



CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL

THURSDAY, 19 JANUARY 2023 at 10.00 AM
in the COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY OFFICES, NEWLAND, LINCOLN LN1 1YL

MEMBERSHIP

<u>Lincolnshire County Council:</u>	Councillors S P Roe (Chairman), Clio Perraton-Williams (Vice-Chairman), K H Cooke, A G Hagues, Mrs J E Killey, C Matthews and M A Whittington
<u>Added Members (non-voting):</u>	Polly Coombes, Ann Wright, Amy-Louise Butler, Elizabeth Bunney and 1 Vacancy(Children In Care Council Representative)

AGENDA

Item	Title	Pages
1	Apologies for Absence/Replacement Members	
2	Declarations of Interest	
3	Minutes of the previous meeting held on 10 November 2022	5 - 10
4	Announcements by the Chairman, Executive Councillors and Chief Officers	
5	Commissioning Excellence: Meeting the Sufficiency Duty 2018-2022 Annual Update and Timeline for New 2023-2027 Strategy <i>(To receive a report by Bridie Fletcher, Senior Commissioning Officer-Children's Strategic Commissioning, which provides an annual update to the Action Plan of the Looked After Children Placement Sufficiency Strategy – 'Commissioning Excellence: Meeting the Sufficiency Duty 2018-2022')</i>	11 - 46

- 6 Lincolnshire County Council Virtual School Annual Report Academic Year 2021-2022** 47 - 92
(To receive a report by Kieran Barnes, Virtual School Headteacher, which provides an update on the work of the Virtual School Head to support the promotion of educational outcomes for Children and Young People in Care for the academic year 1st September 2021 to 31st August 2022)
- 7 Lincolnshire Leaving Care - 6 Monthly Update Report** 93 - 102
(To receive a report by Lisa Adams, Service Manager – Barnardo’s, which provides a 6 Monthly Update from Barnardo’s on behalf of Lincolnshire Leaving Care Service)
- 8 Children in Care Performance Report Quarter 2** 103 - 128
(To receive a report by Simon Hardcastle, Performance Support Officer – Corporate Transformation, Programmes & Performance, which invites the Panel to consider key performance information for Quarter 2 2022/23 that is relevant to the work of the Panel)
- 9 Children in Care Annual Health Report 2021/22** 129 - 176
(To receive a report by Rachel Freeman, Head of Service - Children in Care and Residential Estates, Elizabeth Bunney, Healthcare Coordinator, Lincolnshire Community Health Services NHS Trust and Nicola Wilkinson, Designated Nurse for Safeguarding Adults, Children and Looked After Children, NHS Lincolnshire ICB, which invites the Panel to consider the Children in Care Annual Health Report 2021/22)
- 10 Corporate Parenting Panel Work Programme** 177 - 180
(To receive a report by Kiara Chatziioannou, which invites the Panel to consider its work programme)
- 11 CONSIDERATION OF EXEMPT INFORMATION**
In accordance with Section 100 (A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the following agenda item has not been circulated to the press and public on the grounds that it is considered to contain exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12 A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended. The press and public may be excluded from the meeting for the consideration of this item of business.
- 12 National Safeguarding Review CWD** 181 - 200
(To receive an exempt report by Tara Jones, Assistant Director – Children’s Safeguarding, which provides an update on the National Safeguarding Review)

Distributed on Wednesday, 11 January 2023

Please note: This meeting will be broadcast live on the internet and access can be sought by accessing [Agenda for Corporate Parenting Panel on Thursday, 19th January, 2023, 10.00 am \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

Should you have any queries on the arrangements for this meeting, please contact Emily Wilcox via telephone 07557 486687 or alternatively via email at emily.wilcox@lincolnshire.gov.uk

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CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL 10 NOVEMBER 2022

PRESENT: COUNCILLOR S P ROE (CHAIRMAN)

Lincolnshire County Council: Councillors K H Cooke, Mrs J E Killey, C Matthews and M A Whittington

Added Members: Polly Coombes (Foster Carer), Ann Wright (Foster Carer) and Elizabeth Bunney (Lincolnshire Community Health Services)

R D Butroid attended the meeting as an observer

Officers in attendance:-

Nicola Brangam (Children's Services Agency Advisor, Fostering and Adoption), Kiara Chatziioannou (Scrutiny Officer), Deborah Crawford (Head of Service, Fostering, Adoption and Leaving Care), Paul Fisher (Team Manager - Quality and Standards), Tara Jones (Head of Service, Children in Care Transformation and Partners in Practice Programme), Sarah Lane (Virtual School Team Manager), Andrew Morris (Corporate Parenting Manager), Emily Wilcox (Democratic Services Officer), Jess Wosser-Yates (Democratic Services Officer) and Kieran Barnes (Virtual School Head Teacher)

22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE/REPLACEMENT MEMBERS

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor A G Hagues and C L Perraton-Williams.

23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

24 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 8 SEPTEMBER 2022

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 8 September be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

25 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN, EXECUTIVE COUNCILLORS AND CHIEF OFFICERS

The Chairman informed the Panel that since the last meeting, he had attended three successful events celebrating Looked After Children, which included the Big Conversation event where a Lincolnshire Foster Parent had given a moving account of his life as a foster

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parent in Lincolnshire. Other issues raised were a lack of understanding LGBTQ individuals and the unwanted use of language in reference to the term 'Looked After Children'.

26 INDEPENDENT REVIEWING SERVICE YEARLY REPORT 1ST APRIL 2022 - 30TH
SEPTEMBER 2022

Consideration was given to a report by the Team Manager – Quality and Standards, which invited the Panel to consider a report on the Independent Reviewing Service Yearly Report for the period of 1st April 2022 – 30th September 2022 as set out at Appendix A to the report. The report set out the main priorities of the service for 2022-23.

Consideration was given to the report and during the discussion, the following points were noted:

- Lincolnshire had seen a significant increase in the number of asylum-seeking children it was responsible for, however it was noted that those children were supported by Home Office Funding.
- The Council worked with specialist agencies to support in bringing together people of similar heritage to support with feelings of isolation.
- It was emphasised that all reviews were led by the child in a setting preferred to them to ensure that they were given an opportunity for their voice to be heard. Reviews would only go ahead if it was in the best interest of the child and family.
- There was a national issue with delays in court proceedings for looked after children due to the pandemic. Lincolnshire had seen an improvement in delays, which were monitored through the Local Family Justice Board and the Council's Public Law Outline (PLO) tracker.
- Assurance was provided that despite national staffing shortages within the reviewing service, Lincolnshire had a strong and able team of social workers with great skills and experience. Emphasis was always made to ensure that the most suitable people were employed within the service. There was no additional service cost for seconding staff into other areas.
- The Panel was reassured that all young people in care were offered an advocate to ensure that the voice of the child was conveyed in a way that they would want.

RESOLVED:

1. That the report be received and endorsed;
2. That satisfaction be given to the priorities identified for 2022-23;
3. That comments and recommendations from the debate be taken under consideration as captured.

27 REGULATION 44 INDEPENDENT VISITORS REPORT

Consideration was given to a report by the Team Manager – Quality and Standards which provided an update on the work undertaken by the Regulation 44 Independent Visiting Service between April and September 2022. The bi-annual report set out the relevant performance information and identified key developments found from the visits that were undertaken.

Consideration was given to the report and during the discussion the following points were noted:

- Members commended the efforts of centring the voice of Children in Care (CiC) within all reviews, and it was noted that the high-volume homes within Lincolnshire rated as good or outstanding showed that this message had been reflected.
- The Panel considered how exceptional residential staff are recognised, and the Interim Assistant Director for Children’s Safeguarding informed Members that recognition was often received from visiting members although a formal way to commend these individuals would be considered in the future.
- The Interim Assistant Director for Children’s Safeguarding assured the Panel that staff retention in Lincolnshire was strong despite national constraints, and that the training that was available for residential staff in Lincolnshire was exemplary.
- It was noted that the Department for Education (DfE) was aware of the recruitment issue in social work especially with registered nurses, however there was a constant recruitment campaign in Lincolnshire. The focus on succession planning and promoting high-performing staff meant some staffing gaps were present, however Lincolnshire remained in a strong position. Furthermore, all staff were trained in skills that permeated across all services such as managing relationships and trauma, with these training sessions being regularly attended.
- The Panel considered whether there was an optimal number of staff working in a home at any given time, and it was clarified that each shift required a certain number of staff. There were some cases where additional staffing support was needed, and staff designated to other homes could be called in to offer support. Attempts were being made to minimise staffing risks, and it was further noted that Lincolnshire was unique due to its ‘Outstanding’ Ofsted rating; the DfE had recognised Lincolnshire’s work, and the recommendations from central government were being anticipated.
- Members questioned whether it would be appropriate to attend the ‘chill and chat’ meetings held in the homes. The Independent Chairs Team Manager agreed to talk to the Homes Manager to pass the suggestion on to the children for feedback, however Regulation 44 Officers would not attend these meetings unless they were specifically invited.
- It was highlighted that it was a Corporate Parenting responsibility to ensure children in care attend school and The Independent Chairs Team Manager assured the Panel that Lincolnshire had never been punished for non-attendance; it was clarified that noteworthy cases of non-attendance would be challenged by Regulation 44 Officers.

RESOLVED

1. That the 6 monthly report on the Regulation 44 Independent Visiting Service be considered;
2. That it be accepted that inspections against the 9 quality standards as outlined in Part 6, regulations 43 of the Children's Home Regulation 2015 were being fulfilled.

28 FOSTERING QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT Q2

Consideration was given to a report by the Head of Service – Fostering, Adoption and Leaving Care, which invited the Panel to review the performance of the fostering service for quarter two.

The performance data was set out at appendix A to the report and in relation to a number of issues including recruitment and retention, marketing, advertising, the permanence campaign, family finding, training, kinship, celebration events, staying put and the further expansion of private fostering regulations in relation to Ukrainian children and young people.

The Head of Service – Fostering Adoption and Leaving Care emphasised the high quality of care, willingness, durability and resilience of Lincolnshire's foster carers and thanked them for their ongoing support.

Consideration was given to the report and during the discussion the following points were noted:

- The Committee praised Lincolnshire's foster carers for their hard work.
- Foster Carer representatives emphasised the level of support offered to Lincolnshire's Foster Carers as they felt well supported by the council.
- In recent years there had been an increase in independent fostering providers in Lincolnshire who often offered an elevated pay to fostering households to which the Council could not compete. It was acknowledged that there needed to be some reliance on the fostering sector. The Committee acknowledged that despite elevated rates of pay, the Council were seen to offer a higher level of support which was essential. Currently there were more foster carers coming into the Council than leaving for private providers.
- Assurance was provided that independent foster carers were regulated by Ofsted and there was a clear level of expectation and standards to adhere to. Lincolnshire would only use independent providers who were rated "good" and "outstanding" and children would only be placed with foster carers all appropriate checks were carried out to ensure all placements were suitable.
- Reasons for people dropping out of being a foster carer often was due to people not meeting the criteria set out, such being of sufficient age; not having a spare

bedroom; accepting that they are unable to provide the level of commitment. Details of the advertising campaigns would be provided within the next report to the Panel.

RESOLVED:

1. That the report be received and accepted as an accurate overview of the Fostering Service for the period concerned;
2. That comments from the discussion be taken under consideration by Officers.

11:51am – The meeting adjourned for a short break

12:03pm – The meeting reconvened

29 PRIVATE FOSTERING ANNUAL REPORT AND STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Consideration was given to a report by the Fostering Team Manager, which invited the Panel to consider the Private Fostering Annual Report and Statement of Purpose, as set out at Appendix A and B to the report.

Further to the report, the Panel noted that since the 15 July, refugee children up to the age of 18 arriving in the UK From Ukraine without a close relative would be considered under the private fostering regulations. Officers were working closely with the Homes for Ukraine scheme in supporting the children.

The Fostering Team Manager was pleased to report a significant increase in training on Private Fostering following work with the Lincolnshire Children’s Safeguarding Partnership to review the training offer and the e-learning programmes available.

The Panel received the report and commended the work of the Private Fostering Panel.

RESOLVED:

1. That the report be received, and that satisfaction be given to the efforts made by Lincolnshire County Council’s Fostering Team in the past year;
2. That the comments made be taken under consideration by relevant officers.

30 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE REGIONAL ADOPTION AGENCY

Consideration was given to a report by the Interim Assistant Director – Children’s Safeguarding, which invited the Panel to consider the Annual Report of the Regional Adoption Agency, focusing on Recruitment Data; Assessment and Training; Family Finding; Post Adoption Support; Engagement with stakeholders; Progress Plans for 2022; Family Adoption Links Annual Report 2021-22’ Regional progress and the journeys of adopters and children.

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Consideration was given to the report and during the discussion the following points were noted:

- Regional adoption agencies intended to reduce delays in adoptive placements for children by using a national response in order to place children with a more suitable match sooner.
- It was clarified that Leicester City was not the same level of authority as Lincoln City.
- Almost all of Lincolnshire's children were able to find adoptive placements within Lincolnshire. However, in some instances an out of County placement would be preferred due to the specific need of the children or safeguarding risks, of remaining in County.

RESOLVED:

1. That the report be received and be accepted it as an accurate record of activity across the Family Adoption Links partnership; and,
2. That the comments made be taken under consideration by Officers of the Regional Adoption Agency.

31 CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL WORK PROGRAMME

Consideration was given to a report by the Scrutiny Officer, which invited the Panel to consider its work programme.

It was agreed that a report on Criminal Activities, Outcomes and Pathways for Children in Care would now be considered at the meeting scheduled for 9 March 2023.

RESOLVED:

That the work programme be approved, subject to the above amendments.

The meeting closed at 12.30 pm

Open Report on behalf of Heather Sandy, Executive Director - Children's Services

Report to:	Corporate Parenting Panel
Date:	19 January 2023
Subject:	Commissioning Excellence: Meeting the Sufficiency Duty 2018-2022 Annual Update and Timeline for New 2023-2027 Strategy

Summary:

This report presents the following:

- an annual update to the Action Plan (Appendix A) of the Looked After Children Placement Sufficiency Strategy – '*Commissioning Excellence: Meeting the Sufficiency Duty 2018-2022*'.

Actions Required:

That the Corporate Parenting Panel:

- (1) supports and endorses the updated Action Plan for the Sufficiency Strategy 2018-2022; and
- (2) invite the presentation of the '*Children in Care Sufficiency Strategy 2023-27*' to the first meeting of 2023-24.

1. Background

Section 22G of the Children Act 1989, and the Statutory Guidance on Securing Sufficient Accommodation for Looked After Children (2010), is explicit in placing a duty on Local Authorities to act strategically to address gaps in provision by ensuring that they include, in relevant commissioning strategies, their plans for meeting the sufficiency duty.

Sufficiency Strategy 2018-2022

The 2018-2022 Strategy was previously signed off by the Corporate Parenting Panel with the recommendation to report annually on progress against the Action Plan (Appendix A).

The Action Plan (Appendix A) has been updated to reflect progress against the actions up to and including the end of December 2022.

Each action is evaluated using a Signs of Safety approach showing what has been accomplished, where there are concerns and what needs to happen next. A number of Actions have been marked as 'Completed' with an accompanying explanation.

This is the final update of the 2018-2022 Strategy that will be brought to Corporate Parenting Panel, in a review of the preceding 12 months.

Children in Care Sufficiency Strategy 2023-2027

Children’s Strategic Commissioning will continue to work with internal and appropriate commissioned partners to finalise the Children in Care Sufficiency Strategy for the period 2023-2027, which will be aligned to the Children in Care (CiC) and High Needs Transformation Programmes.

The 2023-2027 Strategy will be aligned to the financial/reporting year, and will start on 1st April 2023, returning annually to Corporate Parenting Panel in Quarter 1 of each year, with the first annual update due in April 2024.

2. Conclusion

The Corporate Parenting Panel is invited to discuss and approve the updated content of the Action Plan (Appendix A) to the '*Commissioning Excellence: Meeting the Sufficiency Duty 2018-2022*'.

The Corporate Parenting Panel is invited to request Children’s Strategic Commissioning to the first meeting of 2023-24 to present the '*Children in Care Sufficiency Strategy 2023-27*'.

3. Consultation

a) Risks and Impact Analysis

Risks were identified within the Strategy and elements are included within the Action Plan (Appendix A) as part of the Signs of Safety approach under the heading '*What are we concerned about?*', as well as any ongoing impact of the Covid-19 pandemic under the heading '*Covid-19 impact/actions & recovery*'.

4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	COMMISSIONING EXCELLENCE – MEETING THE SUFFICIENCY DUTY 2018-2022: ACTION PLAN UPDATE (19 JANUARY 2023)

5. Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by Bridie Fletcher, Senior Commissioning Officer- Children's Strategic Commissioning, who can be contacted on 07748 181381 or by e-mail at bridie.fletcher@lincolnshire.gov.uk

**COMMISSIONING EXCELLENCE – MEETING THE SUFFICIENCY DUTY 2018-2022:
ACTION PLAN UPDATE (19 JANUARY 2023)**

No.	What is working well?	What are we concerned about?	What needs to happen	Covid-19 impact/actions & recovery
1.	<p>Deliver the Partners in Practice programme to improve practice in Lincolnshire, transform the quality of Children's Social Care Services and Early Help arrangements, and support reform of the wider system within Children's Services</p> <p align="center">THIS ACTION IS CLOSED FROM DECEMBER 2020 AND FORMS PART OF DAY-TO-DAY DELIVERY IN QUALITY & STANDARDS TEAM</p>			
2.	<p>Review the effectiveness of early intervention services including the development of a performance management programme to understand the quantifiable outcomes delivered by the service and to help reduce the need for statutory intervention</p>			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Early Help Strategy has launched, co-produced with partners and families. Governance is a cross-partnership arrangement and subgroups will directly enable LCC to deliver on this vision. ■ Early Help Front Door is embedded in practice and integrated with the social care front door to achieve consistency in decision making, allocation and resources. ■ Future4Me has been established as a permanent team working with young people on the edge of care. ■ The Early Childhood Strategy Steering Group launched in November 2021. ■ Through audits, qualitative information suggests that re-referrals to Early Help is very low and most TACS are closed with needs met. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Concern remains about the on-going impact of the pandemic on young children. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Firm up the implementation plan for the Early Help Strategy Steering group, with regular reports to LSCP and DLT. ■ The Early Childhood Strategy Steering group meets monthly and has incorporated the Start for Life and Family Hub's agenda. Now known as '<i>The Start for Life And Family Hubs Steering Group (SFL & FH's)</i>'. ■ Delivery plan for Family Hubs to be written and submitted to the DfE by 30th December 2022 ■ Governance arrangements for SFL & FH's and Supporting Families have been set up, with the first governance board held in September and then bi-monthly. ■ Develop an overarching Parenting Strategy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Transformation Team is in place to support recovery. ■ Clear analysis about the impact of Covid-19 in Lincolnshire on children and families. ■ Support staff health and wellbeing to ensure the recruitment and retention. ■ Support the implementation arrangements of Smarter Working for staff across Early Help. ■ Implement the Start for Life and Family Hubs Programme to support Covid-19 recovery, particularly considering the impact on young children, from April 2022 to March 2025. ■ Children's Centres continue to be integral to offering preventative services for Early Years and remained open during the pandemic for critical health appointments.

No.	What is working well?	What are we concerned about?	What needs to happen	Covid-19 impact/actions & recovery
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lincolnshire has been successful in securing 'Build Back Better' funding which will support and enhance early intervention. 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children's Centres are back to a pre-Covid attendance rate; attendance continues to have an upward trajectory.
3.	<p>Undertake a 'Deep Dive' of current and recent CiC cohort to ensure children are transitioning to CiC status within appropriate thresholds and evaluate if more could be done, together with partner organisations, to avoid children becoming CiC</p> <p>THIS ACTION IS NOW CLOSED AND WILL FORM PART OF ACTIONS 4 & 5</p>			
4.	<p>Improve understanding of why more complex young people are coming through the front door in order to determine what can be done to identify them in order intervene earlier and remedy the situation</p> <p>THIS ACTION IS NOW CLOSED WITH ACTIONS BEING FED INTO ACTION 5</p>			
5.	<p>Create a Youth Hub to support adolescents engaging in risky behaviours in order to identify children and young people at risk of coming into care and prevent the numbers of CiC increasing</p>			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Future4Me service has funding commitments secured to ensure on-going service delivery to adolescent cohort. Schools are now completing 30% of return interviews which come through the Early Help Front Door which demonstrates positive collaboration. Ensuring the voice of the child within our Joint Diversionary Panel. Ensuring a child-first approach underpinned by trauma informed practice to reduce children being at risk of criminalisation. Reduced numbers of children sentenced to custody and those remanded into custody. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognising and responding the risk posed to children through exploitation and county lines. Responding to reduce the re-offending rates of small numbers of children within the justice system. Ensuring that children are transferred out of custody in accordance with PACE legislation at the earliest opportunity. Giving priority to ensuring that children and young people have access to stable education, training and employment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementing the findings of the University of Lincoln evaluation of the Joint Diversionary Panel through a dedicated action plan. The service action plan will drive forward key actions around education, equality and resettlement. Maintaining work with key partners around exploitation including Lincolnshire Police. Mapping work to be completed by LSCP Child Exploitation Analyst to target specific interventions. Utilising education mentors to be pro-active in supporting children/young people to attend 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effective roll-out of trauma-informed training to significant numbers of staff and partners. Performance and timeliness around missing return interviews has been maintained. Oversight of missing return interviews is resulting in increased performance and quality. Feedback from parents and children demonstrates the supportive relationships with practitioners. Consultation and formulation are being rolled out across children services to provide specialist knowledge and

No.	What is working well?	What are we concerned about?	What needs to happen	Covid-19 impact/actions & recovery
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The service has been provided with a grant of more than £500,000 (Turnaround) over the next 2 ½ years by the Ministry of Justice to support our work around early intervention and prevention. ■ Key developments around missing and exploitation to ensure a robust framework to support children at risk. ■ Recruitment of specialist roles to support the integrated complex care team around key areas such as speech and language, and psychology. ■ Work undertaken by the LSCP Child Exploitation Analyst role to understand the profile within Lincolnshire. 		<p>school and college or training opportunities.</p>	<p>expertise to shape interventions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Evaluating impact of Restoring Family Relationships team working to resolve family disputes and risk of homelessness.
6.	Nominate the CiC & care leavers programme board to develop a local model of suitable and appropriate accommodation options that effectively manages the cohort of young people requiring support and accommodation and ensures maximises education, employment and training opportunities			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Children and Young People's Accommodation Pathway endorsed by Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee. ■ All District Councils agreed Lincolnshire care leavers have a local connection to apply for housing across the county and recognise them as a priority group. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ There continues to be a general shortage of affordable, accessible one-bedroom accommodation across Lincolnshire. ■ Move-on accommodation options can be difficult for young people to find/access. This was exacerbated through 2020 due to Covid-19 restrictions and has continued to some extent, though partners have 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Multi-agency Protocol is in place and will always need to be monitored and refreshed as the agenda progresses. ■ Annual review of the Youth Housing contract with Nacro to look at structure and service update. ■ Annual review of all the housing protocols to be undertaken 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Within the Youth Housing Service every commissioned bed space has an associated move-on bed space linked with it. This continues to support the smooth transition of young people between accommodation and opened up capacity within the service to ensure no young person is without suitable housing. 	

No.	What is working well?	What are we concerned about?	What needs to happen	Covid-19 impact/actions & recovery
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Clear plan of action and commitment from partners to meeting the accommodation needs of CiC and care leavers with a multi-agency Protocol now in place and all seven District Councils signed up. ■ LCC and Barnardo's continue to look at how to grow the Supported Lodgings model. ■ LCC has an agreed process to meet the funding gap between Housing Benefit/earnings and private rent for care leavers less than 21 years of age. ■ In-house semi-independent living houses fully operational in Grantham and Gainsborough with a number of young people having been accommodated. ■ Integrated Supported Accommodation (Youth Housing) delivered by Nacro and is known as NEST. This service has proven an excellent resource and has supported CiC and care leavers through effective and innovative person-centered practice. ■ Grant funding via MHCLG enabled Nacro to set up a project supporting care leavers at risk of homelessness; the Council will find out early 2023 if the funding 	<p>been adaptable and supported young people where possible.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Cost of living is making housing and rent unaffordable to some care leavers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Bid to be submitted in January 2023 to DfE for Staying Close Staying Connected funding. ■ Ofsted regulation needs to be applied to all semi-independent living offer to looked after children aged 16 and 17 years old. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The development of a cumulative risk assessment tool has enabled more complex young people to be accommodated in the Youth Housing Service. ■ Multi-agency protocol remains in place prioritising care leavers. ■ District Councils continued to offer top priority to care leavers for the housing register and in cases where young people might have become high risk of homelessness. ■ Weekly '<i>Keep in Touch</i>' meetings between the Youth Housing Service, Corporate Parenting Manager, commissioning teams and Lincolnshire Leaving Care Service started during pandemic as a means of picking up operational issues have continued, maintaining oversight of capacity and resources.

No.	What is working well?	What are we concerned about?	What needs to happen	Covid-19 impact/actions & recovery
	<p>has been extended but feedback has been extremely positive from all stakeholders. This service has resulted in high suitable accommodation figures (96%).</p>			
7.	Undertake targeted marketing and recruitment campaigns to support the growth of the in-house Foster Care market to meet the needs of priority groups including Foster-to-Adopt			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The Fostering Service has a dedicated recruitment team and takes a whole-team approach for the responsibility of recruitment. ■ The service recruits in accordance with a 3-year recruitment strategy and an annual operations plan using the full range of media. ■ Although the number of enquiries has reduced, in comparison with national recruitment trends we are doing very well. ■ A permanence strategy is in place and the operational plans are reviewed and performance monitored monthly informing actions and practice. ■ Involving potential foster carers during the assessment stages has supported front loading matching, allowing placements to be identified early and the necessary support put in place in a timely manner. Working in this 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The age profile of experienced foster carers continues to be a cause for concern with many within 5 years of retirement. Currently retirement/health related matters account for 19% of our de-registrations. 14% of those 'offline' is due to ill-health. ■ Initial enquiries have decreased to a pre pandemic level and current social and economic challenges remain a concern in attracting new carers. ■ Difficulty in recruiting foster carers for specific groups of children including placements for children requiring permanent fostering and parent and child. ■ There continues to be a significant increased presence of Independent Fostering Agencies (IFAs) within the Lincolnshire boundaries. ■ The CiC population has risen over the last year by 4.2%, this is an increase of 2.2% compared to last year. ■ Although the retention of foster carers remains in line with national 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Continued focussed presence on all media with emphasis on targeted recruitment to support the current CiC population and retention. ■ Marketing will consider and use unique selling features, effectively taking a commercial view and actively competing in a crowded pool of providers. ■ Marketing will continue to develop and showcase itself as the local fostering provider of Lincolnshire, bringing the community of Lincolnshire to the heart of its campaigns, actions and adverts whilst advocating and modelling community reasonability and a shared commitment to Lincolnshire children and Lincolnshire foster carers. ■ The Fostering Service will continue to provide a virtual and face-to-face offer, learning from the success and increased 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Virtual opportunities continue to be offered alongside face to face options, in support, recruitment and training. 100% of foster carers recently surveyed felt they would like this offer to continue. ■ Covid-19 impacted last year on placement availability; there are no longer any beds offline due to concerns about infection. ■ During the pandemic, checks during Stage One have been delayed due to other services capacity and restrictions, slowing down the process of approval. The Stage One process has now returned to business as usual and with some small developments this process is being completed within 8 weeks.

No.	What is working well?	What are we concerned about?	What needs to happen	Covid-19 impact/actions & recovery
	<p>way has secured 4 permanent placements since July 2022.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ KPIs throughout the recruitment process have continued to show an increase in performance since July 21 which has transferred to a higher conversion rate from initial enquiries to approved households. We currently have a conversion rate between 10-11%, which is an increase of 6%. ■ Retention payment system introduced in 2019 has continued into 2022 and is well received by foster carers. ■ The Fostering Service is currently experiencing a loss of around 9%, the average expected according to the 2021 data collection is 10%. ■ The Fostering Service have improved on-line presence and processes, establishing a digital following. ■ All fostering recruitment processes are now fully active on-line, offering digital engagement and interactions between service and applicants. 	<p>trends a recent survey reveals 15% of those taking part have considered resigning from fostering within the last 12 months due to financial challenges and concerns over the rising cost of living.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ We currently have 21 fostering households 'offline' owing to personal reasons and their availability will be monitored and reviewed. 	<p>participation from applicants using digital means.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ An on-line recruitment process has created a platform for Smarter Working practices which, alongside regular personal contact and earlier allocation to Supervising Social Workers (SSWs), means an ideal combination has been introduced. ■ The conversion rate will be maintained at a level of at least 10% to stabilise our current population size. ■ Review and consider a rise in financial support to fostering households. ■ SSWs to review and plan timelines and support packages for returning to fostering and ensure foster carers continue to feel connected to the service and community. 	

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8.	Improve support to in-house foster carers to increase retention rates and commence a rolling programme of learning from exit interviews			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Retention plan is in place and retention payments are well established. These are paid annually to foster carers. ■ Foster carers retention payments are currently in line with the national average expected. ■ A recruitment campaign has been developed through foster friendly employers to recruit more foster carers. This has been a huge success with many employers joining in. ■ The Fostering Service are proactive in offering interviews with foster carers prior to leaving the service. ■ Exit interviews are also in place to better understand why foster carers choose to stop fostering. Feedback from exit interviews is fed back to the fostering teams. ■ Foster carer surveys are in place. The latest survey suggests the strongest part of the support offer to foster carers is the general support from their Supervising Social Worker and the child's Social Worker, the support they receive from other foster carers, workshops, and training. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The number of foster carers leaving the service continues to be of challenge but understand that most foster carers leave the service due to life changes rather than dissatisfaction. ■ Communication between children's Social Workers and foster carers is not consistently good and is cited as a factor that contributes to placement disruptions. A joint working approach with the Fostering Service and the Children's Teams including joint visits, supervision and meetings is a continued way of addressing this. Learning from disruptions continues to be an established practice. ■ A recent survey reports the part of the support offer in most need of improvement is support from their Supervising Social Worker and the child's Social Worker during challenging times, joint working with other agencies, the LSCP training system, efficiency of foster carers expenses and availability of respite placements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Work to build better working relationships with other agencies and teams. ■ Consider the implementation of a higher tier of support during challenging times. The fostering service continue to with the complex care team to consider the support offer to foster carer including therapeutic support through training, consultation for foster carers, clinical supervision of Placement Support Workers. ■ Availability of clinical supervision was a barrier to Placement Support Workers being able to fully use their training to deliver Theraplay sessions. However, clinical supervision has been sourced; The Fostering Service are to commission this resource and dates for this to take effect are to be agreed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The service has returned to face-to-face supervision and support, however what has been identified through the period of Covid-19 is that the use of virtual training etc has been beneficial for some carers; the Fostering Service now offer virtual and face-to-face training to accommodate all foster carers. ■ The use of virtual training and support groups has enhanced the support to foster carers. ■ Social media presence has increased and the service have seen a huge success in public response to social media platforms. ■ Fostering and Caring2Learn have developed a hugely supportive on-line community, which often provide the first contact with carers experiencing placement difficulties. This is very active and considered a key strength and form of communication and support for carers across Lincolnshire.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Caring2Learn is embedded within the Fostering service who continue to embed the Caring2Learn structure and principles into everyday practice and interactions. ■ The Fostering Service have brought training within service and offer a more personal service for training and workshops. ■ The Fostering Service have developed a hub model approach to support. All services are be included, and the hub has been relaunched. ■ The Fostering Hub provides access to support through one avenue. Support is offered through support, groups, one to one support, referrals to universal services. Support through caring2 learn, social media support, the use of WhatsApp support. ■ There is a dedicated Facebook page. Recent introduction of a foster carer magazine has been well received by foster carers and staff. ■ The Fostering Service and Caring2Learn have effectively engaged many foster carers who 			

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	<p>have derived confidence and skills from the training and support offered.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ All Placement Support Workers are trained in theraplay and are able to provide therapeutic support to foster carers, which is well received. ■ Foster carers are invited to participate in feedback forums to help shape support for the wider community. With the re launch of meet the leadership groups, Information collected will use '<i>You Said We Did</i>' to ensure the community can see how feedback is used and their voice is valued. ■ The use of the Valuing Care toolkit has been embedded within the Fostering Service and is now being used as part of the Form F assessment and foster carers annual review, This is used alongside the Valuing Care tool for a child/young person to enhance matching of placements. And to support in the identification of training and development needs of foster carers. 			

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9.	Undertake targeted work to support the recruitment and retention, and the ongoing development, of in-house Residential Children's Workers leading to the creation of a flexible support service that can meet the needs of all CiC including those with the most complex needs			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A rolling programme of recruitment been established and has proved to be successful. ■ Homes Managers for Haven Cottage, Northolme, Robin House and Albion Street have been appointed. ■ Homes Managers are mindful of the need to provide relief staff opportunities or positions in other homes to those who may not be successful in securing permanent full-time posts in their preferred home. ■ Other teams across Children's Services are signposting unsuccessful applicants to consider careers in residential. ■ Established training programme for all residential staff will increase skills and knowledge of workers to deal with more complex children who need service provision. This includes training provided by CAMHS which all staff within residential estates are expected to attend to promote greater understanding of the needs of children who have experienced trauma and how this can be best met. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Recruiting staff in some geographical areas continues to prove to be challenging at times. ■ Ability to recruit high calibre Home Managers continues to be a challenge. Therefore we are working on succession planning from our existing staff by providing development opportunities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Look to continuously increase the numbers of relief staff to ensure that there is a workforce which is sufficiently flexible to meet service needs. We continue to work hard to increase staffing so that we have sufficient relief staff and that we are able to do so consistently across the authority. ■ There will need to be a recruitment campaign for Homes Managers and staff for the new Louth children's home opening in Autumn 2023. ■ The band 6 workers who will provide emotional, behavioural and mental health based support for staff and children as part of the complex care health offer are now in post. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Recruitment of staff continues within the homes and interviews are now all face-to-face and include engagement of the children and young people. ■ Training is now back up and running and IT capacity has been increased to enable staff to complete relevant e-learning and online training courses. ■ Succession planning and training for Homes Managers and Assistant Managers will continue to develop current staff showing potential and an interest in progression.

