

CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM No. 8
17 JULY 2024	PUBLIC REPORT

Report of:	John Gregg Executive Director Children and Young People's Service	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Councillor Cole Cabinet Member for Children's Services	
Contact Officer(s):	Sara Graves, Service Director, Targeted Support and Safeguarding	Tel. 07483 351428

**PERFORMANCE DATA FOR CHILDREN IN CARE AND CARE LEAVERS
MAY 2024**

RECOMMENDATIONS	
FROM: <i>Enter who – e.g. Scrutiny Committee, Director, Cabinet, Cabinet Members</i>	Deadline date: <i>Enter relevant date for action – e.g. date of report to another body/meeting</i>
<p>It is recommended that members of the 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 the 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 31st May 2024 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 the Corporate Parenting Committee to consider under its Terms of Reference No. 2.4.4.6 To monitor the quality of care delivered by the City Council and review the performance of outcomes for children and young people in care.

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

3. TIMESCALES

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

4.1 As of 31st May 2024, there were 434 children in the care of Peterborough City Council. This is a 5% increase compared to that reported previously for end of December 2023, but still within the parameters posed.

Of the 434 children:

- 139 were living with in house foster carers – positive improvement for our children, as this is proportionately more than last reporting period.
- 120 living with agency foster carers (agencies that work with the council to provide foster placements on a contractual basis) outside of the city boundaries. A positive reduction compared to position reported previously for the end of December 2023.
- 50 were living within their family and friends’ networks (connected persons). This is more at the end of May 2024 compared to end of December 2023 which is an improvement for our children. Connected carers are formally assessed in the same way that in house foster carers are they are presented to the fostering panel for approval through the same process and standard; they are supported with fostering allowances.
- 15 were living with their parents subject to full care orders which means they are still considered to be ‘looked after’ as the Council is sharing parental responsibility with the parent(s). Such arrangements are in place when there is usually a plan for reunification.
- 7 were living in their home with their prospective adopters, where the plan was for them to be adopted within that family.
- 1 child was living in a residential educational placement.
- 96 children were living in residential provision which is a positive reduction compared to 113 at the end of December 2023 and reflects the developing impact of improvement work underway and embedding. This type of provision is most usually accessed for our children when foster care is not sufficient to meet their needs. Residential care is nearly always identified for older children, and only used for younger children in exceptional circumstances although fostering sufficiency challenges can impede this good practice approach. There are currently 12 of our children under the age of 13 living in residential homes, linked to placement sufficiency and the focus is to support these children to step into a foster placement through continuing ‘Step Into’ project work in place. Residential provision is reviewed regularly to ensure children can move to a more suitably matched living arrangement for their need when appropriate to do so.
- Of the 96 children in residential provision, included are 48, 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’ is showing it is taking longer than we aspire to for children to move into their adoptive family from the point they come into care, and longer for us to find an adoptive family that is well matched to their needs from the point the court

approves a plan for adoption. Of the 21 children adopted in the last year, just over half moved into their adoptive placement within required timeframes and a quarter had a match approved in timescale.

- The overall timeframes have been significantly impacted by a smaller number of children who experienced long delays linked to their complex needs which makes it more challenging to find suitable adopters.
- Notwithstanding the above and the need for some focused improvement, it is positive that permanence has been achieved for our children and an acknowledgment within this to two separate foster families who made the decision to adopt the children living with them and secure their long-term futures in this respect.

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 report provides the Corporate Parenting Committee with an overview of performance.

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

8. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

8.1 There are no recommendations as this report is for information only.

9. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

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

10. IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

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

Legal Implications

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

Equalities Implications

10.3 None.

Other Implications

10.4 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

11.1 Monthly Performance Report May 2024.

12. APPENDICES

12.1 Appendix 1 – Scorecard May 2024