School for CiC and CPIC introduced the report and asked Members to note the contents and raise any queries they had with lead officers.

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

- Members were advised that the emotion coaching for CiC was important to ensure that adults understood why a child in care may behave in a certain way. In addition, it was planned for all schools in Peterborough to be trauma informed.

- Members were informed that the data sets were behind by a year because there had always been a time lag. There were further delays with the Department for Education (DfE)_data, which would not be available until 2023. Members were advised that they could receive weekly, monthly or yearly attendance from the Virtual School data collector and could share that information, however, it would not be DfE data.
- The Virtual School (VS) team had appointed a strategic lead to track the education of children in need or those on child protection plans, and this had provided the ability to track data in an efficient way. This was to ensure that the right training programme was delivered to schools and social workers in order to support these children in the most effective way. In addition, Members were advised that the team were working to identify children in need that were home educated with the aim to add them to the Virtual School remit.
- The Virtual School team had challenged colleges on the education provision for post 16 unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASCs) to ensure that they would be accommodated straight away with education opportunities. Furthermore, this would ensure that the schools and colleges operated a roll on roll off education programme to accommodate UASCs quickly.
- The UASCs were offered ESOL training through the John Mansfield education facility.
- The Post 16 coordinator would work to engage young people in care into education or apprenticeships such as through Duke of Edinburgh and other opportunities. Furthermore, every effort was made to ensure that the YP remained engaged in education.
- There was a rise in mental health issues and the loss of confidence due to Covid for YP in care and this had impacted education and taking exams. Nonetheless, work was underway to address these issues in the spring and summer terms of 2023.
- There had been central funding for the provision of an education psychologist through the Pupil Premium and the need would be identified through the Personal Education Plans. Any child in care or in need would qualify for the support and where there had been a specific need due to historical issues, the child in need would be assessed quickly.
- Members commented that data within the report would be better presented as numbers rather than as percentages in the future.
- Members were advised that care was taken to ensure that children in care were referred to either a clinical psychologist or an educational psychologist, where appropriate. Furthermore, a clinical psychologist would treat trauma issues experienced by a child rather than an education psychologist.
- Education psychologist would feedback the assessment process to the social worker, foster carer and the child, so that they knew why the assessment had taken place.
- If the education psychologist had a concern about CiC trauma, the findings would be referred to the clinical psychologist.
- There was an external provider that collected data on attendance for CiC and alerted the Head of Virtual Schools if there was an issue with unauthorised absence. This would be followed up to check that there were no safeguarding issues and to ensure that the CiC attended school.
- The Virtual School Head felt that the DfE code of practice could be improved to ensure that the education of CiC was not delayed and interim measures were put in place when they moved out of the city. In addition, it was felt that more support

could be provided for CiC health and wellbeing needs following the Covid 19 pandemic as many were suffering with their education.

- The impact of a CiC not being in education included the need for a foster carer to stay at home with the child. Every effort was made to prevent a CiC not being placed in education and this had included no placements made in Kent as there were none available; or in Shropshire as they had not accepted Peterborough's education plan.
- Members commented that the service provided by the Virtual School had been highly regarded by Head Teachers in Peterborough.

The Corporate Parenting Committee considered the report and **RESOLVED** (Unanimously) to note the report and asked for further data in respect of attendance, children in need that were home educated and data presentation in reports.

AGREED ACTIONS

The Corporate Parenting Committee agreed to note the report and that the Head of Virtual Schools would provide Members with:

1. A briefing note on children in care school attendance data on a termly basis.
2. The number of children on a protection plan that were home educated.
3. The actual numbers as well as percentages in Virtual School reports going forward.

7. UPDATE ON NOT IN EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT OR TRAINING (NEET)

The Corporate Parenting Committee received a report in relation to NEET.

The purpose of the report was to inform Members on the activity of the Virtual School (VS) in respect of YP who were NEET.

The Headteacher Peterborough Virtual School for CiC and CPIC, 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 there were several NEET young people that had missed out on a crucial part of their Key Stage four education, and this had resulted in a lack of motivation and engagement for them. Furthermore, the education offer needed to expand for the NEET cohort, to offer more than just college courses, in order to engage with the young people in care and to reiterate that exams could be taken later. The education engagement issues being experienced for NEET was on par nationally.
- The report highlighted that one young person was waiting for a further education opportunity to present however, they were currently unsure what they wanted to do and which path to take for the future.
- A shortage of employment or the cost of living had not impact young people's career choices. In many cases, the young people had not known what career path they wanted to follow. Some YP had re-engaged in further education and the authority would support them to achieve their aspirations.
- The Chief Executive of the Council commented that if there were work experience or other employment opportunities for YP in care within the Council, that this should be explored.
- The Consultant Paediatrician suggested that an alumni of care leavers could be good mentors for young people that were NEET.

- The Citizenship, Participation and Leisure activities Corporate Parenting Champion, Councillor Barkham, advised that he had negotiated some driving lessons on a pro-bono basis with other driving instructor colleagues for young people in care.
- Driving lessons were currently offered for Cambridgeshire care leavers and this was something alongside a mentorship programme that could be explored for Peterborough.

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 Head of Virtual School would:

1. Explore the opportunity of care leavers to become mentors for NEET young people in care.
2. Explore the provision of funding for driving lesson for young people in care, in order to enhance their employment opportunities.
3. Engage with the Chief Executive of the Council to discuss work experience or other employment opportunities within the Authority for Young People in Care.

8. ANNUAL ADOPTION REPORT

The Corporate Parenting Committee received a report in relation to Annual Adoption performance.

The purpose of the report was to provide Members with an Annual Report on the business of the Regional Adoption Agency for Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Adoption.

The Head of the Regional Adoption Agency, 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 Adoption team had worked with the media team around the various myths surrounding adoption qualification, such as age limits. The area that adoption was also harder to tackle had been for sibling groups and this was usually due to the room potential families had available. Nonetheless, the case studies around these various types of adoption scenarios could be used in future marketing campaigns, to help encourage more people to adopt.
- The Adoption Team were in the process of developing podcasts from current adopters to talk about their adoption stories with the aim help to promote adoption for the harder to place children.
- The decrease in adoption placements was being investigated by the Adoption team, however there had been an increase in kinship and special guardianship placements. Members were assured that because of the Hertfordshire model that Peterborough had followed, there was no danger of children being missed for adoption placement, which was thought to be a positive outcome.

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 that the Head of Regional Adoption Agency would:

1. Use case studies to inform the adoption advertisement campaigns to address the challenging types of adoption placements in order to increase adoption rates.
2. Report back to Members on the work underway to identify the reasons why the adoption numbers had lowered for Peterborough.

9. Annual Report On Work Of The Corporate Parenting Committee For The Children And Education Scrutiny Committee 2021-2022

The Corporate Parenting Committee received a report in relation to work of the Corporate Parenting Committee for the Children and Education Scrutiny Committee 2021-2022.

The purpose of the report was to provide Members with a report to the Children and Education Scrutiny Committee on the activity carried out by the Corporate Parenting Committee in the municipal year 2021-2022.

The Assistant Director Children Services, 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 felt that a small addendum needed to be included within the report to Children and Education Scrutiny Committee to accurately reflect the figures of children in care, as the data within the report represented an inaccurate account of the position for Peterborough.
- The Chief Executive of the Council commented that placement sufficiency figure challenges could be discussed at Corporate Leadership Team. The Head of Corporate Parenting advised that the area was a challenge and that the team worked to ensure to keep the figures down by implementing early intervention in fostering support alongside health services. The team would also commission extra resources if needed. It was rare for there to be an immediate breakdown in placements and there were no children without one.
- The Fostering Service had met at target of 60% of children being in foster care with in-house homes. This had been achieved by support from the fostering community working alongside the team.
- Members were advised that the reason children, had moved around could be because of type of match, or that a foster carer had left the service.