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	<p>Training programme developed to ensure all staff members are trained to a minimum standard, including social pedagogy training, Signs of Safety and restorative practice.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work commissioned through the restorative practice team to support all homes staff to improve relationship building remains ongoing. 			
10.	Monitor the level of care leavers in suitable accommodation as part of contract management of Leaving Care Service			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of care leavers in suitable accommodation is average 95% of all care leavers aged 17-21 years (period October 2021 to end September 2022) and exceeds contract KPIs. Lincolnshire Leaving Care Service (LLCS) offer proactive support to care leavers through tenancy preparation, liaison with housing providers etc. Supported Lodgings Providers are well supported by LLCS and are able to offer up to 26 placements (as of September 2022). Negligible use of B&B accommodation which, if used, is a short-term solution whilst housing is made ready or in response to particular need. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Despite low numbers in unsuitable accommodation, some care leavers are living at unconfirmed addresses. Reporting from LLCS shows level of work undertaken to maintain contact with clear voice of young people about their level of engagement. Differing approach to care leavers requiring accommodation across District Councils continues to a lesser extent. Care leavers living out of county are disadvantaged due to not always being able to access Council Tax exemptions due to local agreements. Former-UASC care leavers continue to experience delays in asylum decisions and are unable to move on to independent accommodation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> With c.37% of Lincolnshire care leavers living out of county, it is important to develop strong reciprocal links with other Local Authorities to promote access to an equal care leaver local offer including Council Tax exemptions and housing support. Corporate Parenting Manager (CPM) is working with regional colleagues and key internal stakeholders, including commissioned services, on the DfE Staying Close Staying Connected funding bid to explore regional access to services and which, if successful, will start April 2023. Service review to be undertaken in the next 12 months to determine stakeholder views on the Leaving Care Service, and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suitable accommodation has remained high for care leavers through 2022 – partners have worked closely together to develop strategies and map available provision to maximise access to provision. Extensions of stay and rent gap payments have ensured young people have remained in suitable accommodation through the pandemic and this has continued with the emerging cost of living difficulties.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ District Councils agreed Council Tax exemptions from April 2019 with a cross-county approach agreed to meeting the needs of care leavers requiring accommodation through development of multi-agency Protocol. ■ Contract for Lincolnshire Leaving Care Service (LLCS), awarded to Barnardo's, started 1st April 2020, and has been extended to 31st March 2025. ■ Allocation of young people to LLCS at 16 supports access to effective accommodation options. ■ Integrated Supported Accommodation (Youth Housing), known as NEST, has been operational for 2 years in January 2023. Accommodation options meet varying needs and complexities, and the supplier has a range of move-on accommodation which supports care leavers to the age of 21. ■ Gap Homes is in development with Lincoln City Council for adults at risk of homelessness; care leavers may be eligible but it was felt accommodation options for care leavers with supported lodgings and NEST are sufficient. 		<p>which will inform the delivery model from April 2025.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Decision made not to progress with Gap Homes; Lincoln City Council are continuing the work with Barnardo's to develop 2 sites in the city. 	

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11.	Monitor the level of care leavers in education, employment and training as part of contract management of Leaving Care Service, and report on numbers involved in CLAS			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Care leavers accessing education, employment or training (EET) was 68% for the full cohort of all care leavers aged 17-21 years (period October 2021 to end September 2022) and exceeds contract KPIs. ■ Positive feedback from care leaver engagement over EET aspirations/opportunities which will inform development of EET pathways and proactive vacancy matching for care leavers by Lincolnshire Leaving Care Service (LLCS). ■ Care Leaver Apprenticeship Scheme (CLAS) remains positive with 9 young people enrolled as of September 2022, with good outcomes for care leavers. ■ Positive engagement with a number of employers regarding the development of apprenticeship and work experience opportunities for care leavers. ■ Contract for Lincolnshire Leaving Care Service (LLCS), awarded to Barnardo's, started 1st April 2020, and has been extended to 31st March 2025; allocation of young 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Inconsistent careers guidance for CiC and care leavers through schools and education provision. ■ ePEP quality is variable at 16-17 year-old transition point and not always recorded clearly on Mosaic. ■ Ongoing access to EET has been affected, first by the pandemic and now by the cost of living crisis. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Continue to develop 'step-up' courses with education providers to improve apprenticeship readiness. ■ Focus on development of IT skills as much as Maths and English qualifications. ■ Issues remain around access to apprenticeships as they require minimum Maths and English before entry. Corporate Parenting Manager (CPM) continues to work with a range of partners to identify alternatives. ■ Corporate Parenting Manager (CPM) is working with regional colleagues and key internal stakeholders, including commissioned services, on the DfE Staying Close Staying Connected funding bid to explore regional access to wider services such as EET and related support and which, if successful, will start April 2023. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ EET has been a challenge for many young people as a result of the impact on successive lockdowns on the gig and hospitality sectors, reduced suitable job vacancies and changes to access for education provision. ■ Laptops continue to be distributed to care leavers and other vulnerable young people to facilitate access to on-line education and training.

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	<p>people to the service at 16 facilitates support with education choices.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ EET Worker post is able to support care leavers with targeted strategies; work prep courses are held virtually or as 1-2-1 support sessions, following feedback from care leavers. ■ Lincolnshire care leavers are guaranteed an interview for LCC job vacancies if they meet the benchmark. 			
12.	Ensure occupancy levels within in-house residential homes are maintained at a high level to reduce unit costs through ongoing staff development, robust planning processes and engagement with SEND review of maintained provision for CWD unit			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ All in-house residential homes remain at full occupancy with trajectory plans for children able to move on and early identification of potential new admissions. ■ New residential Children’s Homes in Lincoln and Louth will be opened in 2023, creating 8 additional placements. ■ The monthly Placement Management Meeting (PMM) continues to be a vehicle for reviewing which children can move to in-house residential provision and thus save on costs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ High numbers of children and young people in independent sector Residential Children's Homes despite operating close to capacity in the in-house provision. ■ Current in-house provision does not provide for the needs of some of our most complex and vulnerable children resulting in them being placed in smaller homes (i.e. 3-bedded) out of county. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Continue to monitor occupancy levels across the county's homes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Occupancy levels continue to be high. Covid-19 has not adversely impacted on this. ■ There was a greater pressure on the staffing team to meet the needs of the children and young people with them spending more time at home when schools have not been accessible for them.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ We now have the two internal supported accommodation units which provide for the needs of older children who are looked after to assist them in developing independence skills. ■ The supported accommodation contract with NACRO is embedded and working well to provide general or intensive support to young people, depending on their needs. 			
13.	Evaluate the scope for expanding the Lincolnshire Secure Unit (LSU) to offer more welfare bed provision as part of any tendering submission to the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) whether for inclusion as part of the contract or re-sale to other Local Authorities			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Mutual Ventures were commissioned to assist with the creation of a Business Case for a new-build unit and to consider the usage of beds in the future in terms of the welfare-justice split in order to make recommendations as to way forward. ■ Negotiations with the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) regarding the new contract have been successfully concluded with Lincolnshire being awarded a five-year contract with 20% uplift in price. ■ New contract to MoJ for provision of Secure Children's Home service now in place and delivery is ongoing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The DfE have now started the grant application process and applications have been submitted for both an 18-bedded and 24-bedded Secure Children's Home with a 4-bedded step-down home attached. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ DfE have now confirmed that they will fund the full 24-bedded option with 4 additional step-down beds. ■ Land for the new build has been identified but will only be purchased once planning permission has been approved. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Demand has outstripped supply for secure accommodation, including welfare beds during Covid-19, though this is reflective of a wider issue unrelated to the current pandemic. MoJ beds have been temporarily allocated to welfare beds dependant on capacity. ■ LSU introduced Teams calls to ensure young people could maintain contact, providing extra support to families if and when visits have needed to be restricted, Court appearances also facilitated via video link. ■ Young people have access to education packs which they

No.	What is working well?	What are we concerned about?	What needs to happen	Covid-19 impact/actions & recovery
				can complete during any period of isolation. Support from education staff and healthcare has continued including the use of an on-line therapy platform and phone assessments.
14.	Explore opportunities to implement the Staying Close initiative to support CiC leaving care from Residential Children's homes to stay close and access support			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Children's Homes staff members are committed to assisting young people to move to independent accommodation. ■ Staff members within the homes have developed on-going support for children and young people who leave the homes. This is based on need but includes providing outreach support for young people. ■ Our in-house supported living projects, Barnardo's supported living providers and our commissioned NACRO services provide a range of options for children to move on. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Identifying accessible and affordable properties appropriate to meet the needs of young people who are ready to move to independent living. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Ensure staff have the right skills to uphold the principles of Staying Close to support young people to move into independent living. ■ Following a move on from residential care, staff members continue to offer a level of support which includes visiting and phone contact. The in-house supported accommodation also provides another means of young people retaining high levels of support. Staying Close is not being pursued at this stage given the strategies in place for young people who continue to receive support and priority has been given to establishing two residential homes for children. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ This is now sitting under the Transformation work which is being undertaken. ■ Staff continue to support young people who move on from their homes, and this has continued throughout the pandemic.
15.	Utilise the feedback from the participation in the Oxford University research project of recruitment and retention of foster carers together with feedback from foster carers surveys and exit interviews to inform future updates of the foster carer recruitment strategy THIS ACTION IS NOW CLOSED WITH ACTIONS BEING FED INTO ACTIONS 7 & 8			

No.	What is working well?	What are we concerned about?	What needs to happen	Covid-19 impact/actions & recovery
16.	<p>Continue to enhance the skills of Kinship Carers through specific training for connected persons carers and development of Information packs for family and friends</p> <p style="text-align: center;">THIS ACTION IS NOW CLOSED WITH RELEVANT ACTIONS IN PLACE</p>			
17.	<p>Review the Leaving Care Service in light of impending legislation linked to 'Keep On Caring' policy and implement necessary processes and procedures to meet legislative requirements including Local Offer for care leavers</p> <p style="text-align: center;">THIS ACTION IS NOW CLOSED WITH RELEVANT PROCESSES IN PLACE FOR MONITORING PURPOSES</p>			
18.	<p>Work with Corporate Parenting partners locally to develop the care leaver offer and increase affordable housing options for care leavers across Lincolnshire</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Full information on the Core Offer to care leavers is on the main council web site. ■ Lincolnshire Leaving Care Service (LLCS) and partners are aware of the Core Offer and know how to use the system to update the offer so it is always current. ■ Supported Lodgings Providers are well supported through LLCS and are able to offer up to 26 placements as of September 2022. ■ LCC has agreed a process to help meet funding gap between Housing Benefit/earnings and private rent for care leavers less than 21 years of age. ■ All District Councils have agreed Lincolnshire care leavers have a local connection to apply for housing across the county, recognising them as a priority group. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Ensuring that the Core Offer remains up to date and relevant, especially for those care leavers (e.g. UASC) living outside of Lincolnshire. ■ There is a general shortage of affordable, accessible private rented accommodation across Lincolnshire. ■ Move-on accommodation options can be difficult for young people to find/access. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Core Offer development needs to be continually revisited and refreshed. ■ Continue to work with Partners to maintain and improve Core Offer. ■ Work to secure more free leisure access for care leavers has been started with South Kesteven District Council and it is hoped this will encourage other District Councils to do the same. Work with providers to source additional accommodation option for former UASC who do not have a finalised asylum status. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Former-UASC care leavers living out of county have, where required, maintained tenancies with their existing supported accommodation provider rather than moving in-county during the pandemic. LCC covered the rent gap to enable this to happen. ■ District Councils continued to offer top priority to care leavers for the housing register and in cases where young people might have become high risk of homelessness. ■ The NEST (Nacro) accommodation offer is proving incredibly effective in accommodating young people with complex needs and those who struggle with keeping themselves safe and are ordinarily unable to share with other young people.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clear plan of action and commitment from partners to meeting the accommodation needs of CiC and care leavers with a multi-agency Protocol now in place and all seven District Councils signed up. 			
19.	<p>Recommission low level Supported Accommodation services in line with needs analysis to meet the needs of CiC, care leavers and 16-17 year olds at risk of homelessness including ensuring close to education, employment and training opportunities</p> <p>THIS ACTION IS NOW CLOSED AS NACRO WERE COMMISSIONED TO DELIVER INTEGRATED SUPPORTED ACCOMMODATION (KNOWN AS NEST) FROM 1ST JANUARY 2021; ONGOING ACTIONS ARE FED INTO ACTIONS 20 & 23</p>			
20.	<p>Develop a Protocol for Youth Housing, in partnership with Adult Services and District Councils, to support the transition of care leavers and young people into independent living</p>			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All District Councils have agreed Lincolnshire care leavers have a local connection to apply for housing across the county, recognising them as a priority group. Clear plan of action and commitment from partners to meeting the accommodation needs of CiC and care leavers with a multi-agency Protocol now in place and all seven District Councils signed up. All partners are aware of their statutory obligations to care leavers and have agreed to adopt and abide by the seven Corporate Parenting principles in their interaction with care leavers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a general shortage of affordable, accessible one bedroom accommodation across Lincolnshire that makes the transition to independent living more difficult. There is a shortage of move-on accommodation for residents in Adults Housing Related Support that makes the transition of young people and care leavers into such supported accommodation more problematic. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor the success of the Protocol to facilitate the smooth and successful transition of care leavers and young people into Adult Services and independent living. Continue to develop more Supported Lodgings opportunities through the Lincolnshire Leaving Care Service (LLCS) to expand the range of accommodation options. Training and information sessions to continue across the county to support District Council in the understanding of their duties. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Within the Youth Housing Service every commissioned bed space has an associated 'move on bed space' linked with it. This has supported the smooth transition of young people between accommodation and opening up capacity within the service to ensure no young person is without suitable housing The development of a cumulative risk assessment tool has enabled more complex young people to be accommodated in the youth housing service. The tool enables managers to oversee risk across the whole service and management placements

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Adult Services are working with their suppliers of Housing Related Support to adapt processes to meet the needs of care leavers and young people in transition. ■ All seven District Council have committed to offering Council Tax relief for care leavers. ■ A Protocol has been developed with DWP to support care leavers to request housing element of Universal Credit is paid direct to landlords. ■ The Nacro offer has step forward accommodation associated with every NEST bed space meaning that there is a plethora of step forward options associated with NEST for young people to use as they turn 18. ■ A new homeless preventions service for care leavers means there is a bespoke service available if they get into difficult. A transition panel has been set up between District Council's and LCC and LLCS to focus on the transition for care leavers. ■ Lincolnshire have taken the bold step to underwrite some tenancies for independent 17.5 year olds who can take the 			<p>to safeguard young people, manage complex needs and ensure young people maintain housing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Supported Lodging providers have offered arms' length continual support to young people who do not wish to shield with their providers. Relationships, support and IAG were maintained with a number of young people who chose to move out of Supported Lodgings during the pandemic and live with other people. ■ District Councils continued to offer top priority to care leavers for the housing register and in cases where young people might have become high risk of homelessness. ■ Weekly '<i>Keep in Touch</i>' meetings between the Youth Housing Service, Corporate Parenting Manager, commissioning teams and LLCS have maintained a close oversight of capacity and resources thus preventing homelessness and ensuring stability of housing.

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	tenancy over in full at the age of 18 which is aids smooth transition.			
21.	Create an Open Select List for UASC requiring Supported Accommodation that meets the needs of the cohort and delivers VfM THIS ACTION IS NOW CLOSED SUBSEQUENT TO THE COMPLETION OF THE TENDER PROCESS			
22.	Re-open the Open Select List for Fostering, Residential Children's Homes, Independent Non-Maintained (Special) Schools and Intense Needs Supported Accommodation increasing the number of providers on the List THIS ACTION IS NOW CLOSED AS THE OSL FOR THE 7 PLACEMENT STRANDS STARTED IT'S NEW 5-YEAR CYCLE IN SEPTMBER 2022, WITH UDATED SERVICE SPECIFICATIONS AND TERMS AND CONDITIONS			
23.	<p>Manage the marketplace to enhance the quality and quantity of supported accommodation and move-on options in Lincolnshire in conjunction with partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The Supported Accommodation (Youth Housing) contract with Nacro, known as NEST, continues to offer greater flexibility to support a range of needs including the intensive-support solo placements which in turn has reduced the need for high-cost INSA placements. ■ The Open Select List started a new 5-year cycle in September 2022 with updated Terms and Conditions and service specifications. ■ Closed Ordered List (COL) offering supported accommodation for 16-17 year old Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) was 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ There continues to be a general shortage of affordable, accessible one bedroom accommodation across Lincolnshire that makes the transition to independent living more difficult. ■ Move-on accommodation options can be difficult for young people to find/access. ■ There is a shortage of move-on accommodation for residents in Adults Housing Related Support that makes the transition of young people and care leavers into such supported accommodation more problematic. ■ Issues with staff recruitment and retention nationally, adds pressure to service delivery for Supported Accommodation and across the wider care market. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Continue monthly Placement Planning Meetings (PMM) to look at existing support packages and future options for children and young people placed out of county. ■ Develop DfE Staying Close Staying Connected bid in January 2023 which, if successful, will be implemented from April 2023; working with other regional LAs with aim of developing processes and cross-border service access for all E.Midlands care leavers. ■ Review the processes for in-house referrals to ensure information flow and best use of capacity appropriate to need. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Effective and proactive relationship development with independent placement suppliers continues to be instrumental in retaining placements for some very complex young people or extending notice periods to ensure sufficient time to source an alternative.

No.	What is working well?	What are we concerned about?	What needs to happen	Covid-19 impact/actions & recovery
	<p>awarded in September 2022 for a 5 year period.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ LCC continues to utilise in-house options (maximising occupancy within Residential Children’s Homes, supported accommodation at Denon & Rowston, establishing Staying Close options, maximising use of in-house foster care including for Staying Put arrangements and increasing the availability of Supported Lodgings) to ensure a sound mix of in-house and independent sector provision. ■ The CiC transformation programme has increased oversight of the mix of placements through the monthly Placement Planning Meeting (PMM) which considers alternative placement options to improve outcomes and reduce budget pressures. ■ Valuing Care toolkit incorporated into a single all-placements referral form on Mosaic. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Respond to the consultation on the draft Guidance relating to the regulatory requirements for supported accommodation, which is open till 16th January 2023 and has been shared with suppliers. The registration process is expected to start in April 2023 and LCC will not be able to use unregistered supported accommodation for 16-17 year olds from November 2023. ■ Finalise the 2023-27 Sufficiency Strategy and action plan, which will be accompanied by an annual Market Position Statement. Children’s Strategic Commissioning Team will use this as a way of engaging the market and working with independent placement suppliers to develop capacity and strong relationships, with a focus on meeting young people’s needs and value for money. ■ Undertake review of supported accommodation options as part of the CiC Transformation programme in light of emerging needs trends of young people. 	

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24.	Ensure VfM in independent sector placement provision through robust commissioning and contract management			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Regional evaluation system via the new portal which launched in 2022 is in place for all fee increase requests received from Independent Non-Maintained (Special) Schools, independent residential and independent foster agencies. ■ The Open Select List started a new 5-year cycle in September 2022 with updated Terms and Conditions and service specifications. ■ Each and every placement is open to mini-competition and evaluated on three distinct criteria to deliver value for money. ■ Closed Ordered List (COL) offering supported accommodation for 16-17 year old Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) was awarded in September 2022 for a 5 year period, with ceiling price for all placements. ■ The CiC transformation programme has increased oversight of the mix of placements through the monthly Placement Planning Meeting (PMM) which considers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Some Independent and Non-maintained (Special) Schools suppliers remain reluctant to join the Open Select List as they prefer to operate under the National Association of Special Schools (NASS) contract instead. ■ Foster care placements continue to be in short supply nationally, impacting on ability to secure suitable Independent Fostering Agency placements in and around Lincolnshire for children and young people with complex needs, as well as older/teenage young people and UASC. ■ Continued numbers of late entrants into care has impact on capacity of independent placements, which has subsequent impact on placement costs linked to high demand and complex needs. ■ Cost of living impact on care sector with difficulties in recruitment and retention, utility and resource costs etc which is driving up fee increase requests through the regional process and has already started to be evident in increased base placement costs when suppliers respond to referrals. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Seek to ensure every independent sector placement is contract managed in accordance with appropriate schedule to maximise capacity and develop relationships with key suppliers. ■ Review the role of Contract Managers; with the increasing number of placements there is a need to ensure that this capacity is used in a way that is most meaningful and adds most value to sourcing and sustaining good quality independent placements. Review how contract management is undertaken to ensure greater flexibility and ability to develop key suppliers, whilst retaining focus on safeguarding and Safe and Well checks. ■ Work with social care and SEND finance colleagues to highlight cost pressures and emerging trends in the independent sector, in order to build into budget forecasting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Commissioning Officers continue to manage placement breakdowns and instability resulting from complex behaviours and late entrants into care, which have increased since the pandemic. ■ Oversight of placement need and referral numbers is supporting the Valuing Care agenda seeks to further improve commissioning arrangements in this area.

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	<p>alternative placement options to improve outcomes and reduce budget pressures.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Issues with staff recruitment and retention nationally, across the wider care market has an impact on the Council's ability to source placements for more complex children and young people that need a higher ratio of staffing. 		
25.	<p>Undertake a review of existing CAMHS commissioning arrangements, aligned to the Future In Mind Strategy, to inform future intentions in partnership with other agencies</p> <p>THIS ACTION HAS BEEN COMPLETED AND NO SIGNIFICANT CHANGES TO THE CAMHS SPECIFICATION WERE REQUIRED FOLLOWING THE REVIEW. DUE TO THE PANDEMIC OCCURRING FROM MARCH 2020 IT WAS NOT FEASIBLE TO DEVELOP AND PUT IN PLACE AN UPDATED SPECIFICATION TO INCLUDE ANY SERVICE CHANGES/DEVELOPMENTS.</p> <p>A NEW WIDER REVIEW OF CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES IS BEING PLANNED POST-PANDEMIC IN 2022, WHICH WILL FORM THE BASIS FOR A LONGER-TERM TRANSFORMATION PLAN.</p>			
26.	<p>Develop and monitor delivery of an Emotional Wellbeing Service providing direct intervention to school-aged Lincolnshire children and their families</p>			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Healthy Minds Lincolnshire (HML) is now fully embedded in the emotional wellbeing and mental health pathway for Lincolnshire children and young people. Mental Health Support Teams (MHSTs) started to be introduced into education settings in the County in 2019; currently five teams operational covering, Lincoln, Gainsborough, Boston Skegness, and Spalding. Two more are in development covering Grantham and Sleaford, more teams are being introduced in future waves. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waits to assessment increased over recent quarters as a result of the significant number of referrals into the service during and post-Covid. Demand and capacity work in relation to waits shows that capacity is below what is required to fully meet the demand of the referrals. The reasons behind this relate to vacancies/turnover of staff and consultations being rescheduled due to either children and young people and families' needs or staff sickness. Some families continue to be difficult to reach resulting in a number of children and young people who did not attend or were not brought for assessments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action plan in place to address waits, the impact is not fully evident. Actions include increasing telephone consultation slots which significantly reduced the number of young people waiting for contact; from over 200 young people waiting for their first contact to approximately 100 (Q2 2022-23). Ongoing actions to address waits for assessment/treatment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of telephone consultations to support demand as much as possible. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waits for treatment have increased following an increase in referrals pre- and post-pandemic. We continue to recover from this, with a focus on reducing the wait for assessment which has led to an increase in wait for treatment. We continue to implement a recovery plan in relation to this in response to demand and capacity work. During the pandemic more virtual delivery of 1:1 and group interventions was provided via approved web-based platforms such as Q Health and WebEx. This

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ HML continues to support education settings not covered by MHSTs, supporting equity of access. ■ The Children and Young People's Mental Health (CYPMH) Here4You Access Team was introduced in January 2022, creating a single point of access to CYPMH services. All referrals for emotional or mental health support are assessed to determine which service (HML, MHSTs or CAMHS) is right to provide the best support. Since the introduction of the Access Team there have been no referrals rejected by HML and there has been a significant reduction in inappropriate referrals to CAMHS, demonstrating that children and young people are getting to the right service, first time. ■ The Here4You Access Team also staff the freephone advice and self-referral line, providing advice to young people, parents, carers or professionals such as teachers. This may include self-help strategies and/or agreeing that extra support is needed. The line continues to receive positive feedback from stakeholders. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The average wait time from referral to treatment is not meeting the benchmark of 6 weeks; in Q2 2022-23 67% waited between six and ten weeks and 23% waited up to twelve weeks. ■ Waits to treatment: as a result of the increase in telephone consultations, waits for treatment have unavoidably increased. ■ For Q2 2022-23, of those children and young people waiting over 6 weeks from assessment to treatment, 40% were seen in less than 12 weeks and 50% were seen in less than 18 weeks. ■ Referrals for behavioural concerns continue to be the second highest reason for referral. ■ Group intervention offer not being delivered effectively in terms of the group focus. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Recruitment and induction procedures being reviewed. ➤ The Here4You Access Team are now processing some HML referrals to release capacity within the HML admin team to get appointment letters out. ➤ Due to current longer waiting times for treatment a Waiting List Protocol has been introduced whereby children and young people and families are contacted every four weeks to check in with them and provide support and advice. ➤ Review of group offer – altering the number of groups being mapped moving forward dependent on demand. ➤ Review of the data for patients who did not attend determined that there are fewer cancellations when sending out letters rather than booking appointments over phone. As a result the service has introduced a different process for booking telephone consultations; appointment 	<p>ensured continuity of provision during the pandemic and more support and more choice for children and young people who do not want to engage in the conventional face-to-face support.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Online resources, workshops and videos developed during the pandemic mean that there are even more resources available to support children and young people and families. ■ Before the pandemic in 2019-20 HML accepted 3023 referrals. Initially during 2020-21 there was a 20% reduction in referrals with 2428 accepted. During 2021-22 the number of referrals increased to 3049, returning to pre-pandemic levels. However, the rise was seen most sharply in Q4 with 921 referrals accepted causing significant pressure on the service. ■ The service is following a 'Retain–Revise–Revert' approach to development post-Covid using learning from the pandemic to inform which of the changes that have taken place need to be kept, which need further development and

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Continuing to see an increase in the number of self/online referrals received from young people; demonstrating that children and young people who saw referral as a barrier are now accessing independently. ■ Online resources, videos and workshops developed in partnership with CAMHS and MHSTs received both regional and national recognition as examples of good practice. ■ 52% of referrals to HML were for children and young people identified as having a vulnerability; no vulnerable children and young people were rejected by the service in Q2 2022-23. ■ Effective communication is in place between the Here4You Access Team and Children's Services Early Help referral 'Front Door'; practitioners actively engage in dialogue that encourages a holistic approach to identification of children and young people's needs and most appropriate support. ■ HML's support to education settings includes case supervision/consultation and since piloting this in 2021, take 		<p>letters will be sent for all appointments in future.</p> <p>➤ Review of the emotional wellbeing service, alongside other relevant commissioned services currently being undertaken to inform future commissioning of the service.</p>	<p>which would be better returning to pre-Covid delivery.</p>

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	<p>up has increased and feedback is that the support and advice is improving confidence and capability in the education workforce.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Contract management ongoing and service rated Good in terms of performance. 			
27.	Work in partnership with colleagues in Safer Communities and Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) to ensure commissioned services for Domestic Abuse (DA) support meet the needs of children and young people			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The Domestic Abuse commissioned service includes outreach support for adults as well as a children and young people service that offers group and specialist therapeutic sessions. ■ The Domestic Abuse Partnership including Children's Services are working to commission a targeted perpetrator programme that specifically meets the needs of Lincolnshire and builds on learning over the last few years. ■ Safer Communities and Children's Services have worked with the PCC to ensure that future commissioning objectives in 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Ensuring that the new Domestic Abuse Support Service commencing in April 2023 is able to respond to the demand for services, specifically the delivery of the therapeutic sessions for children and young people and the new elements of the model being outreach and engagement and the recovery service ■ Developing sustainable perpetrator support services post-March 2023 that builds on the learning from the initial pilot project and lottery funded extended programme. In addition to integrate this programme into a sustainable Lincolnshire model that can be delivered by local service providers. ■ Ensuring in line with the DA Act statutory duties that we provide appropriate support for adults 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Robust contract management of the new domestic abuse contract starting in April 2023, to ensure an appropriate service is being delivered and it can meet demand both for adults and children. ■ Safer Communities and Children's Services to continue to work with the OPCC and ICB to ensure that all existing and future services are protecting and supporting victims of domestic abuse. ■ Ongoing communication to Children's Services staff to inform of and promote the availability of the service as well as promoting collaborative working across this agenda. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ All services have now resumed to normal practice of a combination of face to face and virtual/telephone contact. However as a result of Covid-19, technology is being utilised on a more regular basis and forms part of the new commissioning model as well as the DA Partnership practice. All multi-agency DA training is available virtually and face to face.

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	<p>relation to victim support do not overlap and that there is no duplication of work.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 has strengthened the partnership response to DA and a DA strategy has been developed which was published on 5th January 2022. 	<p>and children in safe accommodation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to ensure that the £1.4 million grant awarded to LCC is used to develop and enhance the offer in relation to safe accommodation for adults and children. 	
28.	Support CWD who are CiC through effective re-commissioning of Domiciliary Care and Short Breaks services			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing positive relationships with provider. Good feedback from service users and parent/carers. Provider awarded 'Good' rating from Ofsted for domiciliary care provision. Caravans at Butlins and the Thomas Centre continue to offer short break opportunities. Review of services complete. Proposal to re-commission services going through Democratic pathway. Developing relationships with Domiciliary Care providers on the Open Select List and enhancing number of packages being provided. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full number of hours committed to domiciliary care in the block contract not being met. Staff recruitment to domiciliary care services is problematic. Several domiciliary care packages remain unfulfilled as a result. Impending increase in National Living Wage likely to impact significantly on existing packages of domiciliary care being provided. Waiting lists for Early Support and Learning Provision, and Targeted Positive Activities services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to support providers to enhance recruitment of domiciliary care support workers. Complete democratic pathway on re-commissioning of CWD services and, subject to agreement, re-procure services ready for October 2023. Analyse how to better integrate CWD services for younger children with mainstream offer, wherever applicable. Finalise proposals to enhance short breaks provision at the Maples. Look at more flexible ways of using Direct Payments to overcome capacity in the marketplace for domiciliary care. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Domiciliary care packages tailored to meet needs of service users e.g. suspending during lockdown etc. Staff working across all three areas of service delivery to maintain capacity in domiciliary care staffing. Targeted Positive Activities moved to a largely virtual offer, including telephone support. Some targeted provision delivered in community venues in summer and half-terms. This included some 1-2-1 provision to offer respite to families. Early Learning provision moved to a virtual offer, including telephone support. Videos of sessions have been shared with families for future use.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Strut House facility up and running. Well received by parent/ carers, and service users. 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waiting lists eradicated due to virtual offer.
29.	Undertake a review of Adoption Support services and recommission in line with the recommendations of the review			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> After Adoption, the service provider of both Safe Base and Birth Counselling went into Administration on 31st March 2019. Regional Adoption Agency (RAA), Family Adoption Links, was launched in October 2020. The Safe Base programme was put on hold, and in-house services were delivered. The service was recently re-procured and re-awarded to the incumbent supplier, PAC-UK (Family Action). The new contract runs from 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023, with the option to extend for a further 2 years until 31st March 2026. Ability to utilise Adoption Support Fund to support delivery of therapeutic parenting programmes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There remains uncertainty around the adoption regionalisation agenda and impact on future commissioning decisions for support services. No guaranteed Adoption Support Fund is available beyond 2021. Uncertainty around the delivery of a 'Safe Base' (or equivalent) programme. Uncertainty around local or regional arrangements. RAA not yet in a position to make a joined-up decision regarding services. Unlike Lincolnshire, the other authorities that make up Family Adoption Links provide their birth counselling services in-house. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to contract manage, monitor and evaluate outcomes. Continual review of Adoption Support Services, to include findings from a review undertaken by the Adoption Support team; further updates regarding the Adoption Support Fund and the latest position on the RAA. Adoption Support services to be determined as part of wider RAA. Working alongside other partners in Family Adoption Links to determine what services are and could be available regionally and how these can be commissioned to enable economies of scale and quality assurance Continue to work alongside partners in Family Adoption Links to determine regional services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Face-to-face birth counselling support has been reintroduced following the easing of Covid-19 lockdown rules and birth families are now seen in person wherever possible and appropriate. Building on the success of the virtual support that was rolled out during the pandemic, the supplier continues to offer a mixed service model incorporating online and virtual one-to-one support where this is most effective and offers controlled access to a monitored Facebook support group for birth parents.
30.	Recommission the on-line counselling service for children and young people in Lincolnshire and monitor usage THIS ACTION IS NOW CLOSED SUBSEQUENT TO THE COMPLETION OF THE TENDER PROCESS			

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31.	Undertake a review of the Return Interview service and recommission in line with the recommendation of the review THIS ACTION IS NOW CLOSED AS RETURN INTERVIEW SERVICE IS BEING DELIVERED IN-HOUSE			
32.	Undertake a review of the Advocacy service and recommission in line with the recommendation of the review THIS ACTION IS NOW CLOSED SUBSEQUENT TO THE COMPLETION OF THE TENDER PROCESS			
33.	Undertake a review of family support services to families with children on the edge of care and recommission in line with the recommendations of the review THIS ACTION IS NOW CLOSED SUBSEQUENT TO THE COMPLETION OF THE TENDER PROCESS			
34.	Embed 'Caring to Learn' to improve academic outcomes, wellbeing of and opportunities for all Lincolnshire CiC			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The Caring2Learn approach is fully embedded within Children's Services. The Caring2Learn Manager is part of the Virtual School team and the Practice Supervisor is located in the Fostering Service, with a Strategic Steering Group overseeing action plans and partnership working. ■ We have continued to deliver our learning and development programme covering all aspects of our 'Cornerstones of Good Practice' which has remained popular. In 2021-2022 we have delivered 120 workshop sessions to over 2000 attendees from education, children's services and foster carers. These include workshops focussing on specific areas of development such as speech, communication and language, reading or maths as well as sessions which focus on 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ As the offer continues to remain in demand and engagement grows, we will need to grow capacity within the team to continue to maximise the engagement from education and carers in Lincolnshire ■ Maintain and grow the engagement in the Caring2Learn Caring Schools Award following the turbulent times during the pandemic and competing with a range of high priority demands on schools. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Continue to grow the foster carer and school-based Champions Team who are now offering wide ranging support across the county. ■ Continue the work on developing our offer to include SGO, kinship and adoptive parents in our support network activities. ■ Continue to work together with a range of Children's Services teams to ensure the successes, developments, and innovations of Caring2Learn are embedded and built upon such as within the development of Family Hubs. ■ Review and relaunch the Caring Schools and Learning Homes Toolkits via a more streamlined digital platform which cuts down on workload whilst still maintaining an effective focus on reflection and self-evaluation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Workshops and events are being delivered via both Zoom, MS Teams and face to face options, although virtual remains the most popular option. ■ We have continued to support the community through our on-line and virtual support groups and social activities which are now the preferred choice for participants as our WhatsApp groups including a Listening Group for foster and kinship carers to provide more interactive and immediate support to carers.

