

CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY 20 MARCH 2019

6.30 PM

Council Chamber

AGENDA

	Page No
1. Apologies for Absence	
2. Members Interests 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 21 November 2018 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 21 November 2018.	3 - 10
4. Update from Foster Carers	11 - 14
5. Update from Participation Officer on behalf of the Children in Care Council	15 - 18
6. Permanency Report TACT <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adoption Annual Report• Fostering report• Reg 44 report• TACT innovations undertaken to reduce the number of children taken into care	19 - 24
7. Annual Report of the Independent Review Officer Service	25 - 54
8. Report on 0-25 service redesign, including transition services	55 - 58
9. Report on work of the Corporate Parenting Committee for the Children and Education Scrutiny Committee	59 - 66
10. Performance Report <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Placements of Children in Care• Scorecard	67 - 90
11. Health	91 - 94
12. Members Issues Members that are not part of the core CPC membership, but hold Corporate Parenting responsibilities, are invited to raise any issues they have with regard to the services provided to Children in Care.	

13. Date of the Next Meeting

Meetings will be dates will be decided at Annual Council, which is due to be held on Monday, 20 May 2019.



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: Ayres, Bisby (Chairman), Bond, C Harper, Hussain, Jones, S Lane (Vice Chairman), B Saltmarsh, L Serluca, Smith and J Stokes

Substitutes: Councillors: Aitken, J A Fox and E Murphy

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

Public Document Pack

**MINUTES OF THE CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE MEETING (FORMAL)
HELD AT 6:30PM, ON
WEDNESDAY, 21 NOVEMBER 2018
BOURGES/VIERSEN ROOM, TOWN HALL, PETERBOROUGH**

Committee Members Present: Councillors Bisby, (Chair), Ayres, Harper, Lane, Jones, Bond, Saltmarsh, Smith and Aitken.

Officers Present:

Nicola Curley, Assistant Director Children's Services
Sue King, Head of Service, The Adolescent and Children's Trust (TACT)
Myra O'Farrell, Head of Corporate Parenting
Jenny Weeden, Senior Youth Engagement and Participation Officer
Pat Carrington, Assistant Director Skills and Employment / Principal
Cambridgeshire County Council & Peterborough City Council / City College Peterborough
Alice Prosser, Children in Care Officer Youth Voice Worker
Dee Glover, Head teacher of Peterborough Virtual School for Children in Care
Doctor Mona Aslam, Doctor for Looked After Children
Karen S Dunleavy, Democratic Services Officer

Also Present:

Jo Murchie, Foster Carer Forum
Stephen Greene, Foster Carer Forum

13. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Stokes. Councillor Aitken was in attendance as substitute for Councillor Stokes.

14. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

15. MINUTES OF THE MEETING:

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 July 2018 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

16. CORPORATE PARENTING CHAMPION PROPOSED NEW POSITION REPORT

The Corporate Parenting Committee received a report in relation to updating the Committee's terms of reference in respect to Champion Member positions.

The purpose of the report was to request the Committee consider recommending to Council that there should be a change to the terms of reference in order for the Committee to create and appoint to Corporate Parenting Champion positions on an annual basis; and subject to Council approving the updated terms of reference, to create a new Champion position to support Effective Care Planning and appoint Councillor Dennis Jones to the position for the remainder of the 2018/2019 municipal year.

The Democratic Services Officer introduced the report and explained the purpose of the report was to request the Committee to consider the report and make a recommendation to Council that the proposed changes were introduced.

The Corporate Parenting Committee considered and **RESOLVED** (Unanimously) to note the report and the agreed the recommendation and action points raised.

AGREED ACTION

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

1. Recommended to Council that the Committee's terms of reference would be updated to allow the Committee to create and appoint to Corporate Parenting Champion positions on a yearly basis; and
2. Subject to Council approving the updated terms of reference, the Committee agreed to create a new Champion position to support Effective Care Planning and appoint Councillor Dennis Jones to the position for the remainder of the 2018/2019 municipal year.

17. UPDATE FROM FOSTER CARERS FORUM

The Corporate Parenting Committee received a report in relation to the Foster Carer Forum and the outcome of their discussions at meetings and events.

The purpose of the report was to request the Committee to consider and note the contents.

A Foster Carer representative introduced the item to Members and asked them to note the update and ask any questions.

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

- A recent survey of Foster Carers had been conducted on behalf of Peterborough Permanency Service with 52 households responding, over 40%. The results indicated that The Adolescent and Children's Trust (TACT) in Peterborough supported families positively. The service had a priority to focus on children and young people and that supervisors and social workers had also provided a good service, including the out of hours service.
- Clarity was provided on paragraph 4.16 concerning the 'Out of Hours Service' of the report. Members were advised that the Fostering Network Survey covered the United Kingdom as a whole where the service was reported as poor, however the local survey results indicated that Peterborough 'Out of Hours Service' was good.
- The Fostering Network had no formal training programmes in place, whereas in Peterborough a training brochure was produced annually and was regularly updated. Training opportunities included training for children with disabilities, internet safety, safer carer plans, Makaton training and safeguarding children, which focused on individual needs.
- Training was available to all carers and included online courses. The Makaton training was highly regarded.
- There had been no negative comments received regarding the carer review procedures. Going forward, foster carer reviews would be undertaken every three years.
- The Staying Put Policy had been considered to work well, however the wording in the agreement was currently being reviewed to make it more fit for purpose.

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

18. UPDATE FROM THE PARTICIPATION OFFICER FOR CHILDREN IN CARE COUNCIL

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

The purpose of the report was to request the Committee to consider and note the contents.

The Senior Participation Officer introduced the item on behalf of the Children in Care Council and asked Members to note the report 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:

- The Children in Care Council video mentioned in the report would be shown over the Easter period 2019, at a venue in London and invitations would include some Members of the Corporate Parenting Committee.
- Ofsted had provided the children's summary to their report and this would be sent to Children in Care in due course with a covering letter.
- All Committee Members were invited to the Christmas Party organised by the Children in Charge Youth Club in December 2018.

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

19. VIRTUAL SCHOOLS ATTAINMENT REPORT

The Corporate Parenting Committee received a report in relation to the interim in relation to education attainment for children in care for Key stages 1 - 5.

The purpose of the report was to provide Members with an outline of the interim results and the projects such as attachment awareness being introduced to help encourage children to focus on learning and improve the results. This data had been provided by the individual schools and the data had not yet been validated by the Department for Education (DfE).

In addition, Members were informed that the learning projects operated through the pupil premium, which aimed to help children in care focus on learning had experienced positive outcomes.

The Head of Virtual Schools introduced the report to Members and requested them to note the report 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:

- The number of CiC placed out of the city awaiting school places had reduced from eight to four. There had also been issues experienced with some CiC allocated learning hours. These issues were being experienced with out of the city academy schools and were being addressed with the Director of Education and the Local Authority.
- The validated results would provide detailed comparative data with the Eastern Region and the Authority's statistical neighbours and would provide details of Children in Care.
- The Attachment Awareness Project was an ongoing project which would be monitored over three years.
- The Pupil Referral Unit had closely reached capacity, however, CiC were given priority.

- The Pupil Referral had operated outside of the Local Authority, although the Director for Education was involved in the operation and was a Chair of Governors as well as Peterborough City Council Councillor.
- The issues being experienced for CiC school placements, which had also included those with Education Health and Care Plans (EHCP), were being addressed.
- An additional the Peterborough Virtual Schools supplementary report produced in May 2018, would be shared with Members.

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

AGREED ACTION

The Corporate Parenting Committee considered and **RESOLVED** (Unanimously) to note the report and agreed that the Head teacher of Peterborough Virtual School for Children in Care would share with the Committee the Peterborough Virtual Schools supplementary report, which was produced in May 2018.

20. SEND UPDATE IN RELATION TO CHILDREN IN CARE 0 – 25

The Corporate Parenting Committee received a report in relation to the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) update for CiC

The purpose of the report was to provide Members with an outline in respect of education for children and young people with disabilities who were looked after by Peterborough City Council (PCC) or were Care Leavers and identified as having SEND. The report covered an overview of the current arrangements in terms of looked after children and children that were looked after for 75 nights or more as part of a care package.

The Head of Corporate Parenting introduced the report to Members and asked them to note or raise any queries they had with officers. Members were also asked to refer to item 2.1 of the report and note that it had referred to education and not health as stated therein.

The Head teacher of Peterborough Virtual School for Children in Care also advised Members that appropriate education facilities were not always found for children placed out of area within the statutory 20 days however online tuition service was provided where possible.

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

- There was an Early Years Advisor within the Virtual School Team with responsibility for monitoring all children in pre-school settings. Government funding was available for 2 – 3 year olds and if an increased need was identified for a child, they would be referred to the local SEND Team. Following on, the child would have an early years Pupil Education Plan (PEP) and would be monitored throughout.
- Members were concerned about CiC being placed at schools out of area with a lack of placements. The National Head teachers for Virtual Schools were due to send a letter to the secretary of state regarding the national issues of CiC school placements outside of all areas.
- A recent peer review video on CiC with special educational needs had included some of their aspirations for the future, which was encouraging.

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

AGREED ACTION

The Corporate Parenting Committee considered and **RESOLVED** (unanimously) to note the report and agreed the following recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION

It was **RECOMMENDED** that the Cabinet Member for Education Skills and University and the Cabinet Member for Children's Services would endorse a letter to be drafted by the Head teacher of Peterborough Virtual Schools for Children in Care, addressed to the Secretary of State, to highlight the Committee's concerns raised about school placement allocation for children in care placed out of area.

21. WORK & TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE MOVING ON FROM CARE

The Corporate Parenting Committee received a report in relation to the progress on the work and training opportunities for young people leaving care.

The purpose of the report was to provide members with an overview in respect of the progress of supporting young people in care or care leavers towards sustainable education, training and employment and offering opportunity for career pathways.

The Assistant Director Skills and Employment Principal introduced the report and requested Members to note the content 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:

- Apprenticeships were undertaken within the workplace and across the City and there were more apprenticeships than people wanted to apply for.
- Support was offered by the City College Peterborough for students to apply for external apprenticeships outside of Council vacancies. The candidates would be required to attend an interview process and would then be appointed by the external employer. The apprenticeship programme would be delivered through whichever provider the employer had chosen.
- Peterborough City College also acted as a matching agency for companies that were searching for apprenticeship candidates.
- The apprenticeship assessments and qualifications were currently changing between standards and frameworks systems depending on which qualification the position had been aimed at.
- It was proposed for Council partners, such as SERCO and Vivacity to provide care leavers with priority placements into apprenticeships for care leavers and this could be a condition built into future partner contracts.
- All apprenticeships were advertised nationally through a website.
- Members thanked the Councillors that had been involved in the work to include apprenticeship opportunities for care leavers within the Council and partner employment policies.
- Care Leavers were provided with information about available apprenticeships through a working group and the Not in Education, Employment and Training (NEET) Team. The advice provided to care leavers would be directed by professionals within the apprenticeships field.
- Work was ongoing from year 11 between several groups to identify those care leavers that required assistance to plan for their future career options.
- Care leavers missing from education were tracked by the NEET Team. This would be undertaken by investigating where they had been educated before they went missing, late night phone calls and door knocking would also be undertaken.

- The alternative apprenticeship provision out of the area, tended to be facilitated by private organisations or specialist providers.
- When applying for apprenticeships, care leavers were only proposed for positions where they had the required skill set.
- Prospective external employers were not usually told that a student was a care leaver, as that information was on a need to know basis. However, the Council and contracted partners would know if a care leaver was applying for an apprenticeship as this information was pertinent to the appointment process.

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

ACTION AGREED

The Corporate Parenting Committee considered and **RESOLVED** (Unanimously) to note the report and agreed that the Assistant Director Skills and Employment Principal:

1. Would provide the Committee with a link to the national apprenticeships database; and
2. Provide clarification over the locations of the positive study or training opportunities available for care leavers.

22. REPORT ON MISSING FROM CARE AND CHILD SEX EXPLOITATION/CRIMINAL EXPLOITATION UPDATE

The Corporate Parenting Committee received a report in relation to the current position in regards to children and young people who go missing and children and young people who were vulnerable to Child Sexual and Criminal Exploitation.

The purpose of the report was to provide Members with an overview in respect of the current situation around children and young people who go missing and children and young people who are vulnerable to Child Sexual Exploitation.

The Assistant Director Children's Services introduced the annual report and explained that the report included all missing children, not only CiC.

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

- The report covered the period from April 2017 to March 2018.
- The Cabinet Member for Children's Services, confirmed that she received a weekly report of CiC missing for more than 24 hours, which also included information such as the number of missing episodes and the outcomes.

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

23. PERFORMANCE REPORT

23.1 PERFORMANCE REPORT AND SCORECARD

The Corporate Parenting Committee received a report in relation to Children in Care and Care Leaver placements.

The purpose of the report was to provide Members with an overview in respect of the numbers of children and young people currently being looked after by the Authority and to provide 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.

In addition it was highlighted that the figure for CiC had risen slightly, however, it had been lower than the national average per 10,000. Members were advised that safeguarding initiatives being implemented to reduce the number of CiC.

The Assistant Director of Children's Services introduced the report and requested Members to note the content of the report 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 commented that they pleased that the Children in Care statutory visits had risen to 97.3%.
- TACT were working on a number initiatives to reduce the number of Children in Care.
- The inconsistency was noted between two elements of the report regarding missing children being unknown to social services and the majority being CiC. This confusion occurred as one report referred to an annual report and one referred only to the month of September 2018.
- There had been only a small percentage of CiC who go missing.

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

AGREED ACTION

The Corporate Parenting Committee considered and **RESOLVED** to note the report and agreed that the Head of Adolescent and Children's Trust would provide a briefing note on the innovations currently being undertaken to reduce the number of children placed in care.

23.2 HEALTH REPORT

The Corporate Parenting Committee received a report in relation to health assessments, the purpose was to provide an update on the timescales associated with health assessments between July and September 2018.

Dr Mona Aslam, Designated Doctor for Looked After Children introduced the report and advised Members that the report looked at assessments conducted when children first come into care and at six monthly or annual intervals for children both placed in and out of area. Members were also advised that each Local Authority would attend to their own children before those out of area and the effects of this were being discussed and reviewed at a national level.

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

- The quality of the health assessments undertaken for CiC that had been placed in Peterborough from another Authority area was of a high standard. It was uncertain whether the health assessments offered to CiC from outside the Authority area were undertaken in a timely manner.
- The performance figures for CiC health assessment reviews had fallen slightly due to an administrative issue, however, it was anticipated that the figures would improve by the next reporting cycle.

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

AGREED ACTION

The Corporate Parenting Committee considered and **RESOLVED** to note the report and agreed that the Dedicated Nurse for Children in Care would provide a briefing note to highlight:

1. The issues being experienced nationally in relation to health assessments for children in care that were placed outside of their Authority area; and
2. The timeliness of the out of area health assessments for CiC.

24. MEMBERS ISSUES

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

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

25. WORK PROGRAMME

The Corporate Parenting Committee received a report in relation to the Committee's Work Programme to provide Members with a Work Programme of items to schedule for the municipal year 2018/2019.

Nicola Curley, Assistant Director Children's Services introduced the report and requested the Committee to note the work programme and suggest any items they wished to be included.

The Corporate Parenting Committee considered the report and **RESOLVED** (Unanimously) to note the Committee's Work Programme for 2018/2019 and agreed the action point raised.

AGREED ACTION

The Corporate Parenting Committee considered and **RESOLVED** to note the report and agreed that:

The TACT Permanency and Placements reports due to be presented to Committee on 20 March 2019, would include what innovations were being introduced to reduce the number of children taken into care.

26. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next informal meeting of Corporate Parenting Committee was due to be 16 January 2019 and the next formal meeting would be held on 20 March 2019.

Chairman
6:30pm – 20:08pm

CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM No. 4
20 MARCH 2019	PUBLIC REPORT

Report of:	Executive Director People and Communities Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Councils	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Councillor Sam Smith, Cabinet Member for Children's Services.	
Contact Officer(s):	Myra O'Farrell Head of Service Corporate Parenting	Tel. 864391

FOSTER CARER FORUM REPORT

RECOMMENDATIONS	
FROM: Foster Carer Forum	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; and 2. Raise any queries they have with the Foster Carer Forum Representatives. 	

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

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

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

2.1 Corporate Parenting Committee wish to receive an update at formal committee meetings of discussions and actions from the Foster Carers forum.

2.2 This report is being presented under the Corporate Parenting Committee Terms of Reference: 2.4.4.2 To receive statutory reports in relation to the adoption, fostering, commissioning, looked after children services and children's homes with a view to recommending any changes.

2.3 This links into all areas of the children in care pledge.

3. TIMESCALES

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

4. BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

4.1 The Foster Carers Committee continues to meet on a regular basis. The agenda consists of standing items and other issues, topics of conversation that occur from time to time. Meetings are attended by 10-15 representatives. The chair, deputy chair, secretary and treasurer posts are subject to annual elections. Managers from the Permanency service are also present at these meetings.

4.2 Learning & Development for carers – During the foster carer survey in August 2018 the quality

of training was scored at 7/10 and over by 98% of respondents with face to face training preferred by 84% of recipients. Whilst there has been an overall increase in the number of carers attending training, last minute cancellations/non-attendees often for perfectly good reasons need to be addressed. The committee have nominated a carer to be 'Training Champion' carer to work with service lead training people to progress this. Communication between carers and the service is good and a regular training newsletter is sent to carers and the annual training brochure is currently in the process of being produced, which will include all mandatory courses.

- 4.3 Personal Education Plan (PEP's) & Childcare Review (CCR) documents – There have been on-going discussions in the committee about the processes around children's reviews and information being completed for these. There have been recent improvements in this as a result of issues being identified and acted upon.
- 4.4 Young people's Passports – The carer committee is working with Children's services to ensure that the complexity of process involved does not negatively impact on the timescales in which young people obtain passports.
- 4.5 Pathway Plans/Staying Put – There are currently around 22 children in staying put placements and a number of those with in house TACT Peterborough foster carers who continue to foster for the service. Carers are keen to play a role in the development of the local authorities offer to young people. Joint work is on-going to ensure policies and processes are fit for purpose and will enable young people and carers a smoother transition. Particular interest will be in discussions around the language and terminology used.
- 4.6 Respite care for children with disabilities - committee is discussing how to support carers requiring respite where agreed in children's plans. There are on-going discussions about contract care (care for children who will need continuing care into adulthood).
- 4.7 As part of the annual carer allowances review respite/daycare is being looked at to ensure the service is supporting carers as best as it can to care for the children within the service.
- 4.8 Transport – Transport arrangements for looked after children within the service run smoothly in most situations. The arrangements agreed last year have helped and the main issue is availability of a point of contact outside of office working hours. This is being dealt with and there are positive regular communications between the transport service and TACT.
- 4.9 Birth Children's Group – The terms of reference for this group are being reviewed to ensure that all birth children can benefit from this.
- 4.10 Children's savings - Information has been presented to the committee about the different providers and accounts available for young people to make savings. The Metro Bank has a particularly helpful offer encouraging children to save and count their coins using their Magic Money Machines, the 5 for 5 Club and learn about budgeting with their financial education programme (we could use this if we had a group of young people who had Metro Bank savings accounts). They also give children opening accounts a 'goody' bag and a bright red 'M' shaped money box.
- 4.11 TACT/Committee Events - The Children's Party at the Fleet in December 2018, was attended by nearly 200 individuals and enjoyed by all. There was a disco, face painting and sweet store and all the children and young people present received a present from Father Christmas.

- 4.12 Children and families attended the local pantomime at The Cresset and carers secured 100 free tickets from the local YMCA that is greatly appreciated. Approximately 180 attended this year, 60 up on last year.
- 4.13 The carers also enjoyed the second TACT Dinner and Dance Ball at the Bull Hotel. The event was themed around Hollywood and those attending enjoyed the Firefly band. Awards were given out in recognition of the service certain individuals had given the committee and service.
- 4.14 Special Guardians and kinship carers have been involved in all the events organised by the committee which is important as TACT are providing a Permanency service which sees all carers as having equal needs regardless of the order the child they are caring for is under.
- 4.15 Going ahead in 2019 – the committee has a monthly Draw for Peterborough United Tickets (family of 4) donated by the football club. Carers have organised events at Snettisham Deer Park during the Easter holidays and in the Summer at Wicksteed Park, with half term events at Bounce. The BBQ will take place at the start of July 2019, at Peterborough Rugby club.
- 4.16 The social events are an important part of the service enabling carers and children to have fun and build links and relationships across the service.

5. CONSULTATION

- 5.1 None

6. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT

- 6.1 None

7. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

- 7.1 Corporate Parenting Committee to be aware of the role of the Foster Carer Forum.

8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 8.1 N/A

9. IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

- 9.1 None

Legal Implications

- 9.2 No

Equalities Implications

- 9.3 No

Other Implications

- 9.4 This report provides Corporate Parenting Committee with an update of Foster Carer Forum meetings, actions and events, which provide foster carers with effective support with the aim to provide quality care provision to children in care and care leavers.

10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

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

10.1 None

11. APPENDICES

11.1 None

CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM No. 5
20 MARCH 2019	PUBLIC REPORT

Report of:	Executive Director People and Communities Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Councils	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Councillor Sam Smith, Cabinet Member for Children's Services.	
Contact Officer(s):	Jenny Weeden Senior Youth Voice Officer	Tel. 864511

CHILDREN IN CARE COUNCIL UPDATE

RECOMMENDATIONS	
FROM: Nicola Curley Assistant Director Children's Services	Deadline date: N/A
<p>It is recommended that the Corporate Parenting Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Notes the content of the report. 	

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 to allow the Committee to raise any queries they have with lead officers

2.2 This report is presented under the Corporate Parenting Committee's 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 links to the Children in Care Pledge under:

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

3. **TIMESCALES**

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

4. **BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES**

- 4.1 The Children in Care Council has recently carried out a review of their last year.
- 4.2
- Children in Charge Youth club runs every other week for Children in Care aged 8-12 and it is regularly attended by an average of 10 young people. 7 members met with Ofsted at the last inspection and were able to share all the activities they have been up to very articulately.
- 4.3
- Children in Care Council continues to meet on a monthly basis and has 8 regular members, in the last 12 months they have:
 - Met with young people from across the eastern region to develop a short film of 10 top tips for social workers
 - Given feedback to the IROs on their review paperwork
 - Planned and delivered the annual celebration events for children in care
 - Spoken at Corporate Parenting committee about their experiences in different placements.
 - Written to all children in care to share the Ofsted report.
- 4.4
- The CiC Summer Activity Programme was delivered to 122 individual young people over 12 sessions with 363 attendances recorded. In addition to this 20 young people who are in care participated in the National Citizen Service program over the summer.
- 4.5
- The Children in Care Celebration events were attended by over 90 Children in Care over the February half term. With all children receiving recognition for their achievements over the last 12 months.
- 4.6 Going Forward
- Children in Care Council have planned two consultation events for young people over the Easter break which will help inform their work plan for 2019/20 which they hope to share at the next informal corporate parenting committee.

5. **CONSULTATION**

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

6. **ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT**

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

7. **REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION**

- 7.1 N/A

8. **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 8.1 There are no changes required.

9. **IMPLICATIONS**

Financial Implications

- 9.1 There are no financial implications.

Legal Implications

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

Equalities Implications

9.3 Participation is an essential service for children in care and care leavers and this report demonstrates the level of participation in various events and activities.

Other Implications

9.4 Children in Care have a direct voice at a formal level and are able to influence council decision making.

10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

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

10.1 *N/A*

11. APPENDICES

11.1 None.

This page is intentionally left blank

CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM No. 6
20 MARCH 2019	PUBLIC REPORT

Report of:	Executive Director People and Communities Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Councils	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Councillor Sam Smith, Cabinet Member for Children's Services.	
Contact Officer(s):	Andy Pallas, Executive Director of Children's Services, TACT Peterborough Sue King, Head of Service, TACT Peterborough	Tel. 01733 317448

PERMANENCY PLACEMENTS REPORT

R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S	
FROM: Executive Director People and Communities Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Councils	Deadline date: N/A
<p>It is recommended that the Corporate Parenting Committee:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Notes the contents of the report which provides an update of the partnership between Peterborough City Council and TACT including information in respect of the fostering and adoption agencies' work and the innovation programme. 	