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:

1. The Head of Corporate Parenting would include an addendum to the Corporate Parenting annual report to Children and Education Scrutiny Committee to accurately reflect the figures of children in care; and
2. Provide Members with a briefing note outlining the reasons why children in care move around placements.

3. The Chief Executive of the Council would include an item on a future agenda for the Corporate Leadership Team to discuss the challenges around children in care placement sufficiency.

10. PERFORMANCE REPORT

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 September 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.

The Committee was also advised that going forward there would be a change to the headings on performance report to ensure that they were more meaningful to CiCC.

The Head of 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 figure for care leavers, with a pathway plan in place seemed to fluctuate during the year, particularly in the summer period. Members were advised that there had been some sickness in the service area, which had impacted the pathway plans being completed. Nonetheless, the October 2022 scorecard data had risen, and that would show an improvement going forward.
- Members commented that they would benefit from seeing what a pathway plan looked like. In addition, there was a review currently underway in consultation with the Care Experienced YP, to improve the format of pathway plans and that it would be beneficial to share the current and the revised version with Members, to outline where the areas of challenge were.
- Members were advised that the staying in touch arrangement for YP was the most important factor in terms of a pathway plan achievement for them. Members were advised that the team would never achieve a 95% target for completed pathway plans, and this was due to a small number of care experienced young people that were already settled with their own plan for future progression.
- The child in care review statutory visits had been a challenge recently for the Social Worker team to keep on target and this was due to staff vacancy issues and some carers that had taken their family away on holiday during the summer period. There had been creative ways to explore how the team would tackle the issue, such as sending an alternative person that knew the child to conduct the review. There were staff vacancies and a recruitment process had been conducted to improve the situation, therefore, the low performance figures were not set to continue for statutory children in care reviews.
- The unsuitable accommodation was a performance indicator set by the DfE and included some YP that may be in prison or living in a hostel.
- There was no pattern as to why children go missing, however, there had been a link to good weather but that had not been the main reason. The reason the target would never be zero, had been because some YP were deemed missing purely because they had not returned home on time and therefore, carers had a duty to report them as missing. There were other factors such as whether they were going into school or if they had money, which had contributed to missing incidents.

- Foster carers were trained to know what to do if a child had gone missing and to mitigate the issues. Furthermore, meetings were held with the foster carer and the YP or child in care to highlight the reasons why the missing episodes had occurred.
- There were many factors as to why a YP or child in care had gone missing, and it would be useful for Members to receive a triangulated report to cover all the scenarios such as possible exploitation, missing episodes, placement stability and NEET to identify the risk factors involved and the Council's response to 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 Head of Corporate Parenting would:

1. Provide Members with a briefing note to show an example of what a pathway plan looked like.
2. Provide Members with a report at a future Committee meeting to outline all the scenarios around why Children and Young People go missing, what the risk factors were and what the Council's response was to those risks.

11. 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 health and dental services for children in care. The report provided an overview of the Integrated Care Board's (ICB) activities to ensure robust monitoring and quality assurance systems were in place to meet the health needs of Peterborough's Children in Care including those with a disability. Members were also advised of several developments which included:

- A couple of dentists had volunteered their services for CiC and were located in Ely.
- The refugee camp was offering one to one counselling sessions to Asylum Seeking Children for 2022-2023.
- A meeting was held with the Champion for 0-25 Physical and Mental Health and Emotional Well Being about the development of a questionnaire to gain feedback from the CiCC to find out how the health services for CiC and YP were received and what issues were being experienced.

The Designated 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 commented that the health assessment completed on time data of 44% completion rate was lower than it should be. Members were advised that all health assessments were achieved for CiC, however, there could be a delay of about a day or two. In some cases, there had been an issue with carer availability, missed appointments, capacity of NHS staff or transport issues.

- Members raised concerns over the dental service to YP and children in care in relation to the delays and asked for the Health team to be more determined about finding services.
- There were issues with registration for dental services as most surgeries were no longer accepting NHS patients.
- Members were advised that emails were sent to all NHS dentists within Peterborough and Cambridgeshire to highlight the issues with appointments for CiC and YP care experienced. In addition, there were working groups nationally and locally that met regularly to work towards a resolve.
- Members were asked whether there had been physical visits made by the Health Services to dentist surgeries, to explain the issues being experienced in the care system. The Consultant Paediatrician advised that all dentist surgeries had been sent an email in Peterborough and Cambridgeshire to invite them to join a chic dental service for CiC and there had been positive responses received.
- The Chief Executive of Peterborough City Council raised concerns over the dental services and the low figures for completed health assessments for CiC and YP, and that the Authority should ensure that support was provided by any means possible. There were new dentists opening locally and conversations needed to happen to encourage them to provide treatment to CiC and YP in care.
- Members were advised that some foster carers had registered with private dentist as they felt so passionately about providing treatment for the children in their care.
- Members were advised that dental training had been provided to the staff in health teams, however, that was in no way a replacement for professional dental treatment.
- Members commented that there had been an issue with a delay in the NHS contract negotiations to provide dental support and that there had also been a lack of dentist generally. In addition, it was advised that the Health Scrutiny Committee had been investigating the issues around dental services and it had been highlighted at a recent meeting that there needed to be low level dentist staff to carry out low level tasks. This would free up the dentists to work on higher-level teeth treatment. Furthermore, Peterborough dentists were generally paid a lesser amount than neighbouring areas and this had also contributed to them only wanting to take on private patients.
- Members were advised that the consent needed for initial health assessments had to come from the biological parents and this had sometimes held up to complete the health check.
- The reasons for late referrals for health assessments had been due to a combination of factors, such as a child arriving late in the care system on the day, issues with the quality of referrals and birth parents giving consent.

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 that the Designated Nurse for Looked After Children would:

1. Include further information within Corporate Parenting Committee health reports to outline the reasons and challenges that were being experienced in completion of CiC health assessments on time.

2. Conduct a face-to-face visit to dental surgeries in order to encourage them to address the issues of dental service provision for CiC and YP and encourage more dentists to volunteer their services.

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.

13. CORPORATE PARENTING CHAMPIONS

The Corporate Parenting Committee received a report in relation to Corporate Parenting Champion positions.

The purpose of the report was to provide Members with an outline of the current Corporate Parenting Champions positions and allocations

The Assistant Director of Children's Services introduced the report and asked Members to note the content and to review the current Corporate Parenting Champions positions and allocations.

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

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

- Confirmed the amended Corporate Champion roles,
- Confirmed the responsibilities of the Corporate Champion roles and reporting requirements; and
- Confirmed the appointments to the revised Champion roles 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. Fostering Retention - Councillor Knight
 - VI. Fostering Marketing and Recruitment – Councillor Jones

14. START TIME OF MEETINGS FOR 2023/24

The Corporate Parenting Committee received a report in relation to start time of formal and informal meetings to be held in 2023/24

The purpose of the report was for Members to discuss and agree the start times for meetings from the beginning of the Municipal Year 2023-24. The draft schedule of meetings would be agreed at Full Council on either 25 January or 22 March 2023

The Democratic Services Officer introduced the report and asked Members to note the content and agree the start time of meetings for Municipal Year 2023-24.

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

AGREED ACTIONS

The Corporate Parenting Committee agreed the start time for all formal and informal Corporate Parenting Committee meetings for the Municipal Year 2023-24 as follows:

- 6:00PM - formal
- 5.30PM - informal

15. WORK PROGRAMME 2022 – 2023

The Corporate Parenting Committee received a report in relation to the work programme for 2022-2023.

The purpose of the report was to enable the Committee to discuss the work programme.