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	<p>readiness for learning and education, trauma awareness, wellbeing and nurture. Feedback for these sessions is very positive with 100% of respondents very satisfied with the knowledge gained and would recommend the workshops to others.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ We continue to promote the Caring2Learn Award for Caring Schools and Learning Homes and a further 21 schools have been accredited or re-accredited between 2020-2022 and an award celebration and presentation event was held in November 2022 ■ Engagement with the Hub Support Network has continued to grow. Our social media and virtual support groups have been extremely active; we now have 840 members of our Facebook group and 170 members of our various WhatsApp groups which bring everyone together to support each other, offer advice, share good practice, information and problem solve. ■ The Education Champions role has continued to develop; we now have 21 Foster Carer Champions offering peer support to fostering households, supporting new and experienced 			

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	<p>carers and also supporting recruitment and training activities. Champions take on approximately 30 support tasks a month.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Caring2Learn is supporting schools to be able to nurture and promote wellbeing and become more trauma informed through our bespoke training offer. In 2021-2022 we have delivered whole-school or group staff training in twilight sessions and INSET days focused on developing 'Relational and Trauma Informed Approaches to Inclusion' in 10 primary and secondary schools across the county. This bespoke training also forms part of our strategic support offer to multi-academy trusts. ■ We have developed a universal programme for all parents and carers called Parents2gether which aims to help education settings, schools, parents and carers work together to develop learning in the home, support education in school and early years settings, encourage resilient and nurturing parenting approaches, introduce strategies for improving children's wellbeing and positive behaviour 			

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	and develop local peer support networks for parents and carers with the education setting as the hub. Following the pilot of this programme a wider roll out as a 'train the trainer' package is planned.			
35.	Enhance participation of CiC and care leavers to ensure they are fully involved in the shaping of their care/ pathway plan and wider service delivery			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Voices 4 Choices (V4C) meetings are held in the four quadrants of the county which has enhanced participation. ■ Participation at CiC reviews is very good. ■ IROs endeavour to have contact with children routinely between reviews. ■ Big Conversation events are well supported by CiC teams, care leavers, senior staff and Cllrs with notes shared with workforce to raise awareness of issues. ■ There has been some good practice and attendance for virtual V4C meetings including a programme of virtual music sessions delivered by Soundlinks. ■ A new action plan has been developed to work towards the re-introduction of some physical V4C meetings. This includes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Participation in V4C events, although improved, still only accounts for a small number of CiC. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ To build up links with the children who attend the 'fun days' held by the CiC teams. ■ There needs to be stronger links developed with Barnardo's with the aim being to explore how care leavers can work with V4C. ■ Link outcomes expected from Big Conversations into overall Business Plans. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ V4C meetings were held virtually since the first lockdown up until June 2021. Since June 2021 there have been monthly face to face V4C meetings taking place across the 4 quadrant areas in Children's Services. The groups have given views and feedback around issues including language that professionals use, updating the Coming into Care Kit and the qualities and support they want from their social workers ■ A V4C report has been presented to DLT and SLT in September 2022 and November 2022 detailing a plan to develop and grow the V4C meetings. A steering group is being established to include representative from front line teams to review how V4C is delivered and links in with services.

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	<p>consulting with young people and professionals about their views; developing participation work for the V4C groups; planning external venues and activities; and communications and awareness-raising including direct mail to young people.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physical face-to-face meetings has now been reintroduced since June 2021 and planning will be taking place to develop further meetings and activities. 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There have been several successful Big Conversation meetings since the end of 2021 that have been well attended by both CiC and senior managers and elected members. This has helped to link in with Barnardo's who have attended. Recent Big Conversations have focused on planning the future direction of V4C and the FAB awards. There has also been a regional CiC residential meeting held in Leicestershire with representatives from Lincolnshire attending.
36.	<p>Finalise profile templates for foster carers and CiC to enhance matching process and mutual expectations</p> <p>THIS ACTION IS NOW CLOSED FOLLOWING COMPLETION OF PROFILE TEMPLATES</p>			
37.	<p>Work with regulated settings, foster carers and supported accommodation/ lodgings providers to prepare CiC for transition to adulthood through focus on skills for Adult Life and increasing levels of independence</p> <p>THIS ACTION IS NOW CLOSED – 'SKILLS FOR ADULT LIFE' BOOKLET IS COMPLETE AND IN-HOUSE SUPPORTED ACCOMMODATION IS IN PLACE OR IN DEVELOPMENT</p>			
38.	<p>Explore use of social media to improve communication channels with CiC and care leavers</p> <p>THIS ACTION IS NOW CLOSED FOLLOWING UPDATE AND ONGOING MAINTENANCE OF ON-LINE INFORMATION</p>			
39.	<p>Monitor adherence to the Lincolnshire Care Pledge and '10 things I want from my Social Worker' through V4C and other participatory groups</p>			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each child is provided with a document that identifies the importance of the relationship with the Social Worker and the nature and frequency of their contact. The pledge outlines the 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 'Tell Us' survey has been paused as part of a wider review of feedback mechanisms within Children's Services which is analysing the range of feedback to ensure there is not duplication and also 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A new generic Children's Services Feedback survey has been developed and implemented to improve how feedback is captured and collated centrally. The Council's 'Let's Talk' online engagement

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	<p>commitment of the authority and expectations of CiC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ An annual 'Tell Us' survey is completed focusing on core aspects of the pledge. ■ The Care Pledge has been reviewed over 2020 via V4C groups. They have been involved in reviewing the design and content of the pledge and its rebranding as the '<i>Lincolnshire Caring Promise</i>'. ■ Communications plan has been completed be linked to the Transformation Project and there was a roll out the new Lincolnshire Caring Promise in early 2021 which included a number of staff training sessions being delivered about it via the Children's Services Quality and Standards Service. 		<p>investigating which methods of gaining feedback may be more successful.</p>	<p>platform has been utilised and approximately 300 responses have been received since its introduction in September 2022. Analysis reports will be shared with Children's Services Managers in December 2022.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The rebranded Lincolnshire Caring Promise has been rolled out as part of the Transformation Project and has not been affected by any Covid-19 impact. ■ A quality assurance exercise will be undertaken in 2023 to monitor awareness of the Caring Promise amongst CiC.



Open Report on behalf of Heather Sandy, Executive Director - Children's Services

Report to:	Corporate Parenting Panel
Date:	19 January 2023
Subject:	Lincolnshire County Council Virtual School Annual Report Academic Year 2021-2022

Summary:

This Annual Report covers the work of the Virtual School Head to support the promotion of educational outcomes for Children and Young People in Care for the academic year 1st September 2021 to 31st August 2022. It is a statutory requirement and serves to update the Corporate Parenting Panel on the Educational Progress of Children and Young People in Care aged 3-18.

Actions Required:

Members of the Corporate Parenting Panel are requested to consider the attached Virtual School Annual Report 2021-2022 and endorse the recommendations for the academic year 2022-2023.

1. Background

This Annual Report covers the work of the Virtual School Head to support the promotion of educational outcomes for Children and Young People in Care for the academic year 1st September 2021 to 31st August 2022. It is a statutory requirement and serves to update the Corporate Parenting Panel on the Educational Progress of Children and Young People in Care aged 3-18.

2. Conclusion

2.1 Key messages within this report are:

- The Lincolnshire Virtual School Team continues to be ambitious for all of our children in care. We understand that promoting better educational outcomes is everyone's business and we provide: training, challenge, advice and support to schools, children's services colleagues, foster carers, parents and others so that they can better advocate for the learning of children and young people in their

care.

- The majority of our children and young people aged 3-18 continue to attend schools and colleges graded good or better by Ofsted.
- Pupil Premium is allocated to schools and colleges in a timely way and is linked to targets outlined in the Personal Education Plan. Personal Education Plans are reviewed three times per year or more if appropriate for all children and young people aged 3-18. Personal Education plans continue to focus upon supporting better attendance and providing schools with additional pupil premium, school tuition and recovery funding for those young people most effected by the fallout from the pandemic that has impacted their learning since 2020.
- Early intervention is key to promoting outcomes and consequently all children in care or entering care aged 3-13 continue to receive support from our Specialist Teachers so that schools are better informed of strategies to improve communication and language needs if appropriate.
- The Virtual School Team continues to work effectively and in cooperation with carers, parents, schools, and Children's Services colleagues to support the education of Children in Care regardless of where our children are placed.
- The team works closely with our children and young people with the specific aim of developing strong and effective working relationships. The voice of our children and young people is heard. We celebrate successes and provide opportunities for them and their families to be better understood. We endeavour to stick with them when things don't go so well and put any potential setbacks into context.
- Despite the many challenges that our young people and their carers have faced over the period many of our children and young people still made progress and are happy in school with many achieving outstanding results academically and personally in 2022.

3. Consultation

a) Risks and Impact Analysis

N/A

4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Lincolnshire County Council Virtual School Annual Report Academic Year 2021-2022

5. Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by Kieran Barnes, Virtual School Headteacher, who can be contacted on 07854877844 or kieran.barnes@lincolnshire.gov.uk.

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Lincolnshire County Council Virtual School



Annual Report - Academic Year 2021-2022 (Jan 2023)

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1.0 Introduction: Role of the Virtual School - What do we do?

The role of the Virtual School is to promote the educational achievement of children in care. Whether educated in Lincolnshire or placed out of the authority, the Virtual School Team works to support our children and young people to fulfil their potential and access opportunities on the same basis as their non care experienced peers. The team supports our children and young people on a case work basis, endeavouring to build strong relationships and to develop the confidence, self-esteem, and resilience of our students. There is a requirement to maintain an up-to-date roll and have robust procedures in place to monitor the attendance and educational progress children in care. Academic progress is monitored through a termly school survey. The Virtual School Head (VSH) must also inform head teachers that they have a child on roll that is looked after by the Local Authority. In addition, the Virtual School should ensure that each child has an up to date, effective and high-quality Personal Education Plan (PEP) that focuses on the improvement of educational outcomes.

The Virtual School Head has primary responsibility for ensuring that there is suitable education in place for all Lincolnshire children in care. This includes oversight of admissions, managed moves, and education moves brought about through changes of care placement. The Virtual School Team also provides advice and information to the parents and schools involved in promoting educational outcomes for Children Previously in Care.

The Virtual School and Virtual School Head have a statutory role in promoting the educational achievement of children in the Local Authority's care. Providing support and challenge that encourages high aspirations and individual achievement, with a minimum of disruption, is central to improving immediate and long-term outcomes for children in our care. In addition, the Virtual School should ensure that social workers, designated teachers and schools, carers, and Independent Reviewing Officers (IROs) understand their role and responsibilities for initiating, developing, reviewing, and updating each child's PEP.

The Virtual School is also responsible for the allocation to schools of the looked after children Pupil Premium Grant (PP+) and is required to report regularly to the Corporate Parenting Panel.

2.0 What is the purpose of this report?

This is the statutory annual report of the Virtual School Head and Virtual School for children in the care of Lincolnshire County Council. The report highlights the work of the Virtual School, the Local Authority, and partner agencies to improve outcomes for children and young people in care aged three to eighteen. The report covers progress and attainment at all key stages from Early Years to Key Stage Four. It further covers the quality of provision and engagement for post 16 and, most importantly, how the voice of the child and young person is considered to influence practice.

The purpose of this report is to outline the activity of the Virtual School Head Teacher and the Virtual School, and to report upon the 2022 educational outcomes for our children in care. It reflects on achievements and identifies areas of development to achieve the best outcomes for children in our care.

Data contained in this report, is for children who were in the care of Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) for a year or more as of 31st March 2022.

Key messages within this report are:

- The Lincolnshire Virtual School Team continues to be ambitious for all of our children in care. We understand that promoting better educational outcomes is everyone's business and we provide training, challenge, advice and support to schools, Children's Services colleagues, foster carers, parents, and others, so that they can better advocate for the learning of children and young people in their care.
- There remains a continued and growing emphasis on the development of "Learning Homes", where our carers become increasingly skilled to support learning and our schools are committed to creating an environment where the specific emotional and educational needs of our children and young people are understood and their potential fulfilled.
- The majority of our children and young people aged 3-18 continue to attend schools graded good or better by Ofsted.
- Pupil Premium is allocated to schools in a timely way and is linked to targets outlined in the Personal Education Plan. Personal Education Plans are reviewed three times per year or more, if appropriate, for all children and young people aged 3-18.
- Early intervention is key to promoting outcomes. Consequently, all children in care or entering care aged 3-13 continue to receive support from our Specialist

Teachers, so that schools are better informed of strategies to improve communication and language needs if appropriate.

- The team works closely with our children and young people with the specific aim of developing strong and effective working relationships. The voice of our children and young people is heard. We celebrate successes and provide opportunities for them and their families to be better understood. We endeavour to stick with them when things don't go so well and put any potential setbacks into context.

3.0 What is our vision to improve outcomes moving forward?

The Virtual School's vision for improvement is aligned to the vision included within the Lincolnshire Children in Care and Care Leavers Strategy 2022 as well as the Local Authority and partners' aspirations as set out within this strategy.

This strategy for Children in Care and Care Leavers sets out Lincolnshire's ambitions. Whilst we have high expectations for all children and young people in Lincolnshire, the vision, principles, and plans in the document apply to some of the most vulnerable children and young people within our community, namely those for whom we have corporate parenting responsibilities.

Our overarching aim recognises that we want all children and young people to be cared for within their family / local community and we will support families to provide nurturing, resilient parenting, so that children and young people realise their potential within their birth family. Where children / young people do need to be looked after by Lincolnshire, we will support quality family and friend time. We will do everything we can, across our partnership to care for them and nurture their aspirations so that they feel safe, loved and are heard, so that they can realise their potential. This not only applies when children are in care but also where we have a duty to support them as previously looked after children. Working with our partner agencies and communities, we will individually and collectively provide nurturing, resilient parenting and support, as we would for our own children.

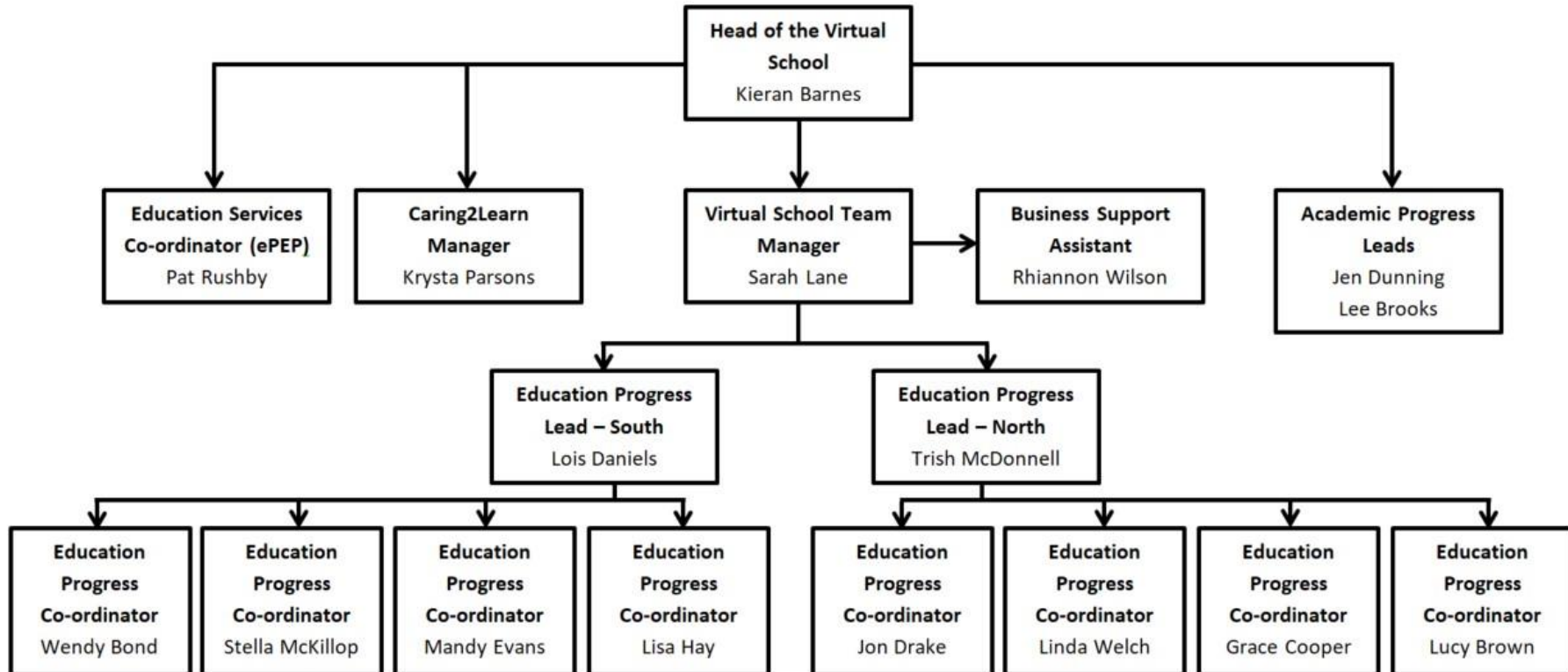
The main areas of focus for the Virtual School are:

Attainment and progress 3-18 to ensure that all Personal Education Plans (PEPs) are high quality and effective with Children's Services staff, carers, children, and schools working effectively and in partnership to promote wellbeing and learning.

Leadership and management to further develop a highly skilled, effective, and innovative workforce across Lincolnshire focused upon improving educational outcomes for children and young people in care and to ensure that we fulfill our statutory duties in our extended role to support previously looked after children.

Developing strong and effective partnerships so that social workers, IROs, carers, parents and teachers can fulfil their roles as outlined in the updated statutory guidance for Designated Teachers and Virtual School Heads March 2018.

4.0 Structure of The Virtual School



5.0 Training and Development – How is the Virtual School Working with others to better support Children and Young People in Care and those Previously in Care?

The Virtual School has a duty to ensure that there are appropriate arrangements in place to meet the training needs of those responsible for promoting the educational achievement of children in care and previously looked after children and young people, including both social workers and school staff. A training pathway for Designated Teachers has been developed which provides a range of training events delivered by Virtual School co-ordinators and the Caring2Learn team. The pathway identifies appropriate training for those new to role through to experienced Designated Teachers and includes a combination of face to face and virtual events. The Virtual School is integrated within Children's Services and both benefits from and contributes to LCC's excellent training offer. The Virtual School Team provides support and training across our residential, early help, and fostering teams, and our carer community. This includes the circulation of One Minute Briefings for teams to refer back to and input at other team meetings.

5.1 Designated Teachers

The newly developed training pathway includes basic introductory modules for Designated Teachers who are new to role which is complemented by bespoke support from the Virtual School Co-ordinators. 59 'new to role' Designated Teachers completed a national e-learning module commissioned by the Virtual School on an introduction to their roles and responsibilities and then had the opportunity to attend a follow-on workshop which focussed on Lincolnshire processes. 35 of our more experienced Designated Teachers attended the training module on 'Meeting the needs of our children in care' and 51 attended 'Meeting the needs of children previously in care'. Termly Designated Teacher clusters, where participants have the opportunity to hear key updates and share good practice were delivered virtually and attracted 119 attendees from schools and education settings in Lincolnshire. The Virtual School continues to develop training opportunities in response to feedback from schools and educational settings.

5.2 Social Workers

The Virtual School has continued to work closely with our colleagues in Social Care to ensure that all our young people are accessing education and making the very best progress they can. Bespoke support has been provided to new Social Workers by the Virtual School Co-ordinators to ensure they can contribute effectively to Personal Education Plans. Support has also been provided through input at team meetings and information bulletins. An Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) delivered a presentation at the Designated Teacher Briefings which was well received by

attendees and future opportunities will be planned to raise awareness of professionals' roles and responsibilities.

The Virtual School has been represented in the Children in Care Transformation project, supporting social workers and Children's Services colleagues in having high aspirations for our young people and recognising the contribution education plays in supporting placement stability. The Virtual School co-ordinators support social workers in completing the educational domains of the Valuing Care toolkit and are represented at monthly meetings which scrutinise the trajectories for our young people who are currently living in residential placements outside of Lincolnshire.

5.3 Continuing Professional Development for the Virtual School

In addition to completing mandatory courses in line with the LSCB 6-year training pathway, the Virtual School co-ordinators attended the Professional Development Conference alongside LCC colleagues. Colleagues from SEND, the Participation Team, Bishop Grosseteste University, Pupil Re-Integration Team and Specialist Teaching Team have provided inputs at our team meetings and the team regularly attend the Children's Services and Corporate Leadership Team briefings and the SEND Graduated Approach events to ensure they are up to date with key initiatives and projects within the council.

The Virtual School has a duty to ensure that there are appropriate arrangements in place to meet the training needs of those responsible for promoting the educational achievement of children in care and previously looked after children and young people, including both social workers and school staff. Designated Teachers from all Lincolnshire schools and educational settings have access to a well-established training programme provided by the Virtual School and Caring2Learn to support them in their role in meeting the educational needs of children in care and previously looked after children and young people. Due to the impact of the Covid pandemic and national lockdowns, all aspects of training and support are now delivered remotely with positive feedback from attendees. The Virtual School is integrated within Children's Services and both benefits from and contributes to LCC's excellent training offer. The Virtual School Team provides support and training across our residential, early help, and fostering teams, and our carer community as per below.

5.4 Extension of VSH Role to Support Children with a Social worker

From September 2021 the DfE issued non-statutory guidance to extend the role of the Virtual School Headteacher to "promote the educational outcomes of the cohort of children with a social worker and those who have previously had a social worker who are aged from 0 up to 18."

In April 2022 the DfE confirmed that the extension to the role was continuing for a further year, currently up to April 2023.

The guidance defines the responsibilities of the extension of the role as follows:

- make visible the disadvantages that children with a social worker can experience, enhancing partnerships between education settings and local authorities to help all agencies hold high aspirations for these children.
- promote practice that supports children's engagement in education, recognising that attending an education setting can be an important factor in helping to keep children safe from harm.
- level up children's outcomes and narrow the attainment gap so every child can reach their potential. This will include helping to make sure that children with a social worker benefit from support to recover from the impact of Covid-19.

Although this guidance does include children in care who have a social worker, it is focussed on children who have a social worker as they are subject to a Child in Need or Child Protection Plan. The DfE have also used the term Ever6 which defines children who may not currently have a social worker assigned but have also been subject to either of these plans within the last six years. This is a large group of children. In Lincolnshire we have well over 3000 children or families open to social care with an allocated social worker and a further 3000 children and families open to Team Around the Child (TAC), around a third of which have previously been allocated a social worker. The national pilot is being externally evaluated in association with the Rees Centre at the University of Oxford. This evaluation focuses on how virtual schools have implemented and developed this new role and how virtual schools will monitor a range of outcomes for this group of children such as attendance, exclusion, and attainment. We are working in partnership with other children's services teams including the Attendance and Inclusion teams to build a strategic approach to data collection, monitoring, support and guidance. Further statutory guidance on attendance and exclusion has recently been issued by the DfE which also details the extension of the role of the Virtual School Head and of the role of social workers in supporting educational, as well as safeguarding outcomes for children.

The Caring2Learn Manager is taking the lead for the development and delivery of this new role within the virtual school and through Caring2Learn we continue to be in an excellent position to meet these new responsibilities. Since 2018 the Caring2Learn approach has been offered to all Lincolnshire schools and education settings to improve a range of outcomes for children & young people in care, previously looked after and now, children with a social worker. All education settings have access to the Caring2Learn learning and development programme, good practice framework & Caring Schools Award and the hub support network. This support now includes

offering advice and guidance and sharing of good practice to Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs) in schools. We also offer regular support, guidance and good practice sharing with Social Work, IRO, Independent Chairs, Children with Disabilities and Early Help teams focused on raising the profile of education in assessments, child protection or child in need plans and reviews for children with a social worker to ensure improved educational outcomes remain a priority when decisions to step up or down social care involvement are made.

In February 2022 we were invited by the Chief Social Worker for Children and Families, to deliver a national webinar supporting good practice in education which was attended by over 200 social workers and social care staff. In June we worked with the DfE Attendance Action Alliance and were one of three local authorities asked to contribute to their guidance document – ‘Top tips guide: supporting social workers to improve the attendance of children with a social worker’.

5.5 Supporting Families and Schools Caring2Learn

During 2021 and 2022 we have continued to support schools, education settings, foster carers, children's homes, residential settings, and Children's Services teams through our Caring2Learn offer. This innovative multi-disciplinary approach to improving academic outcomes, progress, life choices, and opportunities for all Lincolnshire children in care, previously looked after children and children with a social worker has a clearly defined strategy that is supporting education settings to be able to nurture and promote wellbeing and ensure vulnerable children achieve better progress. It is also supporting foster, kinship and residential carers to promote learning in the home and help children to develop a thirst for learning so that education is valued and encouraged.

We have continued to deliver our learning and development programme covering all aspects of our 'Cornerstones of Good Practice' which has remained popular. This year we have delivered 120 workshop sessions to over 2000 attendees from education, children’s services and foster carers. These include workshops focussing on specific areas of development such as speech, communication and language, reading or maths as well as sessions which focus on readiness for learning and education, wellbeing and nurture. Feedback from these sessions continues to be very positive from all three sectors with respondents reporting:

How satisfied are you with the knowledge you gained throughout the workshop?	100% Very Satisfied
Do you feel you achieved your desired learning outcome?	100% Very Satisfied

How would you rate the facilitator's overall effectiveness?	Overall rating of 9.5 out of 10
How likely are you to recommend this workshop to others?	100% Very Likely or Likely

We also offer additional bespoke training to education settings and have also delivered whole-school or group staff training in twilight sessions and INSET days focused on developing 'Relational and Trauma Informed Approaches to Inclusion' in 10 primary and secondary schools across the county. This bespoke training also forms part of our strategic support offer to multi-academy trusts.

This year, pulling together what we have learnt over the last 4 years, we have developed a universal programme for all parents and carers called Parents2gether which aims to help education settings, schools, parents and carers work together to:

- develop learning in the home
- support education in school and early years settings
- encourage resilient and nurturing parenting approaches
- introduce strategies for improving children's wellbeing and positive behaviour
- develop local peer support networks for parents and carers with the education setting as the hub

This programme will be piloted in schools and early years settings in Autumn 2022 and Spring 2023 with joint delivery by Caring2Learn and education staff with a view to wider roll out as a 'train the trainer' package in 2023 following evaluation of the pilot.

5.6 Learning Homes Education Champions Progress Update

Since 2018 Foster Carer Education Champions, experienced foster carers who support the fostering community and education settings, have contributed to our Caring2Learn offer by offering support, co-facilitating training and workshops and sharing best practice to groups and individuals.

Throughout 2021 and 2022 there were 21 champions in place, and they received 134 allocations of tasks in the last 12 months. These have included direct support and assistance in supporting new and experienced foster and kinship carers, contributing to placement stability and improved outcomes for children.

Champions have worked jointly with virtual school and children's services staff to deliver four programmes of our 6-week course called Caring2gether. This has been positively received by carers and introduces the concepts of Learning Homes and Therapeutic Parenting approaches. Champions have also continued to co-facilitate the fostering recruitment evenings, Introduction to Fostering Preparation course, and New Carer Induction. In September 2021 the Early Years Foster Carer playgroup relaunched in Lincoln at St. Giles Children's Centre. This is facilitated by 2 Foster Carer Champions with early years specialisms with carers, babies, and under-fives attending fortnightly.

Foster Carer Champions have continued to support our strong online/virtual support offer through Facebook, where we now have a very active group of 830 carers, education staff, and Children's Services staff interacting and sharing inspiration, updates and advice on a daily basis. Champions moderate and contribute to our six different WhatsApp support chat groups which have over 170 members and a Foster Carers 2Be group with 40 prospective carers who are going through the assessment and approval process.

Champions and staff continue to support the development and maintenance of good practice through the combined Learning Homes & Training, Standards and Development (TSD) Workbook which is mandatory for all Foster Carers to complete during their first twelve months following approval. Experienced carers access the Learning Homes Toolkit and together 61 Fostering households have now successfully achieved the Learning Homes Award.

5.7 Post-16 PP+ Pilot

Following the submission of an expression of interest, Lincolnshire Virtual School alongside 29 other Local Authorities, was invited to take place in the DfE Post 16 Pupil Premium Pilot. The Pilot ran from October 2021 to March 2022 with the aim to test the extension of financial support to looked after children and care leavers in general further education. Through this work, the DfE aimed to build an evidence base to inform any further support for this cohort. The proposed outcomes of the pilot were to:

- raise the profile of children in care and care leavers by strengthening close working relationships and sharing expertise on the needs of this cohort.
- Improve the attendance of these young people in FE by putting in place tailored interventions to support attendance
- Better support the delivery of Personal Education Plans, pathway plans or equivalent at both an individual and cohort level

- Identify models of good practice used by LAs across the country to respond to individual and cohort needs

Building on the foundations of our existing practice in allocating Pupil Premium for statutory school aged children, we decided to use the Personal Education Plans to identify individual needs to support our young people in accessing and attending education, employment and training opportunities. An initial information briefing was attended by Children's Services colleagues, Lincolnshire Post 16 providers and semi-supported accommodation providers. Following this, individual meetings were held with the FE colleges and training providers who had a high number of our children on role, to consider how any additional funding may support them strategically. Although their appeared to be good support for our students through the Post 16 bursaries and universal provision, the settings identified the following areas of need for additional funding:

- Enhanced pastoral support for our children in care
- Enhanced Designated Teacher support to promote effective Personal Education Plans and communication sharing
- Trauma informed training for all college staff
- Extracurricular activities and additional ESOL provision for our young people who are unaccompanied asylum seekers

Additional funding was provided to identified settings to support these areas of need and the settings participated in the Rees Centre evaluation study commissioned by the DfE.

Through the PEP process, a wide range of resources were identified for individual young people to support them in their studies, to promote their re-engagement in training or support their preparation for employment. Some examples of the support provided through the Post 16 Pupil Premium include:

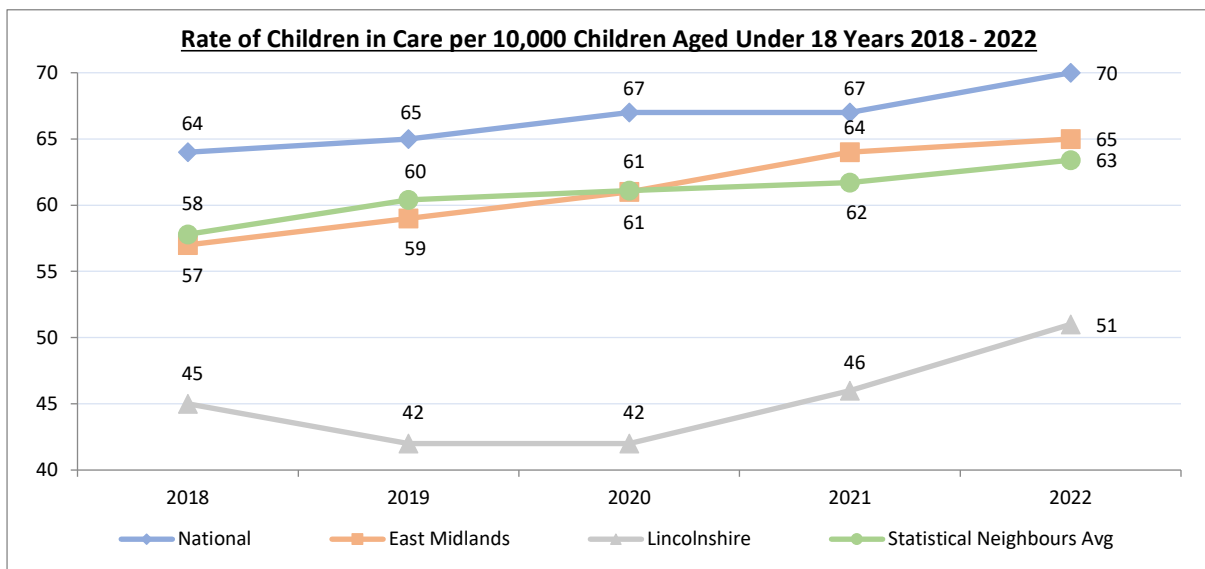
- Additional tuition to support a young person for their GCSE resits
- A contribution towards driving lessons for a young person on apprenticeship with a construction company, to increase his employment possibilities once his apprenticeship had ended.
- Functional skills on-line learning courses for two young people who had not achieved English and Maths qualifications but were not emotionally ready to attend group learning at a post 16 setting.
- Suitable clothing to enable a young person to participate in work experience in a care home as part of their college course.

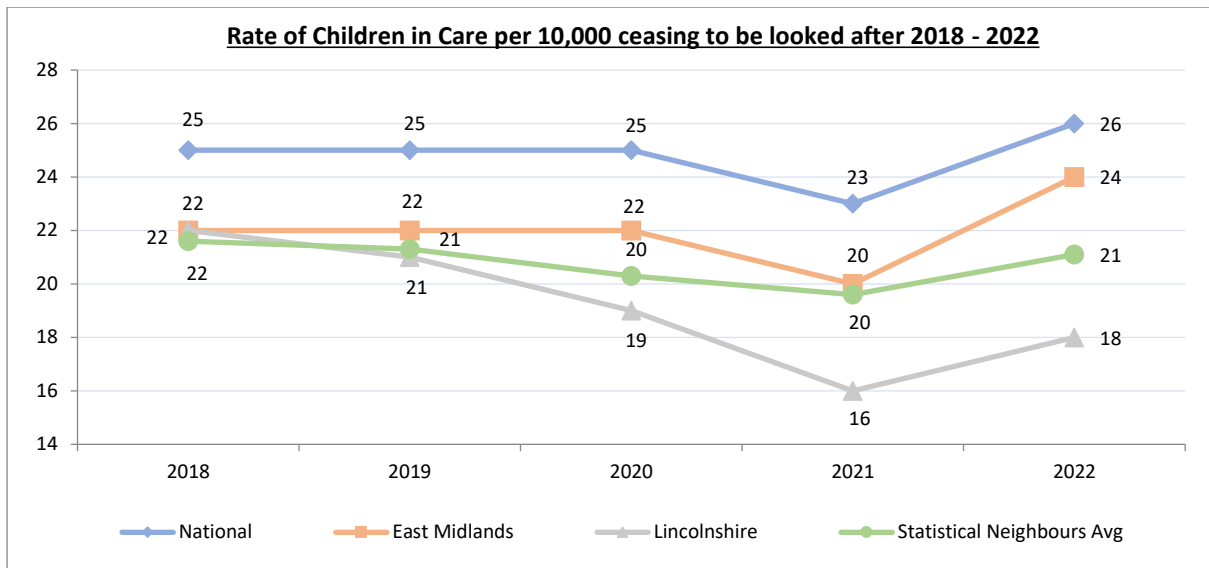
- Laptops to support young people to complete their college work.
- Bicycles and safety equipment to promote young people’s attendance at college and training courses and work experience.

As a result of the pilot and working closely with the post 16 settings, the Caring2Learn training offer and toolkit was developed for post 16 providers and a Designated Lead in a local college was identified as a mentor who was willing to support other colleges. A post 16 transition page has also been developed to ensure focussed discussions take place during year 11 PEPs on next steps for individual young people.

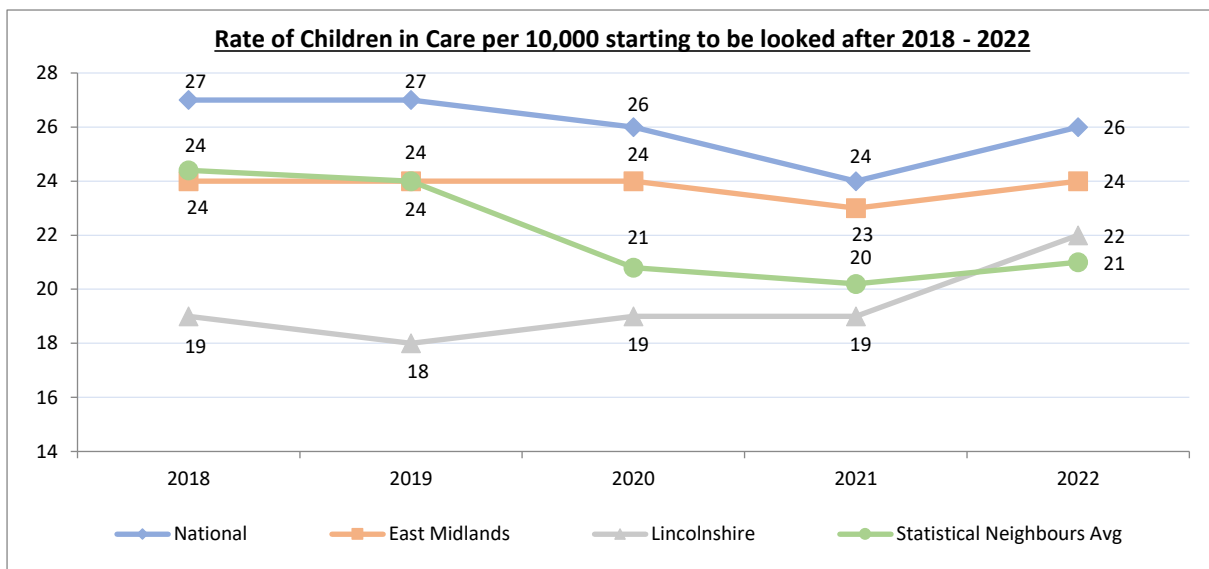
6.0 Cohort characteristics -Who is on roll of the Virtual School?

