

<b>CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM No. 8</b>
<b>26 FEBRUARY 2024</b>	<b>PUBLIC REPORT</b>

Report of:	John Gregg Executive Director Children and Young People's Service	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Councillor Bisby Cabinet Member for Education, Skills, and Children's Services	
Contact Officer(s):	Gary Jones, Service Director Children's Social Care and Targeted Support	Tel. 0173386362 4

## **PERFORMANCE DATA FOR CHILDREN IN CARE AND CARE LEAVERS DECEMBER 2023**

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

### **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<sup>st</sup> December 2023 providing a breakdown of the types of homes in which they are living. The report also provides information about the age, gender and ethnicity of those children and young people. Additional information on adoption data and residential data has been included at the request of the Committee.
- 2.2 This report is for Corporate Parenting Committee to consider under its Terms of Reference No. 2.4.4.6 To monitor the quality of care delivered by the City Council and review the performance of outcomes for children and young people in care.
- 2.3 This reports to the Children in Care Promise by focussing on the placements for children in care and care leavers.

### **3. TIMESCALES**

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

4.1 As of 31 December 2023, there were 412 children in care.

- 119 children placed with in house foster carers.
- 122 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.
- 29 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.
- 20 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.
- 6 children were placed for adoption.
- 2 child was placed in a residential educational placement.
- 113 children were placed in residential provision. The placements in these homes are most usually made when foster care is not sufficient to meet the child or young person's needs. Residential care is nearly always accessed for older children and only used for younger children in very special circumstances although we currently have 12 children under 13 in residential provision, largely due to sufficiency issues in foster care. A specific project is underway to enable these children to step into a foster placement. In general, children in residential provision are reviewed regularly to ensure children can step down to a foster placement when they are ready and a well matched carer is available.
- Of the 113 children in residential provision, included are 62, 16–18-year-olds, living in semi-Independent accommodation where the focus is preparation for adulthood.
- There was one young person living in secure provision.
- The 'timeliness to adoption data' shows that we are under performing in relation to the target for both 'time to placement' and 'time to match'. Of the 18 children adopted in the last year, 10 were within the required timeframes, and 5 were just outside. There are 3 children who have experienced significant delays and they have contributed to the overall significant increase in time.
- These children all have complex needs which often makes it more complex to find adoptive homes for them. Two of the children were 2 years old and have complex health needs. For one of these children, his foster carers have chosen to adopt him to secure permanence for him.
- The 3rd child is a 12-year-old boy who came into care when he was 5 years old. Despite extensive searches we were unable to identify an adoptive placement due to his complex emotional and behavioural needs and were looking to change his plan to long term fostering. His foster carers decided to adopt him which was secured when he was 11 years old, 6 years after he came into care, thus impacting the performance figures significantly.

- Despite these outcomes creating a decline in our performance around timeliness for adoption, it is positive that we have secured permanence for these children.

## 5. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

5.1 This report links to the following Corporate Priorities:

1. *Our Places & Communities*
  - *Places and Safety (including any rural implications)*
  - *Lives and Work*
  - *Health and Wellbeing*
2. *Prevention, Independence & Resilience*
  - *Educations and Skills for All Children*
3. *The Economy & Inclusive Growth*
  - *Environment: The report contains no proposals for changes to service delivery and therefore there is no decision to take which may impact carbon emissions of the council or the city.*
  - *Homes and Workplaces*
  - *Jobs and Money*

## 6. CONSULTATION

6.1 N/A

## 7. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT

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

## 8. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

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

## 9. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

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

## 10. IMPLICATIONS

### 10.1 Financial Implications

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

### 10.2 Legal Implications

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

### 10.3 Equalities Implications

None

### 10.4 Other Implications

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

**11. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

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

11.1 Monthly Performance Report

**12. APPENDICES**

12.1 Appendix 1 – Performance Report December 2023