The Democratic Services Officer introduced the report and asked Members to put forward any items they would like to see included on the agenda for forthcoming meetings

- Members agreed to receive a report on 15 March 2023 in relation to the reasons CiC that go missing and the risk factors involved.
- Members commented that they had been invited to the Centre 33 event and that it would be beneficial for the service to attend a future meeting.
- An update on the dental service improvement work would be provide at the informal meeting due to be held on 18 January 2023.

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:

- A report on CiC that go missing would be added to the work programme for 15 March 2023
- The Democratic Services Officer would invite Centre 33 to attend a future Corporate Parenting Committee meeting.
- The Participation Team would raise the services available through Centre 33 with the CiCC to encourage engagement.
- The Designated Nurse for Looked After Children would provide a briefing note to update the Committee on the work undertaken to improve the dental services for CiC at the informal meeting due to be held on 18 January 2023

CHAIRMAN

END 8:17PM

CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM No. 4
15 MARCH 2023	PUBLIC REPORT

Report of: Elaine Redding	Elaine Redding, Interim Director of Children's Services	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Cabinet Member for Childrens Services, Education, Skills and University	
Contact Officer(s):	Ricky Cooper, Assistant Director, Fostering, Regional Adoption and Specialist Young People's Services	Tel. 01223 699609

UPDATE FROM FOSTER CARERS

RECOMMENDATIONS	
FROM: Despina Kaoura, Service Manager, Fostering	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 this report 2. Raises 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 Community and to update on fostering service developments.

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.

2.4 *How does this report link to the Children in care Promise?*

This report links to the Children in Care Promise 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	
---	-----------	----------------------------------	--

4.0 **BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES**

4.1 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 took place on 9 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.

4.2 **Fostering Working Groups – Progress Briefing**

The Fostering Service strives to develop and improve the service we deliver to Children in Care of the Local Authority (LA) and the Foster Carers who provide this care on behalf of the LA. The Fostering Service recognises the wealth of fostering experience, knowledge and understanding Foster Carers have of children who come into the care system and caring for children within their homes and as part of their families. The Service values the individual inter-personal skills which Carers bring with them to support the Foster Carer Community. The Service works closely with the members of the Peterborough Foster Carer Committee (PFCC) and the Cambridgeshire Foster Carer Association (CFCA) but also with the wider fostering community throughout the year to ensure the voice and views of Peterborough and Cambridgeshire Foster Carers are heard and are central to plans for service development.

4.3 **Retention of Foster Carers**

We are working alongside Foster Carers in the Retention Focus Group to make sure that we respond quickly to any issues raised by Foster Carers that are causing general concern. We meet quickly with any Foster Carers who have expressed that they are considering giving up fostering. By listening and responding to Foster Carers' voices we are demonstrating that we hear and value them and that their views have a positive impact on the fostering service. We have heard from Foster Carers that they appreciate our timely response to the concerns that they raise.

Foster Carers have told us that they find it stressful when they are facing a standards of care concern, and consequently consider giving up fostering. We have responded to their feedback by agreeing shorter timescales for completing the work with them, and to make sure that the situation is resolved as soon as possible.

4.4 **Recruitment Ambassadors**

The Fostering Recruitment Ambassadors from within the Fostering Community continue to work alongside the Service supporting recruitment activity and raising the awareness of 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.

Throughout 2022 our Recruitment Ambassadors have represented the Fostering Service at various events across Peterborough and Cambridgeshire, including: Peterborough Pride and Christmas light events.

Additionally, they have worked with us to support marketing and recruitment activity by displaying posters, creating videos, participating in radio interviews, and attending virtual information sessions alongside Recruitment Officers. Further to this, the Ambassadors have attended quarterly face to face meetings with the Recruitment Team where they have provided feedback which has aided the development of our information sessions, 'unique selling points,' initial visits and marketing materials.

For 2023, the Recruitment Ambassadors will help to promote the Fostering Service across Peterborough and Cambridgeshire by assisting with the organisation of drop-in sessions and stalls to increase our local presence. A development in the role will be for the Recruitment Ambassadors to look at setting up and running coffee mornings in the geographical area they are responsible for, the purpose being to increase connections between local Foster Carers by allowing them to come together and share ideas and experiences, as well as this being a relaxed environment where prospective Carers can be encouraged to come along and speak with their local Ambassador.

4.5 Mentoring Scheme

The Fostering Service continues 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, for example when they are subject to an allegation or Standards of Care investigation. 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 understand that the impact of this support is particularly helpful to Carers at what can be a very difficult time. We hope to increase this offer to at least two specialist Mentors across the service.

The Service supports experienced and skilled Foster Carers to share their skills and expertise with others across the service. Mentors are matched with and provide support to Carers who are new to the service, in assessment or undertaking a fostering task which may be unfamiliar to them or with any challenges that arise. This is an area we are further developing.

It is acknowledged that the PCC Mentorship Scheme (k/a PCC Buddies) is not as developed as the mentorship scheme in Cambridgeshire, however the scheme now has a dedicated professional lead from within the PCC fostering team to help develop the scheme and the role as well as support Carers in this role. We have 4 PCC Buddies/Mentors in place with 3 more interested in the role alongside 13 Mentors in Cambridgeshire.

We currently hold 3 virtual meetings a year with our Mentors/Buddies to discuss any issues around mentoring and to provide updates regarding the Fostering Service. The fostering social workers who support the Mentors/Buddies also give advice to colleagues regarding which Carers to refer and when to refer for a Mentor/Buddy. We also liaise with fostering staff about Foster Carers who wish to apply to be Mentors and interview them.

We are now in the process of putting a Mentor's Handbook together. We have arranged an in-person meeting (the first since Covid) for all the PCC Buddies and the CCC Mentors at New Shire Hall on 09 February. Before then, the staff will meet to discuss what the new mentoring scheme will look like, and we can then consult the Mentors about our plans at the meeting. The service organised the accredited Mentoring training for Foster Carer Mentors, however feedback was mixed so this will be reviewed to ensure that it meets everybody's needs.

4.6 Fostering Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Focus Group

The Fostering Service has brought together an EDI (Equality, Diversity & Inclusion) focus group which involves staff and Carers. There has been one meeting to date to discuss the Children in Care Council request regarding the use of children and young people's pronouns and preferred names. We have developed an EDI statement which we are proposing the Fostering Service adopts. This work is informed by our Foster Carers lived experience of caring for children. The

group has raised requests for changes on the children's database (Liquid Logic) to include gender / pronoun preference on demographics. Our next meeting will consider increasing the diversity of fostering panel members.

4.7 **Feedback Loop**

The feedback loop sets out Foster Carer experiences, views and feedback gathered through the Foster Carer forums in Peterborough (the Peterborough Foster Carer Community: PFCC) and in Cambridgeshire (the Cambridgeshire Foster Carer Association: CFCA) It reflects Foster Carer voices from across the Fostering Community in relation to a range of topics they have chosen to provide feedback on or areas of specific challenge. For each new feedback theme there is a section for the Corporate Parent response which will be taken back to the Foster Carer forums, providing a transparent and open dialogue between Foster Carers, Children's Services, and the wider Council departments.

The Fostering Service continues to engage with Foster Carers via regular meetings with the Foster Carer Association/Community, Support Groups, the range of working groups discussed above in order to hear feedback directly 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, including how we can best work together to develop, improve and grow the Fostering Service.

5. **CORPORATE PRIORITIES**

5.1 This work links to the Council's Corporate Priority in relation to the following:

Priority Prevention, Independence & Resilience

The Fostering Service ensures every Child gets the best start in life – with more children and young people in care finding permanent, safe and stable homes and support to care leavers to access a good, enhanced local offer that meets their health, education, housing and employment needs.