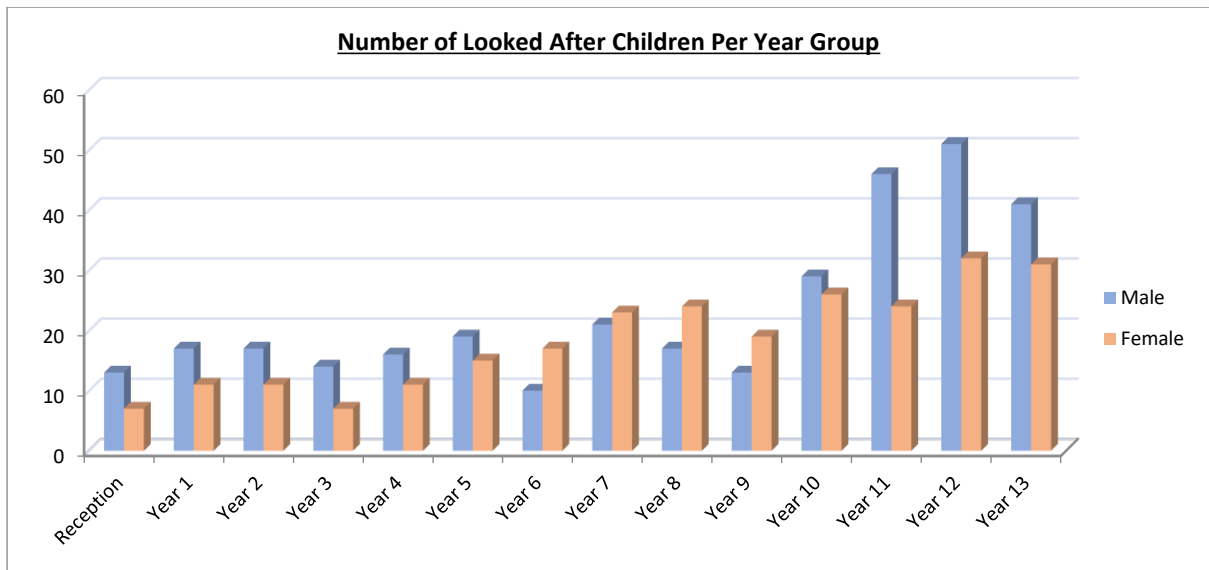
The rate of children in care in Lincolnshire increased in 2022 for the second consecutive year following a two year low in 2019 and 2020. This is consistent to the trend seen nationally, regionally and amongst our statistical neighbours.





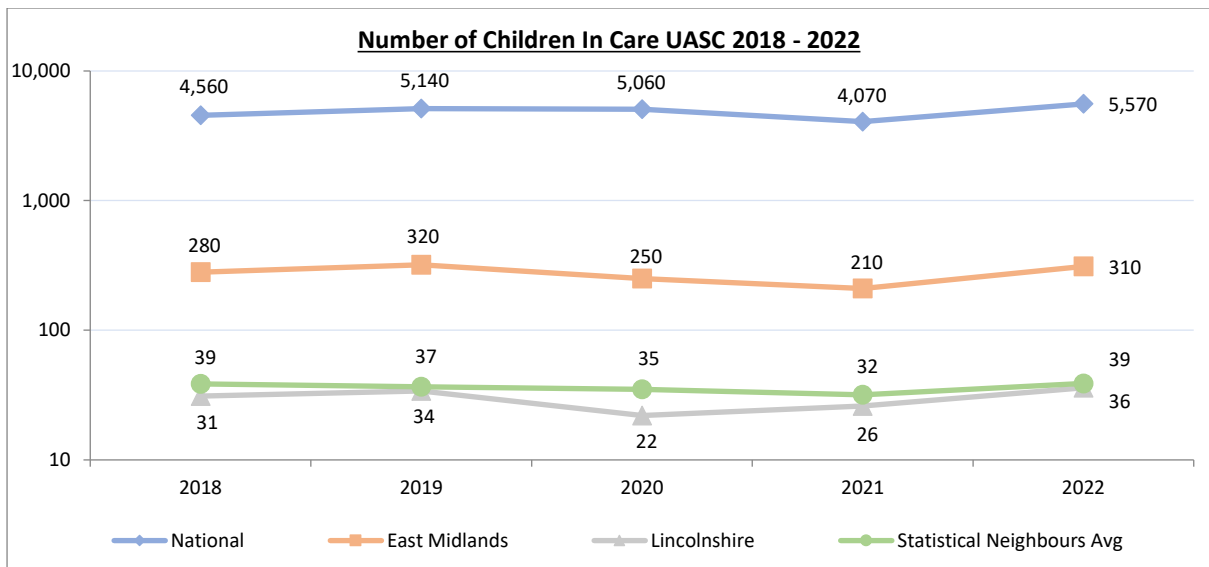
The increase in rate for Lincolnshire was driven by an increasing rate of children starting to be looked after (19 per 10,000 in 2021 and 22 per 10,000 in 2022). This was a steeper increase than that seen for each of our comparators.

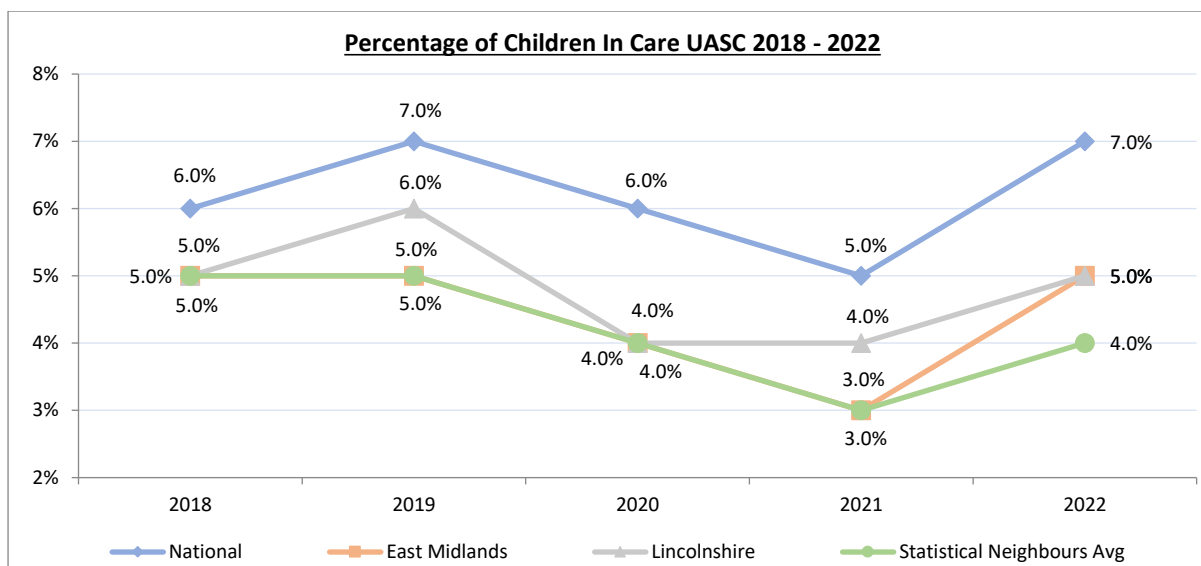




6.1 Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC)

The numbers of young people entering care in Lincolnshire as Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC) increased in 2022 compared to 2021 and is the highest it has been in all of the past 5 years. This increase in 2022 is consistent to the trend seen across all our comparators where an increase was seen across the board. The percentage of children in care in Lincolnshire that are UASC (5%) is below national (7%), the same as our regional East Midlands (5%) and higher than our statistical neighbours average (4%).





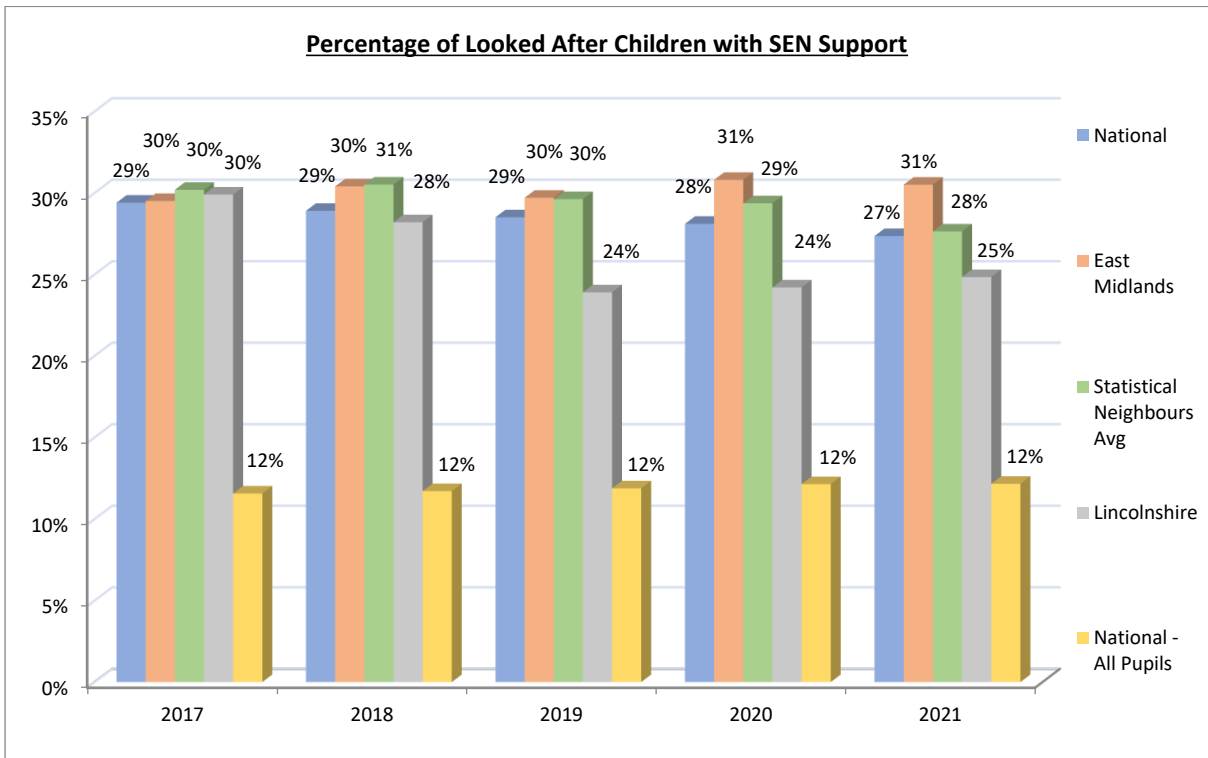
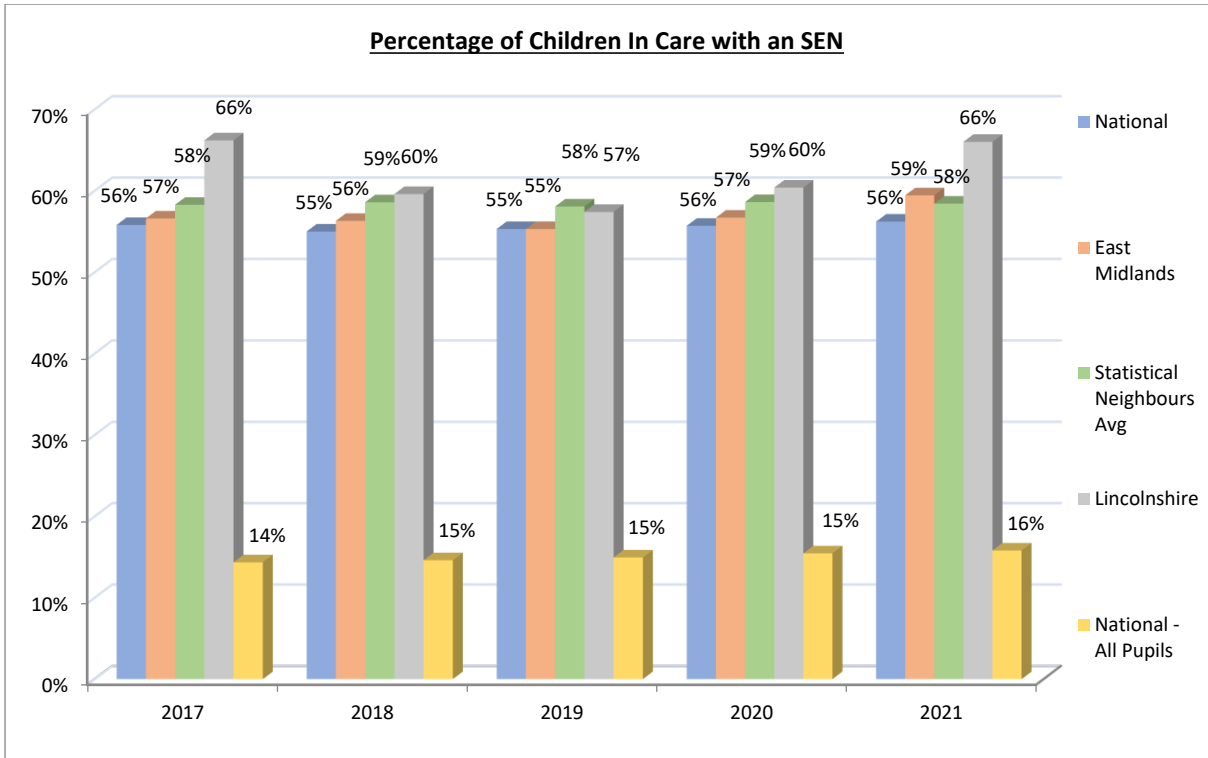
6.2 Special Educational Needs (SEN)

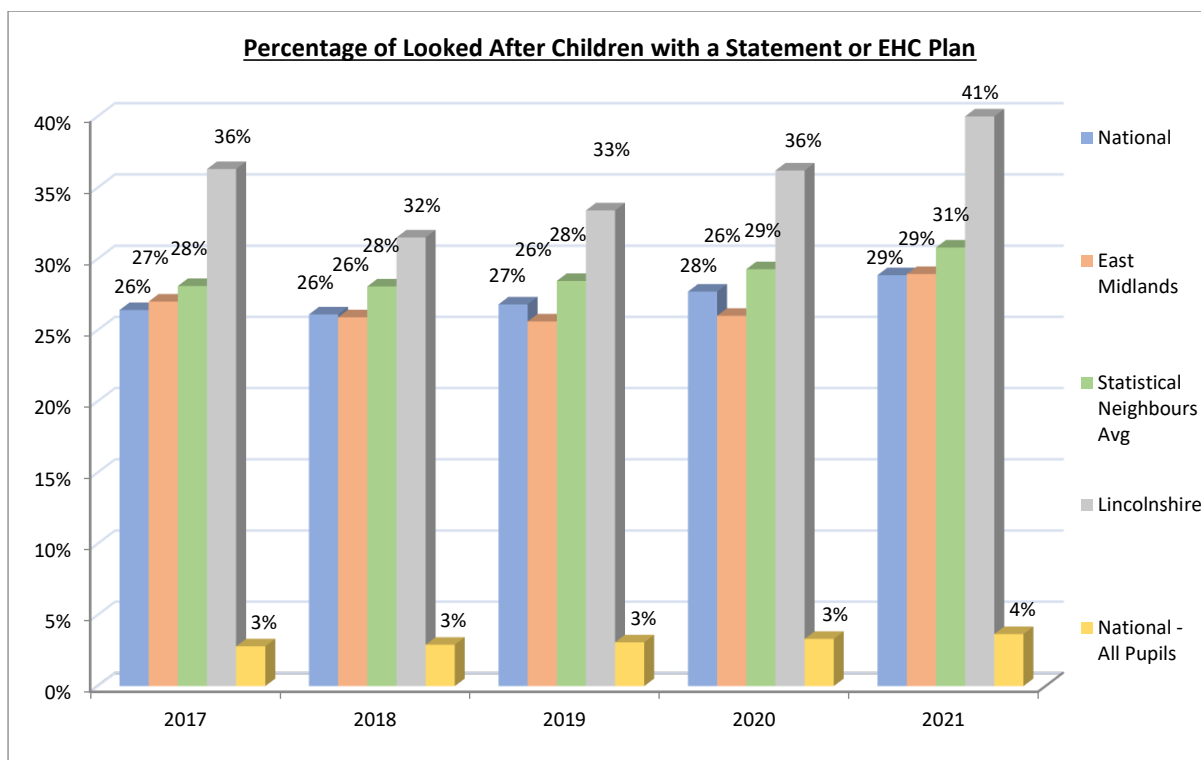
Nationally, 3.7% of the total pupil population have a Statement of Special Educational Needs (SEN) or an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP).

National statistics indicate that children in care are nearly four times more likely to have special educational needs when compared with all children nationally. They are also nearly eight times more likely to have a statement of special educational needs or an education health care plan.

Nationally, this equates to 12,130 children in care (27.7%). In 2021, 56% of children in care had an identified special educational need, compared to 16% of all children. When reviewing primary need type; Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) was the most frequently identified area of additional support for children in care.

In England, the percentage of children in care with a SEN is 56.2%; of which 27.4% are without a statement or EHC plan and 28.9% are with a statement or EHC plan. The regional East Midlands figures are above national, with 59.4% of children in care having a SEN, with 30.5% identified as SEN without a statement or EHC plan and 28.9% having a statement or EHC plan. Lincolnshire has a higher percentage of SEN when compared to national, regional and our statistical neighbour averages. The percentage of Lincolnshire children with SEN is 66.0% and comprises of 24.8% without a statement or EHC plan and 41.2% with a statement or EHC plan. Much of the difference between Lincolnshire and its comparators comes from the much higher proportion of pupils with a Statement or EHC plan.





6.3 Virtual School Intervention and additional support

Many of our children and young people enter care with a variety individual learning needs that are often unmet or unidentified. In order to address this, the Lincolnshire Virtual School works to provide a baseline for their educational progress as near to their time of entry as possible, utilising the skills of specialist intervention teams (Early Years Foundation Stage – Key Stage 3), using the Early Years Specialist Teachers and the Specialist Teaching Team. This provides the opportunity for early and effective school-based interventions with progress monitored through the Personal Education Plan (PEP) process.

Further support included additional tuition through the LCC SEND Home Tuition Team. This is commissioned by the Virtual School utilising Pupil Premium to help develop key learning skills with targeted subject support in years 5 and 6, 9 to 11.

Provision of training in language and communication support to schools and care homes, working alongside Lincolnshire’s specialist Extended Communication and Language Provision for Students team (ECLIPS) has continued to see a large number of school staff and carers gain a better understanding of how the journey through the care system can impact upon language and communication in children and how this can be effectively addressed and overcome. Additional training and awareness have been provided to SENCos across Lincolnshire in their SEND Briefings.

7.0 Inclusion - How regularly do our Children Attend?

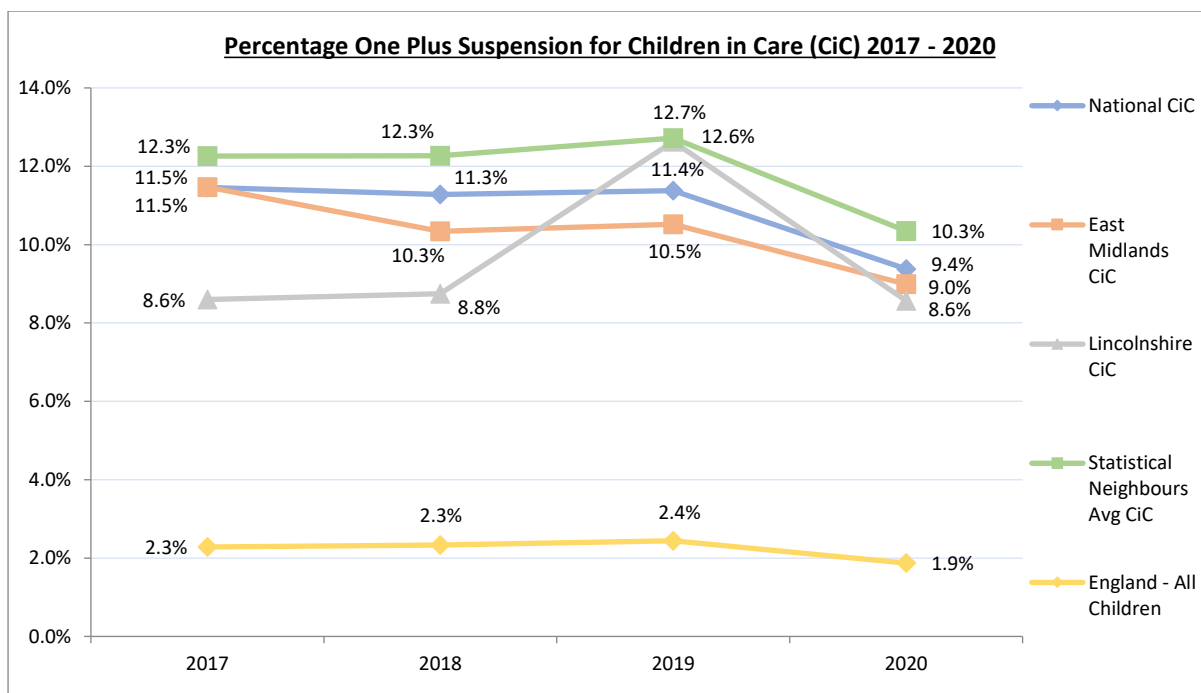
The last 3 years of complete data prior to Covid show that Lincolnshire children in care attend more regularly than their looked after peers nationally and regionally. This maintains a long trend of being in line or better than our national, east midlands and statistical neighbour average comparators. DfE National attendance data for CiC covering the period of this report remains unpublished currently and will be published in March 2023. Attendance of Children in Care and all Children Nationally has been disrupted in the period following the pandemic and local data suggests that it is unlikely to return to pre pandemic levels for our Children in Care in the short term. A separate Report on the attendance of CiC for this period will be presented at the planned Corporate Parenting Meeting in May 2023 following the planned March release.

7.1 Inclusion - How likely are our looked after children to be excluded?

7.1.1 Suspensions

Nationally (2017 - 2020), looked after children have been 5 to 5.5 times more likely to be suspended from school for a fixed-term than the national average for all pupils. Lincolnshire children in care were around 4 times more likely to be suspended from school than the national average for all pupils between 2017 and 2018. This was well below national, regional, and statistical neighbour averages.

There was a large increase in suspensions in Lincolnshire in 2019. This saw the suspension rate in Lincolnshire to be in line with statistical neighbour average and above our regional and national rates. There was a consistent drop in exclusion rates in 2020 across the board for Lincolnshire and all our comparators. The drop seen for Lincolnshire was much greater than all our comparators with the Lincolnshire rate dropping back down the rate seen prior to 2019 showing our 2019 data to be an exception.



7.1.2 Permanent Exclusion

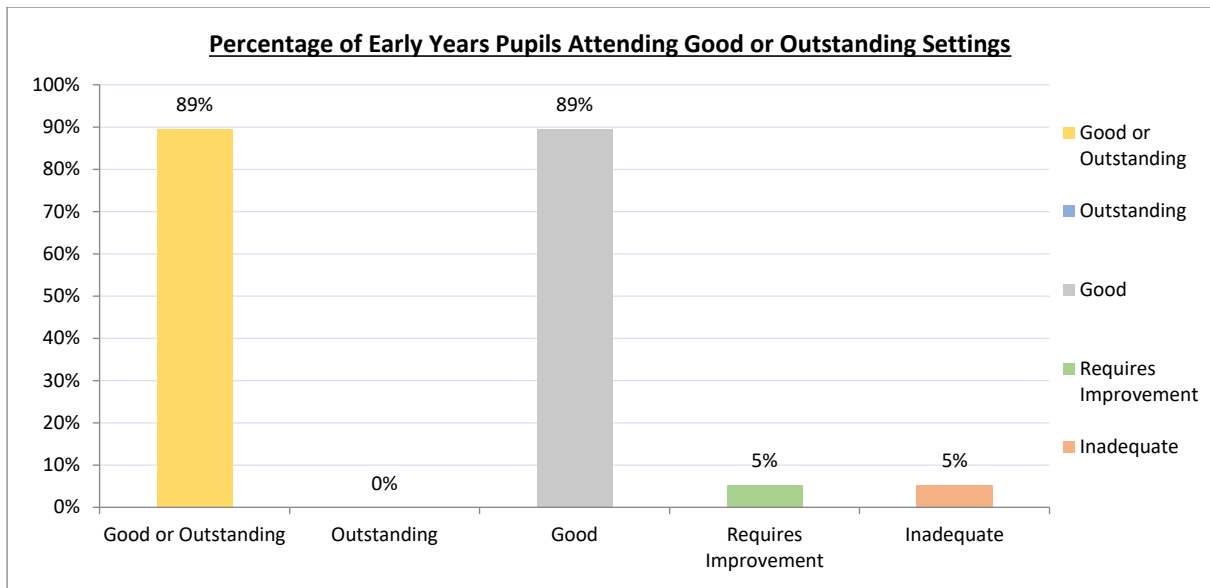
The DfE does not publish data relating to the permanent exclusion of children in care. Locally sourced data indicates that in the 2021-22 academic year, no looked after children received a permanent exclusion.

8.0 Quality of Provision - What proportion of our children and young people aged 3-18 attend schools graded good or better by Ofsted?

Between November 2017 and January 2018, the DfE consulted on changes to official statistics in reporting Ofsted outcomes. As a result of this consultation there has been a change in the way the latest inspection data is reported for all providers. The grades from the predecessor schools will now be included for schools that have not yet been inspected in their current form, to provide a more comprehensive view of the sector.

8.1 Early Years (Reception)

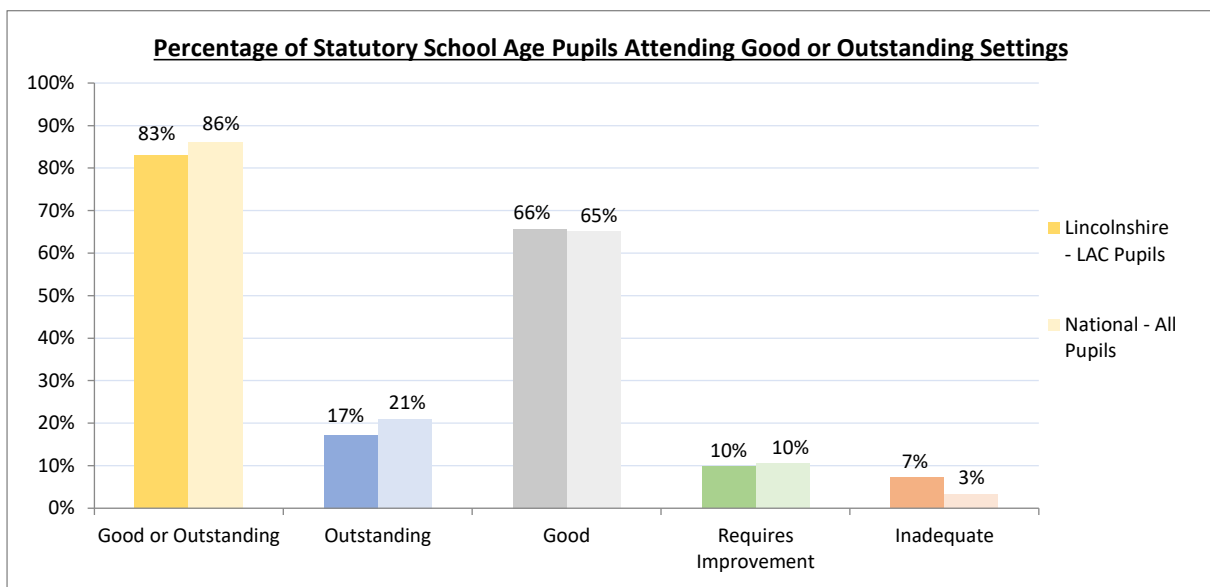
In accordance with data correct as of 19th November 2022, 89% of our children in care placed both in and out of county who are aged four or five were attending good or outstanding settings as graded by Ofsted. This is an improvement of 4% compared with last year.



8.2 Statutory School Age

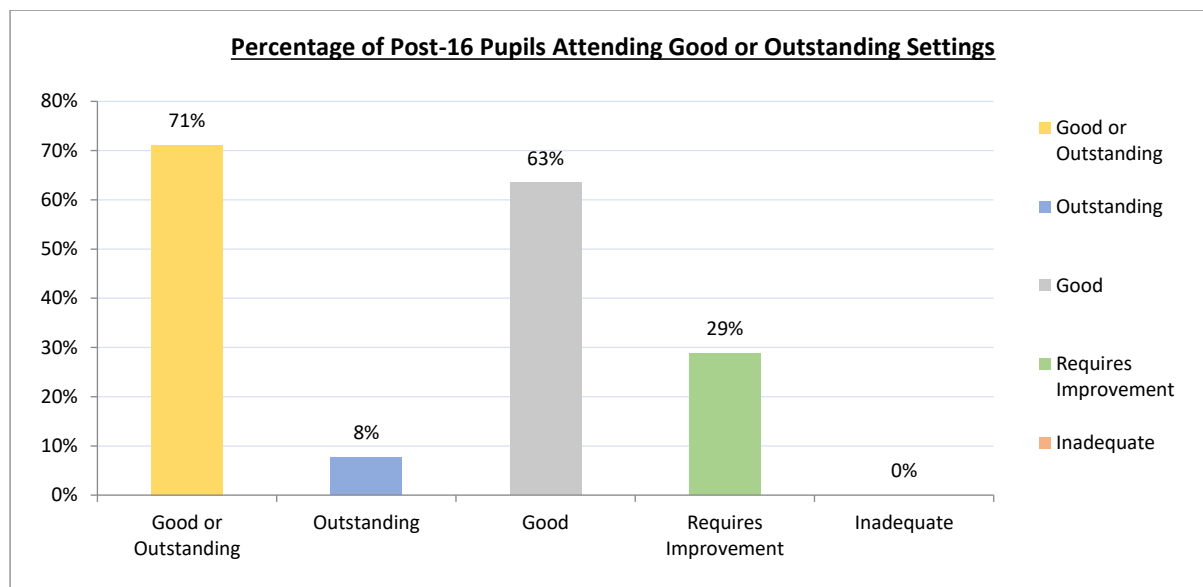
The percentage of children who are of statutory school age attending Good or Outstanding schools both in and out of county has dropped 5% compared to last year (83% compared to 88% last year).

The percentage of Lincolnshire children in care attending Good or Outstanding schools is below the proportion of all children nationally (86%) attending a Good or Outstanding school; where appropriate additional support is provided for any children attending schools that are graded less than good.



8.3 Quality of Provision Post -16

Currently 71% of our post-16 students are attending a good or outstanding setting with 29% requires improvement and 0% inadequate. This is a decrease of 8% compared to last year when 79% was reported. Our post-16 students are supported (as per case example below) through the PEP process and, as is the case with our statutory school age students, we work with our wider children's services colleagues and others to provide additional support for students attending settings judged less than good.



9.0 Electronic Personal Education Plans (ePEPs)

9.1 PEP Compliance - Have we met our target?

PEP compliance for those of statutory school age for the academic year 2021-2022 has consistently exceeded target (94%). The PEP process in Lincolnshire requires three face to face termly meetings to be held, with these usually taking place at the young person's education setting. Due to Covid restrictions, a hybrid approach was taken and Virtual School Education Progress Co-ordinators ensured that PEP meetings were held and that all partners had the opportunity to contribute either remotely or face to face.

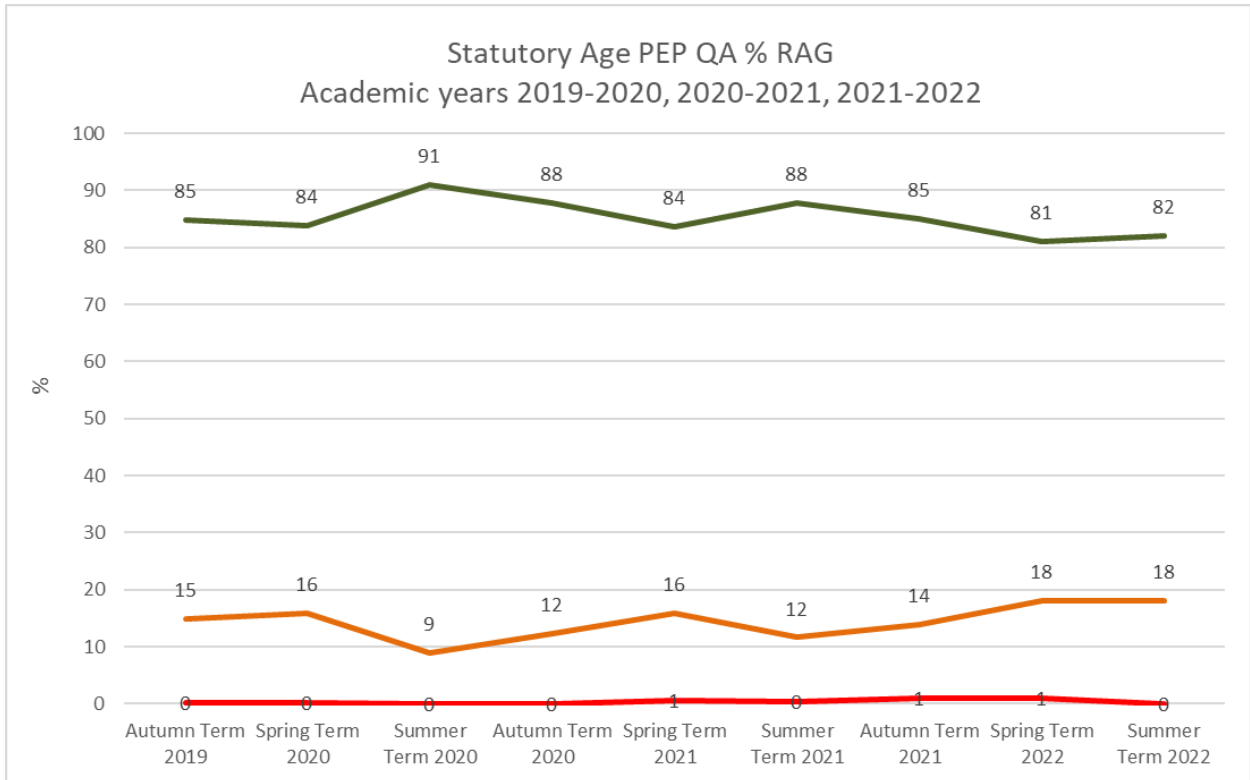
PEP Compliance	Autumn Term 2021	Spring Term 2022	Summer Term 2022
Statutory Age	99%	99%	100%
Early Years	100%	100%	100%
Post 16	96%	97%	100%

9.2 Update on new PEP meeting format and PEP QA

Our on-going development of the Personal Education Plan (PEP) process seeks to improve the quality of educational support being provided to our children and young people and ensure that all of those involved are working together effectively and are empowered to play their part in supporting our children in care to succeed. Key to this is to ensure that the voice of the child or young person is heard. As a result of our involvement in the Post 16 Pupil Premium Pilot, the ePEP has been developed to include:

- Pupil Premium tracking and funded target requests added to the Post 16 PEP template – The system now enables Post 16 providers to request funding to meet student's individual needs against SMART targets agreed at the PEP meeting
- Post 16 transition page – Due to go live next academic year, this additional page will be completed at all Year 11 PEPs and tracks a young person's progress in applying for and securing Post 16 provision such as a college or training course or apprenticeship.