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report is submitted annually to Corporate Parenting Committee and members have also requested an update on innovation.

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

- 2.1 To provide an update to the Corporate Parenting Committee in respect of the role of TACT and the outcomes for children in care.
- 2.2 This report is for Corporate Parenting Committee to consider under its Terms of Reference No.
 - 2.4.4.2 To receive statutory reports in relation to the adoption, fostering, commissioning, looked after children services and children's homes with a view to recommending any changes.
 - 2.4.4.6 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 links into the Children in Care Pledge under:

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

3. **TIMESCALES**

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

4. **BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES**

4.1 **Introduction**

TACT Peterborough is an innovative partnership between Peterborough City Council (PCC) and TACT to deliver permanency services to children and families which came into being on 1 April 2017.

4.2 **Staffing structure and updates**

The management of the service is carried out by TACT Executive Director Children's Services, the Head of Service and 5 managers.

Four social work teams are led by consultant social workers who have thematic leads on adoption, family group conferencing, fostering and recruitment. The admin manager oversees the general and panel admin posts' work. All managers were part of the original Peterborough City Council (PCC) service.

There are 36.9 full time equivalent posts in the service including 2 apprentices. Staffing levels within the service have remained stable throughout the last year with turnover running at a low 5%. There are no agency staff currently within the service.

4.3 **Contract changes/variations**

On December 2018 the four members of the Access to Resources Team (ART) and one finance member of staff were TUPE'd back into PCC as the resources funding those posts and the external placements budget was returned to PCC. This was a necessary change agreed between PCC and TACT benefiting both parties.

TACT submitted its response to the PCC and Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) Regional Adoption Agency (RAA) tender. The outcomes to this process should be known by April 2019. If successful CCC Adoption and Special Guardianship support services will be added to the PCC Adoption and Special Guardianship Support services under the RAA contract and Fostering will remain under the Permanency service contract.

4.4 **Staff wellbeing & development**

The service holds bi-annual all service meetings and a Christmas meal for staff.

A bi-monthly newsletter 'Touch base' updates staff about any business and staff changes.

Team wellbeing events have been held including Bollywood dancing, lunches and Escape rooms.

A member of staff will become a mental health first aider following training in March 2019.

TACT celebrated its 25th anniversary during 2018 with a special event involving carers and staff in Birmingham.

There are 5 members of staff who are practice educators. In the last year 3 student social workers have completed 70 and 100 day placements. Four students have recently started placements.

4.5 **All members of staff complete mandatory annual safeguarding training. This is face to face for social work staff and online for admin staff.**

Fostering

The service continues to improve in quality, as evidenced in July 2018 PCC Ofsted inspection. *“Foster carer recruitment, training and approval are effective. Assessments of foster carers are of good quality. The fostering panel addresses issues within assessments thoroughly, and carers’ reviews consider the views of children in placement.”*

Twelve carer households have been added to the service since April 2018 with another 3 coming through before April 2019. Most of these have been recruited for the services’ main area of need: older teenagers and sibling groups. Two Independent Fostering Agency carer households have transferred to the Permanency service.

The service currently has 92 Mainstream households caring for 150 children. There are 4 link/short break and two supported lodgings households with a focus on increasing numbers in these areas.

“Children are matched appropriately to carers, and children receive high quality, stable care. For the small number of children who have had several placements, this has been appropriate and well managed. Disabled children achieve permanence and stability in placements that meet their long-term needs”

“Children in care benefit from very effective multi-agency working to meet their needs. Many carers benefit from input from a ‘looked after children’ psychologist. These carers include families of children returning home from care”.

Support for carers is well developed with regular support groups continuing to be provided separately for carers of teenage and younger children with guest speakers attending. Subject matters recently have been counselling approaches, the ART service and Safeguarding.

4.6

Innovations

TACT was successful in securing an innovation fund grant of £1.2 million for a 3-year period for innovative practice. Below is a summary of the innovations. The programme is being evaluated by Natcen to determine the impact on such factors as placement stability and reduced numbers of children in care. This will be available following the 3 years.

Strength based profiles - a children’s profile template was produced following a short life work group which is used for all children needing a placement.

Mediation for contact - for kinship carers and birth parents to support them with conflict resolution in relation to the contact arrangements.

Attachment Aware City - TACT supported the virtual school to introduce a programme of attachment awareness in schools. This will be extended to include carers in the next phase.

Family Group Conference - a consultation with the Family Rights Group supported the service redevelopment and expansion, to meet the needs of families and children in Peterborough building on the expertise in the area.

VIPP (video interactive parenting programme) - staff have been trained by the Tavistock to deliver this NICE recognised therapeutic parenting intervention.

Therapeutic Crisis Intervention (TCI) training - staff and carers have been trained to understand how to de escalate conflict and challenging situations with young people.

Trauma Informed Practice Conference - Professor David Shemmings spoke to TACT staff, carers and partners about current research.

Mindfulness groups - carers have attended 8-week sessions to learn how to manage stress in their lives to support carer wellbeing.

Parallel Parenting - 4 foster carers and 2 staff have been trained in this evidence-based model, where they work alongside birth parents to return children home.

Carer retention schemes:

Foster carer Buddy scheme - All new carers are attached to a carer buddy prior to approval. There are 8 'buddies' who can offer the service.

Allegation support - a foster carer has been trained to support others who are facing allegations.

4.7 **Engagement**

The Foster Carer Committee continues to be well attended and the Committee takes responsibility for organising activities and events. Recent guests have included Myra O'Farrell, Head of Corporate Parenting and Sara Thompson, Manager of Transport with whom positive discussions have taken place as the group is keen to be involved in developing the service offer in partnership with PCC.

The Committee runs its own social events supported by TACT enabling children both looked after and those of the carers to meet up and have fun. Also carers develop friendships and support networks. During the half term holidays activities are organised at Bounce and in the longer holidays Wicksteed Park. The July 2018 Summer BBQ saw an attendance of 150 and the Christmas Party nearly 200. 150 tickets were secured using local charitable funding for the Pantomime at the Cresset. Special Guardians and their children have been included in these events.

Perk box has been introduced to all TACT carers including those in Peterborough. This arrangement has been extended from the staff well-being strategy to a TACT wide one with those signed up receiving regular emails with perks, discounts and freebies from big name brands.

The second annual Carers Dinner and Dance with a live band took place in February 2019 with increased numbers and was enjoyed by all.

The first TACT foster carer survey took place during the summer of 2018 providing positive feedback on our carers' perspective of the progress and development of the service since April 2017. Satisfaction levels of over 90% were recorded in respect of the way the service treated them and their families and the focus on the children and young people they fostered and in how they were communicated with. Carers particularly liked the regular newsletter, the newly revised Foster Carer handbook and the 24/7 Out of Hours support service.

91% stated they would recommend TACT Peterborough to others interested in fostering. 98% scored the quality of training at 7/10 and over and the current training programme as meeting their needs.

4.8 **Adoption**

The highlights have been as follows:

The Ofsted inspection of PCC confirmed the strength in adoption services by TACT and praised the joint work to achieve early permanency for the majority of children with adoption plans.

“Good-quality practice and outcomes for children in achieving adoption has been sustained since the last inspection. A wide range of children achieve permanency through adoption, including older children, children with complex needs and groups of brothers and sisters. The timeliness of adoption for the 23 children adopted in the last 12 months has improved. Fostering for adoption (FFA) is a strength in Peterborough local authority, underpinned by robust arrangements for planning for unborn children. Post adoption support and support to special guardians are effective, and there is good use of the adoption support fund to support trauma-informed practice with children and families”.

FFA is the placement choice for most children with a plan of adoption with 12 of the 19 children being adopted since April 2018 having a period of living with their family under FFA arrangements.

The number of adopters approved for FFA has continued to increase from 66% last year to 83% in this period.

A high number of enquiries (approximately 15%) go on to become adopters.

There were no disruptions in adoptive placements of Peterborough children in this period, continuing the trend for placement stability.

4.9 **Special Guardianship**

Thirty one orders have been made since April 2018 which will exceed those of last year (21) .

The service has also worked alongside PCC staff in undertaking approaching 100 viability assessments.

4.10 **Family Group Conference**

Currently we have 3 experienced full time FGC coordinators, consisting of one permanent and two sessional FGC workers.

37 conferences have been held since April 2018 involving over 50 children. A prioritisation system is in place which ensures that the families in the most need receive the service.

4.11 **Participation**

TACT's assistant Children's Resource worker, a young person previously looked after by PCC, continues to be involved in direct work with young people aged between 6 and 11 years to help improve their social skills. She is working with PCC children's participation officer on a project 'Passport to Independence' and links in with other TACT Children's Participation Workers. She was also a panel member at the TACT 25th Anniversary.

TACT funded the recent PCC Children's Awards 2019.

TACT is expecting that the fostering part of the Permanency service will be inspected by Ofsted at some point before July 2019. The action plan has been completed and the service is currently focusing on evidencing a robust attention to audit.

5. **CONSULTATION**

5.1 N/A

6. **ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT**

6.1 N/A

7. **REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION**

7.1 Corporate Parenting Committee members to be informed of outcomes for children in care.

8. **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

8.1 N/A

9. IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

- 9.1 All financial arrangements are subject to the scrutiny of the Joint Governance Board chaired by the Service Director - Children and Safeguarding[PCC and CCC].

Legal Implications

- 9.2 This is a factual report for noting by the Committee, so no legal implications on this basis.

Equalities Implications

- 9.3 N/A

Other implications

- 9.4 This report provides Corporate Parenting Committee with an oversight of the role TACT play with providing children in care and care leavers with accommodation and support,

10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

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

- 10.1 None

11. APPENDICES

- 11.1 None

CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM No. 7
20 MARCH 2019	PUBLIC REPORT

Report of:	Corporate Director People and Communities		
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Councillor Sam Smith, Cabinet Member for Children’s Services		
Contact Officer(s):	Marie Saunders – Deputy Safeguarding Lead	Tel.	0773061958

ANNUAL REVIEWING OFFICER (IRO) REPORT

RECOMMENDATIONS	
FROM: Nicola Curley Assistant Director	Deadline date: N/A
<p>It is recommended that The Corporate Parenting Committee:</p> <p>1. Members are asked to note the report and raise any queries with the lead officers.</p>	

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

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

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

2.1 1. The purpose of this report is to provide statutory review and analysis of the Independent Reviewing Service; and
2. The report shall be presented to Members of The Corporate Parenting Committee as requested on 20 March 2019 for their work programme.

2.2 This report is for The Corporate Parenting Committee to consider under its Terms of Reference 2.4.4.2 To receive statutory reports in relation to the adoption, fostering, commissioning, looked after children services and children’s homes with a view to recommending any changes.

2.3 This links to all areas of the Children in Care Pledge and Care Leavers Charter.

3. TIMESCALES

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

4. BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 This Annual Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) report provides quantitative and qualitative evidence relating to the IRO Services in Peterborough as required by statutory guidance. This report covers the period from 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018.

- 4.1.2 The appointment of an Independent Review Officer (IRO) is a legal requirement under Section 118 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002. In March 2010, the government issued the 'Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (England) Regulations 2010 and Statutory Guidance.' They also published the: 'IRO Handbook, Statutory guidance for IROs and Local Authorities on their functions in relation to case management and review of looked after children.'
- 4.1.3 In respect of this report, the IRO Handbook states: 'The manager should be responsible for the production of an annual report for the scrutiny of the Members of the Corporate Parenting Committee.'
- 4.1.4 This report should identify good practice but should also highlight issues for further development, including where urgent action is needed.' (IRO Handbook 2010, page 48, paragraph 7.11).

4.2 Legal Context

- 4.2.1 The appointment of an IRO for every looked after child is a statutory requirement of the Adoption and Children Act 2002, the Review of Children's Cases (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2004, the Children and Young Persons Act 2008 and the Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (England) Regulations 2010.
- 4.2.2 The IRO Service sits within the Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Unit with its core functions consisting of reviewing plans for children in care and monitoring the Local Authority in respect of its corporate parenting and safeguarding responsibilities. Independent Chairs in Peterborough operate a dual role and undertake both the role of the Independent Chairperson for child protection conferences (CPC) and Looked after Children responsibilities. For the purpose of this report we will refer to the Independent Chair as the IRO.
- 4.2.3 Every child who is looked after by Peterborough City Council must have a Care Plan, which details the long-term plan for the child's upbringing, and the arrangements made to meet the child's day-to-day needs. All Local Authorities have a statutory duty to regularly review that Care Plan within legislative timescales (Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (England) Regulations 2010).
- 4.2.4 It is the responsibility of Local Authorities to develop Care Plans and provide care that gives children in care positive life experiences and the best short and long-term life opportunities. The Children Act 1989 [amended 2004] and the Care Planning Placement and Case Review Regulations (England) 2010, set out the duty of the local authority to appoint an IRO when a child first becomes looked after.
- 4.2.5 The IRO should ensure that the local authority gives due consideration to any views expressed by the child and the IRO has a responsibility to monitor the Local Authority's (you need to be consistent in either using capitals or lower case for Local Authority throughout the report) performance of its functions in relation to the child's case. Statutory guidance and regulation clearly defines circumstances when the Local Authority should consult with the IRO; for example, proposed change of placement, change of education plan, or serious incident. The actions that the IRO must take if it is felt that the local authority is failing to comply with the regulations, statutory guidance and/or is breaching their duty to the child are also clear. Every Local Authority is required to have a dispute resolution procedure that reflects the process for effectively resolving areas of disagreement raised by the IRO in respect of care planning. This includes access to independent legal advice for the IRO and referral to the Child and Family Court Advisory Support Service (Cafcass).

4.3 Structures and Management of the Team

- 4.3.1 The team sits within the Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Unit, and is accountable to the Assistant Director of Safeguarding and Quality Assurance. There are two Deputy Safeguarding Leads within the service who are responsible for the team of Independent Chairs who are all permanent staff. The Deputy Safeguarding Leads line manage the Independent Chairs and will be referred to as Managers throughout this report.

4.3.2 All IROs are qualified social workers with the required knowledge and experience to fulfil the requirements of the role

4.4 Supervision and Quality Assurance

4.4.1 IROs receive monthly supervision and have access to informal supervision as and when needed. Managers remain committed to ensuring the level of supervision and support to IROs is effective, supportive and of a high standard.

4.4.2 The IROs attend team meetings twice a month. The meetings alternate between Practice Meetings and Business Meetings. Focus within business meetings is placed upon emerging legislative/ organisational changes and issues, and implementing processes which impact on the service, current themes and expectations and organisational agenda. The practice meetings give the Independent Reviewing Officers opportunities to identify, analyse and discuss practice issues, present research and professional information, give feedback from individual meetings with partners and social workers, identify areas of learning and development and define and support the implementation of good practice.

4.5 Workload Demand

4.5.1 The IRO handbook recommends that a caseload of 50-70 children in care for a full time equivalent IRO is appropriate. This means the IRO is able to fulfil all of their statutory functions to the best of their ability; thus providing a high quality service for all children in care. During 2017-2018 the average caseload per FTE IRO was consistently between 60 and 67 cases.

4.5.2 Effective business support staff use established systems to support the IROs, but this does not include the typing of minutes, which the IROs complete themselves. All IROs ensure that they distribute the decisions from CIC review meetings to the responsible Team Manager within five working days of the review. This is in accordance with the IRO Handbook and enables the responsible manager to identify any areas of disagreement, and use the provision for challenging the decisions of the meeting in accordance with the IRO handbook.

4.5.3 The IROs monitor the performance of the local authority, the progress of the plan and any decisions made at the Review and between Reviews. This will include oversight of initial health assessments and other general health check-ups; missing episodes and other key issues, so as to mitigate risk of drift and promote timely and optimum outcomes for children.

4.5.4 The IROs will also aim to complete a young person's care plan audit bi- monthly. This is completed in conjunction with the young person and the findings sent to the Quality Assurance Team looking at themes and areas for improvement.

4.6 Quantitative Data up to 31 March 2018

4.6.1 The table below details the *total* number of children in care per 10,000 in the last three years for PCC against the statistical neighbour (SN) average result (Bolton, Derby, Medway, Plymouth, Portsmouth, Rotherham, Sheffield, Southampton, Telford & Wrekin and Walsall) and the national average result for England where available.

Year	PCC Result	SN Result	ENG Result
2015-16	75.0	79.5	60.0
2016-17	73.0	81.7	62.0
2017-18	74.0	87	64.0

4.6.2 Peterborough City Council's rate per 10,000 children in care for 2017-18 was 74.0; lower than the statistical neighbour average of 87 and higher than the national average of 64.0. The 2017-18 out turn is slightly higher in comparison with the last two years.

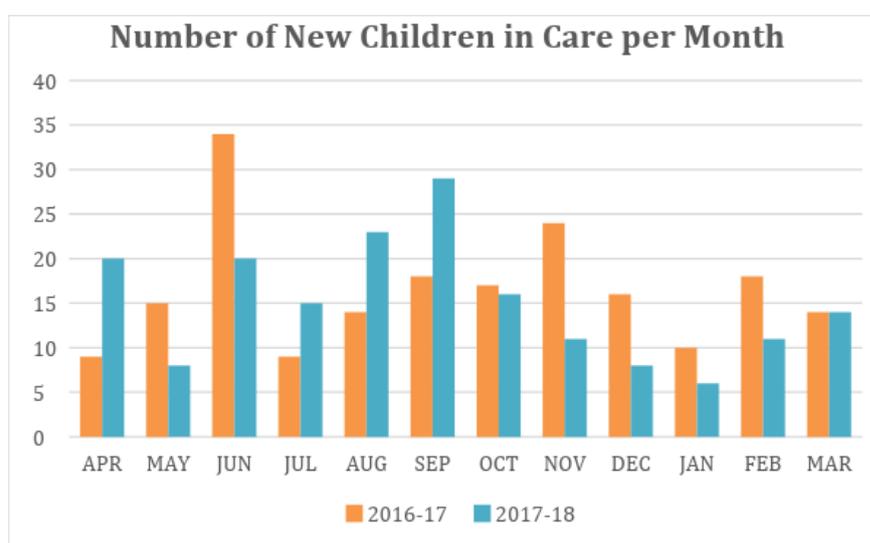
4.6.3 The table below details the number of *new* children in care in the last three years for PCC against the statistical neighbour average result and the national average result for England where available:

Year	PCC Result	SN Result	ENG Result
2015-16	41.9	31.1	27.4
2016-17	37.0	33.1	28.4
2017-18	35.0	37.0	27.0

4.6.4 Peterborough City Council's rate of new children in care for 2017-18 was 36.0 per 10,000 children; slightly lower than the statistical neighbour average of 37.0 and significantly higher than the national average of 27.0.

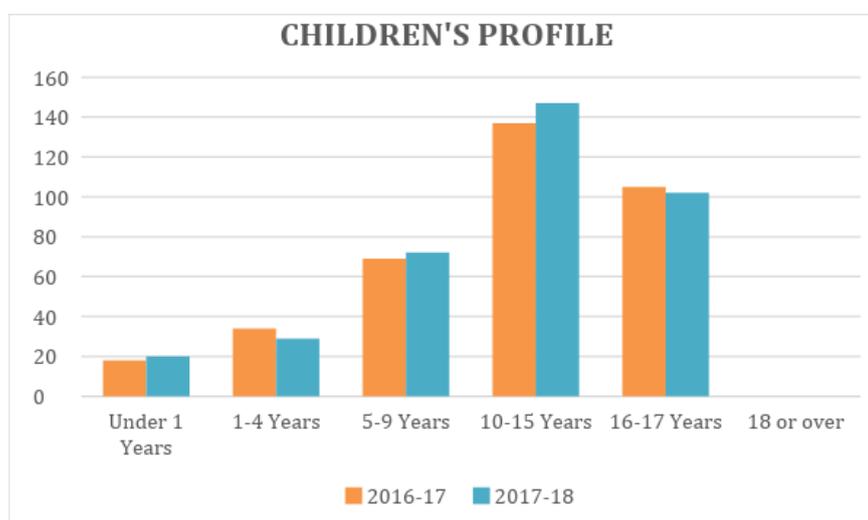
4.6.5 The rate of new children in care has increased over the last twelve months. The overall number of children coming into care remains above the target. Family Safeguarding Teams were introduced in 2018 to ensure more effective and collaborative working with Children and their Families in order to target increasing numbers of children being brought into care.

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



4.7 Children's Profiles

4.7.1 The graph below shows the age of children in care covering 2017-18 in comparison to 2016-17. There was a total of 370 children in care in 2017-18 of which 212 were male and 158 female compared to 365 in 2016-17 where 197 were male and 159 were female.



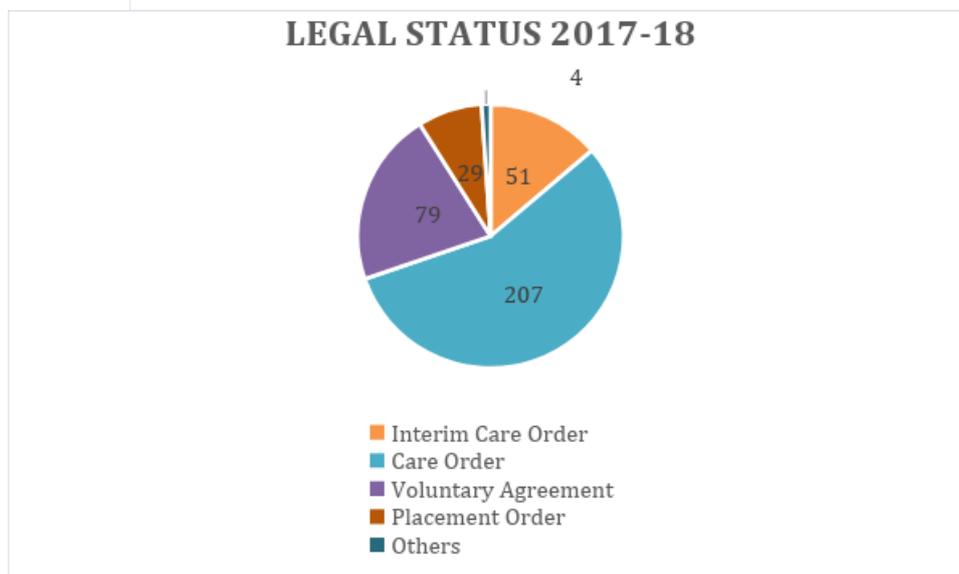
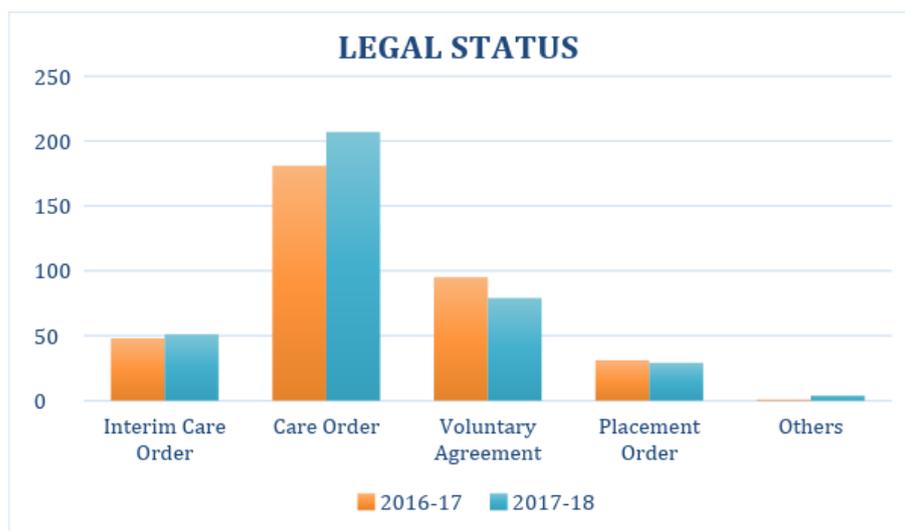
4.7.2 Generally the number of children of each age group has increased slightly since 2016-17 except children aged 1-4 which has a small reduction compared to last year.