The Fostering Service ensures that children and young people are safe from harm and lead healthy lives. Children and young people are confident, resilient, thrive in their learning and engage positively and actively in their communities. The Fostering Service supports Care Leavers through the Staying Put Scheme.

Further information on the Council's Priorities can be found here - [Link to Corporate Strategy and Priorities Webpage](#)

6. **CONSULTATION**

6.1 N/A

7. **ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT**

7.1 Foster Carer views will feed into the key priorities of the service.

8. **REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION**

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

9. **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

9.1 N/A

10. IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

10.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report.

Legal Implications

10.2 There are no legal implications associated with this report.

Equalities Implications

10.3 There are no equality implications associated with this report.

10.4 Carbon Impact

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

10.5 Impact on Children in Care

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.

11. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

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

11.1 None

12. APPENDICES

12.1 None

This page is intentionally left blank

CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM No. 5
15 MARCH 2023	PUBLIC REPORT

Report of:	Elaine Redding, 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 the Participation Service.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

3. **TIMESCALES**

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

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, the latest on the 'Every Word Matters' project, and have promoted other relevant opportunities including opportunities with the National Children in Care Council, the charity Article 39 and the Prince's Trust.
- 4.2 The CiCC continues to be consulted by services and engaged in co-production. Recently, the CiCC has shared feedback about the questions used in PEP meetings, resulting in more young people friendly wording. Members will also take part in a Squiddle trial with the Virtual School, to evaluate how useful and user-friendly the platform is, before it is rolled out to all Children in Care. The secure Squiddle platform provides a private space for young people to communicate with their teacher, social worker or any other professional supporting the child.
- 4.3 The CiCC is making good progress on its mental health campaign. Members recorded their spoken word poetry piece about mental health at a recording studio during the February half term. They are now working with animators to bring their ideas for the video to life and look forward to sharing the video in the coming weeks.
- 4.4 The Children in Charge Youth Club recently put together a code of conduct with six simple rules everyone attending Youth Club will follow to keep things running smoothly. Youth Club activities are based on feedback from the children and have recently included clay modelling, making jigsaw puzzles, decorating tote bags, keyrings, wooden puppet making and various outdoor games. Discussion continues on the language used by professionals around Children in Care, how those words make them feel and what they would prefer, feeding into the 'Every Word Matters' project.
- 4.5 The Care Leaver Forum (CLF) has been discussing their own care experiences and focusing on improving the support and preparation for young people leaving care, working with the Leaving Care Service to share their thoughts and expertise. New members of the CLF had a meet and greet session where they discussed the importance of regular communication from Personal Advisors and being signposted to support that is available. Members also participated in a focus group on the Joint Housing Protocol and a Financial Literacy Course with the Leaving Care Service.
- 4.6 Members of the CiCC, CLF and the Young Trainers group attended a recording studio in the February half term to record audio discussion for the 'Every Word Matters' project. The recordings are being edited for a video summarising their views, and the young people are meeting with professionals to decide on the style of the final animation. The young people are also considering releasing the remaining audio from the session as a podcast and have expressed interest in being involved in future podcasts on important topics, which would enhance the training materials they have already created for carers, social workers and other professionals.

- 4.7 The Young Inspectors have been working on a new project to inspect Cherry Lodge, a residential setting for children with complex needs. This started with a meeting for the young people to plan the inspection, including learning more about Cherry Lodge and thinking about what they would look at and who they wanted to speak to from Cherry Lodge. The inspection took place in the February half term and the Young Inspectors are currently in the process of collating their views and writing the final report.
- 4.8 The Young Trainers delivered another face-to-face training session for prospective foster carers in January, with the next training taking place in March. They have also delivered their first training session for student social workers on the Council's Assisted and Supported Year in Employment (ASYE). This took place in February half term and has given them the experience of how to adapt the training sessions to benefit different audiences, to have the most positive impact.
- 4.9 The Young Recruiters continue to support services recruit into roles working directly with children. This has recently included interviews for vacancies within the Leaving Care and Participation services. The group will be also working once again with the Principal Social Worker to interview Newly Qualified Social Workers for the next ASYE places. The Young Recruiters have recently accepted an invitation to work with Anglia Ruskin University to assess candidates for the Social Work Degree Program. This service has benefitted from the involvement of young people and adults across children in care and care leavers.
- 4.10 Young people engaged with the Participation service across Peterborough and Cambridgeshire attended the first of two Youth Leadership training events in February, with the second due to take place in March. This training has been facilitated by the British Youth Council and was open to children and young people from the CiCCs, CLF, Young Inspectors, Young Trainers and Young Recruiters as part of their ongoing training and development. Attendees gave positive feedback on the session which focused on confidence building and problem-solving strategies and also said they enjoyed the opportunity to make new friends from across the county. The session was followed by lunch for participants and a bowling activity.
- 4.11 The Participation Team has continued to plan joint activities with Cambridgeshire County Council for Easter and Summer 2023, consulting both Children in Care Councils on the activities planned. The Easter programme of events has been shared with staff and carers and includes a visit to an escape room, laser tag and a trampoline park, alongside a virtual crafts session. The Summer programme of activities is being finalised, and the Children in Care Awards date and venue have been confirmed and invitations sent to all Children in Care, carers, staff and Corporate Parents.

5. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- 5.1 This report provides an update on activities linked the Council's Corporate Priority:

Prevention, Independence & Resilience

- *Children*

6. CONSULTATION

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

7. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT

- 7.1 Improved engagement with Children in Care and Care Leavers and improved services.

8. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

- 8.1 N/A

9. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 9.1 There are no changes required.

10. IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

10.1 *There are no financial implications.*

Legal Implications

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

Equalities Implications

10.3 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

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

Other Implications

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

11. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

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

11.1 *N/A*

12. APPENDICES

12.1 *N/A*

CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE (FORMAL)	AGENDA ITEM No. 6
15 March 2023	PUBLIC REPORT

Report of:	Elaine Redding, Interim Executive Director of Children's Services	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Councillor Lynne Ayres - Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education, Skills and University	
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 N/A
- 2.4 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
---	-----------	----------------------------------	-----

4. BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

Annual Health Report Peterborough Corporate Parenting 1st January 2022 – 31st December 2022

4.1 Initial Health Assessments

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Integrated Care Board (ICB) commission the Children in Care (CIC) Health Team, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust (CPFT) 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. 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.

Initial Health Assessment Performance 1st Jan 2022 – 31st Dec 2022		
In County Placements		
	Number of IHA requests (minus early discharges)	Number of IHAs completed within 20 working days
Total numbers	109	68
Total Percentage		62%
Out of County Placements		
	Number of IHA requests (minus early discharges)	Number of IHAs completed within 20 working days
Total numbers	34	8
Total percentage		24%
Overall Totals (combining In County and Out of County placements)		
Total Number	143	76
Total percentage		53%

Breakdown of the 20 working day target for IHAs to be completed:

- Day 0 – Child becomes looked after
- 5 working day target for consent to be obtained from birth parent and referral to be completed by the social worker and sent to health colleagues (appointments cannot be arranged prior to receipt of referral and consent).
- This allows 15 working days following receipt of consent and referral for the appointment to be sent, rearranged if necessary (which is often the case) and the Initial Health Assessment to be completed.

Following the previous Corporate Parent meeting in November 2022, the Designated Doctor and Designated Nurse have requested additional information from their health colleagues in CPFT to identify the reason and common themes for late completion of IHAs including how many days late the assessment is completed.

Below is a chart which indicates further data for the last quarter of 2022 – IHAs for Peterborough children placed in Peterborough. Going forwards the Designated Doctor and Designated Nurse will have a better understanding of the challenges and identify themes and areas to focus additional support.