Our Quality Assurance processes support schools, carers and other professionals to work more effectively together in order to improve the quality of education plans. Every PEP includes a quality assurance page which identifies effective practice and areas for development which can be seen by everyone who has access to the PEP. Virtual School co-ordinators carry out monthly QA discussions to ensure judgements are moderated and informs further support or development that may be needed. The outcome of these discussions are shared with the Virtual School management team. Although the graph below shows a slight reduction in the percentage of 'green' PEPs as a result of the robust moderation discussions, the red line demonstrates only less than 1% of our young people did not have an effective PEP. These individual cases are monitored by the management team and are usually due to unique circumstances for the young person.



10.0 Pupil Premium + Grant Allocation - How has the Virtual School allocated the Pupil Premium Grant?

The PP+ grant allocation per Child in Care is £2345 as outlined in the DfE Pupil Premium 2021 to 2022 Conditions of Grant.

Responsibility for the allocation of the Pupil Premium Plus Grant (PP+) of £2345 rests with the Virtual School Head. The information below relates to the financial period April 2021-March 2022.

The revised allocation from the DfE for 2021-2022 is £1,074,010; this total is based upon 458 statutory school age Children in Care as documented in the final DfE Children in Care (SSDA903 collection data report) 2021-2022.

The Virtual School also received two additional grants: Pupil Premium Recovery Grant of £33,206 and School-Led Tutoring grant £32,484.50 for the period Sept 2021 to March 2022.

Total Allocation: £1,139,700.50.

A total of £855,404 went directly to schools through the allocation of an initial £500 to £1000 depending on year group; combined to additional requests from schools based

upon academic targets outlined in the PEP. £115,379 was used to allocate 1:1 additional tuition support. A further £81,008 was utilised to commission interventions and a proportion of the grant, totalling £87,909.50 was utilised centrally for additional support of students including resources and the training of staff.

Pupil Premium + Grant 2021-2022 Allocation of Funds	
Went directly into schools through the allocation of an initial £500 to £1000 depending on year group combined with additional requests from schools based upon academic targets and additional support outlined in the PEP.	£855,404
Tuition and additional 1-1 support as requested by school.	£115,379
Intervention Project – Wellcomm /Core Assessments / ECLIPS.	£59,739
Intervention Project – Letterbox	£21,269
Additional support of students including resources and training of staff.	£87,909.50
Total	£1,139,700.50

10.1 Early Years PP+ funding

The Virtual School also allocated £25,368 EYPP+ Grant to our Early Years settings. The funding is requested via the PEP process and linked to intervention to improve outcomes. All funding was allocated to Early Years settings to support children's progress, attainment, and transition into school.

11.0 How well have our Children and Young People Achieved?

11.1 Early Years

11.1.1 Early Years Case study

A has significant and complex medical and learning needs. She has been with the same foster carers since coming into care when she was 2 months old. A has an Education, Health and Care Plan and is on roll at her local special school. Due to her medical needs, Alina is extremely vulnerable and was unable to attend school full time due to the risks from Covid and extreme fatigue due to her medical needs. Termly PEP meetings were held virtually to reduce the risk to A and monitored the home learning that the foster carers were providing. The Virtual School co-ordinator facilitated partnership working between home and school.

During the spring term, A started to attend virtual sessions with her class and Pupil Premium was used to purchase resources for the foster carers to use at home which matched those being used in school. Photographs were shared at the PEP meeting of A virtually joining nursery rhyme and counting song sessions where she engaged

well, waved and smiled at her peers and responded to questions. The virtual learning sessions also provide opportunities for A to interact with her peers who were always delighted to see her. The PEP meetings always included a shared discussion on how to support Alina's return to school. Alina returned to school on a part-time timetable and the home learning activities supported A to remain on target with progress being seen in literacy and numeracy related targets.

11.1.2 Early Years – Cohort Characteristics

There were 14 pupils in the cohort completing Foundation Stage Reception in 2022. 6 pupils (43%) had an identified Special Educational Need (4 pupils (29%) required SEN Support and 2 pupils (14%) had an EHC Plan). Our cohort completing Foundation Stage comprised of: 8 boys (57%), 6 girls (43%), 2 pupils (14%) eligible for Free School Meals in the past 6 years (FSM6) and no pupils (0%) with English as an Additional Language (EAL). Out of 14 pupils, 12 (86%) were educated within Lincolnshire and 2 pupils were educated Out of County.

The average SDQ score for the cohort was 16.1. This is considered to be slightly raised. In total 3 pupils (33%) in Lincolnshire had an SDQ score of High (11%) or Very High (22%).

SDQ Overview

The Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ) is a brief emotional and behavioural screening questionnaire for children and young people. The tool can capture the perspective of children and young people, their parents, and teachers. There are currently three versions of the SDQ: a short form, a longer form with an impact supplement (which assesses the impact of difficulties on the child's life) and a follow-up form. The 25 items in the SDQ comprise 5 scales of 5 items each. The scales include:

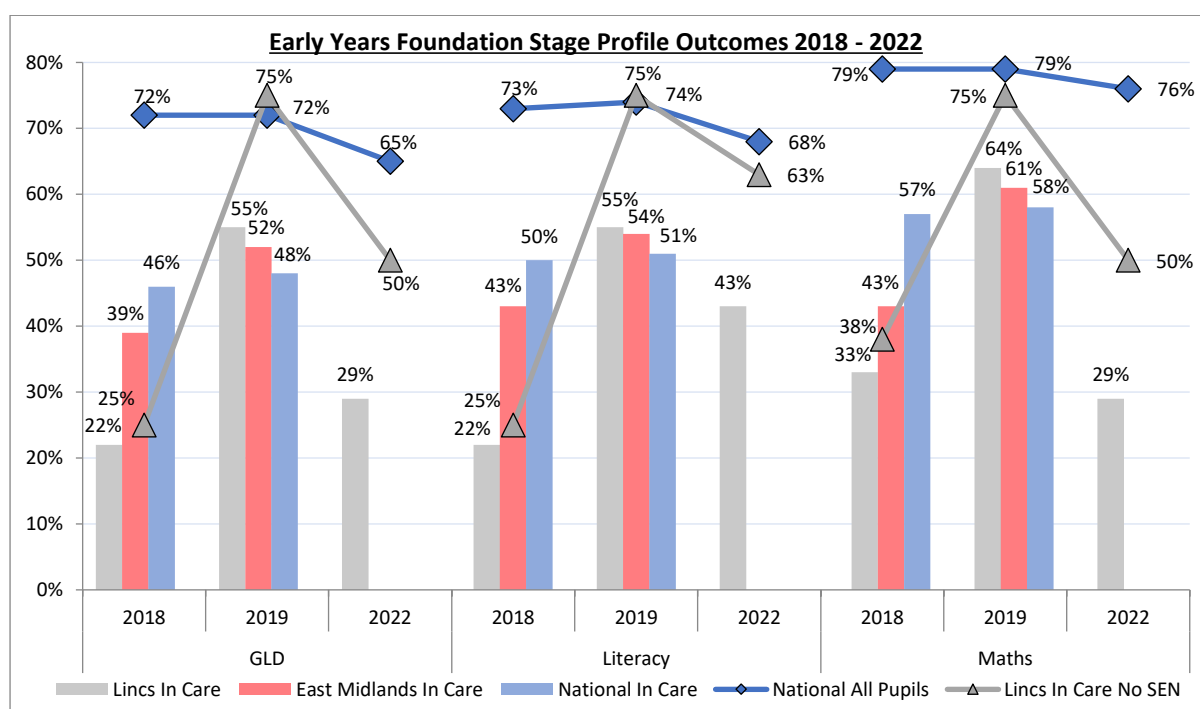
1. Emotional Symptoms subscale
2. Conduct Problems subscale
3. Hyperactivity/inattention subscale
4. Peer relationships problem subscale
5. Prosocial behaviour subscale

The SDQ can be used for various purposes, including clinical assessment, evaluation of outcomes, research, and screening.

11.1.3 Early Years – Good Level of Development (GLD)

For 2022 there have been some changes to Early Years Foundation Stage framework. The core areas of learning and development remain the same but there have been some changes to the early learning goals within each area of learning to make them clearer and more specific. This does mean that comparisons between years cannot be made.

In 2022, Lincolnshire’s Children in Care (CiC) GLD percentage was 29%. Lincolnshire’s GLD percentage for CiC pupils with no recognised SEN was 50% and compares to the National all pupils GLD percentage of 65%. In the Literacy Area of Learning 43% of Lincolnshire CiC pupils achieved the expected standard. For CiC pupils with no recognised SEN 63% achieved the expected standard and compares to the National all pupils Literacy Area of Learning percentage of 68%. In the Mathematics Area of Learning 29% of Lincolnshire CiC pupils achieved the expected standard. For CiC pupils with no recognised SEN 50% achieved the expected standard and compares to the National all pupils Mathematics Area of Learning percentage of 76%.



11.2 Key Stage 1

11.2.1 Case Study Key Stage 1

J came into care just after his 4th birthday and attended his local mainstream primary school. By the start of Year 2, although he was making progress, J was working below age related expectations in literacy and numeracy. Pupil Premium was used to provide enhanced support in these areas as well as wellbeing check-ins. There was good communication between school and home.

J continued to make progress throughout Year 2. His termly PEPs illustrated the progress he was making and reviewed the support and interventions in place. J passed his Phonics screening test at the end of the Autumn Term and by the end of the Spring term, he was on target to meet the expected standards in Maths and Phonics and continued to access interventions funded by Pupil Premium to support his progress in Literacy.

By the end of the summer term, J had made particularly good progress with his reading and was now on target for achieving age related expectations. At his PEP meeting, plans were agreed for his transition to the junior school. A Specialist Teacher assessment review commissioned by the Virtual School highlighted the progress J had made in the standardised assessments – his non-verbal reading and verbal skills were at expected levels and his word reading and spelling performances were both within the average range.

J had a successful transition to his junior school. School reported that J ‘settled and fitted in really well.’ His carers agreed that he had settled well and shared that he was excited to go to school and keen to talk about all he had been doing when he went home at night.

11.2.2 Key Stage 1 – Cohort Characteristics

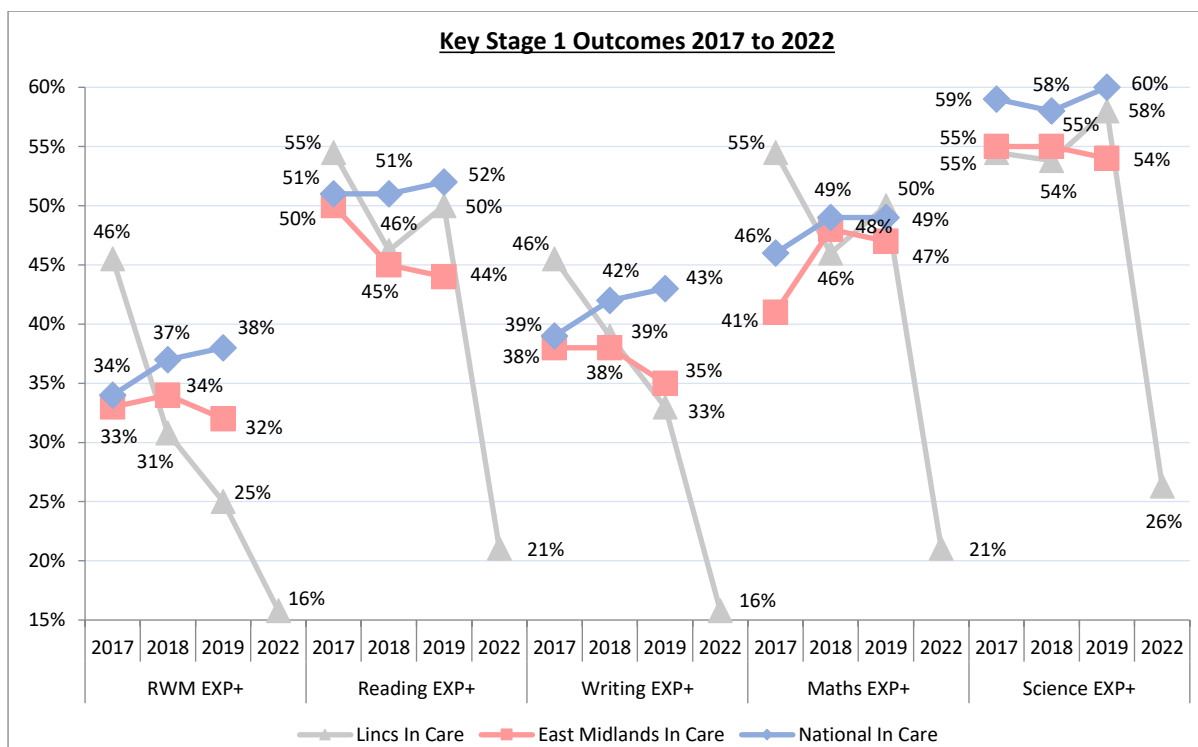
There were 19 pupils in the cohort completed Key Stage 1 in 2022. There were 13 pupils (68%) with an identified Special Educational Need, 9 pupils (47%) with SEN Support and 4 pupils (21%) with an EHC Plan. Our cohort completing KS1 comprised of 11 boys (58%), 8 girls (42%), 10 pupils (53%) eligible for Free School Meals in the past 6 years (FSM6) and no pupils with English as an Additional Language (EAL). In total, 15 pupils (79%) were educated within Lincolnshire with 4 pupils (21%) educated Out of County.

The average SDQ for the cohort is: 14.3 and this is considered slightly raised. In total (38%) of Lincolnshire pupils had an SDQ score of High (0%) or Very High (38%).

11.2.3 Key Stage 1 – Attainment

Lincolnshire’s Children in Care Key Stage 1 outcomes in 2022 are very likely to be well below National and Regional comparators. There has been a significant drop since the last year we had examinations data in 2019. The proportion of SEN pupils in 2022 (68%) was higher than in 2019 (46%) and could explain some of this drop in performance. National and East Midlands comparator data for Children in Care will be available in early 2023 when we will be able to make better sense of this data in context.

There were drops seen for all children nationally 2019-2022 across all KS1 subjects of between 7% and 11%.



11.3 Key Stage 2

11.3.1 Key Stage 2 case study

K moved to an out of county place in 2020 and attended a local independent special school. At the end of Year 2, Social Care identified a residential placement in Lincolnshire for K to return to. The move was planned for January 2022 and transition visits started. As a change of school was needed, the Virtual School liaised closely with our colleagues in Lincolnshire SEND who began the consultation process to identify a special school place in preparation for K's move. K had a successful transition into his new home but unfortunately an appropriate special school place was not available until the next academic year. To enable K to continue to access educational provision, the Virtual School ensured home tuition was put in place as soon as possible. K engaged well with this provision, but all professionals were keen to ensure he could access group learning opportunities outside of his home to support his transition into school.

K's Virtual School Co-ordinator identified a local Alternative Provision which offered outdoor learning opportunities which matched K's interests. Following successful visits, a package of learning activities was put in place which K actively engaged in for the remainder of the academic year. Alongside his English and Maths tuition, K took part in pond and river safaris looking for nature, forest trailing, camp building, bike riding, outdoor science experiments. Staff from K's new school attended the summer term Personal Education Plan meeting where arrangements were made for K to visit his school. K has subsequently had a very positive transition into his new school.

11.3.2 Key Stage 2 – Cohort Characteristics

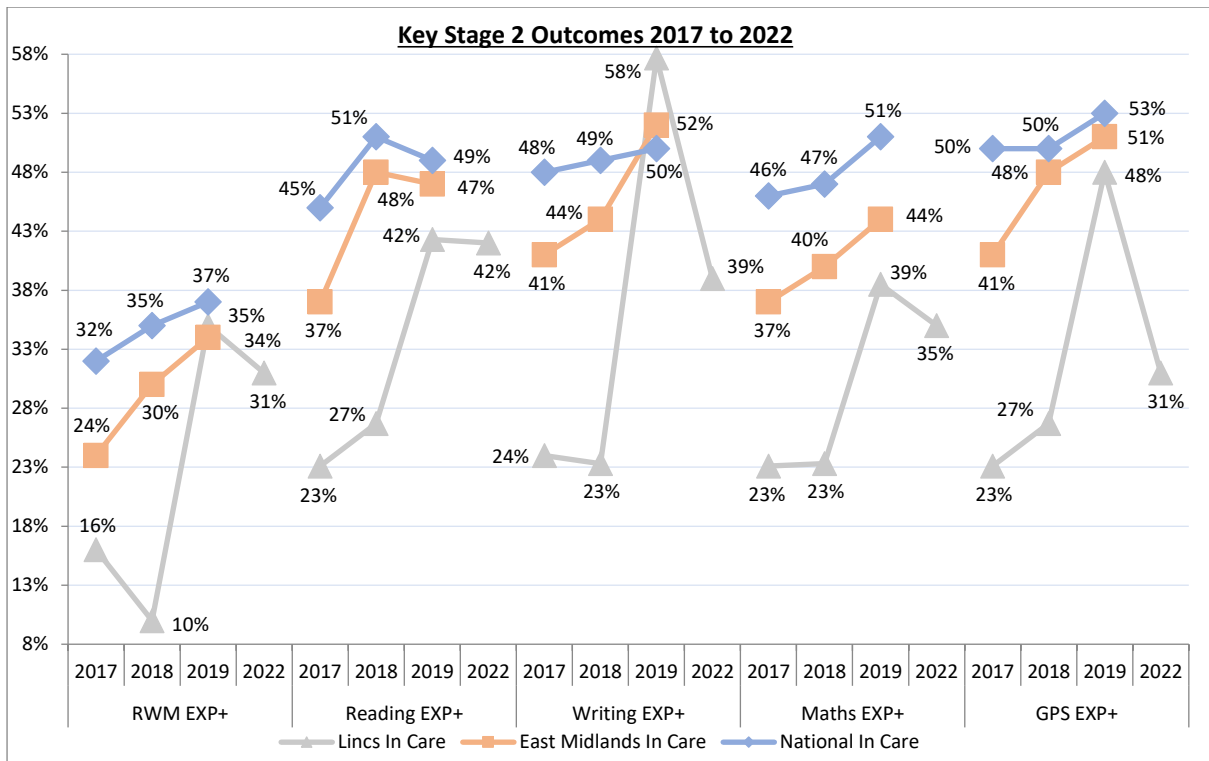
There were 28 pupils in the Children in Care cohort completing Key Stage 2 in 2022. 19 pupils (68%) had an identified Special Educational Need, 10 pupils (36%) required SEN Support and 9 pupils (32%) with an EHC Plan. The cohort completing Key Stage 2 comprised of: 13 boys (46%), 15 girls (54%), 17 pupils (61%) eligible for Free School Meals in the past 6 years (FSM6) and 1 pupil (4%) had English as an Additional Language (EAL). 22 pupils (79%) were educated within Lincolnshire and 6 pupils (21%) were educated Out of County.

The average SDQ for the cohort is: 17.1 and which is considered to be high. In total 50% of Lincolnshire pupils had an SDQ score of High (11%) or Very High (39%).

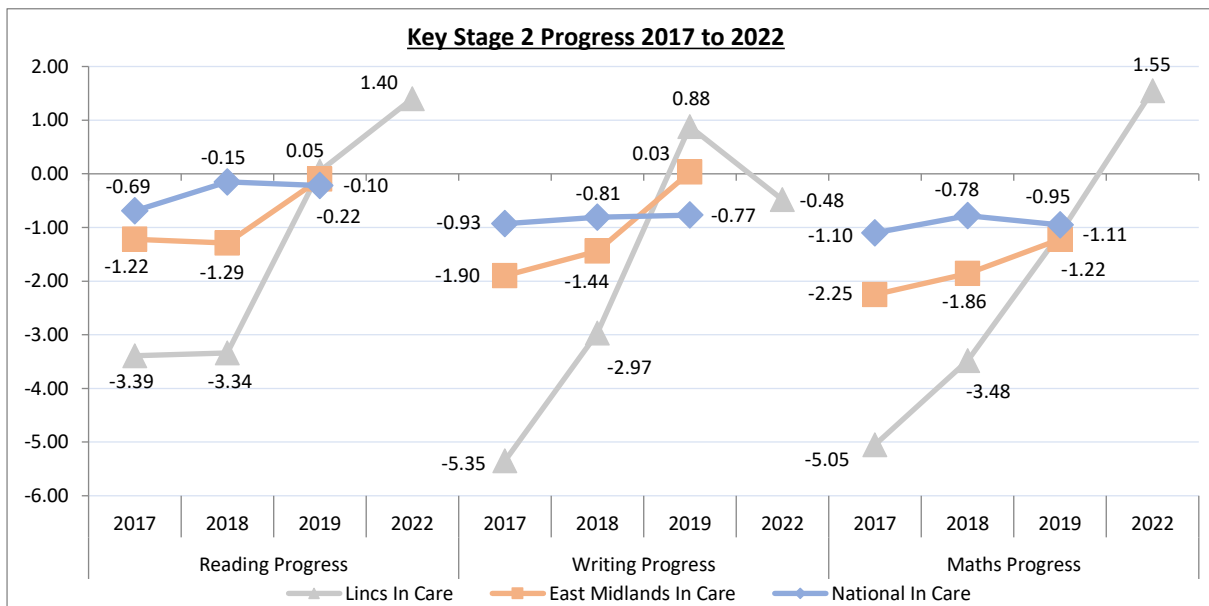
11.3.3 Key Stage 2 – Attainment

Lincolnshire's Children in Care Key Stage 2 outcomes in 2022 are also likely to be below National and Regional comparators. That said, they compare well to 2019 when we consider an increase in SEN pupils in this year group (68% in 2022, 54% in 2019) in combination with a drop in Key Stage 2 outcomes seen nationally between 2019 (65% in RWM) and 2022 (59% in RWM) in all subjects except for Reading.

The proportion of pupils achieving the expected standard in Reading, Writing and Maths fell by 4% to 31% in 2022 compared to 35% in 2019. The percentage of pupils achieving the expected standard in Reading maintained steady at 42%, the same as 2019. In Writing, there was a substantial drop from 58% in 2019 to 39% in 2022, though it should be noted performance in 2019 was high relative to our comparators. The proportion of pupils achieving the expected standard in Maths fell by 4% to 35% between 2019 and 2022. In Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling Lincolnshire Children in Care also saw a large drop from 48% in 2019 to 31% in 2022.



Lincolnshire's Children in Care Key Stage 2 progress outcomes between KS1 and KS2 in 2022 show a positive picture. Our progress is likely to be above (Reading & Maths) or similar (Writing) to our National and Regional comparators. These figures continue an improving trend that was established in the 3 years prior to the pandemic.



11.4 Key Stage 4

11.4.1 Key Stage 4 case study

J came into care at the end of Year 10 and although placed a significant distance from his school, all professionals were in agreement that it was in J's best interests to complete Year 11 at the same school. Coming into care and moving to a residential placement had had an impact on J's engagement and progress at school. His attendance at the end of Year 10 was 66% and he was working significantly below his GCSE target grades. The Virtual School commissioned some home tuition to support J in English and Maths and at his Autumn Term PEP meeting, it was agreed to adapt his timetable to enable him to attend additional English sessions at school to boost his predicated grade.

By the end of the Autumn Term, J's attendance had increased to 90% and he had continued to make progress in lessons. The pressure of a pending court case contributed to J refusing to sit his mock exams, but he did start to engage in the 1:1 English sessions which had a positive impact on his confidence.

J's summer term PEP recorded the considerable positive shift in his attitude, motivation, and investment in his future plans. His attendance had continued to improve despite the very long taxi journeys and his mock exams results went from ungraded to 2-3s. Although this was below his target grades, it was a significant improvement to the start of the year. J continued to access emotion wellbeing and academic support funded by Pupil Premium alongside the home tuition sessions.

Although J's court sentencing hearing took place just before his GCSEs, he continued to be well supported by his school and residential placement providers. Everyone was delighted when J achieved a Grade 5 in his Maths GCSE and Grade 4 in all his other GCSEs.

11.4.2 Key Stage 4 – Cohort Characteristics

There were 55 pupils in the children in care cohort completing Key Stage 4 Assessments in 2022. Within this cohort young people accessed their education in a variety of settings:

- ❖ **Mainstream Schools 55% (30)**
- ❖ **Special Schools 29% (16)**
- ❖ **Independent Schools 5% (3)**
- ❖ **Alternative Provision 5% (3)**
- ❖ **Pupil Referral Unit 5% (3)**

Of the 55 pupils, 45 (66%) had an identified Special Educational Need (18 pupils (33%) received SEN Support and 27 pupils (49%) had an EHC Plan). There were 29 boys (53%) & 26 girls (47%), 26 pupils (47%) eligible for Free School Meals in the past 6 years (FSM6) and 4 pupils (7%) had English as an Additional Language (EAL). Out of the 55 pupils, 44 pupils (80%) were educated within Lincolnshire and 11 pupils (20%) were educated Out of County.

The average SDQ for the cohort is: 16.5 and this is on the border between slightly raised and high. In total 46% of Lincolnshire pupils had an SDQ score of High (7%) or Very High (39%).

11.4.3 Key Stage 4 – Attainment

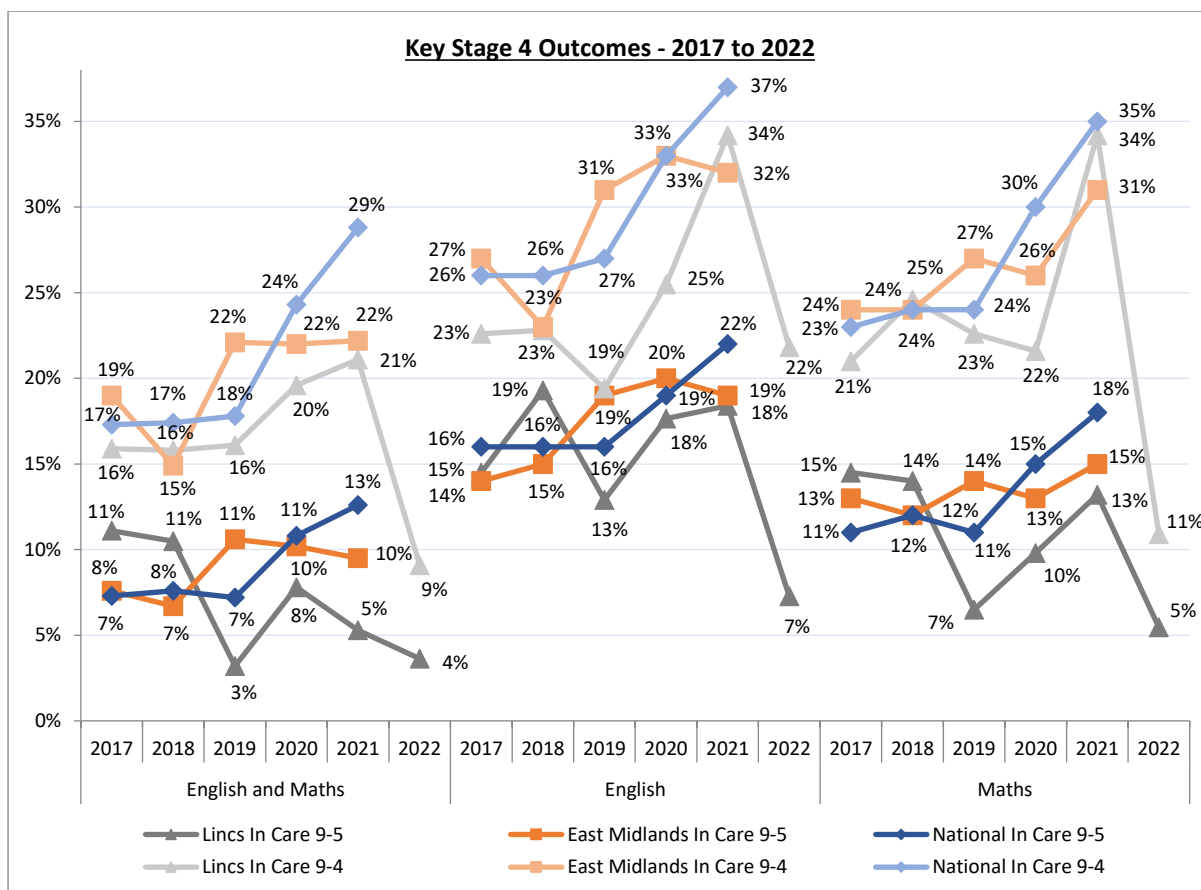
Exams years 2017, 2018, 2019 & 2022 were exam assessed where 2020 and 2021 were centre assessed grades. The use of centre assessed grade makes any comparison to years where exams were taken difficult.

55% of the cohort attended a mainstream secondary school in 2022. This is a large decrease on last year where 71% of our cohort attended a mainstream school. This large decrease was mainly made up from a large increase in the cohort attending special school with 29% in 2022 compared to 5% in 2021.

The outcomes of grade 5 or above in English and maths have shown a decrease of 1% to 4%, compared to last year (5%). This will be below the national and regional averages when compared to the previous 5 years data (no national or regional data in 2022 yet). The outcomes of grade 4 or above in English and maths has also shown a large decrease of 12% to 9%, compared to last year (21%).

Decreases were also seen in the individual subjects of English and maths, both for grade 4 or above and grade 5 or above.

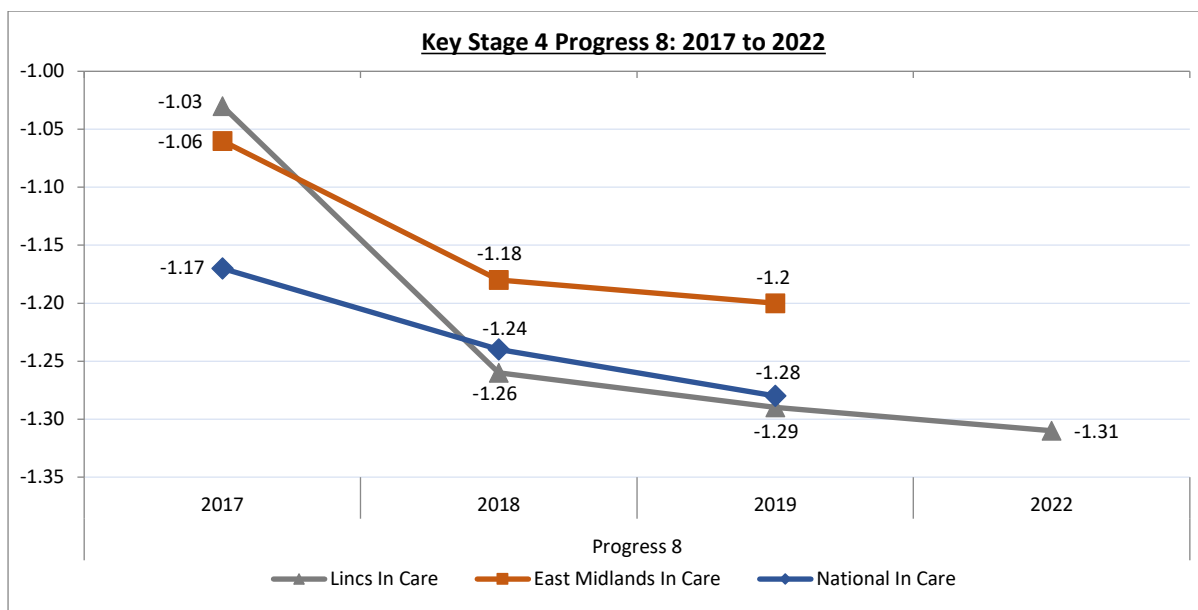
Despite the drops seen in our performance in terms of attainment, our progress figures are comparable to the figures we achieved in 2018 and 2019.



Progress 8 measures the progress between KS2 and KS4 of a pupil by comparing their Attainment 8 score at KS4 with the average Attainment 8 scores of all pupils nationally who had a similar starting point, calculated using assessment results from KS2. These scores can be aggregated to give an overall Progress 8 score for a cohort of pupils.

The Progress 8 score is represented as a positive or negative number either side of zero. A score of zero means that pupils in the cohort have made the same progress on average as those with similar prior attainment nationally, with a positive score meaning they have made more progress and a negative score meaning they have made less progress (for example a negative Progress 8 score of -1 would mean that pupils on average had achieved 1 grade less than pupils with the same prior attainment nationally and vice versa for positive progress scores).

The progress 8 score for Lincolnshire Looked after Children is likely to be very similar to when we last had full examinations at -1.31 (-1.29 in 2019, -1.26 in 2018).



12.0 Individual Achievements of Young People

Despite the many challenges that our young people and their carers have faced over the Covid pandemic, lockdown, school closures, and uncertainty around exams, we are delighted to share some of their significant achievements:

Student A achieved the necessary grades in her A Levels to secure a place at Leicester University to study Law.

Student B achieved a BTEC Level 3 in Child Play, Learning and Development and has started a CLAS Apprenticeship at a local early-years setting.

Student C achieved a Merit Pass in BTEC Level 3 in Public Services and Uniformed Services and is working towards his goal of joining the Army.

Student D achieved grade 7 in Mathematics and Chemistry, grade 6 in Biology and Physics, grade 5 in English Language, English Literature, Statistics and Geography and grade 4 in Art & Design and Spanish.

Student E achieved grade 6 in Design & technology, grade 5 in English Language, English Literature and Mathematics, grade 4 in Combined Science and Geography and a Level 2 Pass in Health and Wellbeing.

Student F achieved grade 5 in Combined Science, grade 4 in English Language, English Literature, Mathematics and History, a Level 2 Merit in Art & Design and Music and a Level 2 Pass in Health & Social Care and Creative Project in Art & Design.

There have also been numerous achievements for our young people in extra-curricular clubs and activities which include:

Student G was chosen to carry the flag for Brownies during the Remembrance Sunday parade.

Student H and her sister **J** achieved Distinction and Excellent grades in their Acro Dance Exams.

Student K reached the National Finals of the Aspiring Student Chef (11-16) awards held in Bournemouth.

Student L was awarded the Police Cadet Community Achievement Award by her local borough council.

Student M was part of the squad who won the national Sea Cadets unarmed drill competition held in Plymouth.

Student N graduated from Air Cadets.

Student O was nominated by his peers to be the football team Captain. He took this role very seriously and always put his teammates needs before his own.

13.0 How does the Virtual School ensure the voice of children and young people influences practice?

As noted above, one of the most important aspects of the role of our Virtual School officers and coordinators is to build strong working relationships with our children and young people over time so that any problems that emerge can be overcome and successes celebrated on an individual basis (85% of CiC chose to actively engage with the PEP process). To ensure that those who are not in a position to engage have the opportunity to be heard, the team also maintains regular contact with our children and young people to ensure that they are on track and feel, confident, safe and supported in school and any specific worries or concerns are addressed. This applies to those placed both in and out of county and has continued throughout periods of lockdown wherever possible.

14.0 Summary

This annual report covers the activity of the Lincolnshire Virtual School in the academic year 2021-2022 and describes how we have fulfilled our statutory duty to promote improved educational outcomes for our Children and Young People in care. The report outlines the specific and ever - changing characteristics of our cohorts of children in each year group and provides a context against which their outcomes are better understood (particularly the potential long term negative impact of the pandemic on the learning of Children and Young People in care).

