

CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM No. 7
8 NOVEMBER 2017	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 Sue King Head of Service TACT	Tel. 864116

PERMANENCY REPORT - THE ADOLESCENT AND CHILDREN TRUST UPDATE

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

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

1.1 This presentation is submitted to Corporate Parenting Committee 6 monthly.

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

2.1 purpose of this presentation is to provide Corporate Parenting Committee members with an update of the service provided by TACT (The Adolescent and Children Trust).

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

2.4.3.2 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 report links in with all aspects of the Children in Care Pledge.

3. TIMESCALES

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

4.1 Please see attached reports.

4.2 **Permanence Service Update October 2017**

This includes an overview of all areas of the service provided by TACT Peterborough in the first 6 months of the year.

Individual sections focus on key issues:

- Fostering service performance overview in particularly recruitment success.
- Special guardianship orders - 14 orders made, in line with last year.
- Family group conference service - 18 conferences held. Plans for development are to increase provision and engage families earlier.
- The launch of the 24/7 out of hours support line for carers.
- Young people's participation - TACT have given support to activities for children of around £2000.
- Finance position - has been adversely affected by the high numbers of children in care over the last few months.

4.3 **TACT Adoption Bi Annual Management Performance Report**

Highlights of this period are:

- The high number of placements made for children (17) with very few waiting long to find an adoptive home. Adopters were found for children with complex needs, in sibling groups and who were older.
- There have been no disruptions in this period, maintaining the high stability rates for this group of children.
- The ASF has been utilised increasingly for Peterborough children to be able to offer appropriate therapeutic support. 100% of applications to the ASF for therapeutic support were agreed.
- FFA has become very well-established as a practice within Peterborough. The number of adopters approved for FFA has increased from 65% to 81%. The number of children adopted, placed under FFA has also increased from 60% to 85%.
- The adoption support offer of in-house therapeutic support has benefited more local families, as it have become embedded in staff practice.

4.4 **Challenges for this period:**

- Continuing to find suitable adopters for the increasingly complex children needing adoption in a climate where adopter numbers are decreasing nationally. For the first time since the adoption reform agenda was brought in, adopter numbers are lower than the numbers of children waiting.
- Ensuring that children achieve legal permanence through adoption at the earliest opportunity, thereby improving the adoption scorecard indicators.
- The support needs of the older children is often greater given the early emotional trauma that they have experienced and we have needed to be creative in our offer to the adoptive parents to prevent disruption of the placement. There are financial and resource implications due to the increasing complexity of children needing adoption.
- Integrating the TACT London adoption service fully into TACT Peterborough.

4.5 **NYAS TVCP Monitoring Oct 16 - Mar 17**

- NYAS is no longer overseen by the Access to Resources Team however for this period the monitoring report for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough is included as part of the permanency updates to inform members. The report from NYAS is attached which outlines the service structure, gives data in respect of referrals and users of the service,
- NYAS is commissioned to provide 3 services and the brief headlines are below. Please see the monitoring report for full data:
 - Issues Based advocacy (IBA)
 - Return Interviews (RI) - when children have gone missing (PCC only)
 - Age assessments (AA)
- RI and AA services have received referrals in excess of the target by 71 (almost 200%) and 9 (almost 100%) whereas the IBA service has fallen short of its target by 50%. 66% of young people using advocacy services have used the service previously.
- Anyone can make a referral to NYAS as long as they have consent from the young person, and there is an issue that they require support with. 91% of referrals were made by children's services workers however.
- All young people who are looked after must be offered the chance to see someone independent to conduct their return interview within 72 hours. They may decline but need to be offered this each time. Of the 48 completed RI interviews, 16 were completed within the 72 hour time scale and 32 were not.
- For the next 6 month monitoring period, there will be a UASC drop in service developed to improve relationships and opportunity for advocacy for this vulnerable group.

5. CONSULTATION

5.1 N/A

6. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT

6.1 For information.

7. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

7.1 N/A

8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

8.1 N/A

9. IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications -

9.1 The original request for the report asked that it include detailed analysis of the savings and investments made through the Permanency Service. The Chair has subsequently agreed that this information should be presented to the committee verbally given the complexity of the issues involved.

Legal Implications

9.2 No specific legal issues have been identified as the reports are predominantly updates about

service delivery. No child, parent or caregiver can be identified from the information therefore there are no immediate information governance issues. The data provided may be of media interest and therefore TACT Peterborough would follow their own and PCC protocol in the event of an enquiry from a media source.

Equalities Implications

9.3 There are no equality issues as the service operates within the Equality Act 2010.

10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

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

- 10.1
- Adoption and Children Act, 2002
 - The Fostering Services (England) Regulations 2011

11. APPENDICES

- 11.1
- Appendix 1 - Permanence Service Update October 2017
 - Appendix 2 - TACT Adoption Bi Annual Management Performance Report
 - Appendix 3 - Team Structure Chart
 - Appendix 4 - NYAS