In county IHAs

Reason for late Health Assessments	October 2022	November 2022	December 2022
	6 due 4 seen within 20 working days	4 due 4 seen within 20 working days	17 due 14 seen within 20 working days
Late referral/Consent from Children's Social Care			1 (seen 11 days late)
Multiple appointments required for siblings to be seen on same day	2 (seen 1 day late)		
Was not brought for initial apt which was offered within timeframe			
Paediatrician capacity			1 (seen 2 days late)
Staff sickness			1 (seen 2 days late)
Carer declined initial offer of apt (within timeframe) due to other commitments			
Other			

4.2

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 1st Jan 2022 – 31st Dec 2022		
In County Placements		
	Number of RHAs due	Number of RHAs completed within timescales
Total numbers	229	166
Total Percentage		72%
Out of County Placements		
	Number of RHAs due	Number of RHAs completed within timescales
Total numbers	100	30
Total percentage		30%
Overall Totals (combining In County and Out of County placements)		
Total number	329	196
Total percentage		60%

To give the above chart some context, there are a number of reasons why the RHA may be late, similarly to the IHA appointment.

- Initial appointment not attended (DNA – Did not attend)
- Appointment cancelled at short notice due to sickness (staff/carer/child/young person). Re-scheduled appointment not within timeframe.
- Appointment declined by young person (not wanted)

For Peterborough Children in Care living outside of Peterborough, the Health Team send a request to the nearest CIC Health Team to the child or young person's placement address. This is sent 3 months in advance of the date the RHA is due. Many areas are struggling with capacity and hold waiting lists for children and often prioritise their own Local Authority's children. The Peterborough CIC Health Team have little control over when our children are seen living out of area, but will accommodate Peterborough children living within a 20 mile radius of the Peterborough boundary.

4.3 **Partnership meetings**

The Designated Nurse and Designated Doctor facilitate a monthly partnership meeting whereby health and Local Authority colleagues come together and share information and updates relevant to their partners. This meeting continues to strengthen relationships between partners and aid the dissemination of information.

4.4 **Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC)**

Over the past year the CIC Health team have made positive changes to ensure the health assessment process meets the specific needs of UASCs. Additional questions have been added to the assessment templates to meet the specific needs of UASCs. And the service leaflet has been updated to help UASCs know what to expect when attending health appointments. This can be translated into various languages to aid understanding.

The Blood Borne Virus (BBV) pathway has been updated by the CPFT health team to ensure all UASCs are offered screening. This screening is to test for infections that are spread through blood, for example; HIV, Hepatitis B and C. Tuberculosis screening is also within this pathway to eliminate the risk of this spreading within the population too.

The Health Team have built excellent working relationships with colleagues in the iCaSH (integrated contraception and sexual health services) department and the respiratory service which has facilitated a quick and seamless response and enabled the health team to report on results to reduce the risk further.

The Health Team in CPFT have also met with the Refugee council and the Peterborough Asylum and Refugee Community Association (PARCA) to increase their knowledge of what support is available to UASCs in Peterborough and to understand their referral pathways and criteria.

4.5 **Children in Care Council (CICC)**

Councillor Robinson and the Designated Nurse met to discuss the young people's views of their health appointments. Following discussion, a questionnaire was devised. The purpose was to gain insight of children and young people's experiences of health appointments, language used and give the young people the opportunity to feedback what improvements or changes they feel could be made.

The questionnaire consisted of 16 questions. Some were multiple choice, some on a scale of 0-10, some yes/no and some open questions with space to write. CICC Participation Worker shared the questionnaires with the young people at their CICC meeting in December 2022. Responses were anonymous. 4 questionnaires were returned from Peterborough young people. Please see Appendix 1 for the analysis of this questionnaire.

The overwhelming response was that all young people preferred face to face appointments as opposed to virtual/telephone calls. Something the Designated Nurse had not appreciated prior to receiving the responses was the literacy level of the young people. Several answers were 'I don't know' or 'IDK'.

Verbal feedback to the Designated Nurse from the CIC at the point of returning the questionnaires was:

- It was too long, and there were too many questions
- They preferred the multiple-choice questions
- They reiterated that they all preferred face to face appointments as opposed to virtual methods

CICC Quality Assurance Lead (Participation and Independent Visiting) suggested sharing the questionnaire wider to the Care Leavers forum who may be better placed to answer some of the more open questions.

4.6 **Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ)**

Following the launch and implementation of the SDQ pathway in July 2022 and the introduction of a leaflet to support carers in their completion of the SDQ there has been an increase in questionnaires returned to the Health Team.

	1 st Jan 2022 – 30 th June 2022	1 st July 2022 – 31 st Dec 2022
SDQs sent	70	129
SDQs returned	10	67
Percent returned	14%	52%

Young People aged between 11-16 years are supported by their social worker to complete their own SDQ. The Designated Nurse is planning to work with the CICC to design a leaflet to support young people with this process.

4.7 **Dental Services**

The Practice Manager at the Bushfield Dental Practice has reported that the Practice are managing to support children and young people in care in the Peterborough area. They have been able to slot children and young people into appointments, so it has not been necessary to hold a waiting list and open during the weekend to see these patients. The Practice Manager reported they have seen 8 children in care this year to date which has been manageable.

The Designated Nurse has joined a working group with colleagues in NHS England to support the development of an e-learning package for carer's and professionals; 'Improving mouth care for children in care'. Oral health assessments are already a mandatory part of the child's Initial and Review Health Assessments. The Mouth Check tool aims to support the completion of the

oral health assessment, explains how to perform a Mouth Check and how to signpost children in care to appropriate dental services depending on their oral health risk: red, amber or green. The mouth check however, is not a substitute for a full dental examination by a member of a dental team.

4.8 **Mental Health Service update**

The Designated Doctor met with the Children's Mental Health Commissioner in February 2022 to explore mental health provision for children in care living in Peterborough.

Currently all CIC in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough who have mental health needs need to be referred by a professional (not their carer), for example: Nurse, Dr, Social worker etc to YOUUnited. YOUUnited is made up of CPFT Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), Cambridgeshire Community Services (CCS), Centre 33 who deal with children 13 years of age and over and Ormiston Families who deal with those aged 12 years and under. Depending on the issue the child is signposted to trusted websites, early intervention or CAHMS.

The Commissioner shared with the Designated Doctor that she will be looking in to YOUUnited particularly to see what streams are available when a child is referred and in particular how Children in Care could be prioritised.

5. **CORPORATE PRIORITIES**

5.1 *Links to the Council's Corporate Priorities:*

1. *Our Places & Communities*
 - *Health and Wellbeing*
2. *Prevention, Independence & Resilience*
 - *Children*

Further information on the Council's Priorities can be found here - [Link to Corporate Strategy and Priorities Webpage](#)

6. **CONSULTATION**

6.1 N/A

6.2 N/A

6.3 N/A

7. **ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT**

7.1 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.