It also highlights through the use of case examples, the positive impact that the work of the Virtual School has had on individual children and young people. The Virtual school team understands the need for patience, resilience, innovation and the importance of building effective relationships to ensure that we can create the environments in which our children and young people can thrive.

In this report we demonstrate:

- A commitment to promoting continuous professional development within the Virtual School team. Also, a determination towards training and support work with designated teachers, social care teams, foster carers, IROs, and others.
- The Virtual School team and our SEND, Commissioning, and Social Care colleagues work effectively to ensure that our children and young people are placed in provision Ofsted graded Good or better and regularly review the placement of those in less than good schools regularly.
- That Pupil Premium is allocated to schools in an efficient and timely manner with the impact of interventions recorded on the ePEP, which is reviewed at least three times per year or more often if necessary. Pupil Premium is utilised strategically to fund early intervention strategies.
- That we value the need to build strong relationships with our children and young people over time so that trust can be developed, and advocacy can be effective and based on the views of the child. We take the time to celebrate individual success and also see the importance of Celebrating success more widely as appropriate.
- That we have high aspirations for our children and young people and recognise that understanding their needs, building their emotional resilience and self- esteem goes hand in hand with promoting their academic progress.

15.0 Recommendations

The Virtual School to continue to promote improving educational outcomes for children and young people, as outlined in our Lincolnshire Looked after Children and Care Leavers Strategy.

1. The Virtual School continues to ensure that all Personal Education Plans (PEPs) are high quality and effective with Children's Services staff, carers, children, and schools working effectively and in partnership to promote wellbeing and learning. That the work of the Virtual School Team focuses on supporting our children and young people to access effective support particularly those Children and Young People whose learning has been negatively impacted by the fallout from the pandemic.
2. Children's Services to continue to develop a highly skilled, effective and innovative workforce across Lincolnshire focused upon improving educational outcomes for children and young people in care and to ensure that we build on our work with our post-16 cohort and children with a social worker to fulfil our extended statutory and non-statutory duties.
3. That we engage with other Children's Services Teams to ensure improving educational outcomes is central to the delivery of our Lincolnshire Children and Care Leavers Strategy from January 2023 and beyond.

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Open Report on Behalf of Lincolnshire Leaving Care Service

Report to:	Corporate Parenting Panel
Date:	19 January 2023
Subject:	Lincolnshire Leaving Care – 6 Monthly Update Report

Summary:

This is the 6 Monthly Update Report provided by Barnardo's on behalf of Lincolnshire Leaving Care Service; the report covers the period April 2022 – September 2022.

Actions Required:

Members of the Corporate Parenting Panel are invited to:

- (1) review and endorse the 6 Monthly Update Report; and,
- (2) comment on the contents of the 6 Monthly Update Report.

1. Background

The Lincolnshire Leaving Care Service is delivered on behalf of Lincolnshire County Council by Barnardo's. The Leaving Care service is a statutory service that is delivered to young people from the age of 16 through to the age of 25.

This is the 6-month report on behalf of Barnardo's, and it summarises the performance and activity within the service to support on offer to our Lincolnshire care leavers.

2. Conclusion

Lincolnshire is in a very strong position, and we continue to demonstrate our commitment to our care leavers. Members are asked to review this report and support the continued delivery of this service

The officers present would welcome any questions.

3. Consultation

a) Risks and Impact Analysis

N/A

4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Barnardo's 6 Monthly Lincolnshire Leaving Care Report

5. Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by Lisa Adams, Service Manager, who can be contacted on 01522 575 955 or by e-mail at lisa.adams@barnardos.org.uk.



6 Monthly Lincolnshire Leaving Care Report

This is the 6 monthly update report to Lincolnshire's Corporate Parenting Panel to demonstrate the performance of Lincolnshire Leaving Care Service regarding care leavers. Areas covered within this report include:

1. Accessing and maintaining suitable, safe accommodation.
2. Accessing and maintaining appropriate Education Employment and Training opportunities.
3. Care Leavers Cohort
4. Participation / Fundraising
5. Conclusion

Lincolnshire County Council's Leaving Care Service is currently delivered by Barnardo's. The contract specification (since the 1st April 2020) is to deliver a Statutory Leaving Care Service for young people aged 18-25 and to start working with the Local Authority Children in Care / FAST Teams working with Children in Care aged 16-18. The contract is closely monitored via monthly contract monitoring meetings which are attended by the Contract Monitoring Officer, the Corporate Parenting Manager and the Head of Regulated Services (with lead responsibility for Fostering, Adoption and Care Leavers).

Data contained within this report demonstrates performance from 1st April 2022 – 30th September 2022

1 - Accessing and Maintaining Suitable, Safe Accommodation

Accessing and maintaining suitable, safe accommodation

Percentage of Care Leavers Living in Suitable Accommodation – Target 90%

Apr	May	June	July	August	Sep
2022	2022	2022	2022	2022	2022
403	402	404	414	409	421
94%	94%	94%	95%	95%	95%

Lincolnshire Leaving Care Service offered advice, support and assistance in relation to accommodation options for young people aged 16-25 (Children in Care, 16- and 17-year-old homeless and Care Leavers). As a service we aim to share information in relation to housing options available both within County but also where the young person is currently residing. Within service we have a specialist post holder who specializes in housing

provision for Care Leavers, and we also have the Leaving Care Workers and Team Managers who have knowledge on services available to young people.

Barnardo's and the Local Authority monitor and review all young people in 'unsuitable' accommodation monthly, via contract monitoring reports to ensure appropriate plans are in place and support is offered in a timely way.

Within Barnardo's we continue to work with the Corporate Parenting Manager who has lead responsibility for the Council in relation to housing options for Care Leavers. The transition guidance for 16–18-year-olds enables Leaving Care Workers to start to work alongside Social Workers based within the Local Authority to ensure all Children in Care have the appropriate paperwork in place prior to their 18th Birthday to enable them to claim housing and benefit entitlements.

We have developed some good links with District Council Housing Teams and the Corporate Parenting Manager continues to offer the District Councils advice, support and assistance in relation to developing the housing offer for Care Leavers. We have welcomed the joint work we have been able to undertake with the NEST Team (Care Leavers Homeless Prevention)

Barnardo's Supported Lodgings Scheme

This scheme gives young people the opportunity to develop independence skills whilst living in a home environment. Advice and guidance are offered in relation to cooking, undertaking household tasks and maintaining education / employment. We have had some excellent outcomes for several young people who have accessed this scheme.

Young people live with providers as lodgers – paying rent and a contribution towards utilities and food. Children's Services pay a support fee dependent upon the level of support required; housing benefit /universal credit is also claimed (where appropriate).

The scheme caters for Care Leavers - Looked after Children over 16- and 16/17-year-olds who are homeless and require an 'assessment bed'.

Within Lincolnshire (in October 22) we were working with 17 providers who can provide 23 beds across County. The team provide vacancy information over to the Local Authority monthly but have officers available to deal with referral enquiries 5 days / week.

Barnardo's have continued to run its supported lodgings panel throughout 2021/22 and have representatives both from the Local Authority and Barnardo's. This panel not only reviews current providers but also considers new applications.

New Initiatives in relation to housing options for Lincolnshire Care Leavers:

Barnardo's are currently working with the Local Authority and other providers on a funding bid to hopefully create some new posts. Within Leaving Care we are looking to develop some posts that will help young people 'stay connected' with their chosen community

(whether that be in Lincolnshire or out of County) and tap into the local offer and develop and maintain social networks.

Barnardo's are also working nationally and with Lincolnshire County Council to oversee the implementation of the regulations for supported accommodation for 16- and 17-year-olds. Within Leaving Care this will impact on the Supported Lodgings Providers. All Local Authorities will need to register their providers by April 2023 and inspections will start in April 2024.

2 - Accessing and Maintaining Appropriate Education Employment and Training Opportunities

Open Allocated Cases – Target 65%

Apr	May	June	July	August	Sept
2022	2022	2022	2022	2022	2022
289	291	289	296	290	296
67%	68%	67%	68%	67%	67%

Within service we continue to target Lincolnshire Care Leavers who are not accessing, education, training or employment opportunities. In March 2022 Barnardo's commissioned some work whereby we have reviewed all Care Leavers who fit into this category and explored alongside the allocated Leaving Care Worker the reasons why Care Leavers are finding it difficult to access opportunities. Data was presented at the Corporate Parenting Meeting in July 2022.

We have expanded the small team of staff who work alongside Care Leavers and the Leaving Care Workers to improve opportunities in relation to education, employment, and training opportunities. The team structure is noted below:

- 1 FTE EET Coordinator
- 2 x 0.5 EET Workers
- 1 FTE Mental Health Specialist
- 1 0.8 Well-Being Worker

Barnardo's (on behalf of Lincolnshire County Council) continue to work with Serco who provide several job opportunities across the region and in partnership with the County Council. We have developed and launched a 'Care Leavers Mentoring Scheme'. We have now moved onto the fifth set of Care Leavers who have benefitted from a worker based within Serco to offer career and work advice.

Barnardo's have a common mission of ***'Increasing Aspiration and Outcomes for Children in Care and Care Experienced Young People'***. Employment and Training continues to be a challenging concept not only in Lincolnshire but nationally. We have developed some excellent partnerships with DWP and Job Centres to help target our Care Leavers.

The Corporate Parenting Manager continues to be an advocate within Lincolnshire County Council in relation to the 'Care Leavers Covenant'. The Covenant is a promise made by

private, public or voluntary organisations to provide support for care leavers aged 16-25 to help them to live independently.

3 – Care Leavers Cohort

Lincolnshire Leaving Care Service is working with approximately 470 young people. Over the first 6 months of this financial year alongside the Local Authority we’ve seen a significant increase in the number of Unaccompanied Young People allocated to Lincolnshire because of the ‘National Transfer Scheme’. Working with young people who arrive from abroad has its challenges given that Leaving Care Workers must have a good working knowledge of the Leaving Care Act and Immigration processes and procedures.

Below figures indicate the increase in our Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking cohort over recent months:

Month	Number of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking YP open to service
December 2021	70
June 2022	96
December 2022	104

Some Great Achievements for Lincolnshire Care Leavers

- One of Lincolnshire’s Care Leavers went to the British National Wrestling Competition and won a Bronze medal.
- Some of Lincolnshire’s Care Leavers put the finishing touches to the short film they made about ‘transition’.
- Three young people from the Leaving Care Service undertook a 40K trek across the Peak District. Whilst on the journey participants learnt bushcraft, wild cooking, and navigation skills.
- Eight young people from Leaving Care and Children’s Services travelled to London to speak with Politicians and give their views on what needs to happen to improve children’s social care and share their experiences.

4 – Participation/ Fundraising

- We’ve been working hard on our participation offer for young people and Lincolnshire Care Leavers have been involved in several events over the past 6 months. These have included:
- Trips to London to contribute to the ‘Care Review’
- Theatre Trip for Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Young People
- Peak District Trip

We've secured some additional funds and gifts for Lincolnshire Care Leavers, these have included:

- Mobile phones courtesy of Vodafone and Tesco's
- Food Donations from Tesco Lincoln – we've created a great partnership with Tesco's we have regular food donations that are distributed across the County.
- Tesco have donated items to allow the service to create hampers for young people
- We've been able to distribute additional Christmas Gifts to all Care Leavers who are parents (and their children)
- We have created a partnership with a local church in Louth that has led to food and money donations
- The Orthodox Church in Lincoln continues to be an avid supporter of Barnardo's and have donated money and gifts for distribution.
- We have developed a cookery group in Louth and Lincolnshire young people are benefitting from weekly cooking courses and take-home meals following each session.

5 - New Initiatives

Unaccompanied Asylum Seeker's New Post

Within Service we have seen one of our existing Leaving Care Workers promoted to a specialist post working with the teams and partners specializing in Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking young people. We have rolled out some training across service and facilitated a work preparation course for this cohort of young people.

Care Leavers Film Project

We have had several Care Leavers from Lincolnshire working with an organization called 'My Pocket's' The Care Leavers have been working on an animation project that will help children in care transition into the service. The link to the film is noted below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m1c0LLg7ZCQ>

Service Development

We started a whole service development programme back in December 2020 that has continued through to 2022. We initially established a series of service development sessions that had representation from across all service and we developed several working parties including:

- Induction & Retention
- Communication

- Roles and Responsibilities
- Review of Duty Service
- Allocation of Work
- EET and Supported Lodgings

The groups produced several new policies, procedures and working tools that are widely used across service.

We are still working on the groups noted below; some continue the work of previous groups, and some have been formed to address new issues. The groups are noted below:

- Induction & Retention
- Communication
- Health and Safety
- Positive Destinations (improving outcomes for Care Leavers)
- Reviewing Group

All the above groups are chaired by the Programme Manager to retain senior management oversight and the reviewing group will consider all work previously completed in service to ensure it remains current, in date and useful for the service.

Some of the initial groups were instrumental in creating new posts, identifying training needs and sharing key information with partners. Over the past 12 months members of the team have been offered some specialist training in relation to:

- Trauma Informed Practice
- Formulation – Helping Team members understand how to use a Formulation tool when working with young people
- Positive Intervention Training - behaviour management training programme designed to help staff provide the best possible care, welfare, safety and security, of young people, who present with a range of behaviours of concern.

6 - Conclusion

This report reflects the progress and achievements during a 6-month period for Lincolnshire Leaving Care Service.

The current staffing establishment is noted below:

- 1 Programme Manager
- 4.2 FTE Team Managers
- 1 Senior Administrator

- 6.1 FTE Administrators
- 1 Project Worker 3 – Specialising in Signs of Safety / Participation and Quality Assurance
- 1 Project Worker 3 – Specialising in Unaccompanied Asylum Seekers
- 1 Project Worker 3 – Specialising in Education, Employment and Training opportunities
- 1 Project Worker 2 – Specialising in Participation
- 1 Specialist Accommodation Worker
- 2 Supported Lodgings Workers
- 2 Education, Employment and Training Specialist Workers
- 1 Well-being Worker
- 1 Specialist Mental Health Worker
- 26 FTE Leaving Care Workers

We continue to see a turnover of staff (within Leaving Care Worker roles) we undertake exit interviews and record reasons for leaving. These are generally linked to workers leaving the service and either joining Lincolnshire County Council or neighbouring authorities for higher wages. This is an ongoing issue that is raised within commissioning meetings.

Lisa Adams

Service Manager

Lincolnshire Leaving Care Service

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Open Report on behalf of Heather Sandy, Executive Director - Children's Services

Report to:	Corporate Parenting Panel
Date:	19 January 2023
Subject:	Children in Care Performance Report Quarter 2

Summary:

This item enables the Panel to consider and comment on the report and accompanying appendices to this report, that provide key performance information for Quarter 2 2022/23 that is relevant to the work of the Corporate Parenting Panel.

Actions Required:

Members of the Corporate Parenting Panel are invited to:

1. consider and comment on the performance information contained in the appendices of this report; and,
2. recommend any actions or changes to the Executive Councillor for Children's Services, Community Safety and Procurement.

1. Background

Appendix A provides a full and detailed report that covers the measures that are relevant to Children in Care (CiC) used by Children's Services. This is available for questions.

There are 16 measures in total that relate to CiC that are reported on in Quarter 2. Of these measures 5 did not meet their target and 4 are ahead of the target set by the services.

1.1 Measures that did not meet their target:

Average time between a child entering care and moving in with its adoptive family -

With the continued delays in cases getting through the court and the gradual recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic, Lincolnshire has failed to meet this target this quarter, as

all of the children captured in this data will have been delayed in the Covid pandemic. There has been significant delay in getting cases through the courts during Covid, and this will continue to have some impact on the statistics and data for this year and accounts for the increased timescales. This measure is a 'rolling' 3-yearly average, as we have moved forward the calculation has considered more of the period covered by the pandemic, which has in turn increased the rolling average figure. It is important to note that the figure presented includes some rare anomalies which have also adversely affected the overall timescales, such as one case which lasted for over 2000 days due to an unusual amount of disruption. There are also some children later adopted by their foster carers, but this measure does not properly take in to account the time they began living with those families, producing a longer timescale than there was in reality.

Participation of Children in Care in reviews - This is a cumulative measure that builds throughout the year. Whilst performance appears to continue below target this quarter work has been undertaken to amend the recording errors on Mosaic and these were completed in early October, so the measure should show an improvement next quarter and will meet target tolerance going forward.

Percentage of Children in Care with an up-to-date health check - The Covid Pandemic has had less negative impact on this area of the children's health than dental care and the immunisation programme. However, the number of children in care has increased and there is evidence of more young people (16/17 age range) exercising their right to refuse an assessment. There have been a number of young people in this age range becoming looked after and generally they are not committed to accessing their health assessment.

The Children in Care Teams continue to encourage and promote health assessments with their young people but have to accept their right to refuse.

There has been a lot of activity to improve the timeliness of Initial Health Assessment, however there are still challenges due to the availability of GP appointments across the county. Where there appears to be a particularly long wait for an appointment the nurses are telephoning the carers to undertake a triage to identify to ensure that there are no significant areas of concern/worry that need to be addressed urgently. However, this does not replace the health assessment which is still completed by the GP.

Percentage of Children in Care with an up-to-date dental check - This measure continues to improve and is now sitting at 72.5% which is a slight increase from Q1 but remains below the target of 95%. This is due to the ongoing increased difficulties in children being able to register with a National Health Service Dentist which has been the case for several years now. Many Dentists have made the decision to only provide private dentistry thereby impacting on the number of NHS practices available. This, coupled with the impact of the COVID19 Pandemic has impacted significantly on the

number of Children in Care with an up-to-date dental check.

Access to NHS dentistry is a national issue and the availability of dentists across the county continues to impact on our ability to ensure that all children in care have regular dental checks. Efforts continue to be made to ensure that all children in care are registered with a dentist and dentists are working to ensure that dental checks are being completed. It is likely to take some more time to deal with the backlog of appointments, however, children are able to access emergency dental treatment when required.

Percentage of Children in Care with an up-to-date routine immunisations - The percentage of Children in Care with up to date routine immunisations continues to be impacted by factors such as the Covid Pandemic and an increase in Immunisation team workload due to all males now being offered the HPV and all of the school population being offered the COVID19 boosters and flu immunisations. However, closer inspection of the records of children listed as not having their routine immunisations also indicates that there are delays with updating immunisation records at Lincolnshire County Council at present. The Council records are updated from the records of Lincolnshire Community Health Services, which are showing a higher rate of immunisations for the same cohort. The numbers shown at present therefore do not give an accurate reflection of the current percentage of routine immunisations that have taken place. Work is currently underway to expedite updating of Lincolnshire County Council systems, following which the performance for this measure is expected to improve significantly.

1.2 Measures that are ahead of their target:

Average time between the Local Authority receiving court authority to place a child and the Local Authority deciding on a match to an adoptive family - Performance in Q2 is continuing to improve and is now better than the target range set at the start of the year. This is due to continued attention to family finding at the earliest opportunity, so that once children are subject to a Placement Order there is wherever possible a placement already identified so that practice is timely and effective.

Stability of placements of Children in Care: Number of moves - This is a cumulative indicator identifying those children who experience 3 placement moves. The target remains a challenge, albeit is within the target range. Our performance is generally better than other East Midland authorities where an average of 8% of children in care experienced 3 placement moves in a year. At this stage performance remains good, however, this may change at year end. The first half of the year's performance is promising, however there remain ongoing challenges in respect of placement

availability, resources, and suitability of matching some children with the right fostering household/provision. Whilst placement availability has gradually increased post pandemic with most carers returning to assume this volunteer role, there continue to be some foster carers/providers who are unable to take additional placements owing to their existing commitments. The value of matching children to the most appropriate carer remains a priority in promoting and maintaining placement stability and improving outcomes for all children in care.

16–17-year-old Children in Care who are participating in Learning - The performance is currently showing as better than/exceeding the Q2 target and at 73.3% is showing an improvement on Q2 last year (51.3%). Improved tracking and monitoring of the participation of our Y/P has likely had some impact here. Also, the hard work of the Virtual School, carers, and social workers in supporting YP to visit colleges and other providers is also likely to have supported this improvement. All of our 16- and 17-year-olds are supported by the Virtual School through the Personal Education Planning Process. This brings social workers, carers, and providers together to focus on educational need and ensures that our young people are supported appropriately while participating in learning. We are currently working to support those currently not participating in learning to ensure that they can access therapeutic support and/or appropriate educational opportunities when they are ready to do so.

Children in Care Living Within A Family Environment - The target for 2022-23 reporting has increased from 74% to 80% (with a tolerance range of 77%-82%), and therefore, at 79.2%, this PI has achieved the increased target range. For many children in care, a family placement is deemed the most suitable means of offering care and maintaining children within their family networks. The Council continue to explore enabling children and young people to remain within their family or extended network if they cannot, for whatever reason, live with their parents.

3. Conclusion

This report summarises the Quarter 2 performance for Children in Care and Young People, and Members of the Corporate Parenting Panel are invited to review and raise any questions on its content and recommend any actions or changes to the Executive Councillor for Children's Services, Community Safety and Procurement.

4. Consultation

a) Risks and Impact Analysis

N/A

5. Appendices

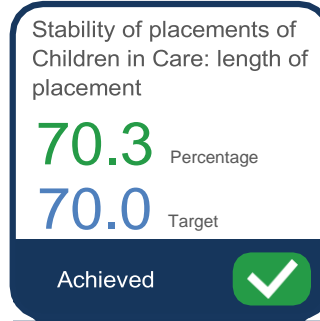
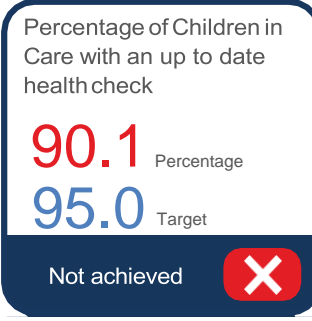
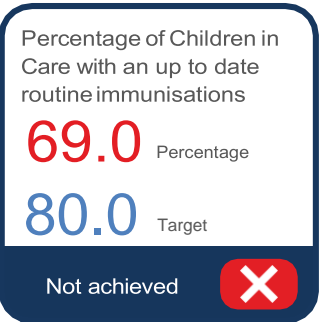
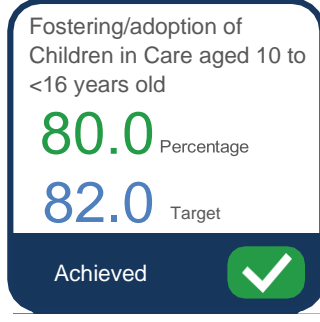
These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Children in Care - Performance Measures – Q2

6. Background Papers

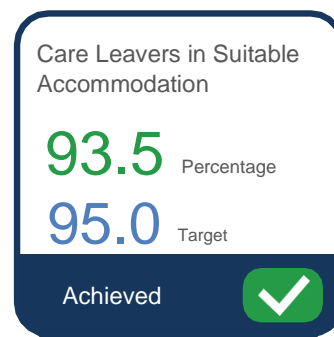
No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by Simon Hardcastle, Performance Support Officer – Corporate Transformation, Programmes & Performance, who can be contacted by e-mail at simon.hardcastle@lincolnshire.gov.uk.

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Corporate Parenting Panel



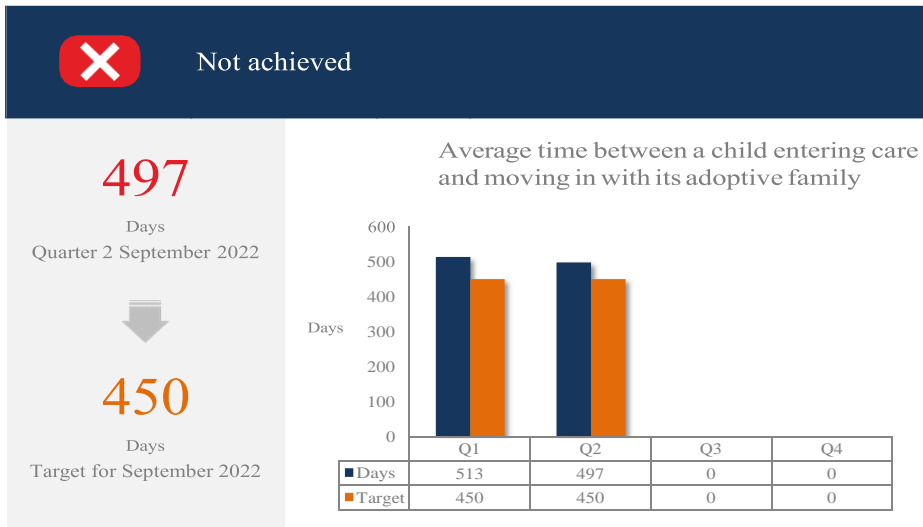


Healthy and Safe

Children are Healthy and Safe

Average time between a child entering care and moving in with its adoptive family

Average number of days between the child entering care and moving in with their adoptive family. A lower number of days taken to move a child from care into an adoptive family indicates a better performance.



About the latest performance

Performance in 2021/22 - Q1: 397, Q2: 455, Q3: 473, Q4: 484

With the continued delays in cases getting through the court and the gradual recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic, Lincolnshire has failed to meet this target this quarter, as all of the children captured in this data will have been delayed in the Covid pandemic. There has been significant delay in getting cases through the courts during Covid, and this will continue to have some impact on the statistics and data for this year and accounts for the increased timescales. This measure is a 'rolling' 3 yearly averages, as we have moved forward the calculation has considered more of the period covered by the pandemic, which has in turn increased the rolling average figure. It is important to note that the figure presented includes some rare anomalies which have also adversely affected the overall timescales, such as one case which lasted for over 2000 days due to an unusual amount of disruption. There are also some children later adopted by their foster carers, but this measure does not properly take in to account the time they began living with those families, producing a longer timescale than there was in reality.

About the target

There has been delay in court proceedings that will have impact on our average days over the next year. Also we have at least one sibling group that have been hard to place, which will have an impact on our performance for this year.

About the target range

A lower value of 495 - if we were to go above 495 days, we would want to highlight this to Scrutiny members.

About benchmarking

Benchmarking information is available up to 2015-2018, however, this has now been discontinued as a national measure.



Healthy and Safe

Children are Healthy and Safe

Average time between the Local Authority receiving court authority to place a child and the Local Authority deciding on a match to an adoptive family

Average number of days between the local authority receiving the court order to place a child and the local authority deciding on a match to an adoptive family.

A lower number of days taken to match a child to an adoptive family indicates a better performance.



Achieved

160

Days

Quarter 2 September 2022

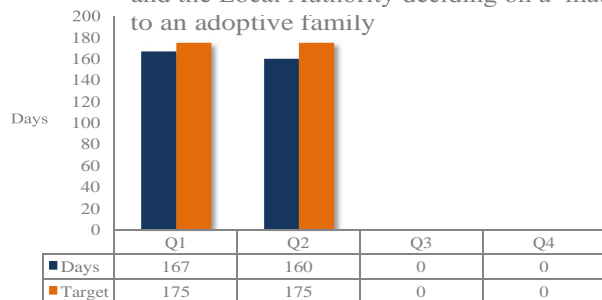


175

Days

Target for September 2022

Average time between the Local Authority receiving court authority to place a child and the Local Authority deciding on a match to an adoptive family



About the latest performance

Performance in 2021/22 - Q1: 156, Q2: 170, Q3: 176, Q4: 164

Performance in Q2 is continuing to improve, and is now better than the target range set at the start of the year. This is due to continued attention to family finding at the earliest opportunity, so that once children are subject to a Placement Order there is wherever possible a placement already identified so that practice is timely and effective.

About the target

The target has remained the same for this year. There has been delay in court proceedings that will have impact on our average days over the next year. Also we have at least one sibling group that have been hard to place, which will have an impact on our performance for this year.

About the target range

Both upper and lower tolerances have been set at 10 days (average).

About benchmarking

Benchmarking information is available.



Healthy and Safe

Children are Healthy and Safe

Fostering/adoption of Children in Care aged 10 to <16 years old

Percentage of Children in Care aged 10 to under 16 who have been fostered or placed for adoption



Achieved

80.0

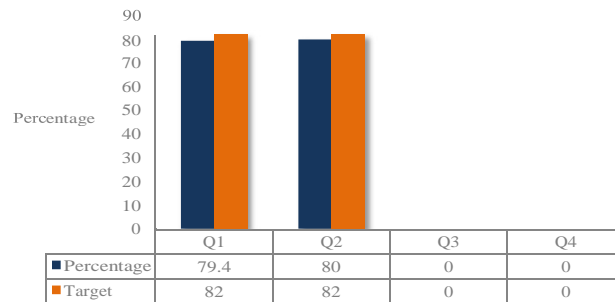
Percentage
Quarter 2 September 2022



82.0

Percentage
Target for September 2022

Fostering/adoption of Children in Care aged 10 to <16 years old



About the latest performance

Performance in 2021/22 - Q1: 76.8%, Q2: 79.3%, Q3: 80%, Q4: 80.4%

Current performance has met the targets set.

About the target

Target reduced to 82% as performance has remained under target at 80% over the past year. This is indicative of a reduction in the number of foster carers, challenges in foster carer recruitment and children with complex needs.

About the target range

A 2% variance is set for the upper value and 3% for the lower value.

Meeting the upper tolerance level would achieve a performance level not reached recently and show a change in the overall trend.

About benchmarking

Benchmarking data no longer available



Healthy and Safe

Children are Healthy and Safe

Number of Children in Care per 10,000 under 18s

Children in Care per 10,000 population aged under 18. There are a number of reasons why a child may be 'looked after' by the local authority. Most often it is because the child's parents or the people who have parental responsibilities and rights to look after the child are unable to care for the child, have been neglecting the child or the child has committed an offence. The local authority has specific responsibilities and duties towards a child who is being looked after or who has been looked after. This measure is reported taking a snapshot in time. So for example Q2 is performance as at 30th September.

A lower rate of children looked after by the Local Authority indicates a better performance.



Achieved

50.0

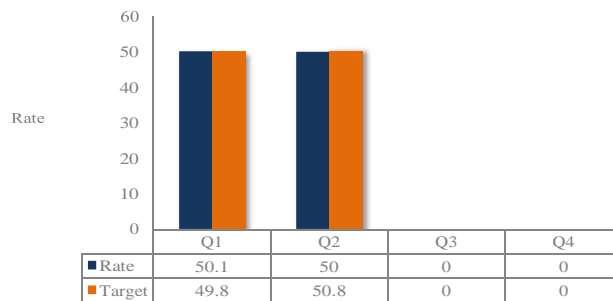
Rate
Quarter 2 September 2022



50.8

Rate
Target for September 2022

Number of Children in Care per 10,000 under 18s



About the latest performance

Performance in 2021/22 - Q1: 47.2, Q2: 47.5, Q3: 48.8, Q4: 49.9

This measure continues to achieve target; however, this target has been revised upward in comparison to recent years to take into account the effects of the National Transfer Scheme and the number of children in care per 10,000 remains at a relatively high level compared to recent years. However, in quarter 2 the number of CiC leavers has increased slightly above the number of CiC starters, so the rate per 10,000 has dropped a little of late. The recent growth in numbers is attributable to the Council's safeguarding responsibilities and is partly attributable to the number of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children that have arrived as part of the new temporary mandated National Transfer Scheme. The expectation is that Lincolnshire will take a maximum of 103 children which equates to 0.07% of the general child population and therefore there continues to be a likely impact of growth going forward. Despite the recent growth and the potential for future increase there continues to be an emphasis on prevention from children coming into care and exit planning from the care system where it can be achieved. However, even with the increase, the Lincolnshire number of Children in Care (CiC) per 10,000 remains significantly below the most recent published figures both nationally and by our statistical neighbours (67 per 10,000 and 63.4 per 10,000 respectively as of 31st March 2021).

About the target

The target has increased this year, due to the increases in the National Transfer Scheme. The unsettling situation in the Ukraine may impact and the increasing number of children who are presenting with more complex needs.

About the target range

The target varies per quarter to take into account variances in the projected Children in Care cohort throughout the year. The tolerance allows for the number of Children in Care to vary by approximately -35 children and +70 children either side of the target each quarter.

Anything above or below this number would be flagged, indicating a significant variance from the current position.

About benchmarking

Comparator information is available.



Healthy and Safe

Children are Healthy and Safe

Stability of placements of Children in Care : Number of moves

Percentage of Children in Care with three or more placements



Achieved

5.0

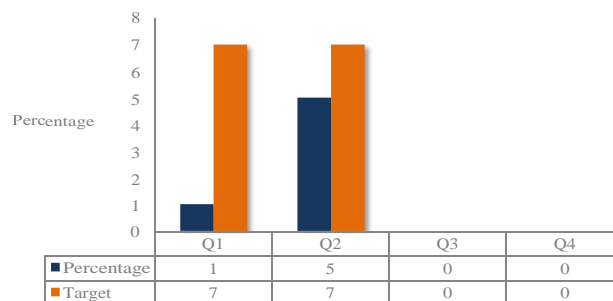
Percentage
Quarter 2 September 2022



7.0

Percentage
Target for September 2022

Stability of placements of Children in Care :
Number of moves



About the latest performance

Performance in 2021/22 - Q1: 0, Q2: 2, Q3: 6, Q4: 9

This is a cumulative indicator identifying those children who experience 3 placement moves. The target remains a challenge, albeit is within the target range. Our performance is generally better than other East Midland authorities where an average of 8% of children in care experienced 3 placement moves in a year. At this stage performance remains good, however, this may change at year end. The first half of the year's performance is promising, however there remain ongoing challenges in respect of placement availability, resources, and suitability of matching some children with the right fostering household/provision. Whilst placement availability has gradually increased post pandemic with most carers returning to assume this volunteer role, there continue to be some foster carers/providers who are unable to take additional placements owing to their existing commitments. The value of matching children to the most appropriate carer remains a priority in promoting and maintaining placement stability and improving outcomes for all children in care.

About the target

Target has increased by 1%. Performance at the end of 2021/22 was 9%, the same as the most recently published national figure. There has been an increase in children entering care with complex needs, which has led to an increase in the number of placements.

About the target range

Achieving the upper tolerance level should put LCC's position within the top quartile nationally. Comparative performance within our statistical neighbours was 8%. Anything within the target range should be shown as a significant improvement over last year.

About benchmarking

We can compare ourselves both nationally and with similar authorities on an annual basis



Healthy and Safe

Children are Healthy and Safe

Stability of placements of Children in Care: length of placement

Percentage of Children in Care in the same placement for at least two years



Achieved

70.3

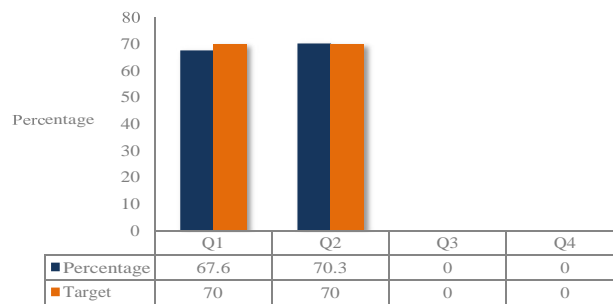
Percentage
Quarter 2 September 2022



70.0

Percentage
Target for September 2022

Stability of placements of Children in Care:
length of placement



About the latest performance

Performance in 2021/22 - Q1: 69.7%, Q2: 73%, Q3: 68.8%, Q4: 65.6%

Current performance has met the targets set.

About the target

Target has been reduced to take into account the current performance.

About the target range

Tolerances for this measure take into account the current performance.