Age at 31 March 2018	Boys	Girls	Total
Under 1 year old	10	10	20
1 – 4 years old	19	10	29
5 – 9 years old	42	30	72
10 – 15 years old	80	67	147
16 – 17 years old	61	41	102
18 years and over	0	0	0
Total	212	158	370

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

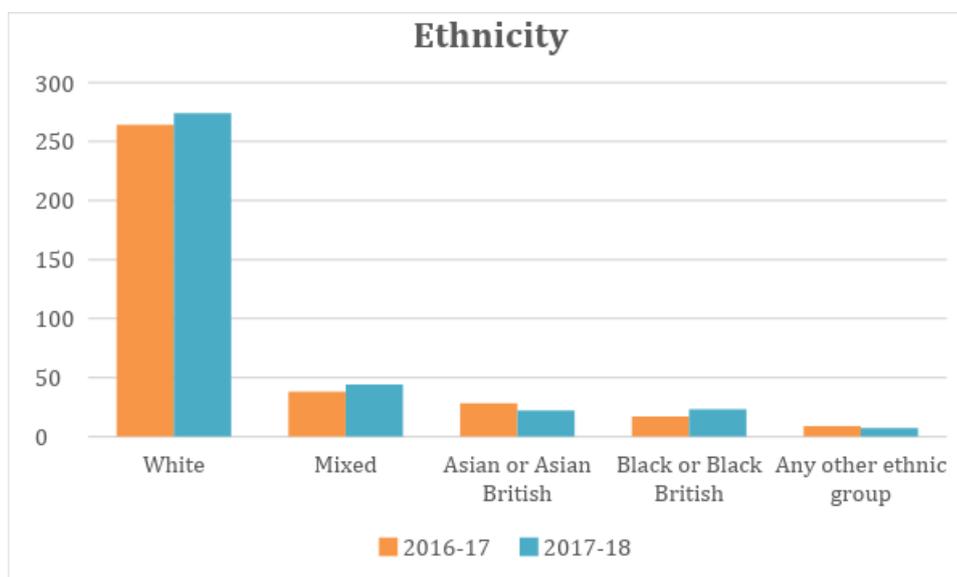
There were a total of 36 unaccompanied children seeking asylum (UASC) looked after during 2017-18, with 19 of these being in care by the end of March 2018.

4.7.3 **Legal Status**



The number of Care Orders obtained for children has increased over the last 2 years with a significant increase in 2017-18 compared to 2016-17. Interim Care Orders increased slightly in the same year whilst Voluntary Agreements and Placement Orders have decreased. Care orders accounted for over half of all orders granted in 2017-18.

4.7.4 Ethnicity



The graph above indicates an increase in the numbers of White, Mixed ethnicity and Black children in care in 2017-18 compared to 2016-17 and a reduction in Asian and other ethnic groups. The slight change in figures could be as a result of a consistently transient and diverse cultural and ethnic population in Peterborough.

At year end March 2018, 7 children were subject to Placement Orders where adoption was no longer the plan with the Placement Orders needing to be revoked. The figure has remained the same since it was last reported. Effective tracking is in place to monitor these cases.

4.8 Children in Care Reviews

4.8.1 Between April 2017 and March 2018, 98.9% of reviews took place within statutory timescales. This is roughly the same percentage as at the time of the last reporting period and means that four reviews took place outside of timescale. The reason for this was attributed to vital attendees not being available on agreed dates. The reason for this is attributed to four Reviews being recorded as taking place out of time scales. In fact in each of these instances the Review commenced on the planned date and within time scale, and was adjourned or completed within a series of meetings within 20 days as required, but the date of the final meeting was recorded in error, thus creating the erroneous data that the Review was out of time scale. The systems requirement for correcting these errors was deemed to be disproportionate and as such could not be corrected. However all Reviews were in fact held within timescales using the ability to hold more than one meeting and where appropriate adjourn.

CLA Reviews held within timescales	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
	99.7%	99.6%	98.9%

4.8.2 The Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Unit has systems in place, which enable CIC reviews to be held within timescales. These are as follows:

- At the beginning of each calendar month, business support staff send out the statutory date due date for all children in care reviews. This means that responsible operational

team managers, the manager of the conference and review service and IROs can monitor and ensure reviews do not go out of timescale.

- Only the managers can authorise a change in a CIC review date. This endeavours to ensure that if a change of date is unavoidable, the new date is scheduled within statutory timescales. Where necessary and appropriate meetings are adjourned or the Review held over more than one meeting to ensure the review is child centred and involves the all of the necessary professionals.

- 4.8.3 IROs focus on the steps taken to progress adoption and permanency planning at CIC reviews. They address delays by raising their concerns with social workers, responsible team managers and Heads of Service using the well-established case alert process and where appropriate the Dispute Resolution Process – see also section 12.
- 4.8.4 IROs complete and update a spreadsheet record of remedial actions and the Deputy Safeguarding Leads monitor this for timely completion. Where remedial actions are not completed in timely manner, IROs commence the dispute resolution process where appropriate.
- 4.8.5 IROs will arrange for CIC reviews to take place more frequently in certain circumstances such as for children who live at a significant distance from Peterborough; and ‘where permanence planning is not being progressed in a timely manner’. These reviews include a high level of scrutiny and monitoring of decision-making and actions. This ensures they are in the best interests of the child and that there is minimal delay.
- 4.8.6 There is an ongoing arrangement between the local authority children’s legal services and IROs. This ensures that IROs receive copies of all documents including statements and reports that are filed with the court as part of care proceedings relating to CIC.
- 4.8.7 All IROs continue to deliver culturally competent practice and the child’s individual needs, wishes and feelings are central to all reviews. IROs closely monitor the integration of a child’s identity including culture, religion, ethnicity and birth family values to care planning.
- 4.8.8 IROs continue to fulfil their responsibility to children remanded into youth detention accommodation (YDA). The key to this role is to ensure that all of these children have active individual care plans that meet their needs. In developing the care plan for children who become looked after solely as a result of being remanded, the IRO will be aware that some children will only be looked after for the period they are remanded. In many cases this period will be relatively short. However, consideration will be given to what longer term support or accommodation the child will need following the remand episode should the young person continue to be looked after at the end of the remand period.

4.9 Children in Care Reviews - Participation

- 4.9.1 It is the role of the IRO to encourage and promote the participation of children aged four years and over on the review process. IROs record the method at the end of each Child Care Review and these are coded in line with national guidance.
- 4.9.2 At year end 2017-2018, 99% of looked after children had participated in their review. This has remained the same from last year. The locally set target is 95%. MOMO has recently been introduced and as at 31 March 2018, 81 young people were signed up to MOMO with active accounts which is a significant increase on last years’ figure of 30. The year 2017-18 also recorded that 91 members of staff had accounts and were supporting children to use the system. Again a considerable increase on the 17 workers recorded last year. This is as a result of increased awareness and training.
- 4.9.3 The feedback from the consultation forms provide valuable information about the experience of Children in Care. In the main, the information suggests that most feel safe, listened to and well cared for. The consultation document is discussed with the child and with their consent, the IRO shares it with review participants.

- 4.9.4 IROs will always aim to spend time individually with children prior to a review to determine their wishes and feelings to identify if they have any concerns and find out how they would like to participate in the meeting. This includes the time, venue and attendance at their meeting though it should be noted this remains primarily the social worker's responsibility. It is noteworthy that many young people do not want their reviews to disrupt their school day or leisure activities for example. Each child is given the opportunity to engage with an advocate, particularly if this maximises the young person's contribution to their reviews. In 2017-18, 951 IRO visits to children prior to their review took place. This is exemplary.
- 4.9.5 IROs document their consultations with children on Liquid logic to form a permanent record of the consultation. Consultation takes various forms, which includes face-to-face meetings, texting, telephone calls and emails. Children who have English as a second language always have an interpreter available and children with additional needs always have the support of their carers, specialist worker or an advocate. IROs actively encourage children to chair /co-chair their Reviews, and over this year there has been an increase in number of children to co-chair their reviews. This is particularly effective as children reach their teens and wish to have greater control over their meetings.
- 4.9.6 The Children in Care Participation Officer coordinates and facilitates the Children in Care Council (CiCC) and liaises with the Corporate Parenting Panel and Cabinet Members to facilitate dialogue between all parties. Peterborough City Council's Looked after Children's Strategy reflects the council's priority for Children in Care. This strategy lists priorities for the children and young people ensuring that good outcomes are pivotal to processes. Children in Care in Peterborough benefit from the continued robust commitment of elected members of the council.

4.10 **Parental Participation**

- 4.10.1 Parental participation is noted within the minutes of the review and monitored by the IRO manager. There were a total of 1045 Child Care Reviews completed in 2017-18. The level of participation by parents was approximately 42% in the year 2017-18. In accordance with the Care Planning, Placement and Review Regulations 2010, IROs offer to meet with parents outside of the main review meeting. This is particularly evident where a parent is prevented from attending. Parents are also given a consultation form to complete their views, wishes and feelings to inform the Review.
- 4.10.2 Parental and Child Feedback forms were introduced in March 2018 which aim to maximise the voice of the parent or child and also to seek to evaluate and improve practice within the service by identifying with the experiences of the Child Care Review process.

4.11 **Quality assurance and audit of Children in care Arrangements**

- 4.11.1 The effectiveness of the IRO service and the difference they make to children's experiences of being in care in Peterborough is monitored through the activity of the Quality Assurance Team including the ongoing thematic audit programmes. In addition, team and senior managers undertake a programme of case file audits and use Ofsted judgments to grade cases. All cases where remedial actions are identified and monitored by the QA Team to ensure that appropriate action is taken in a timely manner. Audit themes and areas for development inform service improvement plans for each service.
- 4.11.2 Established organisational systems contribute to good practice. IROs routinely receive minutes of the Peterborough Access to Services Panel (PASP) and can challenge decision making with the PASP chairperson following discussion with their manager and the Head of Service.
- 4.11.3 All IROs complete a monitoring form after each statutory meeting. This is sent to the social worker and responsible team manager.
If the IRO identifies an immediate cause for concern they will raise a case alert. They will always discuss their concern with the case responsible manager / senior manager and agree a course of actions with timescales. This will then be followed up with an email to the responsible manager

and Head of Service and any other managers as appropriate. This ensures that immediate action is taken to safeguard and protect the child.

- 4.11.4 As part of the Quality Assurance and Learning Framework, young people's audits of their care plan were introduced in 2016 in order to identify and evidence the effectiveness of the whole system surrounding the child and to obtain their views about the service they receive. The IROs are asked to complete these with children during the visits where the child is age appropriate and agrees and they are collated and reported on by the Quality Assurance Team. Audits received this year did report positive experiences for children. 2018-19 audits will continue to identify practices and experiences across the service.

4.12 Dispute Resolution

- 4.12.1 The IRO handbook clearly describes the role of the IRO where there are areas of disagreement: 'One of the key functions of the IRO is to resolve problems arising out of the care planning process. It is expected that IROs establish positive working relationships with the social workers of the children for whom they are responsible. Where problems are identified in relation to a child's case, for example in relation to care planning, the implementation of the care plan or decisions relating to it, resources or poor practice, the IRO will, in the first instance, seek to resolve the issue informally with the social worker or the social worker's managers. The IRO should place a note of this initial informal resolution process on the child's file. If the matter is not resolved in a timescale that is appropriate to the child's needs, the IRO should consider taking formal action.'

- 4.12.2 During 2017/18, the IROS raised 145 case alerts. One case went to formal DRP. During the year, our Case Alert process was updated to reflect the additional managerial tier within Children's Social Care. The method of recording was also updated to enable better scrutiny of themes and issues raised which will further tie into the new Manager and Group Manager meetings planned for 2018-19. The following themes were noted with regard to the case alerts raised:

- Practice issues, which include assessments and other paperwork not being completed
- Drift in care planning
- Statutory visits
- Placement issues

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

4.13 Summary

- 4.13.1 The IRO Service has continued to provide effective provision for reviewing and monitoring the Care Plans for Children in Care. It contributes to improved outcomes for Children in Care through increasing participation of children and young people in the decision making about their care, as well as making independent representations to operational teams and management on planning and practice issues. The independent scrutiny provided by the team is valued by social workers and management.

4.14 Independent Reviewing Officer Achievements in 2017-18

- 4.14.1 In March 2018 we implemented professional feedback forms for (CCR) meetings and in May 2018 we are implementing feedback forms for children and parents. Analysis of the 85 returns in March 2018 evidences that other professionals consider "*The IRO took the views of the child into account*" 100% of the time; and "*the voice of the child was discussed and made clear*" in 81 (95%) responses with two (2%) stating 'no'. One young person

chose to provide his own feedback and stated “ *x is an excellent IRO. x always respects my opinions. x never judges my opinions.*”

- Caseloads – Independent Reviewing Officers’ caseloads have remained within the recommended guidelines of between 50 and 70. This has enabled the IROs to meet expectations for a high quality service whereby all aspects of their role are undertaken.
- Oversight and Quality Assurance – IROs have actively addressed concerns, poor practice and non compliance in a systematic and professional manner to promote the improvement of standards amongst social work teams and partner agencies. Challenging as denoted within the IRO handbook and ensuring that timescales are adhered to.
- IRO footprint – There has been clear evidence obtained throughout case audits, supervisions and dataset analysis, of the consistent presence and oversight of the IRO and clear demonstrations of the IRO footprint on their caseloads.
- Children’s voices – There has been a consistent approach by IROs to maximise the engagement of children and the evidence within reports demonstrates an awareness and objective to ensure that the voice of the child is heard.
- Themed audits – the Quality Assurance team continues to undertake a significant number of thematic audits across Children’s Social Care and a number of audits across the IRO service have evidenced robust systems and competent and effective practice and established performance.
- Learning and development – The IRO service continues to promote good practice and to develop and embed learning and supportive relationships within the wider sector. IROs take responsibility in organising and managing meetings with operational team managers to identify impacts and issues in the service and to recognise areas of good practice as well as areas for improvement. They work together in maintaining a respectful, transparent and learning abled forum within which to identify and design models of ideal working.
- The IROs also take turns to represent Peterborough City Council at the Eastern Regional IRO network.
- PCC is part of the Eastern Region IRO Managers Network and an Annual IRO Conference was held in November 2018 and over 90 IRO’s attended.
- The IROs have contributed to the increase in dental checks and health assessments for children in care due to increased monitoring. They have also been instrumental in the increased oversight of children at risk of CSE or Missing episodes.

4.15 Areas of Development for 2018/19

- IROs will continue to proactively contribute to improving outcomes for looked after children through rigorous monitoring and challenge of care planning and promoting timely permanency planning.
- To contribute to the early identification of children/young people who may be able to return home safely to their families.
- To have increased oversight of the Local Authority’s plans for children and are identifying all options to secure permanence.
- Further development of the escalation process to ensure improvement on commitment from partner agencies and to challenge areas of poor practice, non-engagement and lack of progress
- To evidence the support to the Local Authority in raising practice standards. One aspect will be to combine meetings with all Team Managers and Independent Chairs to collaboratively identify and address practice and process issues. Another area will be to ensure regular meetings between IRO Managers and Group Managers in CSC to further develop a joined up approach to improving practice.
- IROs will continue to raise awareness amongst Social Workers of the need to keep the IRO informed of significant events between review meetings and to consult the IRO before important decisions are taken in respect of changes to the child’s care plan.

- To improve and support the local authority with the quality assurance of care plans for children.
- To support in establishing good working relationships with Cambridgeshire County Council and to continue to improve processes and services across the two Local Authorities.

5. CONSULTATION

- 5.1 Parents, carers and children were consulted as part of the review process.
- 5.2 Further consultation with Health colleagues in order to agree a plan to move forward in terms of maximising outcomes for children.

6. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT

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

7. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

- 7.1 Statutory requirement

8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 8.1 N/A

9. IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

- 9.1 None

Legal Implications

- 9.2 No direct implications, as the report provides factual information about a statutory role.

Equalities Implications

- 9.3 None

Other Implications

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

10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

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

- 10.1 None

11. APPENDICES

- 11.1 Final IRO Annual Report

This page is intentionally left blank

**Safeguarding &
Quality Assurance Unit**

**Independent Reviewing Officer
Annual Report**

2017/18

Authors: Alison Bennett
Assistant Director of Safeguarding and Quality Assurance – Peterborough and
Cambridgeshire

Marie Saunders
Deputy Safeguarding Lead, Peterborough City Council

Contents:

- 1. Introduction**
- 2. Legal Context**
- 3. Structures and Management of the Team**
- 4. Supervision and Quality Assurance**
- 5. Workload Demand**
- 6. Qualitative Data**
- 7. Children's profiles Children Subject to Placement Orders**
- 8. Children in care reviews**
- 9. Children in care reviews – Participation**
- 10. Parental Participation**
- 11. Audit of Children in care Arrangements**
- 12. Dispute Resolution**
- 13. Summary**
- 14. IRO Achievements in 2017-18**
- 15. Areas of Development for 2018/19**

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This Annual Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) report provides quantitative and qualitative evidence relating to the IRO Services in Peterborough as required by statutory guidance. This report covers the period from 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018.
- 1.2 The appointment of an Independent Review Officer (IRO) is a legal requirement under Section 118 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002. In March 2010, the government issued the 'Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (England) Regulations 2010 and Statutory Guidance.' They also published the: 'IRO Handbook, Statutory guidance for IROs and Local Authorities on their functions in relation to case management and review of looked after children.'
- 1.3 In respect of this report, the IRO Handbook states: 'The manager should be responsible for the production of an annual report for the scrutiny of the members of the corporate parenting panel. This report should identify good practice but should also highlight issues for further development, including where urgent action is needed.' (IRO Handbook 2010, page 48, paragraph 7.11).

2. Legal Context

- 2.1 The appointment of an IRO for every looked after child is a statutory requirement of the Adoption and Children Act 2002, the Review of Children's Cases Regulations 2004, the Children and Young Person's Act 2008 and the Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (England) Regulations 2010.
- 2.2 The IRO Service sits within the Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Unit with its core functions consisting of reviewing plans for children in care and monitoring the Local Authority in respect of its corporate parenting and safeguarding responsibilities. Independent Chairs in Peterborough operate a dual role and undertake both the role of the Independent Chair Person for child protection conferences (CPC) and Looked after Children responsibilities. For the purpose of this report we will refer to the Independent Chair as the IRO.
- 2.3 Every child who is looked after by Peterborough City Council must have a Care Plan, which details the long-term plan for the child's upbringing, and the arrangements made to meet the child's day-to-day needs. All Local

Authorities have a statutory duty to regularly review that Care Plan within legislative timescales (Care Planning and Case Review Regulations 2010).

- 2.4 It is the responsibility of Local Authorities to develop Care Plans and provide care that gives children in care positive life experiences and the best short and long-term life opportunities. The Children Act 1989 [amended 2004] and the Care Planning Placement and Case Review Regulations 2010, set out the duty of the local authority to appoint an IRO when a child first becomes looked after.
- 2.5 The IRO should ensure that the local authority gives due consideration to any views expressed by the child and the IRO has a responsibility to monitor the Local Authority's performance of its functions in relation to the child's case. Statutory guidance and regulation clearly defines circumstances when the Local Authority should consult with the IRO; for example, proposed change of placement, change of education plan, or serious incident. The actions that the IRO must take if it is felt that the local authority is failing to comply with the regulations, statutory guidance and/or is breaching their duty to the child are also clear.
- 2.6 Every Local Authority is required to have a dispute resolution procedure that reflects the process for effectively resolving areas of disagreement raised by the IRO in respect of care planning. This includes access to independent legal advice for the IRO and referral to the Child and Family Court Advisory Support Service (Cafcass).

3. Structures and Management of the Team

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

4. Supervision and Quality Assurance

- 4.1 IROs receive monthly supervision and have access to informal supervision as and when needed. Managers remain committed to ensuring the level of supervision and support to IRO is effective, supportive and of a high standard.
- 4.2 The IROs attend team meetings twice a month. The meetings alternate between Practice Meetings and Business Meetings. Focus within business meetings is placed upon emerging legislative/ organisational changes and

issues, and implementing processes which impact on the service; current themes and expectations and organisational agenda. The practice meetings give the Independent Reviewing Officers opportunities to identify, analyse and discuss practice issues, present research and professional information, give feedback from individual meetings with partners and social workers, identify areas of learning and development and define and support the implementation of good practice.

5. Workload Demand

- 5.1 The IRO handbook recommends that a caseload of 50-70 children in care for a full time equivalent IRO is appropriate. This means the IRO is able to fulfil all of their statutory functions to the best of their ability; thus providing a high quality service for all children in care. During 2017-2018 the average caseload per FTE IRO was consistently between 60 and 67 cases.
- 5.2 Effective business support staff use established systems to support the IROs, this does not include the typing of minutes, which the IROs complete themselves. All IROs ensure that they distribute the decisions from CIC review meetings to the responsible Team Manager within five working days of the review; this is in accordance with the IRO Handbook and enables the responsible manager to identify any areas of disagreement, and use the provision for challenging the decisions of the meeting in accordance with the IRO handbook.
- 5.3 The IROs monitor the performance of the local authority, the progress of the plan and any decisions made at the Review between Reviews. This will include oversight of initial health assessments and other general health check-ups; missing episodes and other key issues, so as to mitigate risk of drift and promote timely and optimum outcomes for children.
- 5.4 The IRO will also aim to complete a young person's care plan audit bi-monthly. This is completed in conjunction with the young person and the findings sent to the Quality Assurance Team looking at themes and areas for improvement.

6 Quantitative Data up to 31 March 2018

- 6.1 The table below details the *total* number of children in care per 10,000 in the last three years for PCC against the statistical neighbour (SN) average result (Bolton, Derby, Medway, Plymouth, Portsmouth, Rotherham, Sheffield, Southampton, Telford & Wrekin and Walsall) and the national average result

for England where available.

Year	PCC Result	SN Result	ENG Result
2015-16	75.0	79.5	60.0
2016-17	73.0	81.7	62.0
2017-18	74.0	87	64.0

6.2 Peterborough City Council's rate per 10,000 children in care for 2017-18 was 74.0; lower than the statistical neighbour average of 87 and higher than the national average of 64.0. The 2017-18 out turn is slightly higher in comparison with the last two years.