8. **REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION**

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

9. **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

9.1 N/A

10. **IMPLICATIONS**

Financial Implications

10.1 N/A

Legal Implications

10.2 N/A

Equalities Implications

10.3 N/A

Children in Care Implications

10.4 *Does this report have any implications for Children in Care and Care Leavers? If so, include these in this section.*

11. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

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

11.1 None

12. APPENDICES

12.1 Appendix 1 – Health Report

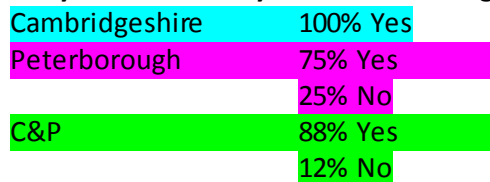
This page is intentionally left blank

**Questionnaire for CICC – Completed December 2022,
Returned to Designate for CIC Jan 2023**

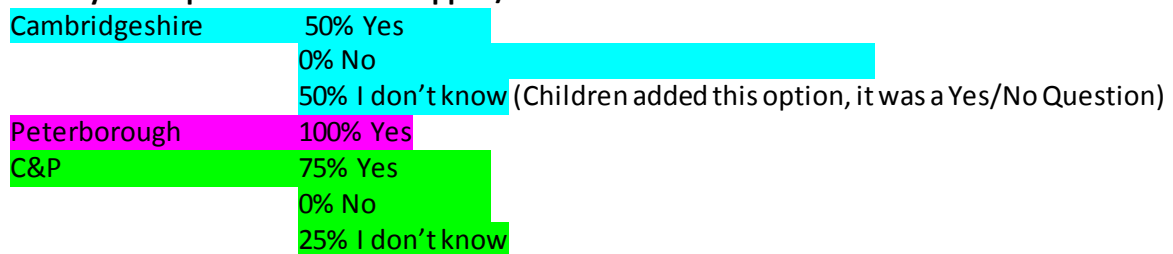
Cambridgeshire – 4 Questionnaires returned
Peterborough – 4 Questionnaires returned
C&P – Total of 8 Questionnaires to report on

Specifically thinking about your experience of receiving Initial and Review Health assessments:

Did you know what you were attending? Yes No



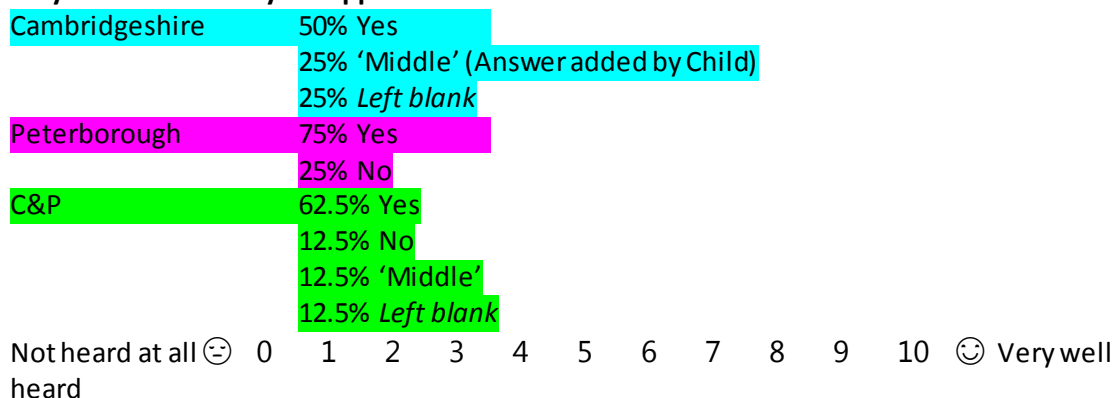
Did anyone explain what would happen/be discussed? Yes No



What did you expect?

- Cambridgeshire**
- I don't know
 - Didn't expect anything
 - I don't know
 - ?
- Peterborough:**
- Everything
 - A quick check on my height and weight and a few questions on my current health
 - I didn't really know
 - Left blank

Do you feel heard at your appointments? Yes No Please circle a number below



Cambridgeshire total score – 30 out of 40. Average score 7.5
Peterborough total score – 23 out of 40. Average score 6
C&P total score – 53 out of 80. Average score 7

Do the clinicians speak to you?

Yes No

Cambridgeshire 50% Yes
 0% No
 25% 'I cant remember' (Child added this response, it was a yes/no question)
 25% 'I don't know what clinicians are' (Child added this response, it was a yes/no question)

Peterborough 50% Yes
 50% No

C&P 50% Yes
 25% No
 12.5% 'I cant remember' (Child added this response, it was a yes/no question)
 12.5% 'I don't know what clinicians are' (Child added this response, it was a yes/no question)

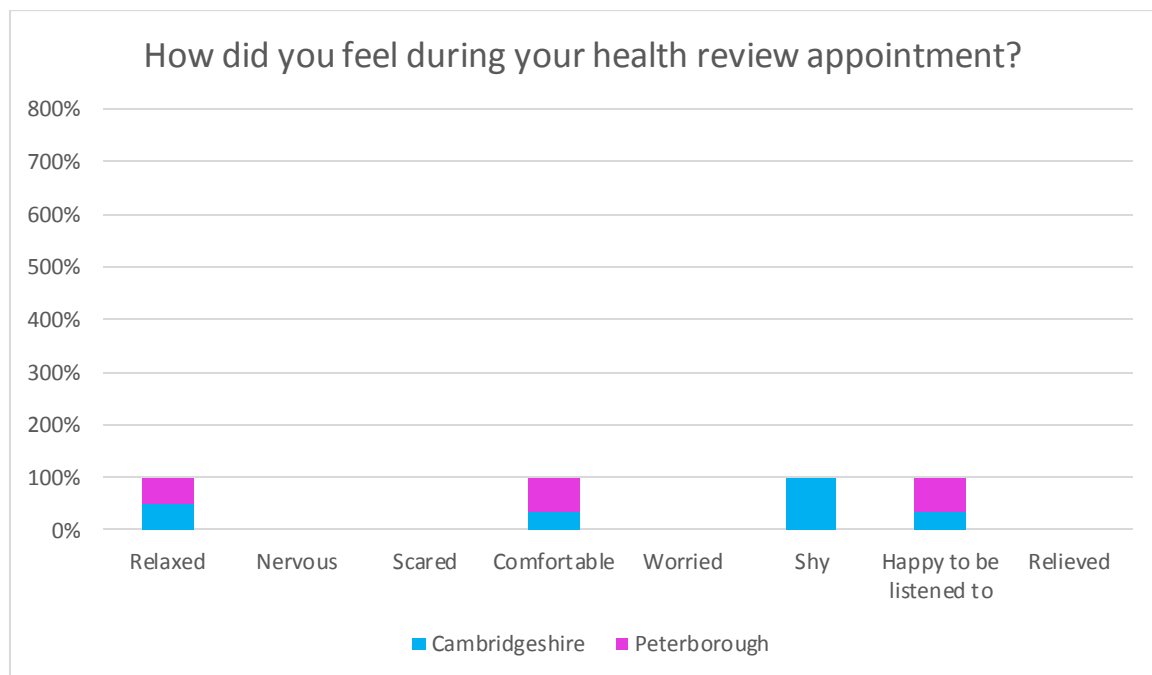
Or do the adults speak about you?

Yes No

Cambridgeshire 100% Yes
 Peterborough 25% Yes
 25% No
 50% Not answered
 C&P 32.5% Yes
 12.5% No
 25% Not answered

How did you feel during your health review appointment?

Relaxed Nervous Scared Worried
 Comfortable Shy Happy to be listened to Relieved



On a scale of 0-10 how would you rate your experience of health assessments? Please circle number

Not good 😞 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 😊 Excellent

Cambridgeshire total score – 19 out of 30. Average score 6 NB: 1 questionnaire not completed this question.

Peterborough total score – 16 out of 40. Average score 4

C&P total score – 35 out of 70. Average score 5

Additional comments:

Cambridgeshire – None

Peterborough

- 'Therapy don't do anything to me'

Did you understand everything during your appointment?

Yes No

Cambridgeshire	50% Yes
	25% No
	25% Not answered
Peterborough	50% Yes
	50% No
C&P	50% Yes
	37.5 No
	12.5% Not answered

Were you aware that you could talk to the Doctor or Nurse alone?

Yes No

Cambridgeshire	75% Yes
	25% Not answered
Peterborough	75% Yes
	25% No
C&P	75% Yes
	12.5% No
	12.5% Not answered

If there was anything you could change about your appointment what would it be?

