

CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM No. 8
22 NOVEMBER 2023	PUBLIC REPORT

Report of:	John Gregg Executive Director Children and Young People's Service	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Councillor Bisby Cabinet Member for Education, Skills, and Children's Services	
Contact Officer(s):	Gary Jones, Service Director Children's Social Care and Targeted Support	Tel. 0748407682 4

PERFORMANCE DATA FOR CHILDREN IN CARE AND CARE LEAVERS SEPTEMBER 2023

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

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

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

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Corporate Parenting Committee in respect of the numbers of children and young people being looked after by the Council as of 30th September 2023 providing a breakdown of the types of homes in which they are living. The report also provides information about the age, gender and ethnicity of those children and young people.
- 2.2 This report is for Corporate Parenting Committee to consider under its Terms of Reference No. 2.4.4.6 To monitor the quality of care delivered by the City Council and review the performance of outcomes for children and young people in care.
- 2.3 This reports to the Children in Care Promise by focussing on the placements for children in care and care leavers.

3. TIMESCALES

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

4.1 As of 30 September 2023, there were 410 children in care.

- 132 children placed with in house foster carers.
- 124 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.
- 25 children were placed with family or friends (connected persons). These carers are formally assessed in the same way that in house foster carers are assessed and are presented to the Fostering panel for approval through the same process and standard. They are supported through the foster carer allowance.
- 13 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.
- 3 children were placed for adoption.
- 1 child was placed in a residential educational placement.
- 113 children are placed in residential provision. The placements in these homes are most usually made when foster care is not sufficient to meet the child or young person's needs. Residential care is nearly always accessed for older children 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. This figure includes 16, 16–18-year-olds living in semi-Independent accommodation where the focus is preparation for adulthood.
- Of external placements 44% were within 20 miles from home address; 32% within 50 miles; 8% within 70 miles and 16% over 70 miles. There is a national shortage of placements which makes it harder to place children in care close to home.
- In response to a request from the Corporate Parenting Committee, the score card now includes information on the current breakdown of the ethnicity of children in care.
- The request from Corporate Parenting Committee for the performance report to be RAG Rated in terms of performance is going to be in development by Children's Services during November 2023.

5. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

5.1 This report links to the following Corporate Priorities:

1. *Our Places & Communities*
 - *Places and Safety (including any rural implications)*
 - *Lives and Work*
 - *Health and Wellbeing*
2. *Prevention, Independence & Resilience*
 - *Educations and Skills for All*
 - *Children*
3. *The Economy & Inclusive Growth*
 - *Environment (including a summary of the outcome of a completed Carbon Impact Assessment, to be submitted in full to the Transport and Environment Team)*
 - *Homes and Workplaces*

- *Jobs and Money*

Summary

The report contains no proposals for changes to service delivery and therefore there is no decision to take which may impact carbon emissions of the council or the city.

6. CONSULTATION

6.1 N/A

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 No alternative options required for this report as this data is provided for information purposes only.

10. IMPLICATIONS

10.1 Financial Implications

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

10.2 Legal Implications

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

10.3 Equalities Implications

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.

10.4 Other Implications

This is high level data concerning our children in care population in Peterborough and how we are performing on some key performance indicators.

11. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

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

11.1 Monthly Performance Report

12. APPENDICES

12.1 Appendix 1 – Performance Report September 2023

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