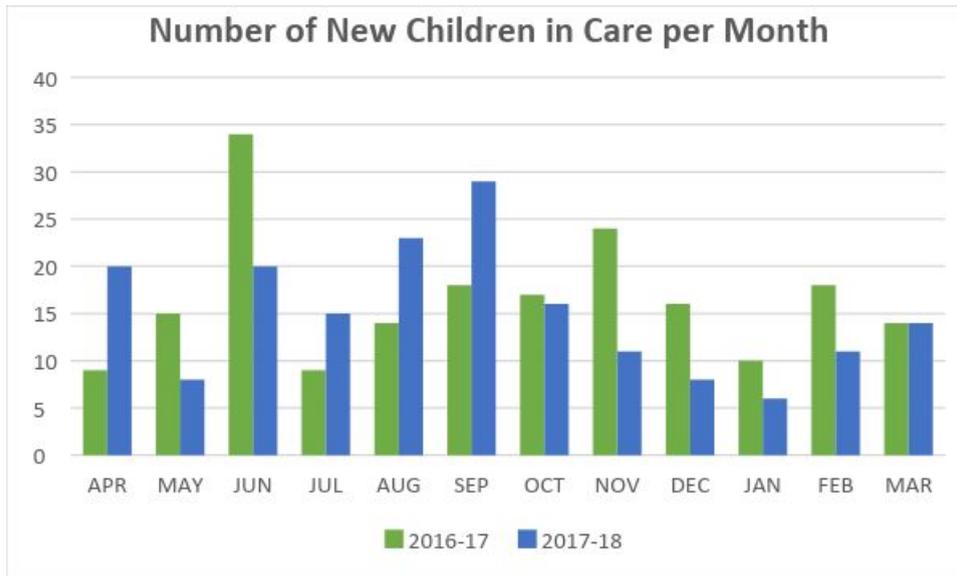
6.3 The table below details the number of *new* children in care in the last three years for PCC against the statistical neighbour average result and the national average result for England where available:

Year	PCC Result	SN Result	ENG Result
2015-16	41.9	31.1	27.4
2016-17	37.0	33.1	28.4
2017-18	35.0	37.0	27.0

6.4 Peterborough City Council's rate of *new* children in care for 2017-18 was 36.0 per 10,000 children; slightly lower than the statistical neighbour average of 37.0 and significantly higher than the national average of 27.0

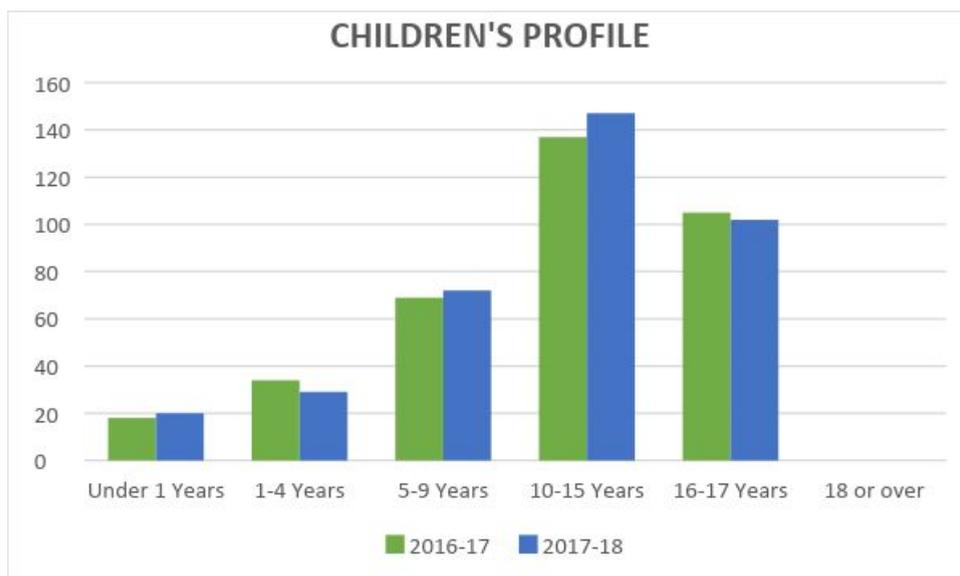
6.5 The rate of new children in care has increased over the last twelve months. The overall number of children coming into care remains above the target. Family Safeguarding Teams were introduced in 2018 to ensure more effective and collaborative working with Children and their Families in order to target increasing numbers of children being brought into care.

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



7. Children’s Profiles

7.1 The graph below shows the age of children in care covering 2017-18 in comparison to 2016-17. There was a total of 370 children in care in 2017-18 of which 212 were male and 158 female compared to 365 in 2016-17 where 197 were male and 159 were female.



7.2 Generally the number of children of each age group has increased slightly reduced since 2016-17 except children aged 1-4 which has a small reduction compared to last year.

Age at 31 March 2018	Boys	Girls	Total
Under 1 year old	10	10	20
1 – 4 years old	19	10	29
5 – 9 years old	42	30	72
10 – 15 years old	80	67	147
16 – 17 years old	61	41	102
18 years and over	0	0	0
Total	212	158	370

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

There were 9 unaccompanied children seeking asylum (UASC) looked after during 2017-18 which is a significant reduction from 21 in 2016-17.

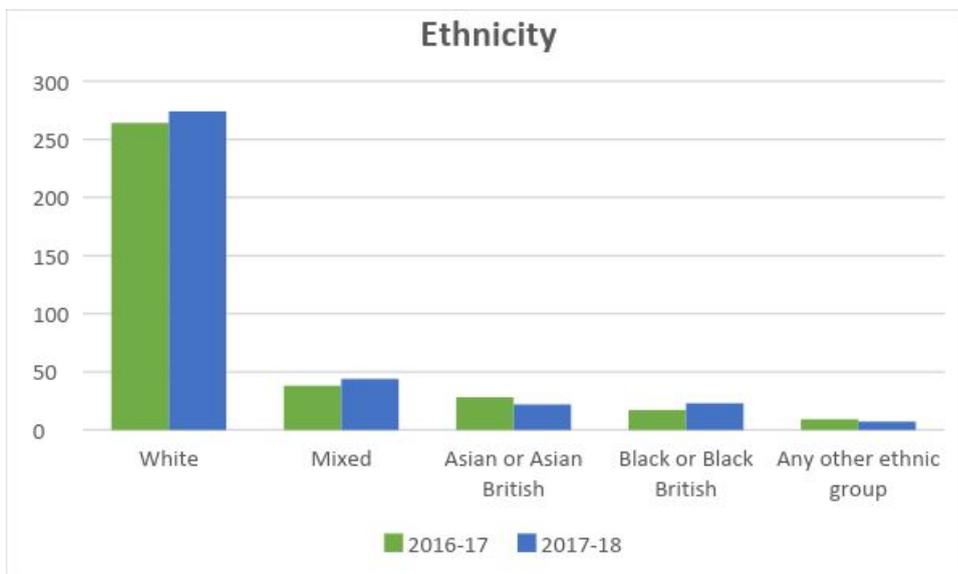
7.3 Legal Status





The number of Care Orders obtained for children has increased over the last 2 years with a significant increase in 2017-18 compared to 2016-17. Interim Care Orders increased slightly in the same year whilst Voluntary Agreements and Placement Orders have decreased. Care orders accounted for over half of all orders granted in 2017-18.

7.4 Ethnicity



The graph above indicates an increase in the numbers of White, Mixed ethnicity

and Black children in care in 2017-18 compared to 2016-17 and a reduction in Asian and other ethnic groups. The slight change in figures could be as a result of a consistently transient and diverse cultural and ethnic population in Peterborough.

7.5 At year end March 2018, 7 children were subject to Placement Orders where adoption was no longer the plan with the Placement Order needing to be revoked. The figure has remained the same since it was last reported. Effective tracking is in place to monitor these cases.

8. Children in care Reviews

8.1 Between April 2017 and March 2018, 98.9% of reviews took place within statutory timescales. This is roughly the same percentage as at the time of the last reporting period and means that four reviews took place outside of timescale. The reason for this was attributed to vital attendees not being available on agreed dates. The reason for this is attributed to four Reviews being recorded as taking place out of time scales. In fact in each of these instances the Review commenced on the planned date and within time scale, and was adjourned or completed within a series of meetings within 20 days as required, but the date of the final meeting was recorded in error, thus creating the erroneous data that the Review was out of time scale. The systems requirement for correcting these errors was deemed to be disproportionate and as such could not be corrected. However All Reviews were in fact held within timescales using the ability to hold more than one meeting and where appropriate adjourn.

CLA Reviews held within timescales	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
	99.7%	99.6%	98.9%

8.2 The Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Unit has systems in place, which enable CIC reviews to be held within timescales. These are as follows:

- At the beginning of each calendar month, business support staff send out the statutory date due date for all children in care reviews. This means that, responsible operational team managers, the manager of the conference and review service and IROs can monitor and ensure reviews do not go out of timescale.
- Only the managers can authorise a change in a CIC review date. This endeavours to ensure that if a change of date is unavoidable, the new date is scheduled within statutory timescales. Where necessary and appropriate meetings are adjourned or the Review held over more than one meeting to ensure the review is child centred and involves the all of the necessary professionals.

8.3 IROs focus on the steps taken to progress adoption and permanency planning at CIC reviews. They address delays by raising their concerns with social workers,

responsible team managers and heads of service using the well-established case alert process and where appropriate the Dispute Resolution Process – see also section 12.

- 8.4 IROs complete and update a spreadsheet record of remedial actions and the Deputy Safeguarding Leads monitor this for timely completion. Where remedial actions are not completed in timely manner, IROs commence the dispute resolution process where appropriate.
- 8.5 IROs will arrange for CIC reviews to take place more frequently in certain circumstances such as for children who live at a significant distance from Peterborough; and ‘where permanence planning is not being progressed in a timely manner’. These reviews include a high level of scrutiny and monitoring of decision-making and actions. This ensures they are in the best interests of the child and that there is minimal delay.
- 8.6 There is an ongoing arrangement between the local authority children’s legal services and IROs. This ensures that IROs receive copies of all documents including statements and reports that are filed with the court as part of care proceedings relating to CIC.
- 8.7 All IROs continue to deliver culturally competent practice and the child’s individual needs, wishes and feelings are central to all reviews. IROs closely monitor the integration of a child’s identity including culture, religion, ethnicity and birth family values to care planning.
- 8.8 IROs continue to fulfil their responsibility to children remanded into youth detention accommodation (YDA). The key to this role is to ensure that all of these children have active individual care plans that meet their needs. In developing the care plan for children who become looked after solely as a result of being remanded, the IRO will be aware that some children will only be looked after for the period they are remanded. In many cases this period will be relatively short. However, consideration will be given to what longer term support or accommodation the child will need following the remand episode should the young person continue to be looked after at the end of the remand period.

9. Children in care Reviews - Participation

- 9.1 It is the role of the IRO to encourage and promote the participation of children aged four years and over on the review process. IROs record the method at the end of each Child Care Review and these are coded in line with national guidance.
- 9.2 At year end 2017-2018, 99% of looked after children had participated in their review. This has remained the same from last year. The locally set target is 95%.

MOMO has recently been introduced and as at 31 March 2018, 81 young people were signed up to MOMO with active accounts which is a significant increase on last years' figure of 30. The year 2017-18 also recorded that 91 members of staff had accounts and were supporting children to use the system. Again a considerable increase on the 17 workers recorded last year. This is as a result of increased awareness and training.

- 9.3 The feedback from the consultation forms provide valuable information about the experience of Children in Care. In the main, the information suggests that most feel safe, listened to and well cared for. The consultation document is discussed with the child and with their consent, the IRO shares it with review participants.
- 9.4 IROs will always aim to spend time individually with children prior to a review to determine their wishes and feelings to identify if they have any concerns; and find out how they would like to participate in the meeting. This includes the time, venue and attendance at their meeting though it should be noted this remains primarily the social worker's responsibility. It is noteworthy that many young people do not want their reviews to disrupt their school day or leisure activities for example. Each child is given the opportunity to engage with an advocate, particularly if this maximises the young person's contribution to their reviews. In 2017-18, 951 IRO visits to children prior to their review took place. This is exemplary.
- 9.5 IROs document their consultations with children on Liquid logic to form a permanent record of the consultation. Consultation takes various forms, which includes face-to-face meetings, texting, telephone calls and emails. Children who have English as a second language always have an interpreter available and children with additional needs always have the support of their carers, specialist worker or an advocate. IROs actively encourage children to chair /co-chair their Reviews, and over this year there has been an increase in number of children to co-chair their reviews, this is particularly effective as children reach their teens and wish to have greater control over their meetings.
- 9.6 The Children in Care Participation Officer Co-ordinates and facilitates the Children in Care Council (CiCC) and liaises with the Corporate Parenting Panel and Cabinet Members to facilitate dialogue between all parties. Peterborough City Council's Looked after Children's Strategy reflects the council's priority for Children in Care. This strategy lists priorities for the children and young people ensuring that good outcomes are pivotal to processes. Children in Care in Peterborough benefit from the continued robust commitment of elected members of the council.

10. Parental Participation

- 10.1 Parental participation is noted within the minutes of the review and monitored by the IRO manager. There were a total of 1045 Child Care Reviews completed in 2017-18. The level of participation by parents was approximately 42% in the year 2017-18. In accordance with the Care Planning, Placement and Review Regulations 2010, IROs offer to meet with parents outside of the main review meeting. This is particularly evident where a parent is prevented from attending. Parents are also given a consultation form to complete their views, wishes and feelings to inform the Review.

Parental and Child Feedback forms were introduced in March 2018 which aim to maximum the voice of the parent or child and also to seek to evaluate and improve practice within the service by identifying with the experiences of the Child Care Review process.

11. Quality assurance and audit of Children in care Arrangements

- 11.1 The effectiveness of the IRO service and the difference they make to children's experiences of being in Care in Peterborough is monitored through the activity of the Quality Assurance Team including the ongoing thematic audit programmes. In addition, team and senior managers undertake a programme of case file audits and use Ofsted judgements to grade cases. All cases where remedial actions are identified and monitored by the QA Team to ensure that appropriate action is taken in a timely manner. Audit themes and areas for development inform service improvement plans for each service.
- 11.2 Established organisational systems contribute to good practice. IROs routinely receive minutes of the Peterborough Access to Services Panel (PASP) and can challenge decision making with the PASP chairperson following discussion with their manager and the Head of Service.
- 11.3 All IROs complete a monitoring form after each statutory meeting. This is sent to the social worker and responsible team manager.
If the IRO identifies an immediate cause for concern they will raise a case alert. They will always discuss their concern with the case responsible manager / senior manager and agree a course of actions with timescales. This will then be followed up with a email to the responsible manager and Head of Service and any other managers as appropriate. This ensures that immediate action is taken to safeguard and protect the child.
- 11.4 As part of the Quality Assurance and Learning Framework, young people's audits of their care plan were introduced in 2016 in order to identify and evidence the effectiveness of the whole system surrounding the child and to obtain their views about the service they receive. The IROs are asked to complete these with children during the visits where the child is age appropriate and agrees and they are collated and reported on by the Quality Assurance Team. Audits received this year did report positive experiences for children. 2018-19 audits will continue to identify practices and experiences across the service.

12. Dispute Resolution

- 12.1 The IRO handbook clearly describes the role of the IRO where there are areas of disagreement: 'One of the key functions of the IRO is to resolve problems arising out of the care planning process. It is expected that IROs establish positive working relationships with the social workers of the children for whom they are responsible. Where problems are identified in relation to a child's case, for example in relation to care planning, the implementation of the care plan or decisions relating to it, resources or poor practice, the IRO will, in the first instance, seek to resolve the issue informally with the social worker or the social worker's managers. The IRO should place a note of this initial informal resolution process on the child's file. If the matter is not resolved in a timescale that is appropriate to the child's needs, the IRO should consider taking formal action.'
- 12.2 During 2017/18, the IROS raised 145 case alerts. One case went to formal DRP. During the year, our Case Alert process was updated to reflect the additional managerial tier within Children's Social Care. The method of recording was also updated to enable better scrutiny of themes and issues raised which will further tie into the new Manager and Group Manager meetings planned for 2018-19. The following themes were noted with regard to the case alerts raised:
- Practice issues, which include assessments and other paper work not being completed
 - Drift in care planning
 - Statutory visits
 - Placement issues
- 12.3 Relationships between Cafcass and the IRO service continue to be positive with a named guardian and IRO providing a link between the two services. Cafcass attend the IRO team meeting twice yearly and the named IRO reciprocates this arrangement. This ensures joined up working and the sharing of information continues to be a priority between the professionals who maintain albeit differing degrees of independence from the operational social work teams.

13. Summary

The IRO Service has continued to provide effective provision for reviewing and monitoring the Care Plans for Children in Care. It contributes to improved outcomes for Children in Care through increasing participation of children and young people in the decision making about their care, as well as making independent representations to operational teams and management on planning and practice issues. The

independent scrutiny provided by the team is valued by social workers and management.

14. Independent Reviewing Officer Achievements in 2017-18

In March 2018 we implemented professional feedback forms for (CCR) meetings and in May 2018 we are implementing feedback forms for children and parents.

Analysis of the 85 returns in March 2018 evidences that other professionals consider “*The IRO took the views of the child into account*” 100% of the time; and “*the voice of the child was discussed and made clear*” in 81 (95%) responses with two (2%) stating ‘no’. One young person chose to provide his own feedback and stated “*x is an excellent IRO. x always respects my opinions. x never judges my opinions.*”

- Caseloads – Independent Reviewing Officers’ caseloads have remained within the recommended guidelines of between 50 and 70. This has enabled the IRO’s to meet expectations for a high quality service whereby all aspects of their role are undertaken.
- Oversight and Quality Assurance – IROs have actively addressed concerns, poor practice and non compliance in a systematic and professional manner to promote the improvement of standards amongst social work teams and partner agencies. Challenging as denoted within the IRO handbook and ensuring that timescales are adhered to.
- IRO footprint – There has been clear evidence obtained throughout case audits, supervisions and dataset analysis, of the consistent presence and oversight of the IRO and clear demonstrations of the IRO footprint on their caseloads.
- Children’s voices – There has been a consistent approach by IRO’s to maximise the engagement of children and the evidence within reports demonstrates an awareness and objective to ensure that the voice of the child is heard.
- Themed audits – the Quality Assurance team continues to undertake a significant number of thematic audits across Children’s’ Social Care and a number of audits across the IRO service have evidenced robust systems and competent and effective practice and established performance.
- Learning and development – The IRO service continues to promote good practice and to develop and embed learning and supportive relationships within the wider sector. IROs take responsibility in organising and managing meetings with operational team managers to identify impacts and issues in the service and to recognise areas of good practice as well as areas for improvement. They work together in maintaining a respectful, transparent and learning abled forum within which to identify and design models of ideal working.
- The IROs also take turns to represent Peterborough City Council at the Eastern Regional IRO network.
- PCC is part of the Eastern Region IRO Managers Network and they are currently planning an Annual IRO Conference which will be held in November 2018 and are expecting over 90 IRO’s to attend.

- The IRO's have contributed to the increase in dental checks and health assessments for children in care due to increased monitoring. They have also been instrumental in the increased oversight of children at risk of CSE or Missing episodes.

15. Areas of Development for 2018/19

- IRO's will continue to proactively contribute to improving outcomes for looked after children through rigorous monitoring and challenge of care planning and promoting timely permanency planning.
- To contribute to the early identification of Children/young people who may be able to return home safely to their families.
- To have increased oversight of the Local Authority's plans for Children and are identifying all options to secure permanence.
- Further development of the escalation process to ensure improvement on commitment from partner agencies and to challenge areas of poor practice, non-engagement and lack of progress
- To evidence the support to the Local Authority in raising practice standards. One aspect will be to combine meetings with all Team Managers and Independent Chairs to collaboratively identify and address practice and process issues. Another area will be to ensure regular meetings between IRO Managers and Group Managers in CSC to further develop a joined up approach to improving practice.
- IROs will continue to raise awareness amongst Social Workers of the need to keep the IRO informed of significant events between review meetings and to consult the IRO before important decisions are taken in respect of changes to the child's care plan.
- To improve and support the local authority with the quality assurance of care plans for children.
- To support in establishing good working relationships with Cambridgeshire County Council and to continue to improve processes and services across the two Local Authorities.

This page is intentionally left blank

CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM No. 8
20 MARCH 2019	PUBLIC REPORT

Report of:	Corporate Director People and Communities		
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Councillor Sam Smith, Cabinet Member for Children's Services		
Contact Officer(s):	Graham Puckering Head of Service 0-25	Tel. (01733) 207242	

0 - 25 REPORT

R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S	
FROM:	Deadline date: N/A
<p>It is recommended that the Corporate Parenting Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notes the content of the report. • Raise any queries they have with the lead officers. 	

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

1.1 This report is submitted to Corporate Parenting Committee following the recent request by the Committee for an update report on the 0-25 service redesign, including transition services.

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

- 2.1
1. The purpose of this report is to update Committee on the redesign of the 0-25 service
 2. The update has been requested by Committee
 3. This report provides additional and background information requested by the Committee for its meeting on 20th March 2019;
- 2.2 This report is for Corporate Parenting Committee to consider under all its Terms of Reference No. 2.4.4.2 To receive statutory reports in relation to the adoption, fostering, commissioning, looked after children services and children's homes with a view to recommending any changes.
- 2.3 The content of this report links across all areas of the Child in Care Pledge

3. TIMESCALES

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

4. BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

4.1 In line with the SEND Reforms under the Children and Families Act and Care Act 2014, Peterborough has developed a 0-25 disability service which provides a specialist service with both statutory and discretionary responsibilities for disabled children/young people defined as Children in Need, Children in Need of Protection or Children who require Local Authority care and young adults eligible for services under the Care Act. In addition to the social work team the

service has a residential children's service providing short breaks to disabled children under 18, a specialist fostering service and a new outreach service called Peterborough Pathways. All these services have been subject to the 0-25 redesign project over the past two years. This redesign is now almost finished. Additionally The Manor short breaks service has been repurposed as part of the redesign.

- 4.2 The social work team has statutory and discretionary responsibilities for young people transitioning to adulthood who appear to be in need of care and support applying a national eligibility criteria threshold of the Care Act 2014 as well as working with young people/adults with care and support needs to keep them safe from abuse or neglect. The primary function of the the social work team is safeguarding and provision of care and support for children/young people up to the age of 25 with disabilities and their families where the predominant issue presenting is disability.
- 4.3 The 0-25 service is an overarching single service with two team managers. Managers and workers have a lead approach to the service with one leading on 0-18 and the other 14-25 in line with the Care Act guidance. There are approximately 15 staff across the service each holding caseloads of around 20 cases. The service has seen an increase in four staff as part of the redesign.
- 4.4 The Care Act 2014- transition for children to adult care and support 'services at transition are aimed at moving a person into work/adult life in such a way as to promote their independence and so reduce their long term needs for care and support. The team considers the needs of the person, what needs they are likely to have when they (or the child they care for) reach 18, and the outcomes they want to achieve in life.
- 4.5 Currently the service has 24 Looked After children of which 17 are fully looked after and 6 Looked After through Short Breaks. What about the 24th one?In addition to this there are 9 young people who are eligible for Leaving Care services.
- 4.6 The Manor Short Breaks centre ceased as a registered service of overnight care in November 2018. The building continues to be used for the service and is being developed further. The Manor is currently being accessed by Action For Children to provide short breaks to individual children. The building will be further used by children with complex needs and disabilities following the implementation of the new community short breaks offer.
- 4.7 Cherry Lodge Short Breaks Centre provides 18 short break packages. Three shared care packages including one for Cambridgeshire are in place. One young person who is 18 continues to attend whilst a suitable placement is identified.
- 4.8 The Link fostering service supports children with complex needs having overnight short breaks in registered foster placements. Currently 9 are children accessing Link provided by 4 carers. A targeted recruitment campaign is ongoing in the hope of developing the service further.
- 4.9 Outreach has been a long standing service which is being replaced by the developed Peterborough Pathways Service which will focus on providing intense work with children and families and supporting them into alternative provisions. Currently 3 children are receiving outreach support.
- 4.10 Recruitment to new and developed posts are ongoing. The wider redesign of the whole service is now complete pending the recruitment to new posts. The development of the Link fostering service and Cherry Lodge will continue to increase the capacity for Looked After children.

5. CONSULTATION

- 5.1 Consulted with officers at the Corporate Parenting Committee
- 5.2 No other consultations required

6. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT

6.1 Ensure there is a robust approach to supporting the experiences of children and young people in the 0-25 service in order to improve their lives.

7. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

7.1 No recommendation made

8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

8.1 N/A

9. IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

9.1 None

Legal Implications

9.2 Not directly, but the report provides information about how the service is meeting its statutory duties.

Equalities Implications

9.3 There are no equalities implications arising from this report.

Other Implications

9.4 This report relates to children with additional needs including disability.

10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

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

10.1 None

11. APPENDICES

11.1 None

This page is intentionally left blank

CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM No. 9
20 MARCH 2019	PUBLIC REPORT

Report of:	Corporate Parenting Committee Chairman	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Councillor Sam Smith, Cabinet Member for Children's Services.	
Contact Officer(s):	Nicola Curley Assistant Director Children's Services	Tel. 864065

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

R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S	
FROM: Corporate Parenting Committee Chairman	Deadline date: Date to be confirmed
<p>It is recommended that the Corporate Parenting Committee:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Agrees that the annual report is an accurate reflection of the work of the Committee over the last 12 months; and 2. Agrees to submit the annual report to the Children and Education Scrutiny Committee for noting as per the Corporate Parenting Committee's Terms of Reference. 	