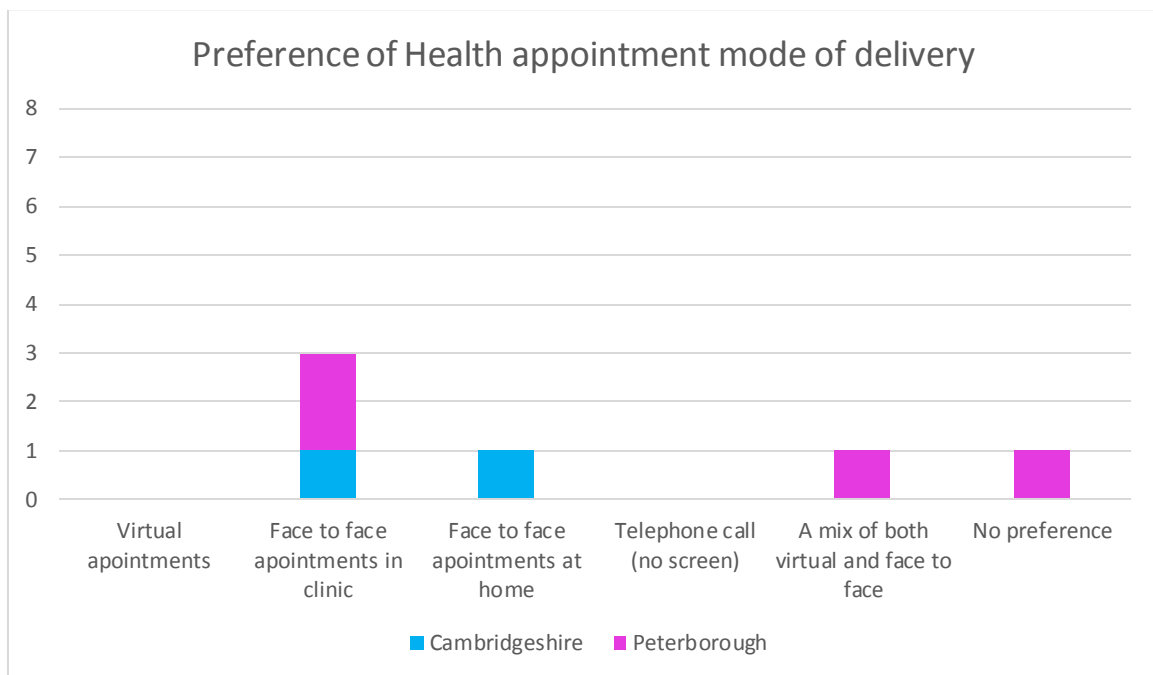
Cambridgeshire	50% answered 'No' or 'N/A'
	50% Not answered (left blank)
Peterborough	50 % answered 'No' or 'Nothing'
	25% Not answered (left blank)
	25% (1 person) left a detailed response: * Local Appointments
	* Suicidal thoughts leave my head
	* Relationship help

NB: Suicidal thoughts were discussed with workers at CICC and followed up with appropriate medical appointment.

C&P 50% answered 'No', 'N/A' or 'Nothing'
 37.5% not answered (left blank)
 12.5% gave qualitative answer: * Request local appointments
 * Support with Mental Health
 * Support with relationships

Over the last 2-3 years we have used virtual appointments. Now we are using a mix of face to face and virtual appointments (Mostly face to face). What is your preference?

Virtual appointments Face to Face appointments in clinic
 Face to face appointments at home Telephone call (no screen)
 A mix of both virtual and face to face No preference



C&P Overwhelming response of preference for Face to Face contact for health appointments.

When you have attended a clinic for appointments, what are your thoughts on the location?

Cambridgeshire: 50% Not answered (left blank)
 50% answered 'fine' or 'good'

Peterborough 25% not answered (left blank)
 25% answered 'none'
 25% answered 'it's local'
 25% answered: 'too far travel wise'

NOT Child/young person friendly 😊 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

😊 VERY child/young person

Cambridgeshire	Scored 20 out of 30	Average score 6.5
Peterborough	Scored 26 out of 40	Average score 6.5
C&P	Scored 46 out of 70	Average score 6.5

NB: 1 questionnaire not completed this question.

How do you think health services could be improved for Care experienced children and young people? (please be as honest as possible)

Cambridgeshire	75% questionnaires left blank for this question 25% answered: 'Can't remember'
Peterborough	75% answered 'N/A' or 'Nothing' 25% questionnaires left blank for this question
C&P	50% questionnaires left blank for this question 37.5% answered 'N/A' or 'Nothing' 12.5% didn't answer this question.

Are you able to tell us something positive about a recent health appointment?

Cambridgeshire	75% left this question blank 25% answered 'can't remember'
Peterborough	25% N/A 25% answered 'No' 25% left this question blank 25% answered: 'felt listened to and my questions were answered'

Verbal feedback from the CIC at the point of returning the questionnaires:

- It was too long, and there were too many questions
- We preferred the multiple choice questions
- Reiteration that they all preferred face to face appointments as opposed to virtual methods
- Shalina Chandoo, Quality Assurance Lead (Participation and Independent Visiting) suggested sharing the questionnaire wider to the Care Leavers forum who may be better placed to answer some of the more open questions.

This page is intentionally left blank

CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM No. 7
15 MARCH 2023	PUBLIC REPORT

Report of:	Elaine Redding, Interim Executive Director Children's Services	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Lynne Ayres Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education, Skills and the University	
Contact Officer(s):	Michaela Berry, Interim Head of Service Corporate Parenting	Tel. 01733 863655

PERFORMANCE DATA FOR CHILDREN IN CARE AND CARE LEAVERS JANUARY 2023

RECOMMENDATIONS	
FROM: Elaine Redding, Interim Executive Director 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 31 January 2023 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.

- 2.3 This report links to the following Corporate Priorities:

Consider how the recommendation links to the Council's Corporate Priorities:

1. Our Places & Communities
 - Lives and Work
 - Health and Wellbeing
2. Prevention, Independence & Resilience
 - Educations and Skills for All

- 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	
---	-----------	----------------------------------	--

4. **BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES**

4.1 As of 31 January 2023, there were 387 children in care

- 127 children placed with in house foster carers.
- 132 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.
- There were no post-16 living in semi-independent accommodation.
- 27 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.
- 8 children were 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 were placed for adoption.
- 1 child was placed in a residential educational placement.
- 38 children are placed in residential provision. The placements in these homes 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.
- 47 post-16 were living in semi-independent accommodation, who have an allocated social worker and a personal adviser. The focus is preparation for adulthood.
- Of external placements 55% were within 20 miles from home address; 26% within 50 miles; 5% within 70 miles and 14% over 70 miles. There is a national shortage of placements which makes it harder to place children in care closer to home.

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

Legal Implications:

There are no legal implications as this report is for information only.