About benchmarking

We can compare ourselves both nationally and with similar authorities on an annual basis



Healthy and Safe

Children are Healthy and Safe

Children in Care cases which were reviewed within required timescales

Percentage of Children in Care cases that have been reviewed within timescales



Achieved

99.5

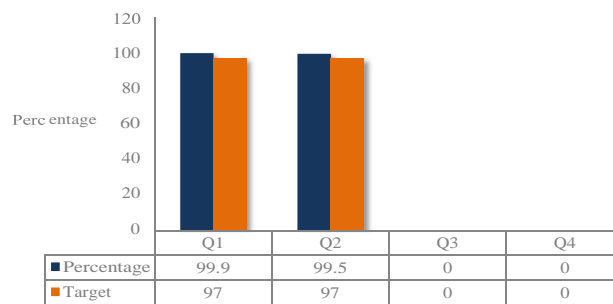
Percentage
Quarter 2 September 2022



97.0

Percentage
Target for September 2022

Children in Care cases which were reviewed within required timescales



About the latest performance

Performance in 2021/22 - Q1: 99.4%, Q2: 99.6%, Q3: 99.9%, Q4: 99.5%

Current performance has met the targets set.

About the target

Target remains at 97% to take into account current performance.

About the target range

As the target is 95%, an upper value of 4.5% has been set.

A lower value of 95% has been set to highlight any performance lower than 95%

About benchmarking

We can compare ourselves both nationally and with similar authorities on an annual basis



Healthy and Safe

Children are Healthy and Safe

Participation of Children in Care in reviews

Percentage of Children in Care who participated in their reviews



Not achieved

94.6

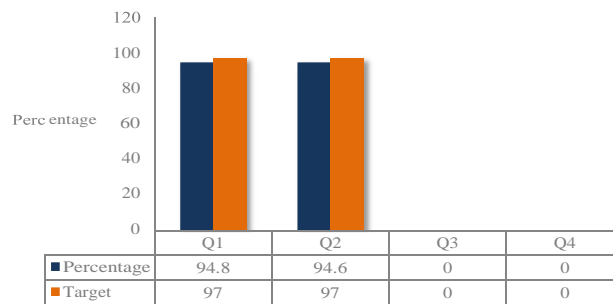
Percentage
Quarter 2 September 2022



97.0

Percentage
Target for September 2022

Participation of Children in Care in reviews



About the latest performance

Performance in 2021/22 - Q1: 96%, Q2: 97.8%, Q3: 96.7%, Q4: 96.6%

This is a cumulative measure that builds throughout the year. Whilst performance appears to continue below target this quarter work has been undertaken to amend the recording errors on Mosaic and these were completed in early October, so the measure should show an improvement next quarter and will meet target tolerance going forward.

About the target

Target remains at 97% to take into account current performance.

About the target range

As the target is 95%, an upper value of 4.5% has been set.

A lower value of 95% has been set to highlight any performance lower than 95%

About benchmarking

We can compare ourselves both nationally and with similar authorities on an annual basis

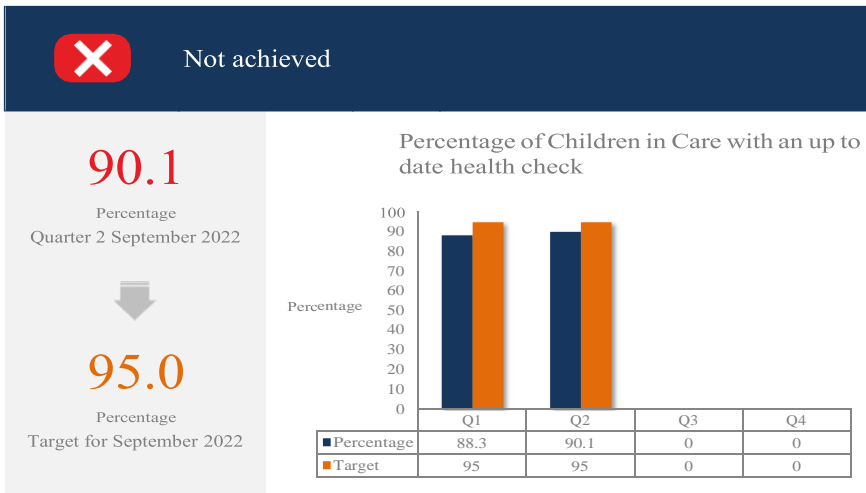


Healthy and Safe

Children are Healthy and Safe

Percentage of Children in Care with an up to date health check

Percentage of Children in Care with an up to date health check record



About the latest performance

Performance in 2021/22 - Q1: 93.7%, Q2: 93.3%, Q3: 95.1%, Q4: 91.8%

The Covid Pandemic has had less negative impact on this area of the children's health than dental care and the immunisation programme. However, the number of children in care has increased and there is evidence of more young people (16/17 age range) exercising their right to refuse an assessment. There have been a number young people in this age range becoming looked after and generally they are not committed to accessing their health assessment.

The Children in Care Teams continue to encourage and promote health assessments with their young people but have to accept their right to refuse.

There has been a lot of activity to improve the timeliness of Initial Health Assessment, however there are still challenges due to the availability of GP appointments across the county. Where there appears to be a particularly long wait for an appointment the nurses are telephoning the carers to undertake a triage to identify to ensure that there are no significant areas of concern/worry that need to be addressed urgently. However, this does not replace the health assessment which is still completed by the GP.

About the target

Remain as previous year, tolerance allows performance to be in line with this year's performance.

About the target range

An upper tolerance of 4.5% has been set. This would mean that if all checks were done within timescale we would have achieved an excellent outcome, which would be shown as better than target.

A lower tolerance of 2% has been set to allow for under performance. Data from the last two years shows achieving 93% is very achievable and performance has not often fallen below this marker.

About benchmarking

We can compare ourselves both nationally and with similar authorities on an annual basis



Healthy and Safe

Children are Healthy and Safe

Percentage of Children in Care with an up to date dental check

Percentage of Children in Care with an up to date dental check



Not achieved

72.5

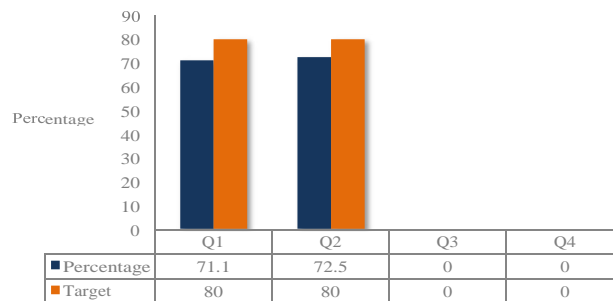
Percentage
Quarter 2 September 2022



80.0

Percentage
Target for September 2022

Percentage of Children in Care with an up to date dental check



About the latest performance

Performance in 2021/22 - Q1: 59.2%, Q2: 65.1%, Q3: 71.5%, Q4: 73.5%

This measure continues to improve and is now sitting at 72.5% which is a slight increase from Q1 but remains below the target of 95%. This is due to the ongoing increased difficulties in children being able to register with a National Health Service Dentist which has been the case for several years now. Many Dentists have made the decision to only provide private dentistry thereby impacting on the number of NHS practices available. This, coupled with the impact of the COVID19 Pandemic has impacted significantly on the number of Children in Care with an up to date dental check.

Access to NHS dentistry is a national issue and the availability of dentists across the county continues to impact on our ability to ensure that all children in care have regular dental checks. Efforts continue to be made to ensure that all children in care are registered with a dentist and dentists are working to ensure that dental checks are being completed. It is likely to take some more time to deal with the backlog of appointments, however, children are able to access emergency dental treatment when required.

About the target

Target has been reduced to 80% to take into account current performance.

About the target range

An upper tolerance of 5% has been set. This would mean that if all checks were done within timescale we would have achieved an excellent outcome, which would be shown as better than target.

A lower tolerance of 5% has been set to allow for under performance.

About benchmarking

We can compare ourselves both nationally and with similar authorities on an annual basis



Healthy and Safe

Children are Healthy and Safe

Percentage of Children in Care with an up to date routine immunisations

Percentage of Children in Care with an up to date routine immunisations recorded



Not achieved

69.0

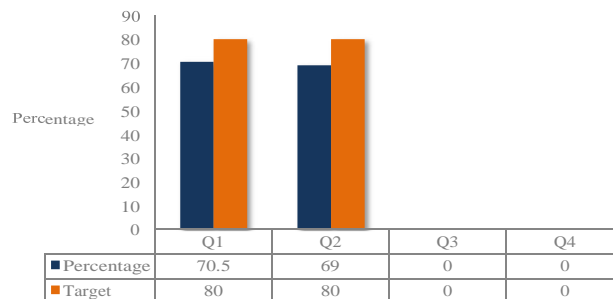
Percentage
Quarter 2 September 2022



80.0

Percentage
Target for September 2022

Percentage of Children in Care with an up to date routine immunisations



About the latest performance

Performance in 2021/22 - Q1: 78.6%, Q2: 79.3%, Q3: 76.2%, Q4: 76.4%

The percentage of Children in Care with up to date routine immunisations continues to be impacted by factors such as the Covid Pandemic and an increase in Immunisation team workload due to all males now being offered the HPV and all of the school population being offered the COVID19 boosters and flu immunisations. However, closer inspection of the records of children listed as not having their routine immunisations also indicates that there are delays with updating immunisation records at Lincolnshire County Council at present. The Council records are updated from the records of Lincolnshire Community Health Services, which are showing a higher rate of immunisations for the same cohort. The numbers shown at present therefore do not give an accurate reflection of the current percentage of routine immunisations that have taken place. Work is currently underway to expedite updating of Lincolnshire County Council systems, following which the performance for this measure is expected to improve significantly.

About the target

Target has been reduced to 80% to take into account current performance.

About the target range

An upper tolerance of 5% has been set. This would mean that if all checks were done within timescale we would have achieved an excellent outcome, which would be shown as better than target.

A lower tolerance of 5% has been set to allow for under performance.

About benchmarking

We can compare ourselves both nationally and with similar authorities on an annual basis



Healthy and Safe

Children are Healthy and Safe

Children in Care Living within a Family Environment

Percentage of Children in Care Living within a Family Environment



Achieved

79.2

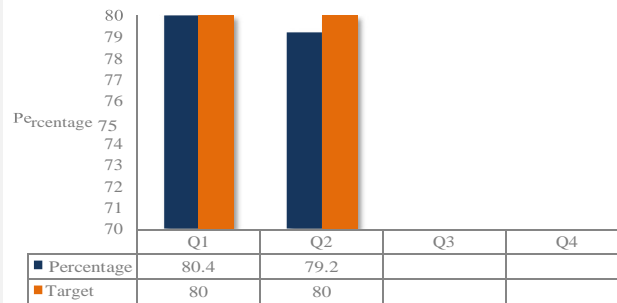
Days
Quarter 2 September 2022



80

Days
Target for September 2022

Children in Care Living within a Family Environment



About the latest performance

Performance in 2021/22 - Q1: 78.5%, Q2: 79.7%, Q3: 80%, Q4: 79.7%

The target for 2022-23 reporting has increased from 74% to 80% (with a tolerance range of 77%-82%), and therefore, at 79.2%, this PI has still achieved the higher target. For many children in care, a family placement is deemed the most suitable means of offering care and maintaining children within their family networks. The Council continue to explore enabling children and young people to remain within their family or extended network if they cannot, for whatever reason, live with their parents.

About the target

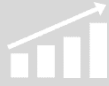
Target has increased, due to performance remaining above target for the previous year

About the target range

We aim to have the majority of our children in care placed within a family environment where appropriate. Anything above 82% is worthy of celebration and anything below 77% needs to be addressed with actions.

About benchmarking

Benchmarking data is not available due to the measure being a local measure

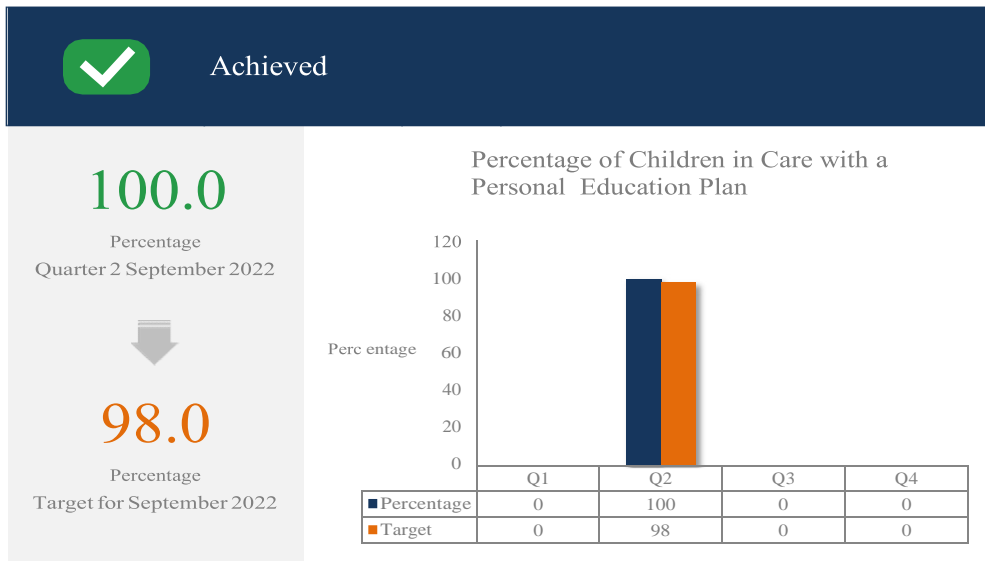


Learn and Achieve

Learn and Achieve

Percentage of Children in Care with a Personal Education Plan

Percentage of Children in Care with a Personal Education Plan



About the latest performance

Performance in 2021/22 - Q1: N/A, Q2: 99.5%, Q3: 99%, Q4: 99%

Current performance has met the targets set. Data reported following the three school terms throughout the year. Q2 reports Summer Term data (April- July).

About the target

Target remains at 98%, reliability of the EPEP system and timely notification of Virtual school should see the performance being reached.

About the target range

Lower tolerance is set to 2% below the target which would represent poor performance. The tolerance range reflects the need for emergency placements out of county/in county for a small proportion of children in care.

About benchmarking

We can compare ourselves both nationally and with similar authorities on an annual basis.



Ready for Adult Life

16-17 year old Children in Care who are participating in Learning

This measures young people recorded as being Children in Care participating in learning at the end of the reporting period and will not take into consideration the length of time that they have been in local authority care.

Numerator: Number of Children in Care participating in learning at the end of the reporting period.

Denominator: Number of Children in Care at the end of the reporting period.

The percentage is calculated as follows: Numerator divided by the denominator multiplied by 100. The parameters of this measure were previously defined as recording 16-18 year old Children in Care participating in learning. As of Q1 2017/18 onwards, the Department for Education no longer require monitoring of children aged 18, and so the measure has been amended accordingly, restricting data provision to 16-17 year old Children in Care only. A higher percentage of Children in Care participating in learning indicates a better performance.



Achieved

73.3

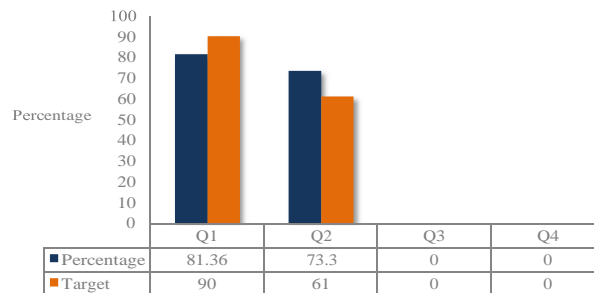
Percentage
Quarter 2 September 2022



61.0

Percentage
Target for September 2022

16-17 year old Children in Care who are participating in Learning



About the latest performance

Performance in 2021/22 - Q1: 86.3%, Q2: 51.3%, Q3: 74.8%, Q4: 81%

The performance is currently showing as better than/exceeding the Q2 target and at 73.3% is showing an improvement on Q2 last year (51.3%). Improved tracking and monitoring of the participation of our Y/P has likely had some impact here. Also, the hard work of the Virtual School, carers and social workers in supporting YP to visit colleges and other providers is also likely to have supported this improvement. All of our 16 and 17 year olds are supported by the Virtual School through the Personal Education Planning Process. This brings social workers, carers and providers together to focus on educational need and ensures that our young people are supported appropriately while participating in learning. We are currently working to support those currently not participating in learning to ensure that they can access therapeutic support and/or appropriate educational opportunities when they are ready to do so.

About the target

Target remains the same as the previous year. Q2 & Q3 targets lower to allow for the expected dip at this time of year due to September being the start of the tracking process

About the target range

The target range is set at a level to allow for 2 percentage points above the target and 5 percentage points below the target.

About benchmarking

Benchmarking information is not available for this cohort



Ready for Adult Life

Care Leavers in Suitable Accommodation

A care leaver is a young person who reaches the age of 18 who had been in local authority care.

Numerator: Number of care leavers turning 19 years of age in the year who are living in accommodation deemed as "suitable".

Denominator: Number of care leavers turning 19 years of age in the year.

The percentage is calculated as follows: Numerator divided by the denominator multiplied by 100. A higher percentage of care leavers in suitable accommodation indicates a better performance.



Achieved

93.5

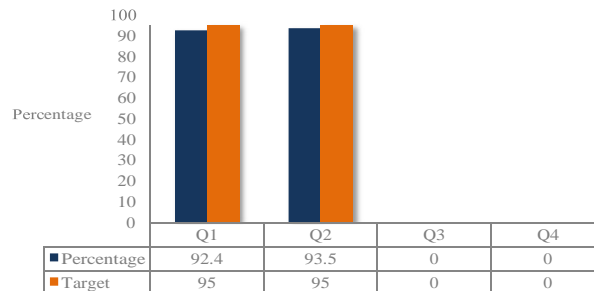
Percentage
Quarter 2 September 2022



95.0

Percentage
Target for September 2022

Care Leavers in Suitable Accommodation



About the latest performance

Performance in 2021/22 - Q1: 95.5%, Q2: 96.5%, Q3: 94.8%, Q4: 93.7%

Ordinarily the proportion of young people in suitable accommodation for 19-, 20- and 21-year-olds runs at between 94% and 95%.

The definition of the suitability of accommodation is very strict, and whilst the definition would deem some of the accommodation options unsuitable, the young person might be making an informed choice (as an adult) about where they live and how they live. For example, the monthly tracker identified 3 young people who are choosing to live with friends and sleep on their sofa. This is deemed unsuitable, but the decision to live on a friends sofa is the informed choice of the young person. We also know of one young person who choosing to live in a caravan on their ex foster carers drive way. This is by mutual agreement and the young person is very happy there living close to her support network. This is still deemed as unsuitable.

In addition to the above, custody is also always deemed unsuitable. Ironically, being in custody qualifies as being in education training and employment but is deemed as unsuitable accommodation. The numbers of young people in custody affect this figure and is beyond our control. Lincolnshire has 6 young people in custody, one of which is serving a life sentence.

Lincolnshire has no homeless young people. Everyone has a form of accommodation of their choosing, and if it is deemed unsuitable, each young person is offered support and options to take should they wish to.

The Corporate Parenting Manager monitors unsuitable accommodation on a case by case basis every month

About the target

We have performed consistently higher than our previous years target. We have increased it to the upper target range from this last year and adjusted our target range as appropriate.

About the target range

The lower target has been set at the 25% quartile. Meaning if we fall below this we will not be in the top 25% of authorities. The upper target has been set 5% above this.

About benchmarking

Benchmarking information is available.



Ready for Adult Life

Ready for Adult Life

Care Leavers in Education, Employment or Training

The number of care leavers turning 19 years of age in the year who are in either Education, Employment or Training



Achieved

56.0

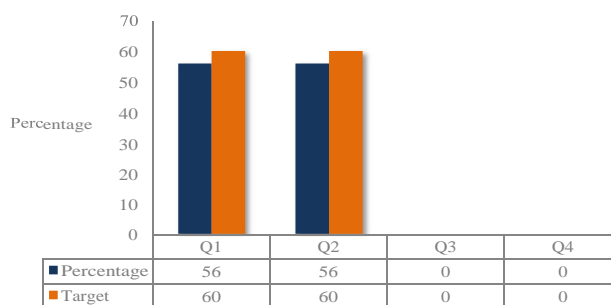
Percentage
Quarter 2 September 2022



60.0

Percentage
Target for September 2022

Care Leavers in Education, Employment or Training



About the latest performance

Performance in 2021/22 - Q1: 53%, Q2: 51%, Q3: 52.3%, Q4: 53.1%

Current performance has met the targets set.

About the target

Target reduced to 60% this is based on both recent performance and in comparison, with other local authorities nationally.

About the target range

Tolerances for this measure take into account the current performance.

About benchmarking

We can compare ourselves both nationally and with similar authorities on an annual basis



Open Report on behalf of Heather Sandy, Executive Director - Children's Services

Report to:	Corporate Parenting Panel
Date:	19 January 2023
Subject:	Children in Care annual health report 2021/22

Summary:

This report covers the period 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022. The Department of Health Statutory Guidance on Promoting the Health and Well-being of Looked after Children (DCSF/DH. 2015) requires a report on the delivery of service and the progress achieved for the health and wellbeing of children in care (CIC). In addition, the Local Authority (LA) requires an annual report to provide a summary of the core activities relating to Children in Care.

Actions Required:

Members of the Corporate Parenting Panel are invited to:

- (1) consider and comment on the detailed information contained in the report (Appendix A); and,
- (2) endorse the report and, where appropriate recommend any actions or changes to the Executive portfolio holder and Leading Officers.

1. Background

This report covers the period 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022. The Department of Health Statutory Guidance on Promoting the Health and Well-being of Looked after Children (DCSF/DH. 2015) requires a report on the delivery of service and the progress achieved for the health and wellbeing of children in care (CIC). In addition, the Local Authority (LA) requires an annual report to provide a summary of the core activities relating to Children in Care.

Recommendations for 2022-2023:

- a) LLA, Lincolnshire CCGs (now Integrated Care Board – ICB) and LCHS to continue to work together to improve the number of Initial Health Assessments completed within the statutory timeframe.
- b) LCHS to continue to recruit GPs to complete IHA's and to work with ULHT to agree an arrangement whereby Community Paediatricians complete IHA's as part of their job role.
- c) The annual report to be shared with the IRO service to promote improvement in constructive challenge.
- d) A revised multi agency approach to the management of and support provided to children with above average SDQ scores
- e) The pilot of "care skills" to be expanded and jointly delivered with the Leaving care service
- f) Official launch of the Children's promise and refresh of the children in care and care leaver's strategy.
- g) Roll out of the valuing care toolkit and expansion of our residential estates as part of our transformation programme in response to the shortage of local placements for children in care.

2. Conclusion

This report covers the period 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022 and contains information relevant to the delivery of service and the progress achieved for the health and wellbeing of children in care (CiC) and provides a summary of the core activities relating to CiC.

Members of the Corporate Parenting Panel are invited to review and comment on the contents of the annual report.

3. Consultation

a) Risks and Impact Analysis

Captured in the main body of the report (Appendix A)

4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Children in Care – Annual Report 2021/22

5. Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by:

- Rachel Freeman, Head of Service Children in Care and Residential Estates, who can be contacted at rachel.freeman@lincolnshire.gov.uk,
- Elizabeth Bunney, Healthcare Coordinator, Lincolnshire Community Health Services NHS Trust, who can be contacted at elizabeth.bunney@lincs-chs.nhs.uk, and
- Nicola Wilkinson, Designated Nurse for Safeguarding Adults, Children and Looked After Children, NHS Lincolnshire ICB, who can be contacted at nicola.wilkinson6@nhs.net.

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CHILDREN IN CARE ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22



Lincolnshire Community
Health Services
NHS Trust



*Lincolnshire
Clinical Commissioning Group*



Working for a better future



Lincolnshire Partnership
NHS Foundation Trust

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report covers the period 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022. The Department of Health Statutory Guidance on Promoting the Health and Well-being of Looked after Children (DCSF/DH. 2015) requires a report on the delivery of service and the progress achieved for the health and wellbeing of children in care (CIC). In addition, the Local Authority (LA) requires an annual report to provide a summary of the core activities relating to Children in Care.

The NHS has a major role to play in supporting the LA as Corporate Parent in ensuring the timely and effective delivery of health services to Children in Care. As directed by the Children Act 1989, Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) (which become Integrated Care Board on 1st July 2022) and NHS England have a duty to comply with the requests from the LA to help them to provide support and services to these children. The NHS is also statutorily obligated to support Children in Care who have been placed by an external LA within the County of Lincolnshire when they have been notified of the placement.

This Annual Report is intended to inform Children in Care, the public, elected members, stakeholder partners and staff of the progress and developments of the services to date. It has been jointly produced by Lincolnshire Community Health Services (LCHS) Looked After Children/Young People (LAC/YP) team, the Children in Care (CiC) teams from Lincolnshire Local Authority (LLA).

In 2019, following local and national work undertaken by children and young people, regarding professional language and jargon, the decision was made to use the term "children in care" within day-to-day practice

The key messages within this report are:

- The number of children in the care of Lincolnshire County Council was 680 at year end, an increase of 9.3% over the year. The number of children and young people placed into Lincolnshire by external authorities also continues to rise.
- The 16/17-year-old age group now makes up almost 22% of the looked after population.
- The placement of children within kinship placements remains the preferred outcome for most children who enter care.
- There was an increase in the number of initial health assessments completed within the statutory time frame of 20 working day when Nurses were able to complete these during the pandemic.
- The rate of completion of review health assessments remains amongst the highest in the country, regarding completion within the statutory time frame. Nurse led provision has provided continuity and supported more children to engage in the process.
- Up-to-date immunisation and vaccination of the children in care has been impacted by the COVID19 pandemic.

- The health data used in this report is only a small proportion of the amount of reporting against health issues which has continued to be developed over the last year.
- Following the introduction of the National Transfer Scheme in November 2021, Lincolnshire will be allocated an additional 5 Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children per month, this is in addition to any spontaneous arrivals in our area.

1. Introduction

Our vision

"Putting Children First"

Children, Young People and Families will be:

- Helped to make changes for themselves
- Seen as a positive solution to the challenges they face
- Able to get the right service at the right time
- Understood as a whole family

Supported by skilled professionals that:

- Understand and apply Relationship Based Practice
- Is restorative in approach
- Is well trained and supported

Enabled and equipped by:

- Clear governance that puts children and families at the heart of how we plan and deliver support for them
- Clear framework and set of tools which includes using Signs of Safety as a methodology which builds on family's strengths

Our ambition

It is the ambition of Lincolnshire County Council for our children and young people in or leaving care to be safe, happy, and healthy, to enjoy life and realise their potential.

Supported by a workforce which

- Uses evidence informed practice
- Understands and applies Relationship Based Practice
- Is Restorative in approach
- Is well trained and supported

Enabled and equipped by

- Clear governance that puts children and families at the heart of how we plan and deliver support for them
- Using a system called Signs of Safety that builds on family's strengths

Our purpose within Regulated Services is to ensure that every child in every part of the county achieves their potential, responding appropriately to the assessed needs of all Children in Care to ensure that their life chances are maximized by their experience of the service.

This Annual Report details the services and expected health outcomes for Children in Care who reside either in Lincolnshire or in out-of-county placements and is aligned to the Children and Young People's Commissioning Plan.

This report relates to children and young people who, within the reporting period of April 2021 – March 2022 are:

1. Corporately parented by Lincolnshire County Council / Local Authority, with strategic oversight through the Corporate Parenting Panel.

Or

2. Are placed by an external LA who maintains corporate parent status, and local strategic oversight and quality assurance is maintained via the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (LSCP) and is incorporated in the LSCP business plan.

The evidence tells us that Children in Care are disadvantaged when compared to their peers in the general population, in all the wider determinants of health. Accordingly, they require proactive commitment from the professionals working with them.

The level of commitment is made explicit within the 'Children's Promise'. This replaced the 'Children's Pledge' having been co-produced with a group of young people in care in 2019 and was launched in 2021.

Central to this commitment is the aspiration for health needs to be accurately identified with care and support provided that maximizes the health and well-being of Children in Care. The services around the child must ensure that this care complies with all relevant legislation and the statutory guidance surrounding these children.

This report incorporates specific health data which offers a full year profile of the health of all Children in Care residing within the county. It identifies issues that impact upon the health and well-being of all Children in Care and will support future service commissioning and delivery. Such data is crucial to the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment

(JSNA) which is now amended on a quarterly basis to incorporate emerging policy developments.

The population incorporates corporately parented children by Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) and those placed in Lincolnshire by external authorities. The status of the children is identified within the population data included in this report.

Achievements in 2021/22

The COVID-19 pandemic continued to throw up many challenges over the past year; however, we have continued to strive for the best outcomes for children in care.

Children in care reviews continued virtually throughout the lockdown period. Some young people attended their reviews for the first-time during lockdown as they found engaging by phone or through Zoom/Teams more accessible and inclusive than attending in person. Going forward, young people will be offered the choice of how they would like to participate in their reviews. Performance has remained consistently high with 100% in timescale. The participation team reported that 86% of young people were happy with the way reviews are managed, although some young people were unclear about the review process and the role of the Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO). These findings have been fed into the IRO action plan and the revised Children in Care Strategy to ensure these issues are addressed.

In November 2020 the Department for Education and Department for Health and Social Care launched the Wellbeing for Education Return Programme, which is a package of training and resources developed by the Anna Freud Centre at Leeds Beckett University focused on a whole school approach to mental health and wellbeing, staff wellbeing and targeted support for children and families. We worked closely with Healthy Minds Lincolnshire and several other Lincolnshire education partners to co-deliver this training package to all schools and education settings. Overall, 46 Wellbeing for Education Return training sessions (Webinars 1 and 2) were delivered to approximately 95% of Lincolnshire schools and academies, with an average of 513 education setting staff attending both webinars. 95.3% said the training had helped them to understand how to further support children's emotional wellbeing and 97.8% rated the training as good or better.

2. Background and Context

2.1. Definition of "children in care"

Most children enter care as a result of abuse or neglect.

'In care' refers to children and young people under 18 years of age, who have been provided with care and accommodation by Children's Services, as defined in law under the Children Act 1989 (CA 1989).

Children in Care fall into five main groups:

- Children who are accommodated under voluntary agreement with their parents Section 20 (S20)
- Children who are subject to a care order Section 31 (S31) or interim care orders Section 38 (S38)
- Children who are the subject of emergency orders for their protection Section 44(S44) and Section 46 (S46)

And;

- Children who are compulsorily accommodated, including children remanded to the local authority or subject to a criminal justice supervision order with a residence requirement Section 21 (S21).
- 16/17-year-olds who are homeless and require accommodation under section 20 (S20)
- A child entering care will be disrupted from his/her familiar relationships and home environment. The Local Authority Children's Services strive to do all that is possible to minimize disruption to the child's education. Lincolnshire County Council is committed to ensuring continuity of educational placements unless a care plan determines that a change in school would be beneficial, such as when a child moves to a permanent placement.

Children in Care share the same health and social issues, risks, and problems, experienced by their peers, but often to a greater degree. They will often enter care in a poorer state of health, due to the impact of:

- Abuse and neglect
- Poverty
- Poor parenting
- Chaotic lifestyles
- Alcohol and substance misuse

Their experience can be further compounded by being over-exposed to significant challenges, such as:

- Conflict within their own families
- Frequent changes of home or school
- Lack of access to support and consistent advice from trusted adults

National statistics demonstrate that the longer-term outcomes for Children in Care remain worse than their peers in general. As adults, they are more likely to experience:

- Psychological problems / mental illness,
- Homelessness,
- Imprisonment,
- Unemployment,
- Poorer health outcomes and life limiting conditions and/or
- Poor educational attainment levels.

The NHS and LA officers responsible for Children in Care services are required to:

- Recognise and give due regard to the greater physical, mental and emotional health needs of children in care in their planning and practice.
- Give equal importance (parity of esteem) to the mental health of Children in Care and follow the principles in the national document, 'Mental Health Crisis Care Concordat, *Improving Outcomes for People Experiencing Mental Health Crisis*' and the work commissioned by the Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) "Improving mental health support for our children and young people".
- Agree multi-agency action to meet the health needs in their area.
- Ensure that sufficient resources are allocated to meet the identified health needs of the Children in Care population, including those placed in the area by other local authorities, based on the range of data available about their health characteristics.
- Consider the views of children, their parents, and carers, in order to inform, influence and shape service provision, including through Children in Care Councils and local Healthwatch; and voices for choices.
- Arrange the provision of accessible and comprehensive information to children in care and their carers.

Reducing the acknowledged disadvantage for these children is the responsibility of a designated team of elected members, and health and social care practitioners, including the following:

2.2. Corporate Parent

The 'Corporate Parent' is the collective responsibility of the council, elected members, employees, and partner agencies, to provide the best possible care and safeguarding for each child in care. Every member and employee of the council and partner agencies has a statutory responsibility to act for the child in the same way that a good parent would act for

their own child. This includes the children that LCC place outside of the county. Additionally, LCC ensures that all elected members undertake training in their role as a Corporate Parent.

The placing authority maintains the Corporate Parenting responsibility for their children residing in Lincolnshire. However, they may be placed a long distance away from the child and their communities. Each child has an allocated social worker responsible for the management of their care plan. Services and aspirations for children in care are enshrined in the 'Children in Care and Care Leavers Strategy'.

2.3. Designated and Named Health Professionals

In accordance with the Statutory Guidance, '*Promoting the Health and Well-being of Looked after Children*', designated and named health professionals are appointed in Lincolnshire. It is the responsibility of the designated doctor and nurses to ensure that every child has timely access to their statutory health assessments, and that a care plan is formulated to address all identified health needs.

The health team provides statutory health services for the children in care population, irrespective of the LA corporate parent status. The role of the designated doctor for children in care is to provide strategic leadership and quality assurance of the statutory initial health assessments.

The health service responsible for the completion of health assessments for children in care is provided within Lincolnshire Community Health Services (LCHS), who work closely with the children's social care teams, including the independent reviewing officers.

2.4. Independent Reviewing Officers

Independent Reviewing Officers (IROs) are employed locally, in addition to the child's social workers to provide services to Children in Care. IRO's undertake statutory reviews as per the statutory guidance for all children in care to ensure that their needs are being met on a multi-agency basis.

For children who are "in the care" of other Local Authorities but who reside in Lincolnshire, it is the responsibility of the placing authority to ensure that an IRO is accessible to ensure that these children, who are placed far from their support mechanisms, have access to local services according to their needs.

The Children's Commissioner in Lincolnshire is a joint post between Health and the Local Authority and is situated within Children's Services Directorate Leadership team.

3. Profile of Children in Care

3.1. Numbers of Children in Care

At the end of March 2022 680 children were corporately parented by LCC. This represents an increase of 9.3% over the year.

Over the same period the number of children/young people who entered care increased slightly to 287. Within this figure, the greatest numbers are in the age bands 0 – 4 and 16 +. Over recent years there has been a marked increase in 16 / 17-year-olds in care and they now comprise 22% of all children in care. We have continued to see an increase in children aged between 8 and 12 who have care plans for permanent fostering and as a result, there continues to be a small number of children waiting for a suitable placement. In 2021/22 there has been continued emphasis on achieving permanent outcomes for these children.

3.2. Placement Profile

Stability of placement for children is key to improving health outcomes through providing as normal a family arrangement as possible. At year end the composition of the children in care cohort was:

1. 54.5% accommodated with foster carers /parents.
2. 17.5% placed in kinship arrangements.
3. 5.7% subject to care orders and are placed at home with parents.
4. 11.6% in residential homes; and
5. 2.4% in other accommodation, including residential schools, custody etc.
6. 8.2% in Independent accommodation

This shows that there is a continuing trend in the greater use of residential care for children and a growing number of young people aged 16+ placed in independent accommodation.

