

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

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

PERFORMANCE DATA FOR CHILDREN IN CARE AND CARE LEAVERS JANUARY 2023

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

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

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

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Corporate Parenting Committee in respect of the numbers of children and young people being looked after by the Council as of 31 January 2023 providing a breakdown of the types of homes in which they are living in. The report also provides information about the age, gender and ethnicity of those children and young people.

- 2.2 This report is for Corporate Parenting Committee to consider under its Terms of Reference No. 2.4.4.6 To monitor the quality of care delivered by the City Council and review the performance of outcomes for children and young people in care.

The purpose of this report is to provide background information relating to key performance information related to the Corporate Parenting scorecard and should be read in conjunction with this.

- 2.3 This report links to the following Corporate Priorities:

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

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

- Children

2.4 This reports to the Children in Care Pledge by focussing on the placements for children in care and care leavers.

3. **TIMESCALES**

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

4. **BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES**

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

- 127 children placed with in house foster carers.
- 132 children placed with agency foster carers outside of the city boundaries. These agencies work with the council to provide foster placements on a contractual basis.
- There were no post-16 living in semi-independent accommodation.
- 27 children were placed with family or friends (connected persons). These carers are formally assessed in the same way that in house foster carers are assessed and are presented to the Fostering panel for approval through the same process and standard. They are supported through the foster carer allowance.
- 8 children were living with their parents but are still considered to be 'looked after' because they are subject to full care orders. The Council is sharing parental responsibility with the birth parent. Such placements are made when there is a plan for reunification.
- 11 children were placed for adoption.
- 1 child was placed in a residential educational placement.
- 38 children are placed in residential provision. The placements in these homes are most usually made when it is clear that foster care is not sufficient to meet the child or young person's needs. Residential care is nearly always accessed by the Adolescents Team and only used for younger children in very special circumstances. These are reviewed regularly to ensure children can step down to a foster placement when they are ready.
- 47 post-16 were living in semi-independent accommodation, who have an allocated social worker and a personal adviser. The focus is preparation for adulthood.
- Of external placements 55% were within 20 miles from home address; 26% within 50 miles; 5% within 70 miles and 14% over 70 miles. There is a national shortage of placements which makes it harder to place children in care closer to home.

5. **CONSULTATION**

5.1 N/A

6. **CORPORATE PARENTING CHAMPIONS FEEDBACK AND NEXT STEPS**

6.1 Nothing to report

7. **ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT**

7.1 This is an accurate report of the current accommodation placements for children in care and care leavers.

8. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

8.1 The data included in this report is from the monthly performance report which includes live data.

9. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

9.1 None

10. IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

10.1

Legal Implications:

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

10.2

Equalities Implications

10.3 The current recruitment campaign for foster carers is focussed on increasing placements for specific groups linked to sibling placement, older children and Link carer for children with disabilities.

Carbon Impact Assessment

There are no recommendations made within this report and therefore there are no implications to carbon emissions.

Children in Care Implications

This report relates to all children in care.

11. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

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

11.1 Monthly Performance Report

12. APPENDICES

12.1 Appendix 1 – Performance Report January 2023

This page is intentionally left blank