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

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

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

2.1 The purpose of this report is to advise the Children and Education Scrutiny Committee of activity carried out the Corporate Parenting Committee in the municipal year 2018-19

2.2 This report is for Corporate Parenting Committee to consider under all its Terms of Reference number 2.4.6.4 The Corporate Parenting Committee will report to the Cabinet Member for Children's Services and to the Scrutiny Committee on an annual basis or more frequently if required.

2.3 The report addresses all areas of the Children in Care pledge and the Care Leavers' Charter. It specifically demonstrates to Scrutiny how the Committee has been addressing the increase in the Children in Care population; the changes to the partnership with TACT; and Children in Care and Care Leavers' education and training needs. It notes the Good judgement for the experience and progress of Children in Care and Care Leavers in the Ofsted Inspection in the summer of 2018, but also the importance of the Committee holding officers to account in relation to the continuing developments required by the report.

3. TIMESCALES

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

4. BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

4.1 Following the changes engendered by the Ofsted Inspection of 2015, the Corporate Parenting Committee has continued to work to support the needs and ambitions of the Council's Children in Care and Care Leavers.

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

4.2 Work Programme and Reporting Mechanisms

4.2.1 The thematic meetings have continued, where a single topic is considered in depth to enable councillors to fully understand the complexity of the issue in the round, have a proper opportunity to scrutinise the information before them and challenge officers in a timely and thorough manner. The Committee focuses on 3 key areas for children and young people: education; placement; and health. These are linked across the formal and informal meetings, and have been effective in developing ideas and themes for Members to scrutinise.

4.2.2 The final area of development related to bespoke reporting mechanisms for the Corporate Parenting Committee. QlikSense is now the standard reporting tool across Children's Services, and it is possible to monitor all current activity very effectively. The development of a static report for Corporate Parenting Committee has taken a bit of time, but the Committee will now be trialling a new report format. Recommended amendments will be reviewed by the Business Intelligence team, and we hope to produce a final version for the start of the new municipal year.

4.3 Corporate Parenting Champions

4.3.1 This has continued to be an effective use of Member influence. Champions are Members who sit on the Committee, but have also volunteered to take a particular lead for an area that impacts on Children in Care and Care Leavers.

4.3.2 The Corporate Parenting Champions 2018–2019 have been:

Area of Focus	Champion	Officer Lead
Housing	Councillor Stokes	Sean Evans
Employment And Training Opportunities Within The Council Departments And Partner Agencies	Councillor Ayres	Pat Carrington
Health	Councillor Aitken (role currently vacant)	Deborah Spencer
Education Attainment and Access To Higher Education	Councillor Ayres	Dee Glover
Recreation and Leisure Activities	Councillor Smith	Sian Stevens - now Jodie Wallis
Finance and Benefits	Councillor Bond	Emma Kavanaugh
Effective Care Planning	Councillor Jones	Sarah Adams

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

- a) Meeting with the Lead Officer;
- b) Undertaking a site visit;

- c) Meeting with a child in care / young person / service user / other officers and discuss their experience of the service for Children in Care; and
- d) Contributing to a brief report back to the Committee.

4.3.4 A new Champion role was created at the suggestion of Councillor Jones, out of discussion around the availability of suitable placements for our children. This is the Effective Care Planning Champion, and Cllr Jones will be working with some of our Children in Care Council and officers to revise the paperwork used to identify new foster and residential placements for children and young people. In order to create this role, it was recognised that the Committee needed to request a change in its terms of reference to allow the Committee Members to set and appoint to the champion positions themselves. This was agreed by the Council and can be seen at: Part 3, Section 2 Regulatory Functions 2.4.4.6 (f) pg 43.

4.3.5 The Health Champion, Councillor Aitken, had also been working on an updated version of the Health passport for Care Leavers in response to feedback from our young people, and this ties in with feedback from the Ofsted Inspection as well. The plan is to introduce this at a much earlier stage for young people, and ensure that they are familiar with its contents and usefulness to them before they leave the care of the Local Authority.

4.3.6 Councillor Ayres, in her role as Employment and Training Opportunities Champion, has been extremely persistent in raising the needs of our Care Leavers at every meeting in this area. The Committee has continued to be supportive of the development of apprenticeship proposals for Care Leavers, and we are really pleased to report that two Care Leavers have now taken up apprenticeships with our partners, TACT and Serco, and these are working well.

4.4 Specific Focus of Work

CIC Population

4.4.1 Over the last year, we have seen increased numbers of children and young people in care in Peterborough. At the end of January, this was 380 children altogether. Comparative data for the financial year 2017/18 on children in care nationally was published in the autumn of 2018. This data evidences that increased numbers in care are not just a Peterborough issue; numbers nationally and among our statistical neighbours have also increased significantly. Indeed, here in Peterborough we are looking after a considerably lower number of children in care compared with the average of the 10 most similar authorities to us. Expressed as a rate of children in care per 10,000, as of the end of January 2019, we were looking after 76 children and young people per 10,000 of our population of children and young people aged 0-17 years. The national data set shows that this average rate has increased to 86.1 in the financial year 2017/18 for our statistical neighbours.

4.4.2 So, while our numbers have increased, numbers in similar authorities have increased significantly more rapidly. This provides evidence that our approach in Peterborough is effective, but it also means that officers such as Social Workers and Independent Reviewing Officers are needing to manage more work, and that placements for children will be increasingly difficult to find, reducing placement choice for children and young people. If foster placements are not available, we then need to consider residential options, and often need to start looking further afield, particularly for our older young people.

The Corporate Parenting Committee has monitored these pressures closely, and taken action where some of these issues have had implications for the education of Children in Care placed out of area.

4.5 Ofsted Inspection June 2018

4.5.1 Ofsted carried out a standard Inspection of Peterborough's Children's Services under their new Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services (ILACS) framework in June 2018. This was the

first judgement Inspection in three years, and it is extremely pleasing to note that Peterborough was found to be Good in all categories.

4.5.2 In relation to Children in Care and Care Leavers, Ofsted stated that children came into care at the right time, and that their placements were generally stable and met their needs. Inspectors also noted that our planning and support for children who are unaccompanied asylum seekers was a strength. They acknowledged that the designated nurse for Children in Care provided robust oversight of the health needs of children and that performance in providing initial health assessments, health reviews and dental checks showed sustained improvement. This had been a particular area of scrutiny for the Committee, and the recognition of this improvement was welcome. Ofsted also noted that foster carer recruitment and support was of good quality, and that disabled children achieve permanence and stability in placements that meet their long-term needs. They also continued to affirm the adoption performance of the service, saying that fostering for adoption was a particular strength for us.

4.5.3 In relation to Care Leavers, the Inspectors stated that they received very good support from social workers and personal advisers. They saw improvements in more collaborative pathway planning, and that we had focused on aspirations for work, education and volunteering for Care Leavers. There was evidence of the consideration of their identity, health and emotional wellbeing needs. They also felt that the Personal Advisers knew their young people well and remained in very regular contact with them; they felt that they acted as strong advocates for young people.

4.5.4 Most pleasingly, the Inspectors stated that:

“There has been significant progress in strengthening corporate parenting. Young people run alternate corporate parenting committee meetings and support active children in care councils for different age groups. Elected members make changes based on the feedback that they seek from young people. In addition, members act as ‘corporate parenting champions’ for improvements in specific areas of need, an example of this being the successful challenge to improve children’s uptake of dental checks”

4.5.5 Of course, there were also still areas for improvement, particularly around educational aspiration and achievement for children. The Inspectors felt that children’s personal education plans continued to need input from children themselves, and that it had been taking too long to develop opportunities for Care Leavers. The information around educational progress was not yet provided for the Committee in a timely way in order for it to exercise effective scrutiny of the issue, and this needed to improve.

4.5.6 There were five areas that Ofsted formally highlighted as requiring improvement:

- Assessments of children who are missing or who are at risk from child sexual exploitation.
- The use of chronologies in underpinning children’s assessments.
- The number of return interviews that are successfully completed with children who have been missing from care.
- The quality of information provided to care leavers about their rights and entitlements, including how to access their health histories.
- Consistency of management oversight, including recording of casework supervision across all social work teams.

4.5.7 An action plan has been developed in relation to these, and updates in relation to the individual actions will be scrutinised by the Corporate Parenting Committee regularly. The Corporate Parenting Champions have already been involved in some of the activity to address the performance in these areas (see 4.3)

4.6 TACT Partnership

4.6.1 The Committee has maintained close oversight of the new commissioned arrangements with TACT. The Permanency Service has now been in operation for almost two years, and has seen some changes to its original specification. TACT had taken on responsibility for the Placement

budget and commissioning of all external placements, and whilst there was a synergy in terms of in house fostering activity, there were also disadvantages in terms of how a charity could engage with the market in comparison with a Local Authority. A decision was taken to return that area of work to the Council, and this was completed in the autumn of 2018 with no disruption to service.

- 4.6.2 The other change to the arrangements has been led by the national requirement to commission a Regional Adoption Agency (RAA). Negotiation with the Department for Education meant that we could set this separate entity up in conjunction with Cambridgeshire County Council, but still needed a Voluntary Adoption Agency to run it on behalf of both Councils. This has been the subject of a formal tender process, to which TACT were invited to bid. The process is still underway at the time of writing this report, and a formal decision is due in early summer.
- 4.6.3 These have been significant issues to address, and have at times, hampered the ability of the service to dedicate itself fully to the recruitment of in house foster carers. The existing carers continue to affirm the improvements in the training and support offer from TACT, so it is felt that this situation will improve significantly over the next financial year. The carers that are coming through the recruitment pipeline are improving the diversity of the group, and enabling more local options for adolescents. The Foster Carers' Committee is represented at the formal Corporate Parenting Committee meetings, and has been contributing to the increasingly effective scrutiny of officers. Adoption performance had slowed, but this has been more to do with the continuing national trend away from adoption as the preferred permanence option, than any activity by the Local Authority or TACT. We continue to work with the courts to try and address this through clear care planning and strong evidence based practice.
- 4.6.4 The Committee reviews the TACT partnership on a formal basis annually, but also receives quarterly briefing notes on activity. It has sought specific updates around the innovation projects running within TACT, and has created a new Corporate Parenting Champion due to its concerns around the lack of placement choice and a decrease in placement stability earlier in the year. The Committee is aware of the logistical pressure on the service in light of the increasing CIC numbers, but continues to hold officers to the same high expectations of service delivery to children and young people.

4.7 Meeting Educational Needs

- 4.7.1 As also identified by Ofsted, there has been a general recognition of a lack of some aspiration for the children and young people of Peterborough in educational terms. This has also translated itself into the ambition we have for our children and young people in care, and the Corporate Parenting Committee has challenged itself and officers to think more creatively about achievement for our children and young people in this area. The Virtual School has been asked to report in a more timely way about young people's academic results, as well as providing their formal validated report, and there is an ongoing project to enhance the function and meaningfulness of Personal Education Plans. The work on apprenticeships is already bearing fruit, as stated above.
- 4.7.2 The Committee also identified a growing trend where Children in Care's educational progress was being negatively impacted by their placement outside of the local area. To meet children's emotional or physical needs, sometimes placements can only be sourced outside of Peterborough, or because of the lack of placement choice, we are forced to identify foster placements across Local Authority borders. This means that another Authority becomes responsible for meeting the child's educational needs, and this can become more challenging if the local school is an Academy with its own admission criteria. Children in Care with Education, Health and Social Care Plans (EHCPs) are an even more specific minority, and identifying a school place after a placement move can take months in some cases. The Corporate Parenting Committee has expressed significant concern about this, and has now written to the Secretary of State for Education to ask him to address the issue on a national level.

4.8 Best Practice Example

- 4.8.1 The Corporate Parenting Committee continues to be seen as a model of best practice, and has the intention of developing a one day conference that other Local Authorities in the Eastern Region may wish to attend. This will be an opportunity to promote best practice for Children in Care, and to promote the Council as continuing to innovate across many areas of delivery.

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

- 4.9.1 The Children in Care Council continues to meet on a monthly basis, and has 8 regular members. The group is well attended during school holiday periods when activities are offered in addition to the normal meeting. In the last 12 months, along with their co-chairing duties at the informal Corporate Parenting Committee meetings, the group has:

- Met with young people from across the eastern region to develop a short film of 10 top tips for social workers
- Given feedback to the IROs on their review paperwork
- Planned and delivered the annual celebration events for children in care
- Spoken at Corporate Parenting Committee about their experiences in different placements.
- Written to all children in care to share the June 2018 Ofsted report.

- 4.9.2 The 'Children in Charge' youth group for children aged between 8 and 12 continues to meet in alternating weeks. It is regularly attended by an average of 10 young people. Seven members met with Ofsted at the inspection and were able to share all the activities they have been up to very articulately.

- 4.9.3 The Care Leavers' drop in continues to operate, attracting an average of 6 young people at each session. They will be consulted on the new "passport to independence" piece of work that aims to address issues around access to benefits, housing and training opportunities. There are discussions with Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) and Housing colleagues about them attending the drop in on a semi-regular basis to offer more specialist knowledge and advice to the group, and some members already utilise the Job Club on the same site. Two Care Leavers have been successful in gaining places on the community garden renovation group with Axiom Housing, and this will start in the spring. The group is also interested in identifying a new venue, and will be supported with this going forward.

- 4.9.4 A full activity programme was offered to children and young people in the summer encompassing a variety of activities and events curated by Children in Care Council members for young people to increase reach and engagement with this group. Engagement for summer 2018 was 363 attendances by 122 young people over 12 sessions, with an additional 20 young people participating in the National Citizenship Service.

- 4.9.5 The celebration events in February 2019 half-term were attended by a number of members of the Corporate Parenting Committee, and these were extremely enjoyable experiences for all involved.

5. CONSULTATION

- 5.1 The Children in Care Council has been fully aware and consulted upon the changes referred to in this paper. The feedback from them to date is that working with the Committee is a very positive experience, and that they value the opportunity to work with the Corporate Parenting Champions.
- 5.2 The report has been shared with Councillor Smith, Cabinet Member for Children Services in line with the Corporate Parenting Committee Terms of Reference.

6. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT

6.1 If the Corporate Parenting Committee agrees the recommendations in this report, it will be presented to the next Children and Education Scrutiny Committee in the new municipal year 2019 - 2020.

7. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

7.1 For presentation at Children and Education Scrutiny Committee.

8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

8.1 N/A

9. IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

9.1 There are none.

Legal Implications

9.2 This is a factual report, to be agreed by the Committee.

Other Implications

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

10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

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

10.1 N/A

11. APPENDICES

11.1 None

This page is intentionally left blank

CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM No. 10
20 MARCH 2019	PUBLIC REPORT

Report of:	Executive Director People and Communities Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Councils	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Councillor Sam Smith, Cabinet Member for Children's Services.	
Contact Officer(s):	Nicola Curley, Assistant Director Children's Social Care	Tel. 864065

**CHILDREN IN CARE AND CARE LEAVERS PERFORMANCE REPORT
SEPTEMBER 2018**

RECOMMENDATIONS	
FROM: Assistant Director Children's Services	Deadline date: N/A
It is recommended that the Corporate Parenting Committee: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notes the content of the report; and • Raise any queries they have with the lead officers. 	

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 To update the Corporate Parenting Committee in respect of the numbers of children and young people currently being looked after by the Council and to provide a breakdown of the types of placements in which they are living. The report also provides information about the age, gender and ethnicity of those children and young people.

2.2 This report is for Corporate Parenting Committee to consider under its Terms of Reference No.

2.4.4.2 To receive statutory reports in relation to the adoption, fostering, commissioning, looked after children services and children's homes with a view to recommending any changes.

2.4.4.6 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 links into the Children in Care Pledge under:

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

3. **TIMESCALES**

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

4. **BACKGROUND**

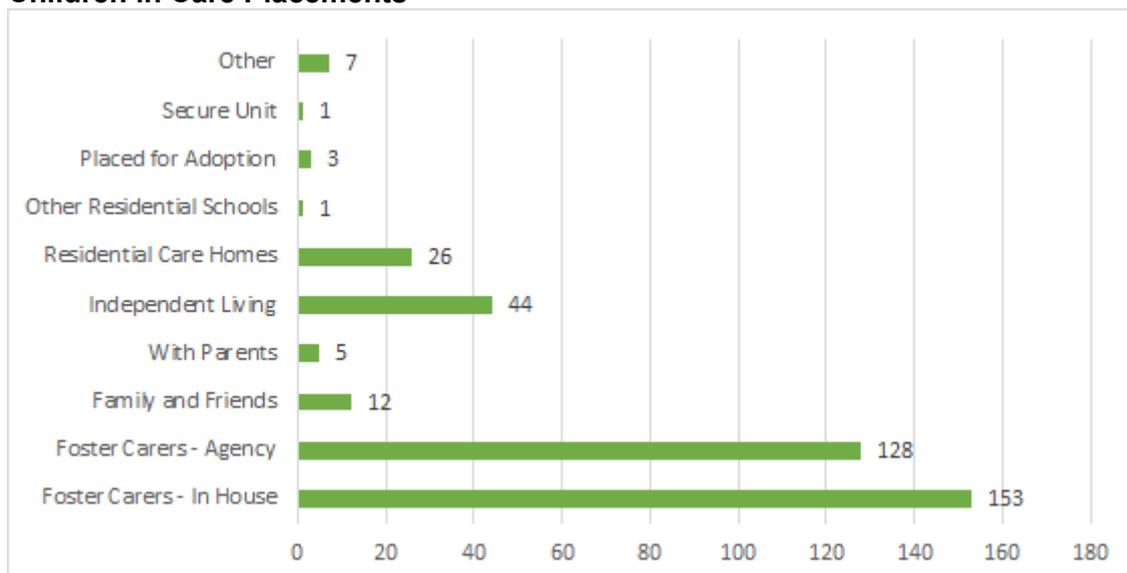
4.1 On the 31 January 2019 there were 380 Children in Care in Peterborough:

- 153 children were placed with foster carers who work for TACT (The Adolescent and Children’s Trust), and provide foster care through our strategic partnership.
- 128 children were in foster care and placed with independent fostering agencies (IFAs). The agency works with the Local Authority on a contractual basis to provide foster placements.
- 44 post 16 years olds were living on their own (independent living) but still classed as CIC with an allocated Social Worker. Independent living assists the young person with the transition to leaving care. These young people are supported by our Leaving Care Service.
- 3 children had a court order (Placement Order) that allows them to live with their prospective adoptive parents whilst they are awaiting a final Adoption Order.
- 12 children were placed with family or friend’s carers (connected person). These carers are formally assessed in the same way that our other in house carers are assessed and are presented to the Fostering Panel for approval in the same way. They are paid the same level of allowances as other in house foster carers.
- 5 children were living with their parents but were still considered ‘looked after’ because they are subject to a full care order so the Council still shares parental responsibility with the birth parent. Placements with parents are often made pending a plan for reunification with the parent and in some cases will result in an application for care orders to be discharged.
- 26 children and young people (without disabilities) were placed in residential care that provides intensive support in a residential setting. These placements are most usually made when it is clear that foster care is not sufficient to meet the child or young person’s needs. Residential care is nearly always accessed by adolescents and only rarely used for younger children in very special circumstances.
- 1 child (with disabilities) was placed in specialist residential care. This disabled child will have complex health and behavioural needs associated with their disability. As above these placements are only used when all other types of support to keep the child at home or in foster care have been exhausted.
- There was 1 young person placed in a secure unit, and 7 young people were in YOI.

4.2 Children in Care Profile

	Mar-18	Jun-18	Sep-18	Dec-18	Jan-19
Children looked after	353	381	370	360	380
Age	Mar-18	Jun-18	Sep-18	Dec-18	Jan-19
Under 1	18	20	19	20	29
1 to 4	23	29	34	35	39
5 to 9	68	71	65	56	61
10 to 15	146	157	156	152	150
16-17	98	104	96	97	101
Gender	Mar-18	Jun-18	Sep-18	Dec-18	Jan-19
Male	202	215	207	203	213
Female	150	166	167	157	167
Indeterminate	1	0	0	0	0
Ethnicity	Mar-18	Jun-18	Sep-18	Dec-18	Jan-19
White British	226	239	229	219	229
White Irish	0	0	0	0	0
White Other	34	40	43	41	49
White	260	279	272	260	278
Mixed White & Black Caribbean	4	5	5	6	7
Mixed White & Black African	3	4	5	5	5
Mixed White & Asian	19	20	16	16	16
Any other mixed background	15	17	17	18	22
Mixed	41	46	43	45	50
Indian	1	0	0	0	0
Pakistani	7	12	11	10	10
Bangladeshi	0	0	1	0	0
Any other Asian background	13	17	16	15	12
Asian	21	29	28	25	22
Caribbean	2	2	2	2	2
African	13	10	12	10	9
Any other Black background	8	8	8	7	7
Black	23	20	22	19	18
Chinese	0	0	0	0	0
Any other ethnic group	3	5	5	7	7
Other	3	5	5	7	7
Not stated / not yet obtained	5	2	4	4	4

4.3 Children in Care Placements



5. CONSULTATION

5.1 N/A

6. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT

6.1 N/A

7. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

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

8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

8.1 N/A

9. IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

9.1 There are none.

Legal Implications

9.2 None - as this report is for information and noting by the Committee

Equalities Implications

9.3 None

Other Implications

9.4 Performance data is key to allow Committee Members to address and challenge issues relating to care leavers and children in care.