10.2

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 January 2023

This page is intentionally left blank



Peterborough Corporate Parenting Report

Monthly Performance report

January 2023



Information

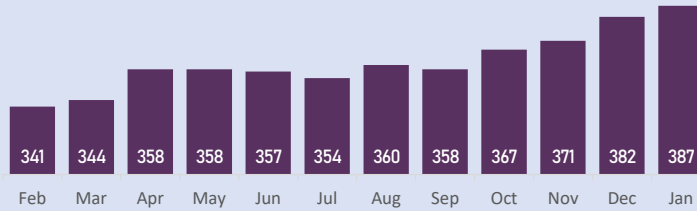


HEADLINE FIGURES

Number of children in care on the last day of January

387

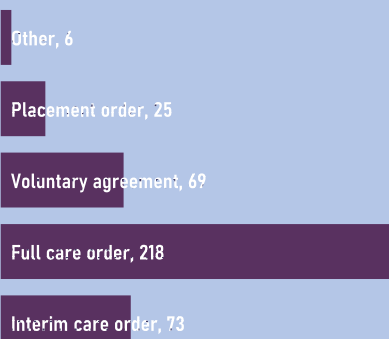
Target: Below 332



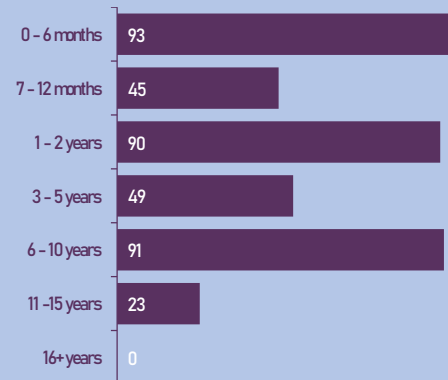
Staffing

	Staff	Average Caseload	Change	Performance
Family Safeguarding Qualified social workers	29	15	Stayed the same	-
Children in Care Qualified social workers	15	19	Deteriorated	-
Leaving Care Personal Advisors	10	18	Improved	-
Independent Reviewing Officers	7	64	Improved	-

Legal status of children in care



Length of time children have been in care



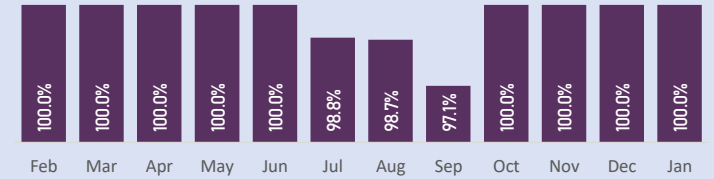
Key
 Change since previous month: ▲ Improved, ▬ Stayed the same, ▼ Deteriorated
 Performance against target: ✓ Strong, ! Acceptable, ✗ Poor

SERVICE STANDARDS

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

99.4%

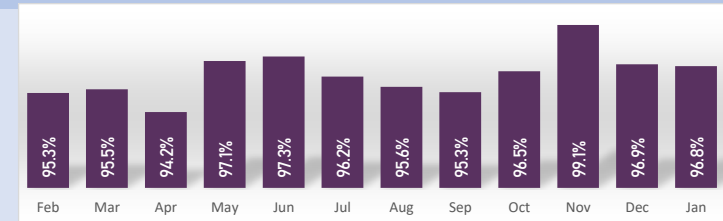
Target: Above 98%



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

96.8%

Target: Above 98%



HOME

Home stability

5.7%

Target: below 8%

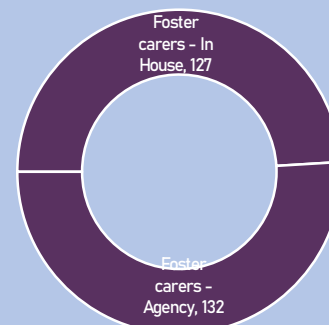
5.7% of children in Peterborough's care had 3 or more different homes in the last 12 months.

Out of those children who have been in care for over 2.5 years, 73.4% have been in their current home for two or more years.

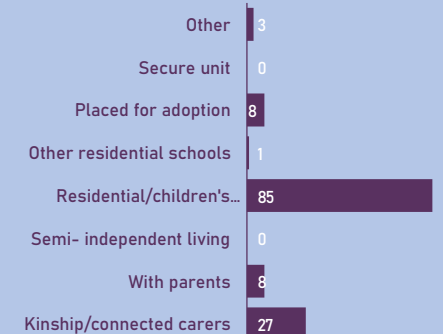
73.4%

Target: above 75%

Type of home of children in care



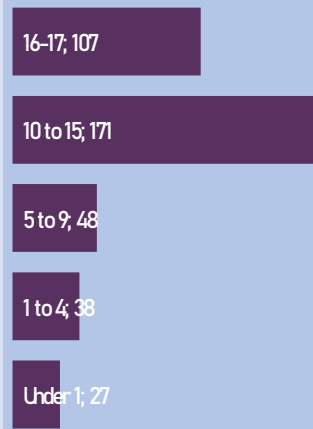
Other settings breakdown





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 235 out of 235 school aged children who were in care for at least a month by the end of January.

74.6%

74.6% of Peterborough's children in care are taught in good or outstanding schools.

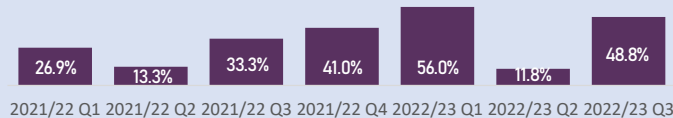
% of school-aged children in care in good or outstanding schools

HEALTH - SERVICE STANDARDS

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

34.3%

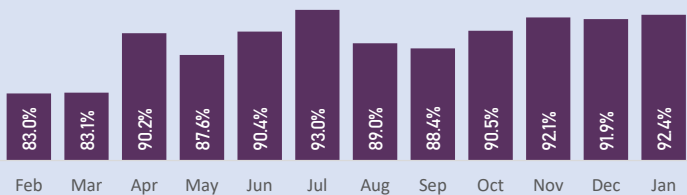
Target: above 95%



Children in care whose annual health assessment was completed on time

92.4%

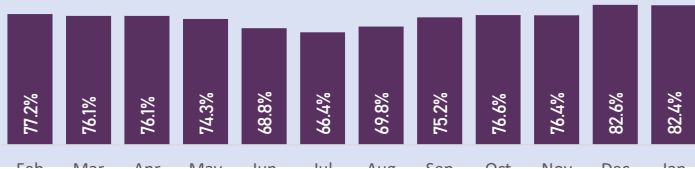
Target: above 93%



Children in care whose annual dental examination was completed on time

82.4%

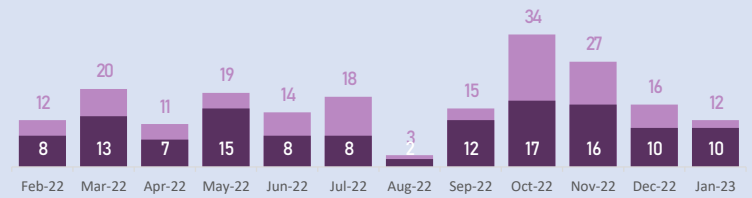
Target: above 93%



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

10 Children

12 Episodes

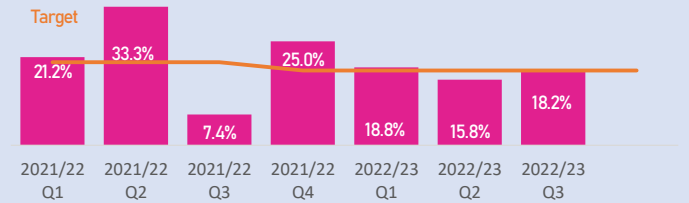


ADOPTION

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

17.4%

Target: above 18%



Timeliness of adoption process

Time to placement

449

Target: below 426

For children adopted during the past 12 months, an average of 449 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

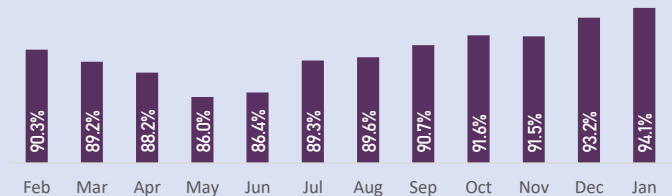
Target: below 120

CARE LEAVERS

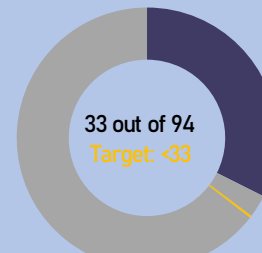
Care Leavers who have a pathway plan in place

94.1%

Target: above 95%



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



to 21 year old care leavers who live in unsuitable accommodation



Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan

19 w ed

19 w ac

This page is intentionally left blank