10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

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

10.1 N/A

11. APPENDICES

11.1 Appendix 1 – CIC Performance Report January 2019



Peterborough Children's Services

Monthly Performance report

January 2019



Change compared to previous month:

-  Performance has improved
-  Performance has stayed the same
-  Performance has deteriorated

Children in Care

	KPI Value	RAG	Change
Number of Children in Care	380		
Number of Children in Care as rate per 10,000	76.0		
% of CiC Reviews held on time	99.8%		
% of CiC statutory visits made on time	91.0%		
% of children entering care with Initial health Assessment completed on time	74.6%		
% of CiC with annual health assessment completed	87.0%		
Number of children missing from care	8		

Leaving Care

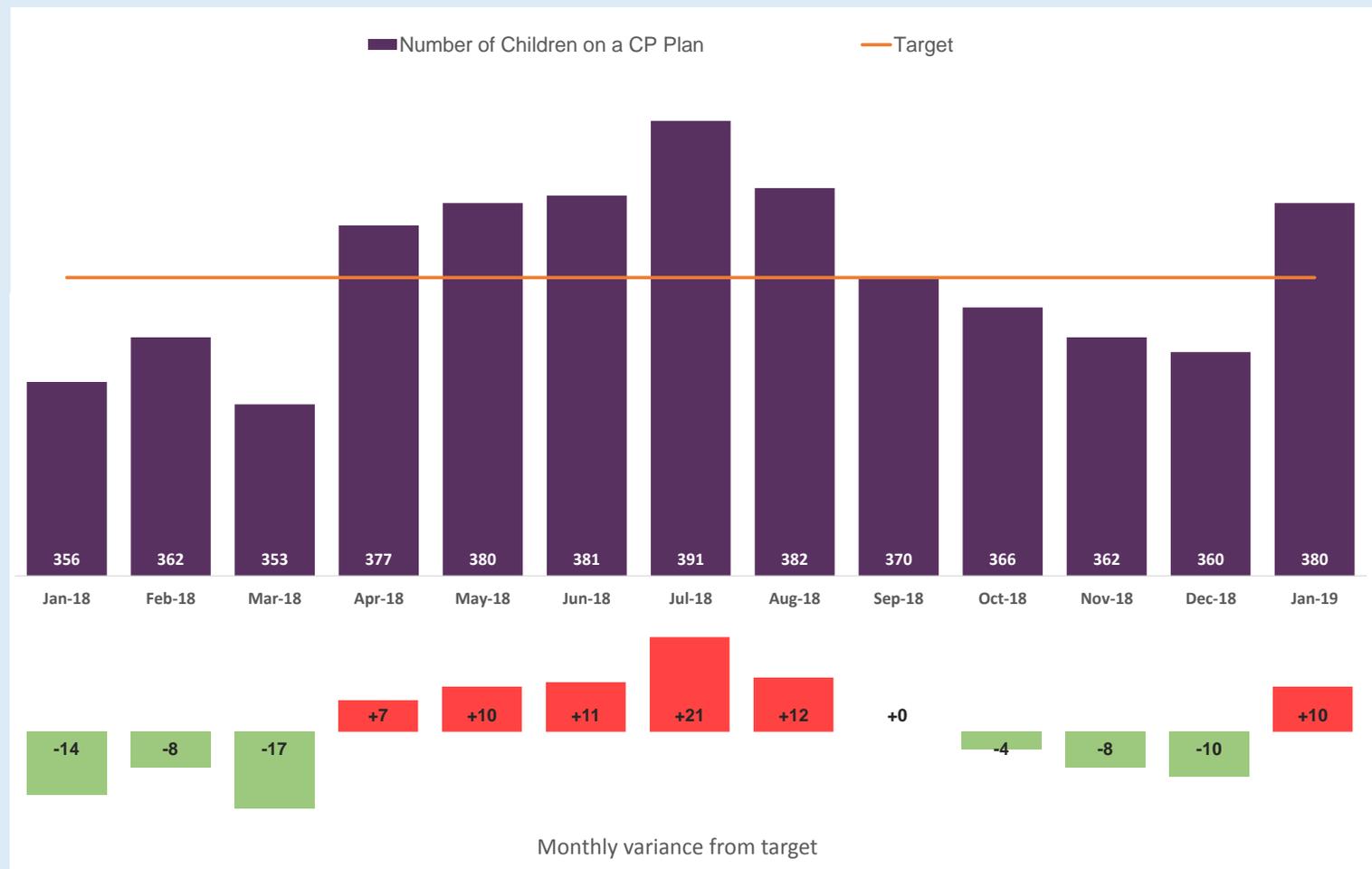
	KPI Value	RAG	Change
% of Leaving care clients who have a pathway plan	87.8%		
% of Care leavers (+19 years) who are NEET	50.6%		
% of Care leavers (+19 Years) who are not in Suitable Accommodation	5.6%		

Adoptions

	KPI Value	RAG	Change
% of children leaving care who are adopted	10.9%		
Average number of days between child entering care and moving in with adopter	566		
Average number of days between adoption court order and a match being approved	350		

Rate per 10,000	Target	Variance
76.0	74	+2.7%
	Previous month	Change in performance
Low is good	72.0	▼

At the end of January, there were 380 Children in Care. This is 10 above the local authority's target number, and equates to a rate per 10,000 of 76.0.



CSC Commentary

The number of children in care per 10,000 of the population, increased by 20 this month. The indicator remains in the red for the 7th month in a row. Internal analysis for the sudden increase links to the cohort of children being accommodated being under 5 years.

	2017/18	Current rate vs benchmark
Local Authority	74	+2
Stat Neighbours	87	-11
Region	49	-
England	64	+12

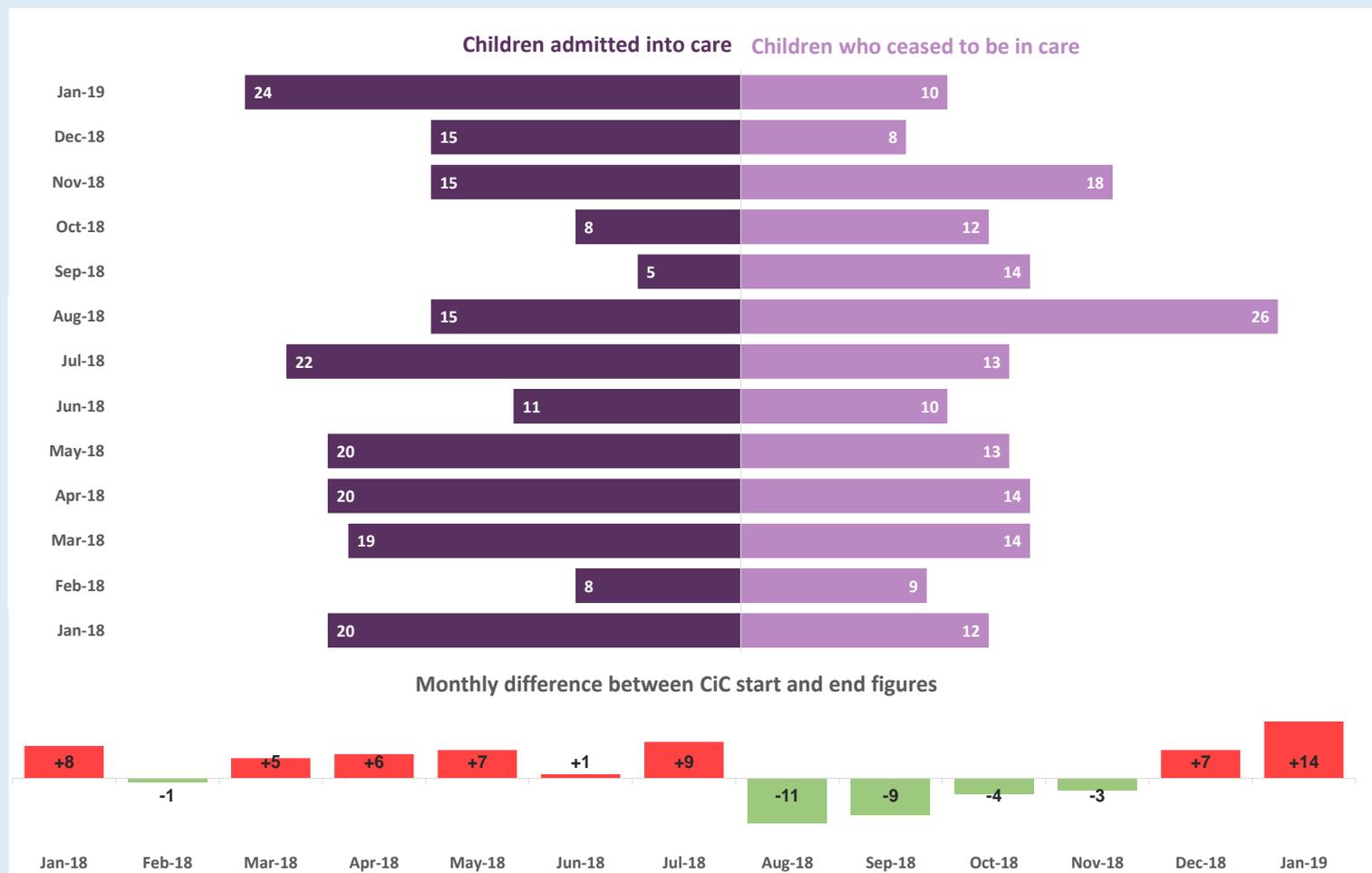
74

CiC Starts per 10,000	Target	Variance
36.4 Low is good	37	-1.6%
	Previous month	Change in performance
	35.6	

CiC Starts	2017/18	Current rate vs benchmark
Local Authority	35	+1
Stat Neighbours	37	-1
Region	22	-
England	27	+9

CiC Ends per 10,000	Target	Variance
32.2 High is good	36	-10.6%
	Previous month	Change in performance
	32.6	

CiC Ends	2017/18	Current rate vs benchmark
Local Authority	33	-1
Stat Neighbours	32	+0
Region	22	-
England	25	+7



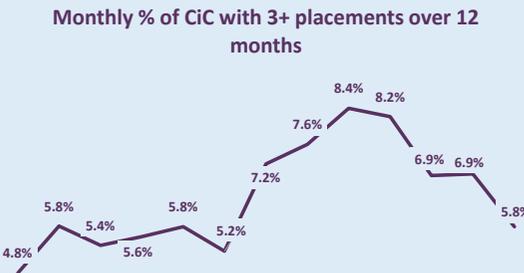
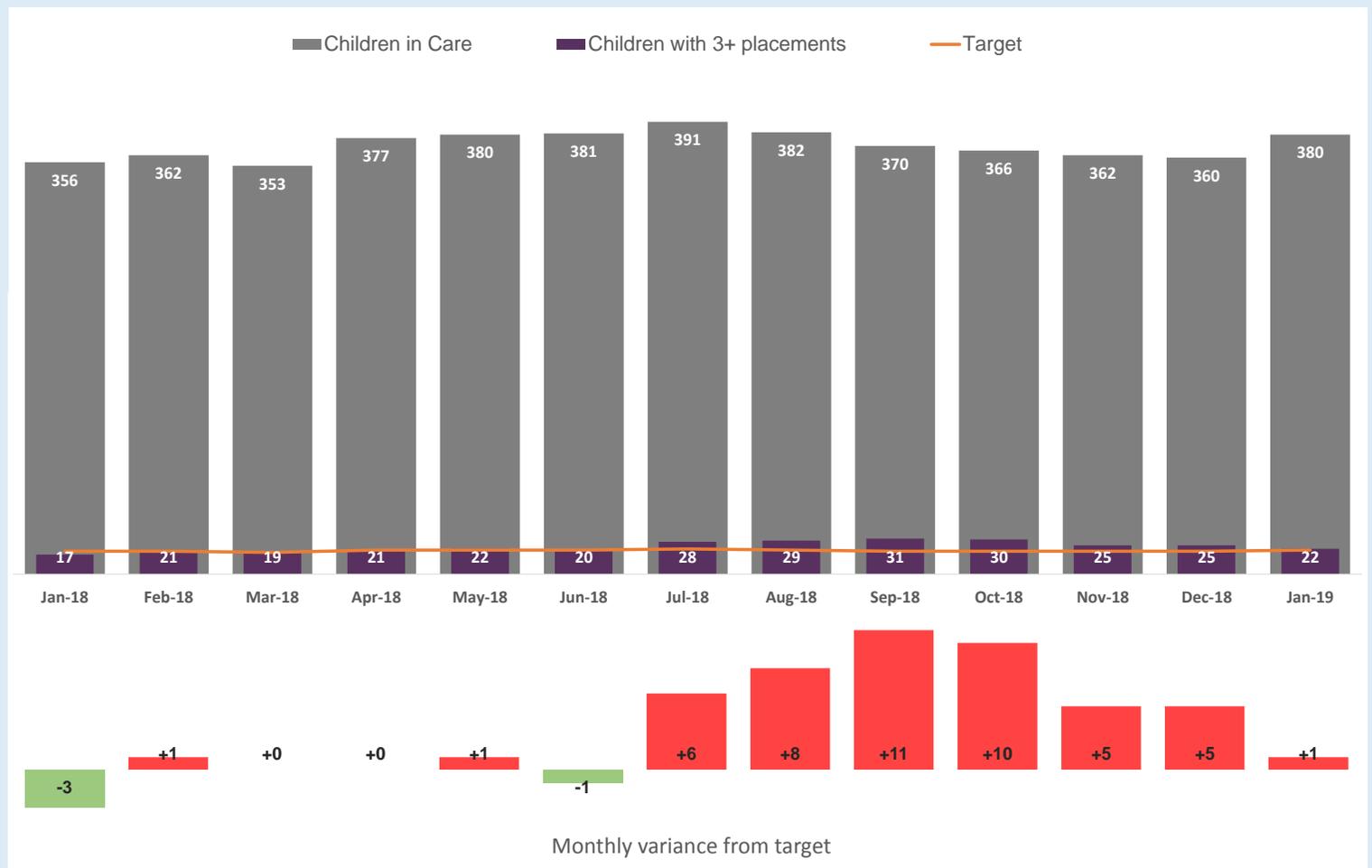
CSC Commentary

CiC starters -admissions per 10,000 for January increased by 9 on the previous month. The total being 24 Admissions recorded by month end. Analysis of the data for this month indicates an increase overall in children being accommodated per 10,000 over the year to date, even with children leaving the system. The data indicates continued volatility in this area, although it remains in the green.

CiC leavers -the actual number is a reduction of 10 on the previous month's data. The variance for this month is between the two is -9%

% CiC with 3+ Placements	Target	Variance
5.8%	6%	+0.3%
	Previous month	Change in performance
	6.9%	
Low is good		

22 out of the 380 children in care at the end of January had 3 or more different placements in the last 12 months. This is a ratio of 5.8%.



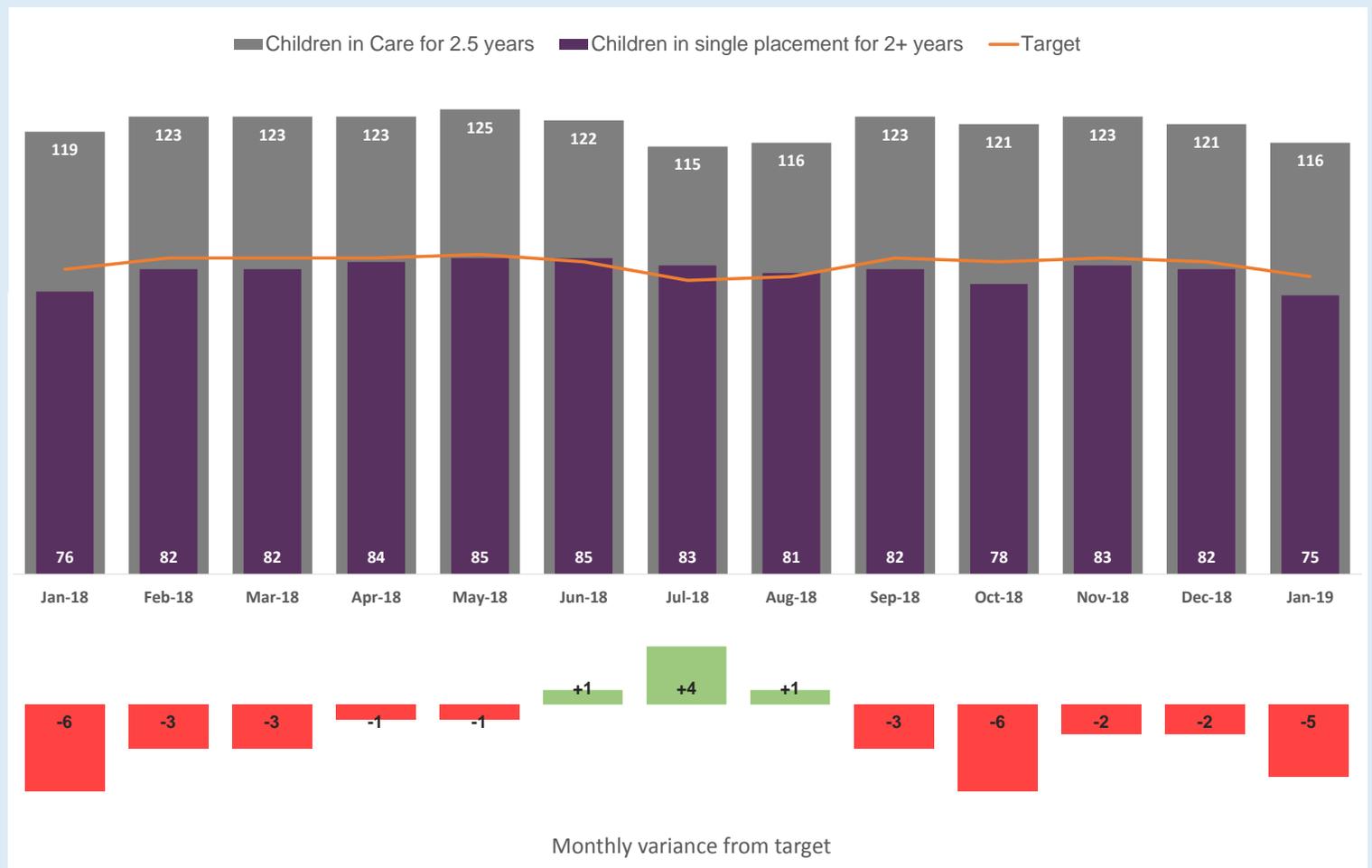
CSC Commentary

Internal processes to stabilise placements are working when assessing the data over the last 12 months, and when comparing the data with our statistical neighbours and England. This month's data is showing a further reduction in 3+ placements at month end. The variance this month is 1%, equating to 22 placements. Continued monitoring and review of systems is supporting improvement.

	2017/18	Current rate vs benchmark
Local Authority	5%	+0.8%
Stat Neighbours	10%	-4.2%
Region	10%	-
England	10%	-4.2%

% with stable 2+ year placement <div style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 10px; text-align: center; font-size: 24px; font-weight: bold;">64.7%</div> High is good	Target	Variance
	69.1%	-4.4%
	Previous month	Change in performance
67.8%	▼	

75 out of the 116 children who were in care for 2.5 years or more at the end of January have maintained their current placement for 2 years or more. This is a ratio of 64.7%.



Monthly % of CiC for 2.5+ years who have been in current placement for 2+ years



CSC Commentary

Placement stability for the month of January saw a decrease in the performance from last month by 3.1%. The indicator has moved to red this month. However, this links with the step down programme that is forecasted to impact on this performance indicator into the next quarter.

	2016/17	Current rate vs benchmark	
Local Authority	71%	-6.3%	Red
Stat Neighbours	69%	-4.3%	Red
Region	69%	-	-
England	70%	-5.3%	Red

CiC Reviews on time (% YTD)	Target	Variance
99.8%	97%	+2.8%
	Previous month	Change in performance
High is good	99.8%	

For 72 out of the 72 children whose Child in Care Review was completed and due in January, this review was held on time. This is a ratio of 100.0%.

Since the beginning of the financial year, the completed Child in Care Reviews of 99.8% of all children were held on time.

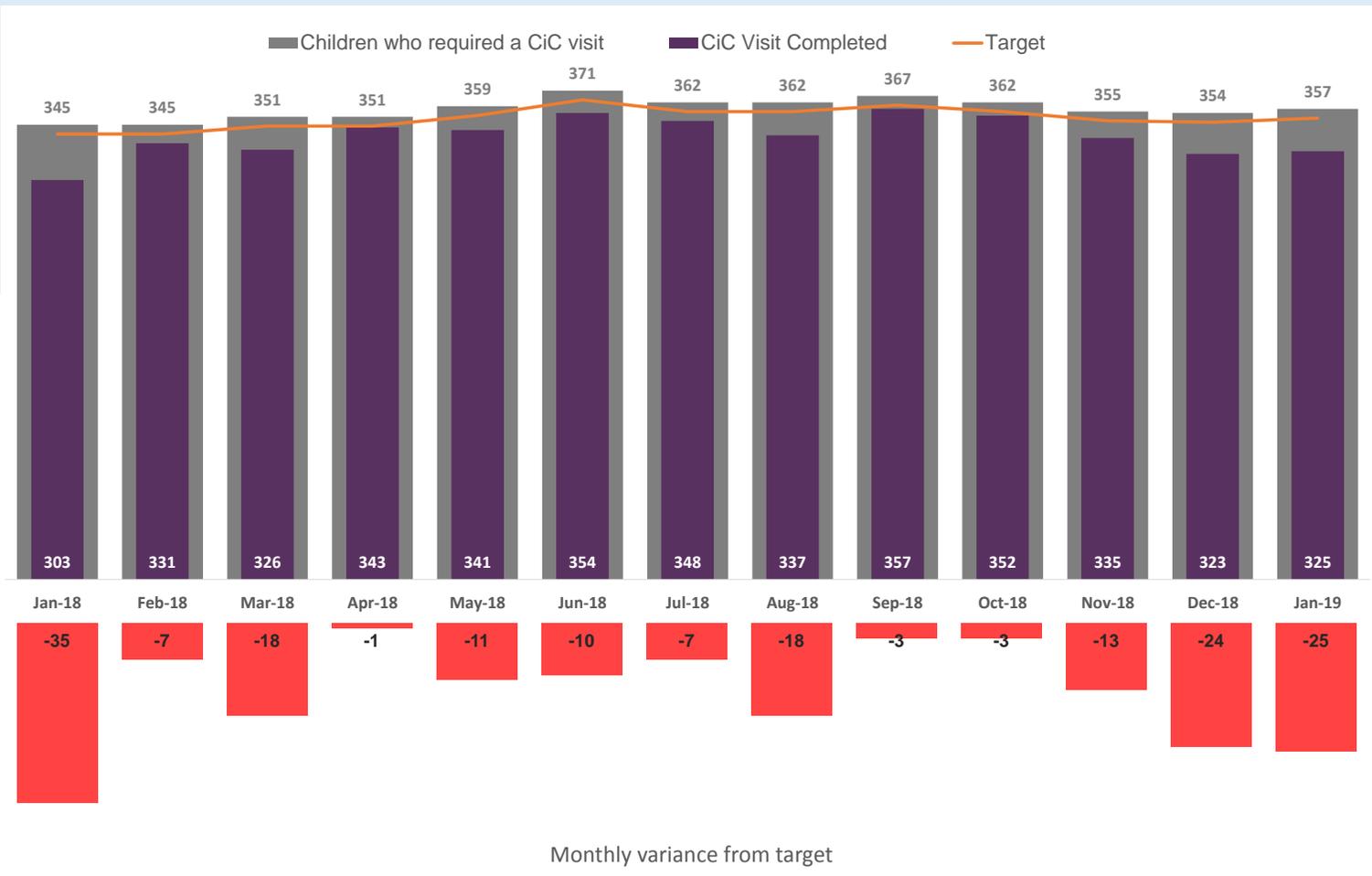


CSC Commentary

This target is calculated on a rolling year. The change in the overall target has occurred to demonstrate a more realistic approach as inevitably reviews are cancelled due to children being unwell, having other appointments and the needs of carers changing over the year. For the seventh month in a row this indicator is green. Performance has stabilised at 99.8%

CiC visits on time (% YTD)	Target	Variance
91.0%	98%	-7.0%
	Previous month	Change in performance
High is good	91.2%	▼

A Child in Care Statutory Visit was recorded for 325 children out of the 357 who were due such a visit during the 6 weeks or 3 months (if the child achieved permanency) leading up to the end of January. This is a ratio of 91.0%.



79

End of month % of CiC visits held on time



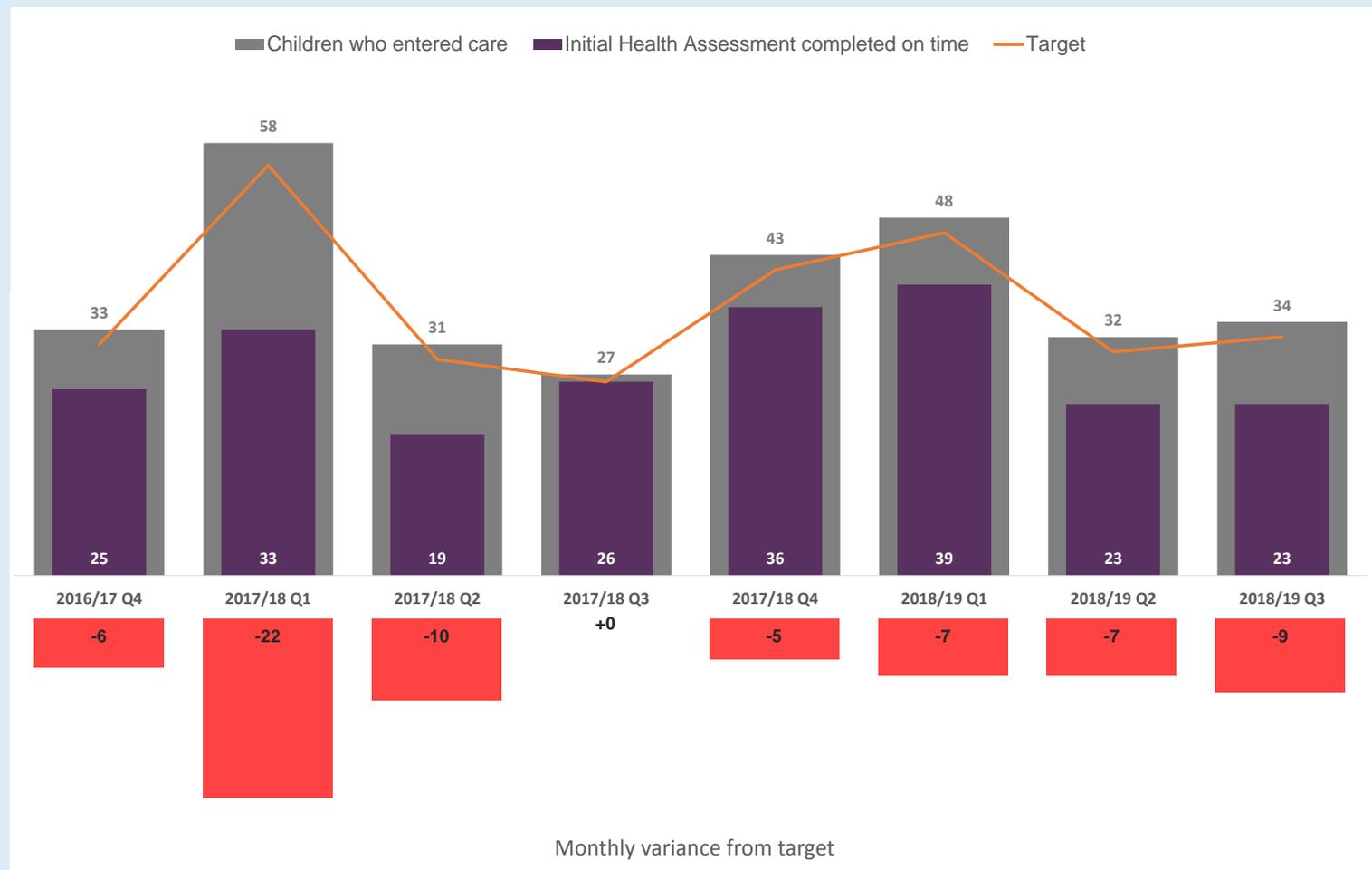
CSC Commentary

This indicator has dipped this month by 0.2%. Analysis of the data indicates this is linked to children who are adopted but the electronic system requires a complicated fix in relation to ceasing the child's legal status, coupled with a small group of older teenagers who refuse to allow their Social Workers to see them in placement.

% Children adopted (YTD)	Target	Variance
74.6%	95%	-20.4%
	Previous month	Change in performance
High is good	71.9%	▼

During the latest quarter, 34 children entering care required an Initial Health Assessment. 23 of them had their assessment completed on time. This is a ratio of 67.6%.

Since the beginning of the financial year, an Initial Health Assessment was completed on time for 74.6% of all children entering care who were looked after for more than 4 weeks.



% of children with Initial Health Assessment completed on time in quarter



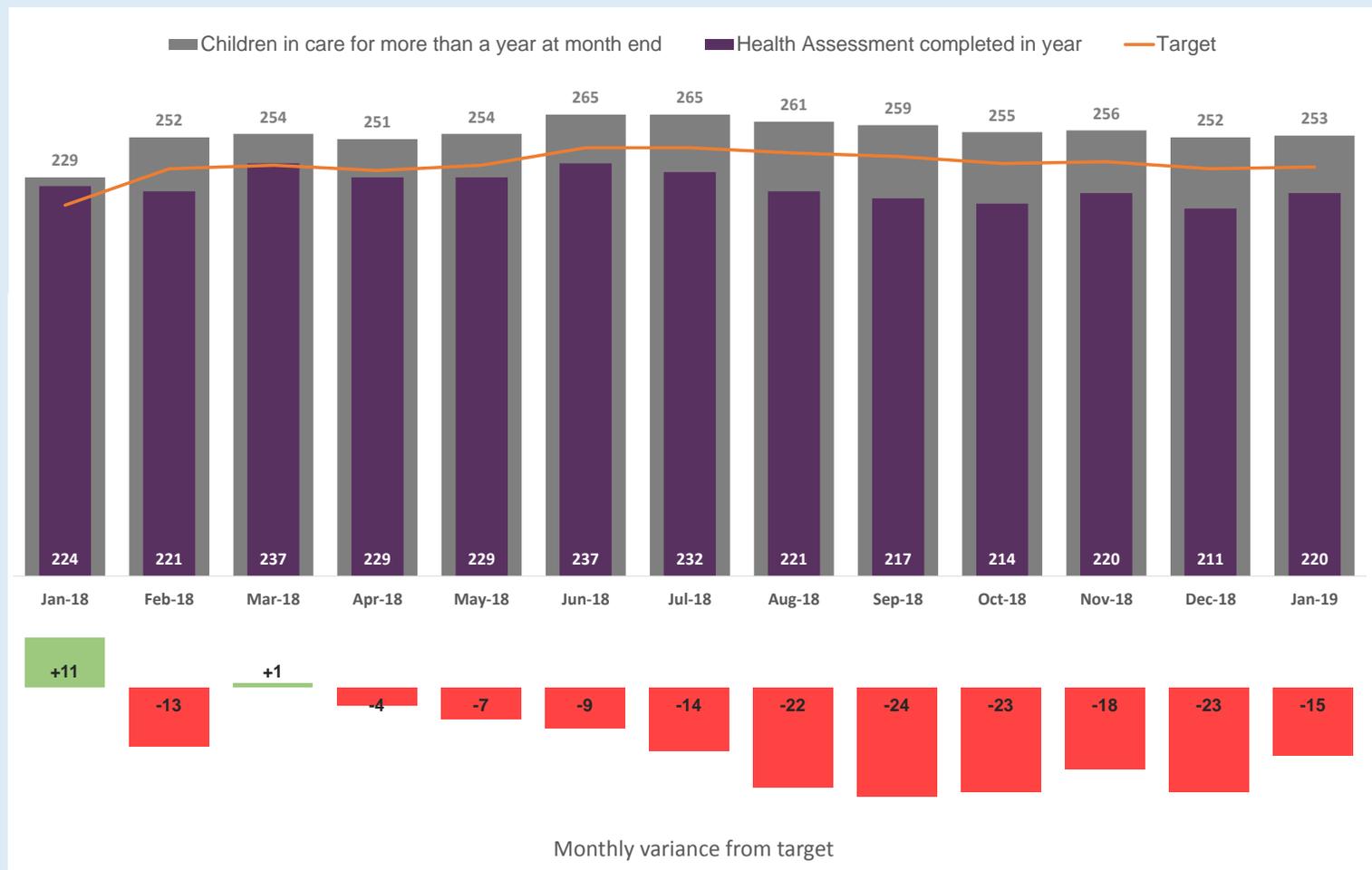
CSC Commentary

This data is reported quarterly

Assessments on time (% YTD)	Target	Variance
87.0%	93%	-6.0%
Previous month		Change in performance
83.7%		▲
High is good		

220 out of the 253 children who had been in care for more than 12 months at the end of January had their latest Health Assessment completed on time. This is a ratio of 87.0%.

% of required Health Assessments completed in year up to month end



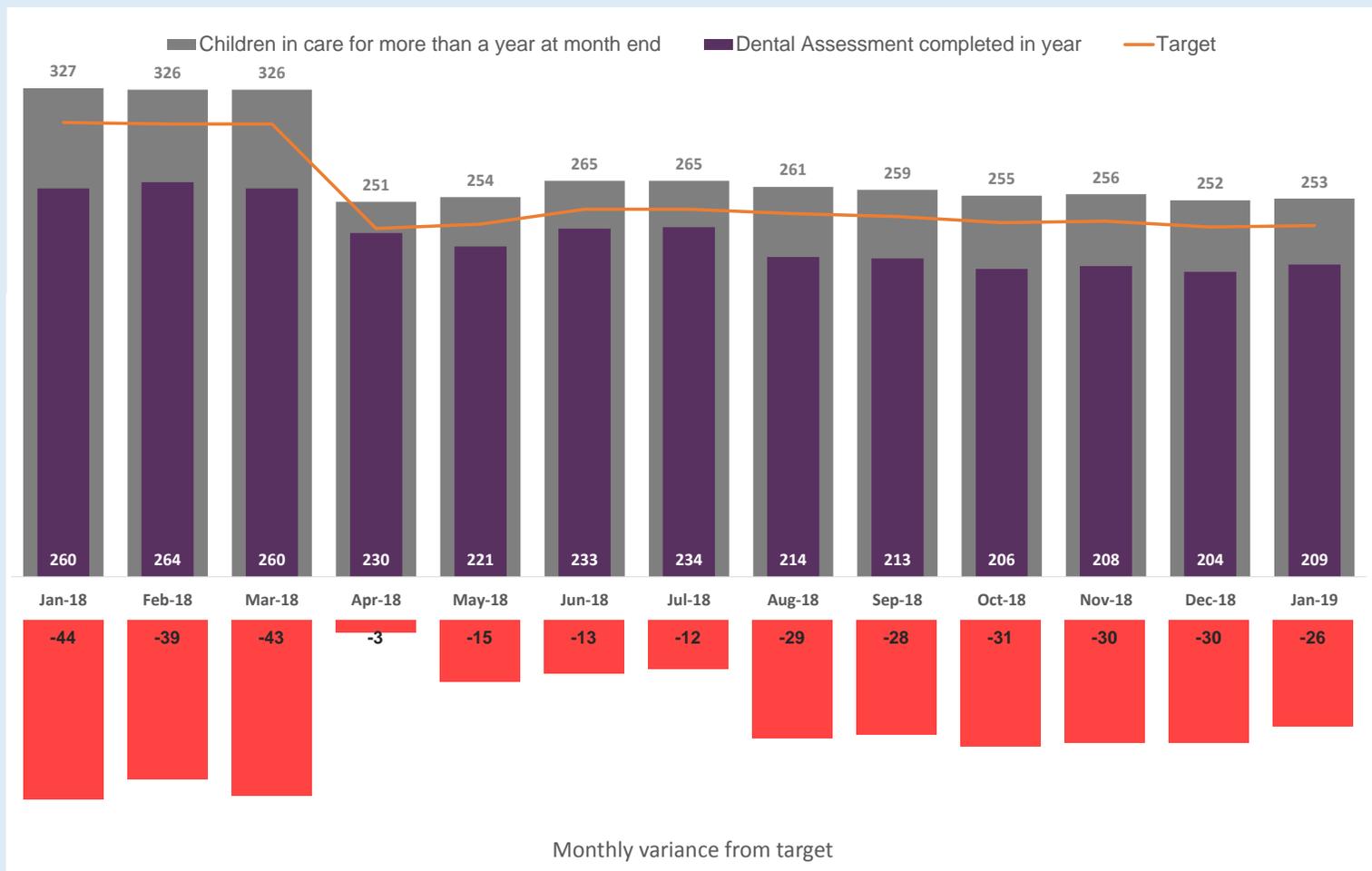
CSC Commentary

This target has dipped again this month. This has been analysed with Health. It is linked to children placed Out of Area, and older children refusing to attend their Annual Health Assessments. The numbers are low but affect the percentage. Health have agreed to share the specific detail so that CSC can have direct dialogue with providers about their responsibilities, whilst Health also chases their colleagues in the relevant area. This will take some time for this issue to be resolved and the indicator to improve.

	2017/18	Current rate vs benchmark
Local Authority	94%	-7.0% ■
Stat Neighbours	83%	4.0% ■
Region	82%	- ■
England	88%	-1.0% ■

Dental Checks on time (% YTD)	Target	Variance
82.6%	93%	-10.4%
	Previous month	Change in performance
High is good	81.0%	▲

209 out of the 253 children who had been in care for more than 12 months at the end of January had their latest Dental Check completed on time. This is a ratio of 82.6%.



82

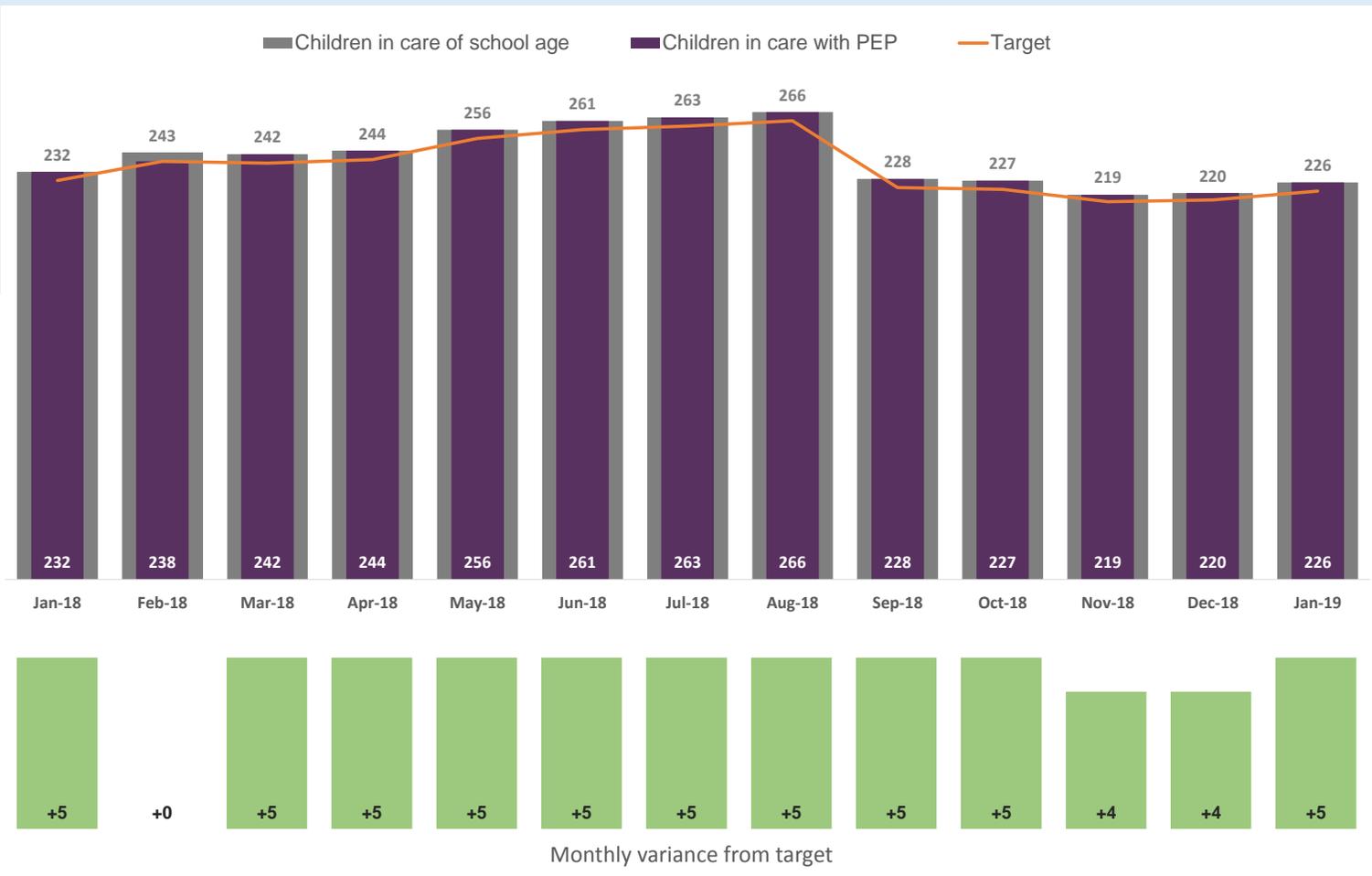
CSC Commentary

This indicator has been reviewed with performance colleagues. The data for January shows a an improvement on last month by 2.6%. Assessment of this indicates it is linked to out of area annual health assessments.

	2017/18	Current rate vs benchmark
Local Authority	96%	-13.4%
Stat Neighbours	84%	-1.4%
Region	77%	-
England	84%	-1.4%

PEPs in place (%)	Target	Variance
<div style="background-color: #92d050; padding: 10px; text-align: center; font-size: 24px; font-weight: bold;">100%</div> <p>High is good</p>	98%	2.0%
	Previous month	Change in performance
100%	<div style="width: 20px; height: 10px; background-color: #ffc107;"></div>	

A Personal Education Plan was in place for 226 out of the 226 children of school age who had been in care for at least a month by the end of January. This is a ratio of 100.0%.



CSC Commentary

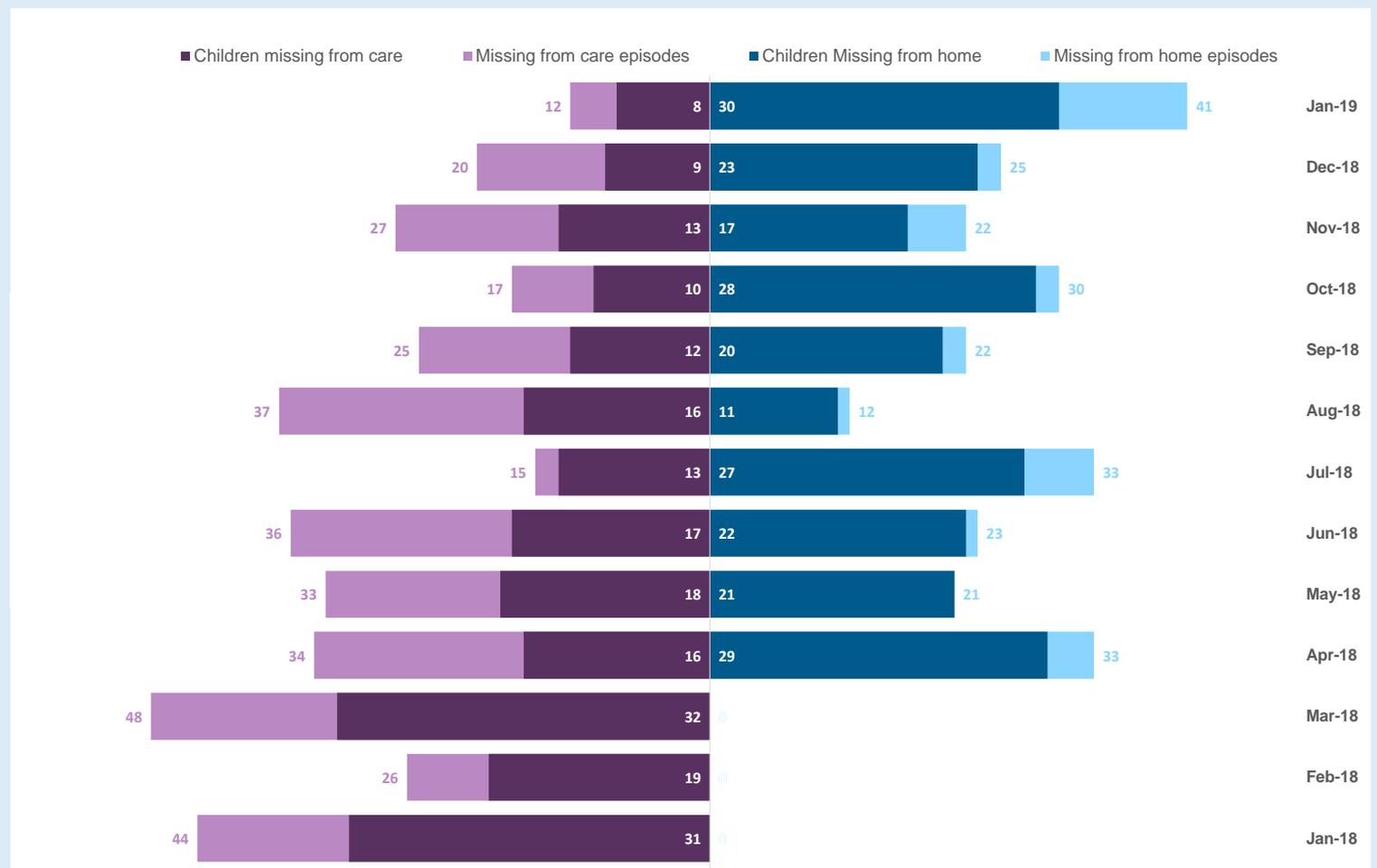
The continued 100% completion of PEPs reflects the ongoing partnership between PVS and social workers.

Missing from care episodes	Target	Variance
12	-	-
	Previous month	Change in performance
	20	▼
Low is good		

During the month of January, there were 12 missing from care episodes involving 8 individuals.

Missing from home episodes	Target	Variance
41	-	-
	Previous month	Change in performance
	25	▼
Low is good		

During the month of January, there were 41 missing from home episodes involving 30 individuals.

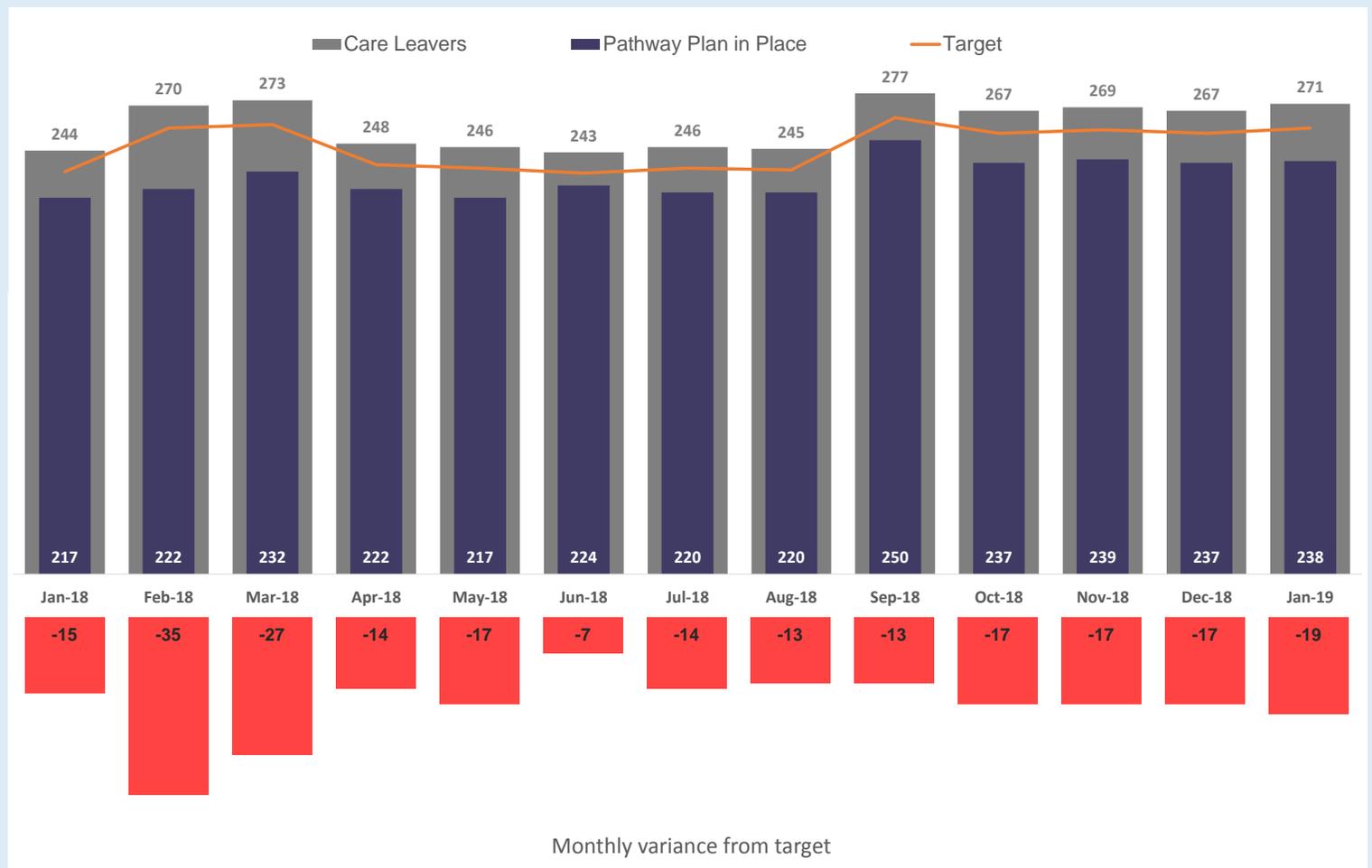


CSC Commentary

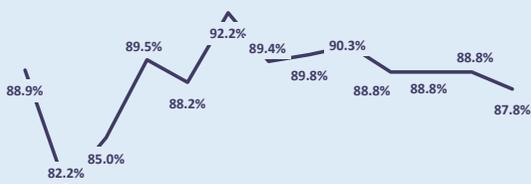
CIC: the data has been broken down into the format seen here to reflect and record more clearly the different groups for monitoring purposes. The assessment of the data indicates that this relates to 8 children this month, which is a decrease of 1 on last month. Children missing from home are now being recorded separately. This shows an increase of 7 on last month and highlights quite a different pattern from children in care.

Pathway Plans updated (%)	Target	Variance
87.8%	95%	-7.2%
	Previous month	Change in performance
High is good	88.8%	▼

Out of the 271 'eligible', 'relevant' or 'former relevant' young people who were at least 16 year and 3 months old and had an open referral at the end of January, 238 had a Pathway Plan in place. This is a ratio of 87.8%.



End of month % of CiC visits held on time



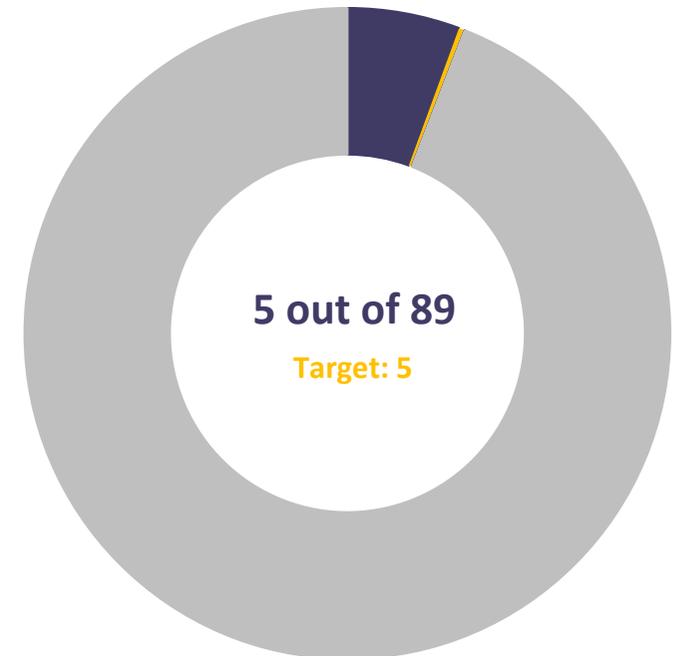
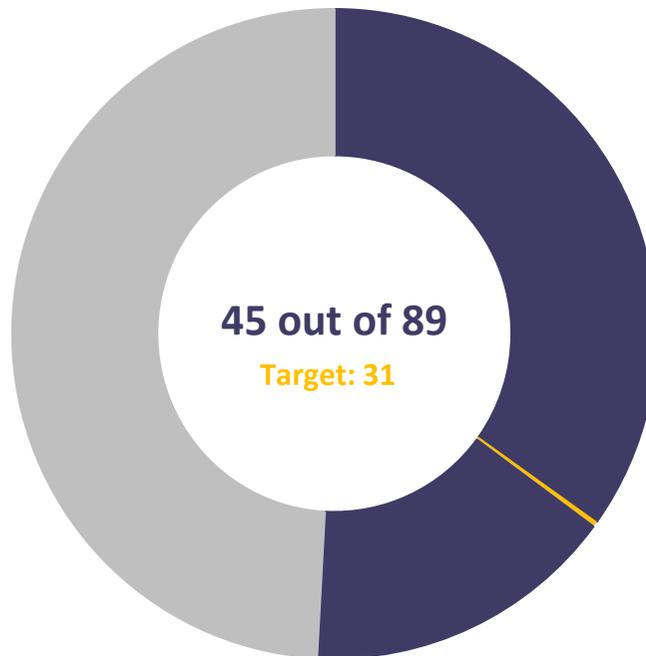
CSC Commentary

Investigation into the target over the last month has highlighted the need for improved management systems. This is being monitored closely on a fortnightly basis and has been steadily improving as a result.

NEET	Target	Variance
<div style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 10px; text-align: center; font-size: 24px; font-weight: bold;">50.6%</div> <p>Low is good</p>	35%	+15.6%
	Previous month	Change in performance
	52.6%	▲

Number of young people known to be NEET as share of care leavers who had their 19th, 20th or 21st birthday this financial year

Number of young known to live in unsuitable accommodation as share of care leavers who had their 19th, 20th or 21st birthday this financial year



NEET	2016/17	Current rate vs benchmark
Local Authority	45%	+5.6%
Stat Neighbours	43%	+7.6%
Region	40%	+10.6%
England	39%	+11.6%

Unsuitable accommodation	Target	Variance
<div style="background-color: green; color: white; padding: 10px; text-align: center; font-size: 24px; font-weight: bold;">5.6%</div> <p>Low is good</p>	6%	-0.4%
	Previous month	Change in performance
	5.1%	▼

Unsuitable Accommm	2017/18	Current rate vs benchmark
Local Authority	7%	-1.4%
Stat Neighbours	7%	-1.4%
Region	8%	-2.4%
England	7%	-1.4%

CSC Commentary

NEET - this is measured on a young person's birthday only, and needs to be seen within this context as well as the cohort being low. Small numbers at the beginning of the financial year provide an unreliable estimate of the end of year position and should not be used for comparative purposes.

Suitable accommodation - the data for those who are NEET includes young people who are NEET because of disability, pregnant, teenage parents, and illness
 This cohort is small with the overall group this month moving 52 young people based on their birthday. This is rolling year to date data. The data indicates a significant improvement in meeting the desired average of 6.0% over the year.

% Children adopted (YTD)	Target	Variance
10.9%	20%	-9.1%
High is good	Previous quarter	Change in performance
	5.7%	

During the latest quarter 4 children were adopted out of a total of 38 children who ceased to be in care. This is a ratio of 10.5%.

Since the beginning of the financial year, 10.9% of all children who ceased to be in care were adopted.



CSC Commentary

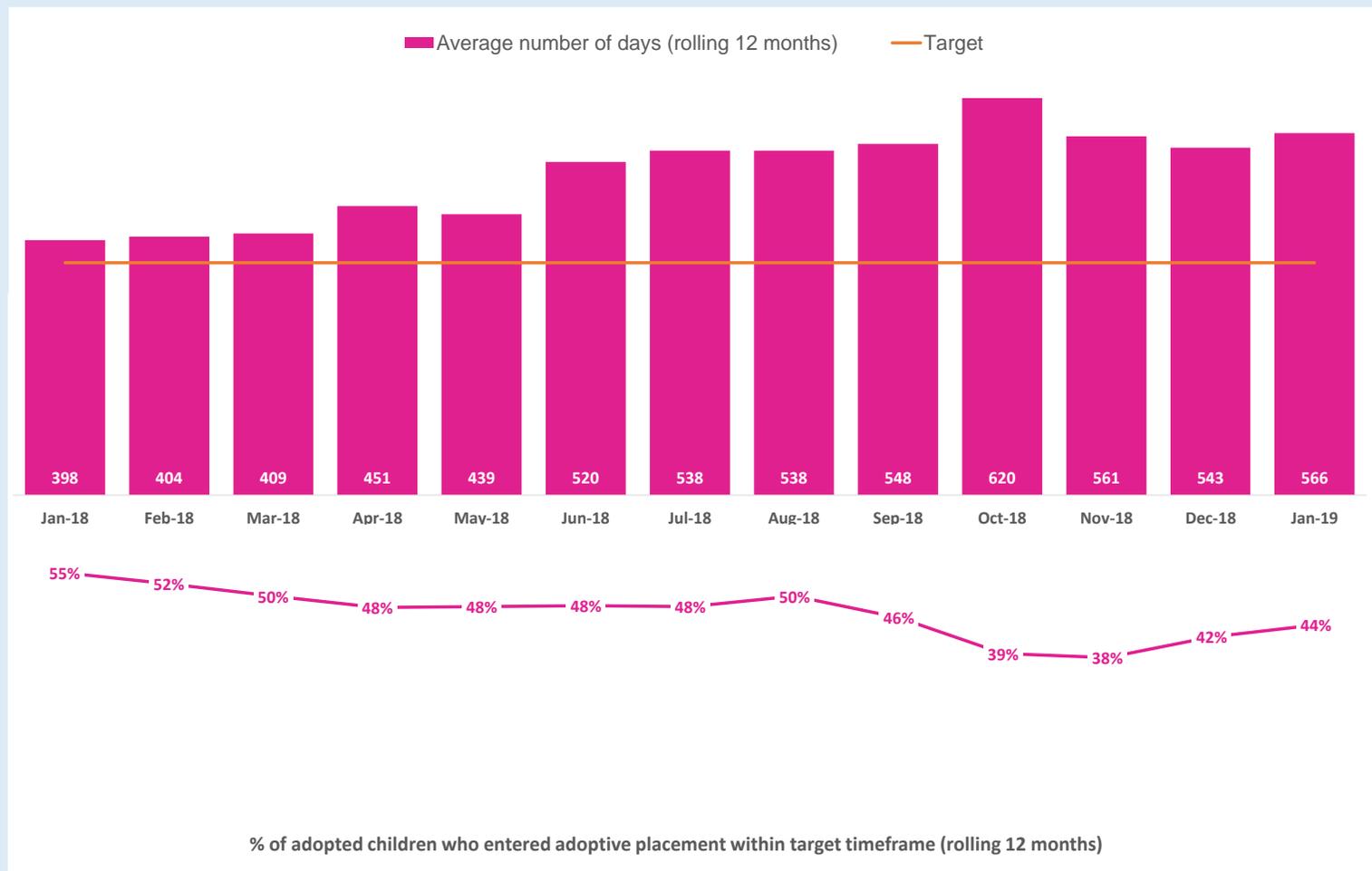
This data is reported quarterly

	2017/18	Current rate vs benchmark	
Local Authority	13%	-2.1%	
Stat Neighbours	19%	-8.1%	
Region	14%	-	-
England	13%	-2.1%	

Avg number of days (12 months)	Target	Variance
566 Low is good	363	+203
	Previous month	Change in performance
	543	▼

For the 18 children who were adopted in the 12 months ending January, an average of 565 days passed between the child entering care, and them moving into their adoptive placement. This is 202 days more than the target timescale.

8 of the 18 children adopted within this period moved into their adoptive placement within the target timescale. This is a ratio of 44%.



CSC Commentary

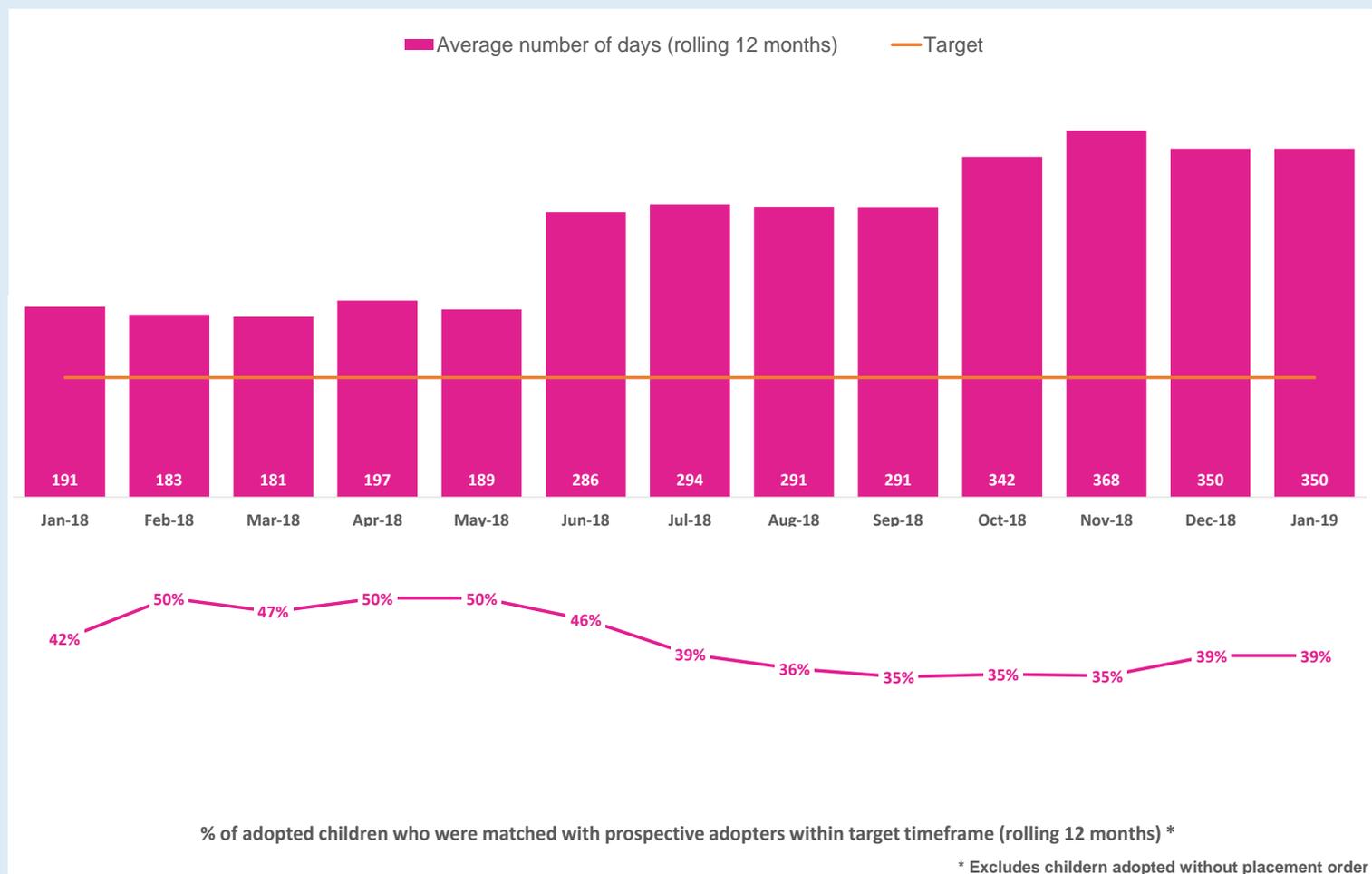
This data is reported quarterly

	2014-17	Current rate vs benchmark
Local Authority	459	+107
Stat Neighbours	497	+69
Region	520	+46
England	520	+46

Avg number of days (12 months)	Target	Variance
350 Low is good	120	+230
	Previous month	Change in performance
350		—

For the children adopted in the 12 months ending January, an average of 349 days passed between the Placement Order, and the Local Authority agreeing a match with prospective adopters. This is 229 days more than the target timescale.

7 of the 18 children with placement orders who were adopted within this period had a match approved within the target timescale. This is a ratio of 39%.



CSC Commentary

This data is reported quarterly

	2014-17	Current rate vs benchmark
Local Authority	239	+111
Stat Neighbours	212	+138
Region	196	+154
England	220	+130

	Mar-18	Jun-18	Sep-18	Dec-18	Jan-19	
Children looked after	353	381	370	360	380	+20
Age	Mar-18	Jun-18	Sep-18	Dec-18	Jan-19	
Under 1	18	20	19	20	29	+9
1 to 4	23	29	34	35	39	+4
5 to 9	68	71	65	56	61	+5
10 to 15	146	157	156	152	150	-2
16-17	98	104	96	97	101	+4
Gender	Mar-18	Jun-18	Sep-18	Dec-18	Jan-19	
Male	202	215	207	203	213	+10
Female	150	166	167	157	167	+10
Indeterminate	1	0	0	0	0	+0
Ethnicity	Mar-18	Jun-18	Sep-18	Dec-18	Jan-19	
White British	226	239	229	219	229	+10
White Irish	0	0	0	0	0	+0
White Other	34	40	43	41	49	+8
White	260	279	272	260	278	+18
Mixed White & Black Caribbean	4	5	5	6	7	+1
Mixed White & Black African	3	4	5	5	5	+0
Mixed White & Asian	19	20	16	16	16	+0
Any other mixed background	15	17	17	18	22	+4
Mixed	41	46	43	45	50	+5
Indian	1	0	0	0	0	+0
Pakistani	7	12	11	10	10	+0
Bangladeshi	0	0	1	0	0	+0
Any other Asian background	13	17	16	15	12	-3
Asian	21	29	28	25	22	-3
Caribbean	2	2	2	2	2	+0
African	13	10	12	10	9	-1
Any other Black background	8	8	8	7	7	+0
Black	23	20	22	19	18	-1
Chinese	0	0	0	0	0	+0
Any other ethnic group	3	5	5	7	7	+0
Other	3	5	5	7	7	+0
Not stated / not yet obtained	5	2	4	4	4	+0

Legal Status	Mar-18	Jun-18	Sep-18	Dec-18	Jan-19	
Interim care orders	43	57	62	51	73	+22
Full care orders	207	214	212	214	200	-14
Voluntary agreements	73	82	66	64	61	-3
Freed adoption / placement order	28	27	32	31	34	+3
Others	2	1	2	0	2	+2

Placement	Mar-18	Jun-18	Sep-18	Dec-18	Jan-19	
Foster carers - In House	165	150	146	144	153	+9
Foster carers - Agency	93	126	117	120	128	+8
Foster carers - Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	+0
Fostering by relatives or friends	18	15	16	10	12	+2
With parents	3	7	6	5	5	+0
Independent living	34	42	43	44	44	+0
Residential care homes	31	29	29	28	26	-2
Other residential schools	1	1	1	1	1	+0
Placed for adoption	7	4	6	1	3	+2
Secure unit	0	1	1	0	1	+1
Other	1	6	9	7	7	+0

Length of time in care	Mar-18	Jun-18	Sep-18	Dec-18	Jan-19	
0 - 6 months	51	85	85	57	81	+24
7 - 12 months	54	48	35	58	59	+1
1 - 2 years	89	90	101	104	97	-7
3 - 5 years	44	44	49	42	48	+6
6 - 10 years	97	97	83	78	76	-2
11 -15 years	16	15	19	19	18	-1
16+ years	2	2	2	2	1	-1

CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM No. 11
20 MARCH 2019	PUBLIC REPORT

Report of:	Executive Director People and Communities Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Councils	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Councillor Sam Smith, Cabinet Member for Children's Services	
Contact Officer(s):	Nicola Curley, Assistant Director Children's Social Care Deborah Spencer, Designated Nurse Looked after Children	Tel. 864065

HEALTH REPORT

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

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

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

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the Clinical Commissioning Group's (CCG) activities to ensure robust monitoring and quality assurance systems are in place to meet the health needs of the Looked after Children population in Peterborough

2.2 This report is for the Corporate Parenting Committee to consider under its terms of reference no: 2.4.3.6 (c) Promote the development of participation and ensure that the view of children and young people are regularly heard through the Corporate Parenting Committee to improve educational, health and social outcomes to raise aspiration and attainments.

2.3 This links to priority 4 of the Children in Care Pledge and Care Leavers Charter. Health issues of Children and young people in care

3. TIMESCALES

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

4. BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

4.1

CAMBRIDGESHIRE & PETERBOROUGH FOUNDATION TRUST		October 2018	November 2018	December 2018	January 2019
No. Children Entered Care	No. Placed in area	10	5	13	26
	No. Placed out of area	0	2	2	1
IHA Completed with 20 days	No. In area completed within 20 days	10	5	11	15
	% in area completed within 20 days	100%	100%	85%	58%
	No. OOA completed within 20 days	0	0	0	0
	% OOA completed within 20 days	100%	0%	0%	0%
	% All IHA completed in 20 days	100%	71%	73%	56%
Annual Health Review Assessments	No. In area Annual Review Assessments required	35	26	21	26
	No. OOA Annual Review Assessments required	3	1	2	5
	No. In area completed within 15 days	29	26	21	26
	% in area completed within 15 days	83%	100%	100%	100%
	No. OOA area completed within 15 days	1	0	0	0
	% OOA completed within 15 days	33%	0%	0%	0%
	% All AHR completed within 15 days	79.00%	96.00%	91.00%	84.00%

October 2018

Initial Assessments – All assessments were carried out within 20 days

Review Assessments – 4 did not attend, 2 were late as carers cancelled and rearranged and 3 were placed out of area

November 2018

Initial Assessments – 2 children were placed out of area

Review Assessments – 1 child was placed out of area

December 2018

Initial Assessments – 1 late referral, 1 late due to Christmas period and 2 placed out of area

Review Assessments – 2 placed out of area

January 2019

Initial Assessments – Very high number of referrals including 7 sibling groups so lack of capacity in clinic meant late appointments, 2 late referrals, 1 respite, 1 DNA

Review Assessments – 5 placed out of area, 1 of which has moved frequently so no stable address

4.2 **Psychological Therapies**

The Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for funding for CAMH and psychological therapies for children placed out of county is now embedded into practice. The Designated Nurse is receiving requests for funding using the SOP. Individual case discussions have taken place to review therapies and placements with colleagues from social care.

The in county Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for the money assigned by the Joint Commissioning Unit (JCU) has been approved. This will be used to provide therapy for children with attachment / behavioural difficulties. Initially this will be targeted at younger children to improve stability of placements and prevent placement breakdowns. Psychology colleagues across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough are currently highlighting children who would benefit from therapy.

4.3 **Blood borne virus screening for new in care Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC)**

A task and finish group chaired by the Consultant in Public Health has met to secure agreement for longer term funding for blood borne virus screening. Young people will be referred for appropriate screening following the initial health assessment. Sexual health screening including hepatitis and HIV will be conducted by sexual health services, in addition they will conduct a full blood count for each individual. This will not only highlight any blood abnormalities such as anaemia but will indicate where a young person may have contracted a parasitic infection. Screening for Tuberculosis will be conducted by current TB services. Consent will be taken by the services and young people will be asked to return for a further appointment if results are positive.

The group recently met to formalise the operational pathway with all stakeholders including public health, social care, LAC health teams, sexual health services, TB services and commissioners. The pathway includes referral, translation, support for the young person to attend the appointments and reporting of results. The Designated Doctor will attend the next participation forum to talk to young UASC. It is anticipated that the pathway will come into effect from the 1st April 2019.

4.4 **Out of county health assessment audits**

An overview of these audits was included in the briefing note sent to members on the 18th January 2019

4.5 **Strength and Difficulties Questionnaires (SDQ)**

The latest figures and audit of raised SDQ was also included in the briefing note sent to members on the 18th January 2019

4.6 **Care Leaver Health Passport**

The health booklet is currently being updated by the Peterborough health team to simplify the signposting and ensure that links to services are up to date. The passport was discussed briefly at the informal Corporate parenting meeting in January and young people advised that they preferred for this passport to remain as a booklet that they would receive at their last health assessment or that could be sent to the GP for them to access at a later date. The young people advised that they did not think an app would be more useful as space on their phones is limited for further apps and they would not find this as useful. The Specialist Nurse (Care Leavers) will attend young people's groups to discuss further. This passport, once updated will be shared with the Cambridgeshire health team.

Work is ongoing to ensure social workers and personal advisors are aware of the health information given to care leavers and how young people can access this at a later date should they not want it at their last health assessment.

5. CONSULTATION

N/A

6. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT

6.1 To improve health and well-being for Looked after Children by ensuring adequate assessment of health and addressing areas where there may be a lack of provision.

7. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

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

8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

8.1 N/A

9. IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

9.1 There are none.

Legal Implications

9.2 None, as the report contains factual information for noting by the Committee.

Equalities Implications

9.3 There are none.

Other Implications

9.4 This report provides clear information on health services provided to children in care and care leavers and ensures that Committee members are informed, but can also challenge where necessary.

10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

10.1 None

11. APPENDICES

11.1 None