Lincolnshire transformation programme remains ongoing and includes the rollout of the Valuing Care toolkit and expansion of our residential estate. This will enable us to place more children requiring residential care within Lincolnshire, maintaining family links and identity, and enabling them to continue to access local services.

Lincolnshire remains at the forefront of using kinship placements, and, at year end, 17.5% of

all children in care were in such placements.

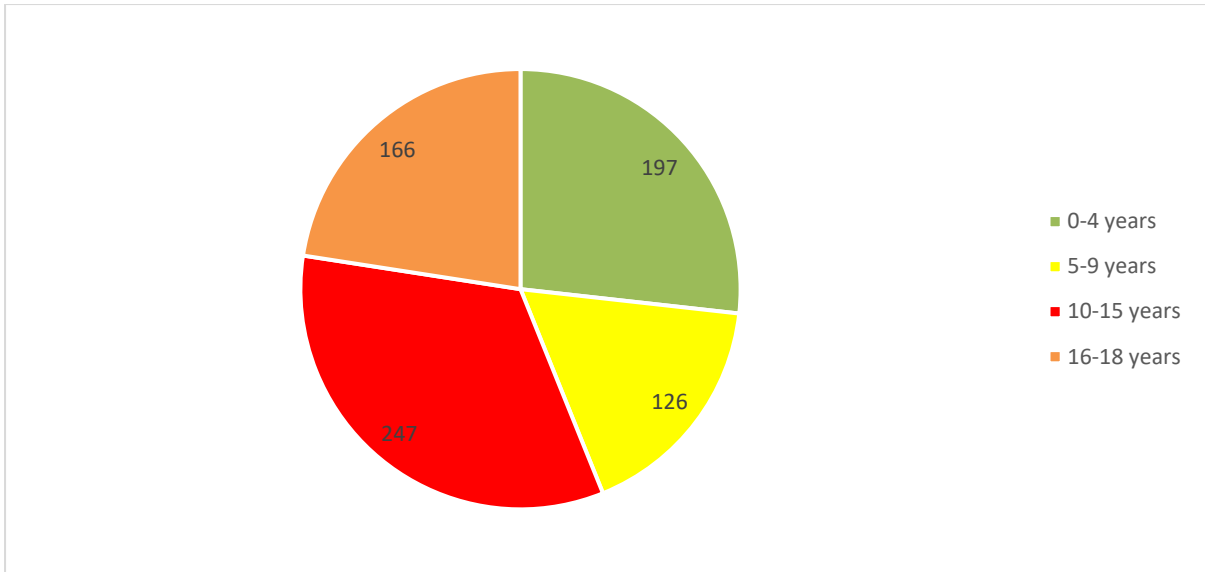
The reporting period has witnessed a continued increase in the number of children with especially complex needs who are corporately parented in Lincolnshire. In 2021/2022 this has resulted in an increase in the number of children who find living in foster families difficult and as a result the average age profile of children placed in in-house residential care has reduced. This has in turn, resulted in a further increase in the number placed in external residential placements. In addition, this year there have been several large sibling groups who have been subject to care proceedings. The lack of suitable in-house foster placements to maintain them together has resulted in them being placed in independent fostering placements. At year end there were:

- 27 children (5 of whom were unaccompanied asylum-seeking young people) were placed in externally commissioned foster placements, and
- 54 children were placed in external residential homes, which is a decrease on the previous year-end figure.

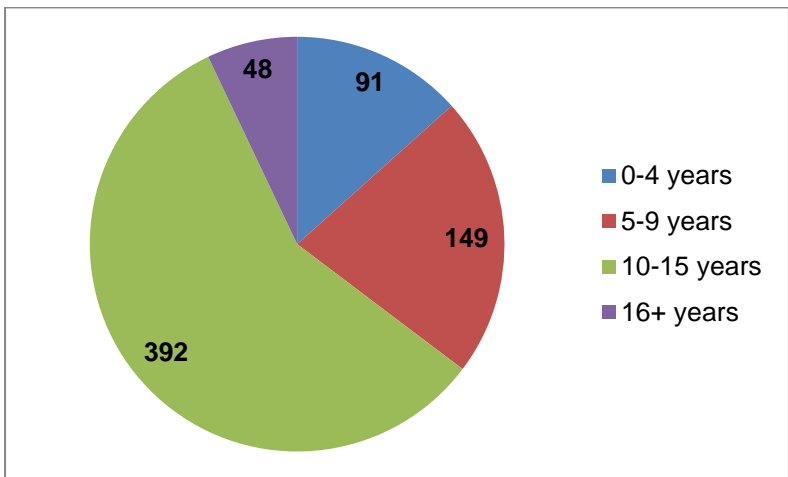
Despite this increase in the use of independent sector placements the ratio of in house to external placements remains significantly lower when compared to other local authorities. Lincolnshire continues to have one of the lowest per head costs for a looked after child, being £787.00 in contrast to the average of £989.00 (CIPFA 2020).

3.3. Composition of children in care

Slightly more boys than girls are represented in the total children in care population, and for those corporately parented by Lincolnshire County Council there are 367 (54%) males and 313 (46%).



Children placed into Lincolnshire by external Local Authorities 2021-2022



Lincolnshire has consistently had a significant number of children in care placed within the County by external LA's. At year end they numbered 680 which is a decrease from the previous year.

The high numbers of children in care placed by other Local Authorities within Lincolnshire are predominantly residing within residential care homes and with foster carers who work for Independent Fostering Agencies. The placements are often intended to remove children away from on-going, high risk environments within the LA area responsible for their care. As a result of this some can present with challenging behaviours such as going missing, self-harm, substance misuse and the risk of Child Exploitation (CE). It needs to be recognised that often the risks may continue despite the move out of their LA area as there is often potential for

abusers to follow the young person to their new address. The vulnerabilities and needs of these young people also impact on the workload of Lincolnshire Integrated Sexual Health Services, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS), Education and The Police.

Summary:

- The largest numbers of children entering care are aged less than one year.
- The greatest number of children in care overall are in the 10-15 years age group.
- Almost 47% of the children admitted into care during 2021/22 were aged 4 or under.
- 13% of all children admitted to care were aged 16+.
- 79% of all children are subject of a statutory interim care order or a care order.

Most children will be subject to care proceedings and will have care plans for permanence.

3.4. Ethnicity

The vast majority (90%) of children corporately parented by Lincolnshire County Council are of White-British origin, but the demographics are gradually changing, with over 10% of children in care of a non-white British ethnic background. This reflects an increase in the number of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children/young people who become looked after upon arrival in the county.

The table below shows the ethnic background of children who are corporately parented by Lincolnshire County Council during the period April 2021 to March 2022

Ethnicity of Children in Care Cohort 2019/20 (derived from MOSAIC)

Ethnic Origin LCC Corporate Parent	Total
White-British	611
Mixed Race	34
Asian / Asian British	4
Black-African	2
Any Other Ethnic Group	29
Total	680

2021/22 - LINCOLNSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL: COURT PROCEEDINGS INITIATED

Within the reporting period, we have seen an increase in the number Care Proceedings issued in comparison with the previous year..

In 2018/19 applications were issued in respect of 184 children.

In 2019/20 applications were issued in respect of 157 children.

In 2020/21 applications were issued in respect of 197 children.

In 2021/22 applications were issued in respect of 150 cases (256 children).

Within the 2021/ 22 timeframe Care Proceedings were concluded in respect of 106 children. It is fully acknowledged that Covid-19 pandemic has had a continued impact on the ability for cases to conclude in a timely manner however it is clearly being seen that cases are now being concluded more swiftly once again.

The number of children made subject to a Special Guardianship Order has increased in 2021/22.

In 2018/19 41 Special Guardianship Orders were granted.

In 2019/20 18 Special Guardianship Orders were granted.

In 2020/21 14 Special Guardianship Orders were granted.

In 2021/22 34 Special Guardianship Orders were granted.

The increase in Special Guardianship Orders reflects the efforts made within the Pre-Proceedings process and throughout the proceedings to identify and locate family and members of the network who could be assessed to care for the child/ ren/ young person.

Final Care Plans of adoption (by the making of a Care and Placement Order) has increased to 21. Placement Orders with a Care Plan of adoption are only made when this is the last realistic placement option, and the Balance Sheet Analysis can clearly evidence this:

In 2018/19 27 Placement Orders were granted.

In 2019/20 22 Placement Orders were granted.

In 2020/21 12 Placement Orders were granted.

In 2021/22 21 Placement Orders were granted.

Within this time period only 14 Supervision Orders were granted as final outcomes for children/ young people.

The table below shows the orders obtained for the 106 children in proceedings that were concluded.

<u>Order</u>	<u>Number of Orders</u> <u>2020/21</u>	<u>Number of Orders</u> <u>2021/22</u>
Care Order	31	32
Placement Order	12	21
Supervision Order	7	14
No Order	3	34
Child Arrangements Order	2	2
Special Guardianship Order	20	34
Family Assistance Order	0	0

In 2020/21 the number of care proceedings comprised of many new-born babies often to parents who have had other children removed from their care and an increase in the number of larger sibling groups who span a broad age range. This has continued into 2021/22 with a large rise in new-born babies and those being born where proceedings are recurrent; the increase in large sibling groups has also continued.

There is a very positive identified impact on the robust Pre-Proceedings process in Lincolnshire. For the 2021/22 timeframe the following outcomes have taken place:

- 144 Pre-Proceedings in total;
- 67 of these progressed to proceedings;
- 51 of these diverted away from proceedings;

- 26 of these are still on-going pre-proceedings cases;
- 47% issued; 35% diverted; 18% on-going.

5. Health of Children in Care

5.1. National Context

Most children/young people enter care because of abuse and neglect - past experiences such as this increases vulnerability to disadvantage, including mental health issues, lower educational achievement, and social exclusion. The childhood trauma of children in care is also associated with poorer health outcomes which have life-long consequences.

Nationally, key issues for consideration for the health of children in care include:

- Poorer health outcomes when compared to peers,
- Difficulty in accessing universal and specialist services,
- Failure of annual health assessments to meet their health needs,
- High prevalence of mental health problems,
- Poorer educational achievement,
- Increased likelihood of teenage pregnancy
- Increased risk of offending behaviour and substance misuse.

In view of such increased disadvantage, measurement of the child's health on first coming into care is crucial – Initial Health Assessments are a key element to achieving this.

5.2. Children Reported Missing and Child Exploitation

Children and young people in care are particularly vulnerable to safeguarding risks– they are more likely to go missing and are at an increased risk of being trafficked, exploited or of experiencing domestic abuse. A number of children are also placed in Lincolnshire from other areas within privately owned residential care homes, although these placements enable movement away from the high-risk environment, there is also a potential risk for continued exploitation as perpetrators may follow the young person to their new home.

Practitioners are actively engaging with children and young people and developing key relationships that enable identification, and appropriate response, to such risks, including Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE). In Lincolnshire, there is a dedicated Missing/CE Co-Ordinator resource within the Future4me team that co-ordinates

a response towards missing children in conjunction with Lincolnshire Police and reports on the missing episodes of children in the County. There is also weekly oversight of any outstanding missing return interviews shared amongst senior managers to provide assurance around this key area. Through the LSCP, Lincolnshire has an operational multi-agency child exploitation forum who meet on a weekly basis to consider those children deemed at risk of exploitation and to provide support, interventions, disruption, and enforcement. These meetings are a dedicated forum for discussing, mapping, and analysing concerns and for identifying solutions for all children/young people who are thought to be at risk of CE, including those in care.

2021/22 Missing Incidents

Lincolnshire Children in Care Missing Incidents	317
No of Children in Care Reported Missing	77
Lincolnshire children Placed in Other Authority Missing Incidents	106
No of children in care Reported Missing	34
Return interviews offered	100%
Return interviews completed	97.8%

This data shows that there were 317 incidents of children being missing reported to Police for Lincolnshire Children in Care between April 2021 and March 2022. These incidents involved 77 individual children, demonstrating that some children have experienced a number of missing episodes. A return interview has been offered in 100% of incidents when a young person has gone missing. In Lincolnshire, if a young person is missing again before the return interview can be completed, this request is 'withdrawn' and a new return interview requested when the young person is found, ensuring the return interview captures both missing incidents. 97.8% of return interviews were completed for Children in Care, some of which will have encompassed more than one missing episode.

5.3 Care Leavers

- Barnardo's is commissioned by the LA to deliver the leaving care service in Lincolnshire. The contract was renewed in 2020 and will enable more timely

transitional planning for those aged 16 +.

- Arrangements for Review Health Assessments for 16–18-year-olds, as part of transition, are undertaken by the Community Nurses within the Children in Care/Young People team.
- There is a process in place for the compilation of a health history summary for Lincolnshire children in which is completed, discussed with and given to the young person when they leave care.
- The number of completed children in care health history summaries is reported quarterly.

5.4 Meeting the Health Needs.

Performance indicators for the Children in Care service are:

Health Assessments:

- i) The number of Initial Health Assessments (IHA) completed within 20 working days of the child/young person coming into care.
 - ii) The number of Review Health Assessments (RHAs) completed every 6 months for children below 5 years of age.
 - iii) The number of Review Health Assessments completed on an annual basis for all children/young people 5 year's up to 18 years of age
1. Registration with a GP
 2. Registration with a dentist
 3. Immunisations up to date in line with local and national programmes; and
 4. Emotional wellbeing: Completion of the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ) for 4 to 17-year-olds.

5.4.1 Health Assessments

Statutory Initial Health Assessments are completed on all children in the care of the LA followed by six-monthly or annual reviews, depending upon the age of the child. The CIC/YP health assessment questionnaire includes the following categories:

- Children in Care/YP health assessment
- Access to services
- Growth
- Development and disability
- Medical conditions/hospital admissions/emotional and behavioural issues
- Lifestyle indicators
- Education and development

- Onward referrals identified in health plan

Health Assessments

278 (295) **IHA's** were completed – A decrease of 27 compared to 2020-2021

This comprised of 227 (226) who were in the care of Lincolnshire County Council and 51 (69) from other Local Authorities.

A further 48 (45) Lincolnshire Children in Care had their IHA completed out of county.

931 (874) **Review Health Assessments** were completed – An increase of 60 compared to 2020-2021

Of these, 527 (539) were children in the care of Lincolnshire and 404(335) were from other Local Authorities (a decrease of 12 for Lincolnshire children and an increase of 69 for external authorities).

A further 75 Review Health Assessments were completed for Children in the Care of Lincolnshire placed out of county.

Health Assessments Total = 1332 (1169) – an increase of 63 compared to 2020-2021

5.4.1.1 Initial Health Assessments (IHA)

Each child entering care has a statutory IHA and health care plan completed. The IHA is undertaken by a registered medical practitioner and should take place within 20 working days (4 weeks) of a child entering the care system. A health plan is formulated from this which is copied to the child's social worker who ensures that the plan is implemented, and then reviewed at least every six months in a meeting chaired by the independent reviewing officer (IRO).

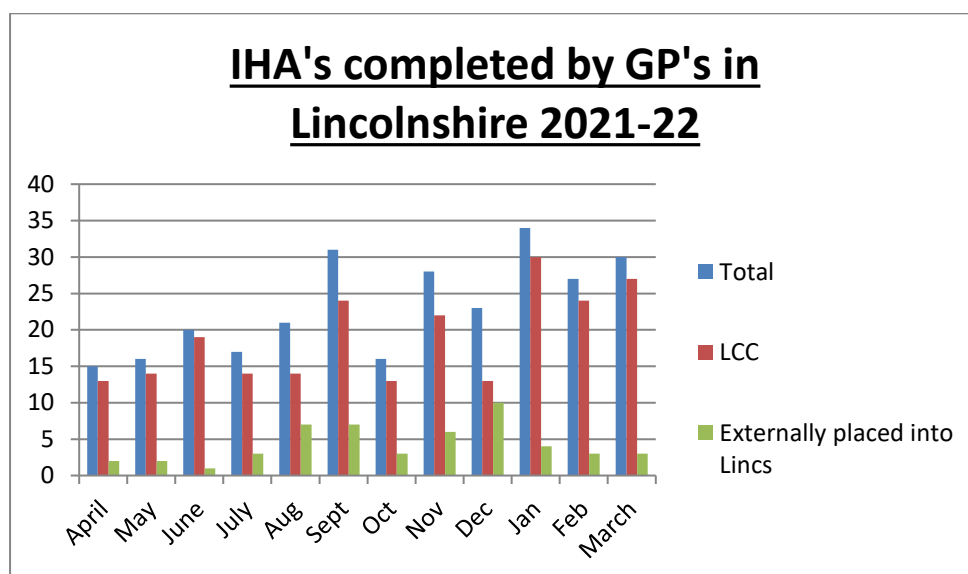
Despite this being a statutory requirement, it is not being achieved in Lincolnshire. The availability of medical practitioners and challenges in obtaining the relevant paperwork including signed consent from parents has significantly impacted on this target. Close liaison between the Specialist Nurse CiC and the Family Assessment and Support Team (FAST) managers over the past year has resulted in an improvement in the numbers being completed within timescale.

From April 2021 LCHS has employed a General Practitioner who provided 8 appointments a month and a further General Practitioner was employed in November 2021 providing a total of 16 appointments per month. In November 2021 a Community Paediatrician from ULHT also joined the team offering between 12 and 36 appointments per month. This has enabled the backlog of appointments to be addressed and the number of assessments completed in timescale to improve. We have a trajectory that shows we should be able to offer

appointments for all requested IHA's within timescale by October 2022.

Graph 2 shows the activity of initial health assessments that has been completed during 2021-2022 by the contracted GP's.

Graph 2



The total number of IHAs undertaken in Lincolnshire during 2021-2022 was 278. This was a decrease on the figure for 2020-2021.

During this period 48 children in the care of Lincolnshire County Council were placed outside of Lincolnshire and their IHA was completed by the 'host' trust.

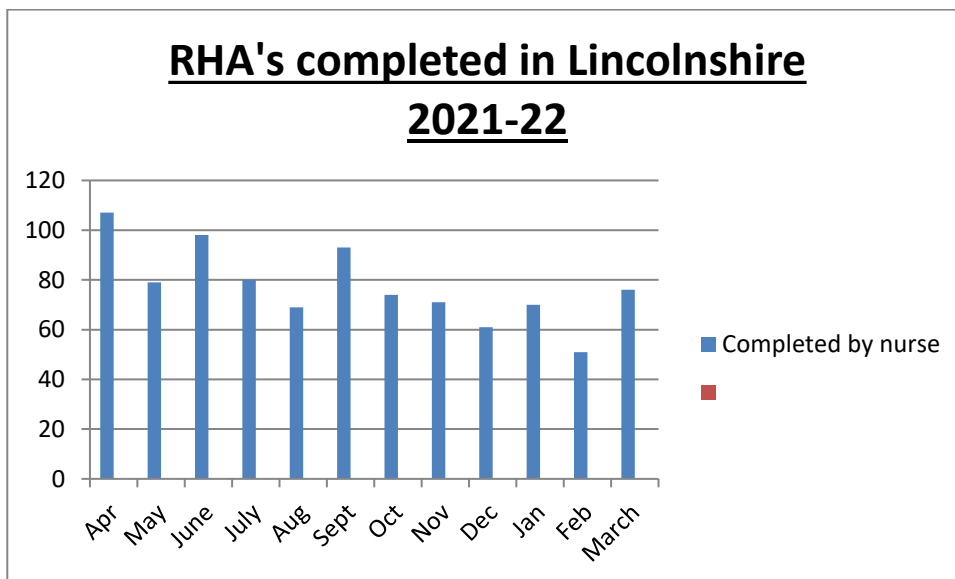
5.4.1.2 Review Health Assessments

Review health assessments may be carried out by an appropriately qualified Registered Nurse/Midwife.

The timeframe for review health assessments is twice yearly for children under 5 years of age, and annually for children 5 years, up until a child is 18 years of age.

Graph 3 shows the number of review health assessments completed in Lincolnshire during 2021-2022. The total number completed by the Community Nurses was 527 for Lincolnshire children and 404 for children placed by other Authorities. This is an increase of 60 RHAs completed by the nurses from the year 2020-2021.

Graph 3

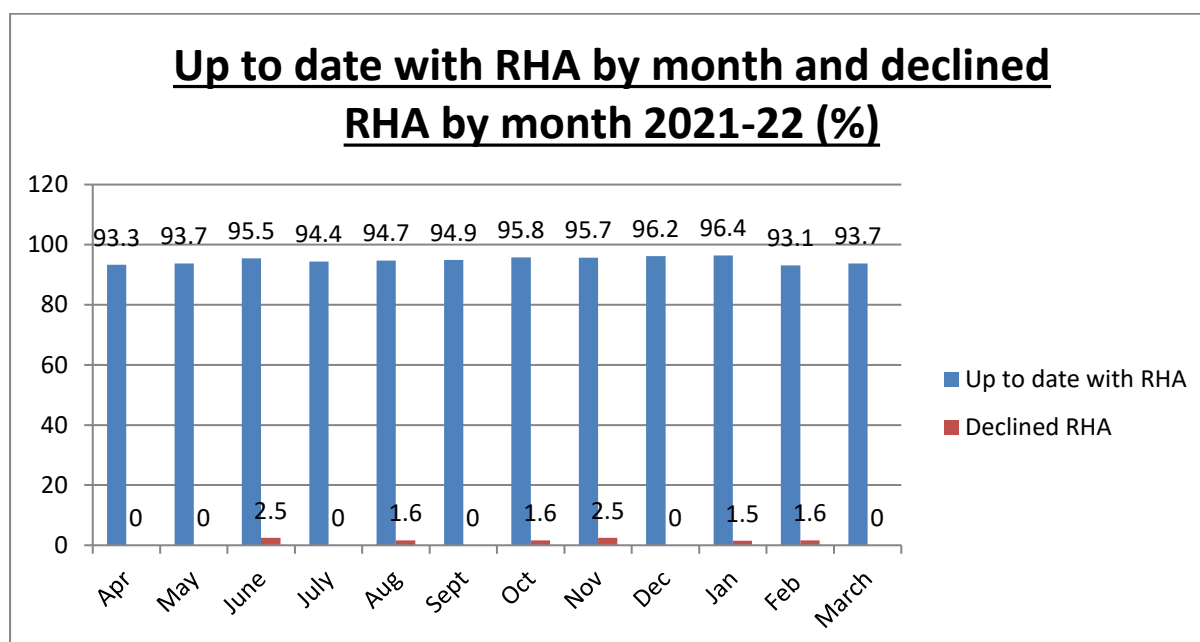


For Lincolnshire LA the percentage of completed RHAs for Lincolnshire children was 93.7% at year-end March 2022. COVID 19 has impacted on the practicality of completing assessments within timescale. (see graph 4).

This is a continued high achievement and demonstrates the robustness of the health assessment process and the commitment and partnership working between health and social care practitioners.

Graph 4 shows the percentage of children with an up-to-date review health assessment and identifies the number who declined a Health Assessment from 01.04.21 to 31.03.22. There is a slight decrease in RHA declined by young people on the previous year.

Graph 4



Young people who decline their RHA are predominantly within the 15 – 18-year age group. They are all offered alternative access by LCHS LAC/YP team which has proved to be very successful.

5.4.2 Registration with a General Practitioner

The 2021-22 health assessment reporting indicates that 99.1% of Children in Care are permanently registered with a GP.

5.4.3 Dental Practice Registration

Children and young people often enter care with poor oral health: usually because of their pre-care experience.

Attendance for annual dental checks is a national performance indicator.

Lincolnshire Local Authority reporting on this performance indicator shows that 82.9% of children in care had dental checks as of 31.03.22. This is a considerable improvement- 30% on the previous year (Impacted by coronavirus.) We are working hard with health and Social Care colleagues to improve this further.

For children who are not registered with a dentist at their health assessment appointments, carers are encouraged to register a child with a dentist as soon as possible.

5.4.4 Immunisation's and vaccination

Children who are not immunised are potentially more susceptible to a range of infectious diseases. In sophisticated industrialised societies such as the UK many diseases have been all but eradicated; however, in areas where immunisation up take is poor the potential for infectious diseases to re-emerge is significant.

There are only a small number of reasons why children should not receive a course of immunisations:

- If the immune system is compromised, certain, e.g., live vaccines are not given, (this could be that a parent or immediate family member has a compromised immune system resulting in a delay until it is safe to vaccinate).
- If a child / sibling has previously had a severe reaction to the same vaccine.
- Young people may refuse to have their vaccinations.

For children in care the vaccination history is recorded by the GP on the CORAMBAAF form at their IHA. Any outstanding vaccinations must be identified on the health plan section of the CORAMBAAF form.

The IRO also has a responsibility for performance managing and identifying outstanding vaccinations and agreeing plans for them to be completed.

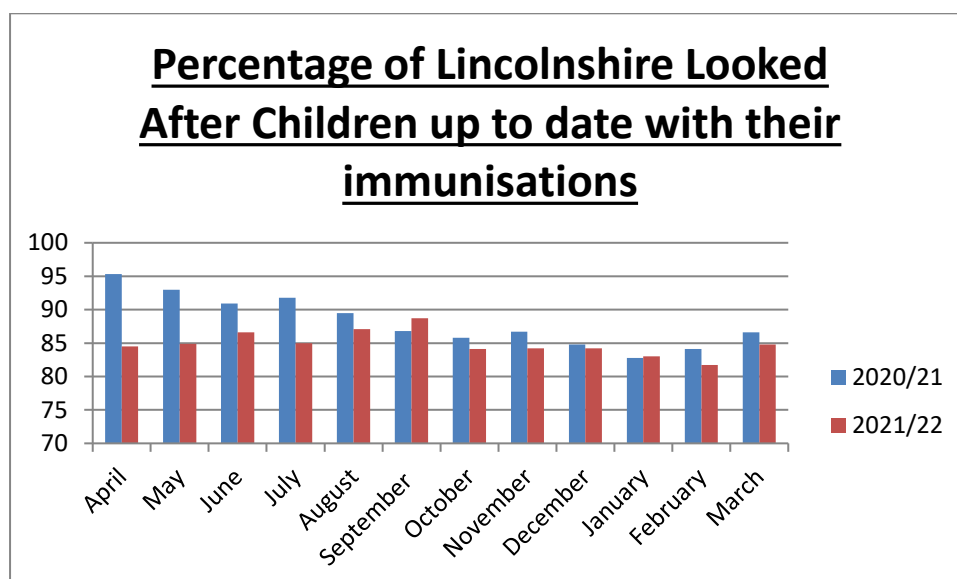
The vaccination and immunisation status submitted by Lincolnshire LA for the final percentage at year end 2021 - 2022 was 84.8%. The immunisation programme, particularly the schools programme, has been impacted by the COVID19 pandemic. There is a catch-up programme in progress which should ensure all children will be up to date by the end of 2022.

The percentage of children who are up to date with their immunisations is at a higher rate of coverage compared with those of their peers in the general population.

All outstanding immunisations are checked quarterly by the CiC/YP health team. Health and Social care colleagues are working together to improve the timely recording of immunisations.

Graph 5 (below) shows the monthly percentage of CiC/YP up to date with vaccinations 2021 - 2022 compared to 2020-2021.

Graph 5



5.4.5 Children and Young People Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing Services

Children in Care received priority access to Lincolnshire Children and Young Peoples (CYP) Mental Health Services. Lincolnshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (LPFT) provides Emotional wellbeing and mental health services to children and their families/carers. The services provided ranges from mental health promotion, targeted support within schools to more specialised Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) and enhanced home treatment services, including a dedicated CAMHS Learning Disability Services and CAMHS Eating Disorder Service.

All services also offer consultation and advice to those involved in supporting children in care. This includes carers, children's home staff, education staff and other involved professionals, including social workers, and early help workers.

The tables below shows the referrals received by LPFT CYP services for children in care corporately parented in Lincolnshire and the reason for referral. (The data for those placed by external authorities is not available for this reporting period)

Children in Care referrals received by LPFT CYP Mental Health Services

Gender/Age	Attended one or more contacts (a)	Did not attend any contacts (b)	Total
Female	94	4	98
Female aged 4-9	14	0	14
Female aged 10 - 14	42	1	42
Female aged 15 -19	38	3	41
Female aged 20 - 22	0	0	0
Male	72	5	77
Male aged 4-9	19	1	20
Male aged 10 - 14	32	2	34
Male aged 15 -19	21	2	23
Male aged 20 - 24	0	0	0
Total	166	9	175

Reason for Referral to LPFT CYP Mental Health Services

Reason for referral	% out of 231 referrals 2021/22
Behavioural Problems	39.39%
Anxiety	20.35%
Low Mood	16.45%
Suicide Risk With Harm	5.63%
Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)	5.19%
Depression	3.03%
Eating Disorders	2.16%
Self Harm	1.73%
Attachment Difficulties	1.30%
Suicide Risk Without Harm	1.30%
Other - Including: Child - Eating Disorder, Communication Difficulties, ADHD, Adjustment to Health Issue, Suicidal Ideation and Emotional Wellbeing Difficulties.	3.46%

Reasons for non-attendance at appointments:

9 young people did not attend their appointments, reasons for this are recorded below:

1 Patient cancelled

1 not accepted and was signposted to a more appropriate service for ASD

2 DNA

1 Discharged following non attendance

1 Moved area

2 No response to accepted referral

1 Refused to be seen

Lincolnshire Complex Needs Services

This new service works as an integrated partnership between LPFT and Lincolnshire County Council, providing holistic support to young people who are at risk of homelessness, criminalisation, or exploitation.

Within the service there is also a Harmful Behaviour Service, providing assessment and intervention for young people up to the age of 18, who live in Lincolnshire, and who are presenting with sexually concerning behaviours.

CAMHS Harmful Behaviour Service

This service provides assessment and intervention to children and young people up to the age of 18 years, who live in Lincolnshire, and who are presenting with sexually concerning behaviours.

Prior to a referral being accepted, any identified safeguarding concerns will have been referred to Children's Services for investigation. A member of Children's Services remains involved, as appropriate, to monitor and address any identified safeguarding concerns, and to work with the specialist therapists from the Harmful Behaviour Service, and (Assessment Intervention Moving On (AIM) trained CAMHS staff, in offering recommended interventions.

Consultation and advice have also been offered to carers, children's home staff, education staff and other involved professionals, including social workers, Healthy Minds staff and early help workers.

6. Education

6.1. Learning and Achievement – Education for Life

The Virtual School Team showed great flexibility throughout the pandemic and worked alongside the Caring 2 Learn Team, foster carers, social care teams, children, and school-based colleagues to provide practical support for the educational needs of our children and young people in care throughout the year. The examples below provide a flavour of how the team responded.

- Ensuring that most of our children and young people attended school throughout the pandemic where appropriate
 - Delivering laptops to enable children to continue lessons online if required
 - Ensuring Out of County placed children, carers and schools were supported through regular weekly contact
 - Supporting carers to access **online learning portals** and other resources set up by schools.
 - The team continued to complete all Personal Education Plans
 - Continued to support Children in Care Reviews as required
 - Ensured catch up tuition was provided as required
 - The team also distributed resources such as **books** and stationery where appropriate
 - Supported our **Residential Homes** with learning resources, school transport issues etc.
 - Through partnership working ensured our more vulnerable carers could better support their children's **transitions back into school** when appropriate
-
- Caring2Learn continued to provide networking opportunities for our carers alongside support and advice from our Carer Champions network.
 - Three Virtual School Staff also provided cover to support our residential colleagues throughout the first Lockdown.

The team is currently working to implement non statutory (Department for Education (DfE) guidance for the extension of the Virtual School Head's role to include the provision of advice and guidance to schools and Social Care Teams in promoting the improvement of educational outcomes for children with a Social Worker up to March 2022.

7. Social Care

7.1 Permanence

Between 1st April 2021 and the 31st March 2022 Family Finders has continued to meet monthly to consider children with a care plan of permanence and in need of a long-term foster placement. These meetings have returned to being in person with a hybrid model adopted when necessary.

Over the year 22 children have been considered, of these 13 children were newly referred from 1st April 2021 onwards. This mirrors last year's figures of 22 children being referred to Family Finders.

Out of the 22 children considered, long term foster care in house foster placements was identified for four children, two single children and a sibling group of two. Three of these children remained with their current carers and one child moved to a new permanent placement. Of the remaining eighteen children, it was agreed that two would remain with their IFA carers and a sibling group of three moved to live with a family member under a kinship arrangement. As of 31st March 2022, there remains thirteen children being considered by Family Finders looking for permanent placements, seven are single children and three are siblings groups of two.

Six children have been linked for Permanence at Fostering Panel over the year, however all of these were with the existing task centred foster carers and the children had not been referred to Family Finders.

For years recruitment of permanent foster carers has been difficult with most permanent matches being made with existing task centred foster carers. In 2021 there were no new carers approved for permanence.

Although this year there has continued to be a high level of support in place for both prospective and current permanent foster carers; we have clearly had to be more creative in how we deliver this with, until very recently, limited face to face contact. A virtual Family Finders event took place in January 2022 with 4 children on Family Finders featured.

The Family Finders Review panel continues to meet regularly to consider children where no potential placement matches have been identified within a three-month period, enabling senior management to have oversight of actions already taken and discussions around any further options to be considered or explored. Over the course of the past year it has not been necessary to refer any children to this review mechanism, primarily due to the very low numbers of referrals earlier in the year. However, at the start of the new year several children have been referred.

7.2 Placement Stability

Placement stability continues to be a critical factor in offering an effective Fostering Service and is crucial to ensuring that the Local Authority delivers good outcomes for each Child in Care. The service has been developed and structured to promote stability and support to foster carers. Stability is measured by 2 national indicators, NI062 relating to children who experience 3 placement moves within 12 months, and NI063 which relates to children who have been in care for 2½ years who have been in the same placement for 2 years.

The national indicator NI062 reported 9.39% at year end. This figure suggests that Children in Care in Lincolnshire have a high level of placement stability from the point of coming into care. The figure is higher than the Council would prefer but does take into the account and reflects some of the challenges and the intricacies of meeting the needs of children

and matching them within our existing resources. The complexity of children requiring placement and reduced placement options have had an impact on the indicator, and this is likely to remain a challenge. Over recent years there has been considerable focus on supporting foster carers to maintain placements. Placement support workers have been trained to offer therapeutic interventions and caring2learn has developed champions and hub supports to all carers. Together they have supported an improvement.

The NI063 placement stability figure which measures the percentage of Children in Care under 16 year who have been cared for continuously for at least 2.5 years who were living in the same placement for at least 2 years ended with a year-end figure reported as 66%. The Valuing Care tool has now been embedded within the Fostering service. The tool continues to be used alongside the children in Care Valuing Care tool to support and inform matching with a view to improving placement stability by identifying carer's strengths in accordance with a child, young person's needs.

7.3 Transition into Adulthood

The transition into adulthood is rarely an easy path for any young person, but for children in care the path can often be more complex. Many such children have few or no direct family support networks. It is therefore imperative that every opportunity is provided, and all relevant supports are put in place, to enable as smooth a transition as possible. As their Corporate Parent we have a responsibility to support our young people as we would our own family, and on this basis LCC have committed to reducing the age at which care leavers accesses their Leaving Care worker from 17.5 to 16 years old. This earlier allocation and offer of additional support are assisting young people into adulthood and is ensuring that we have explored every important issue for an individual young person before they are 18 whilst also ensure there is a solid relationship with the Leaving Care service once they reach adulthood.

In planning this transition for care leavers, the Pathway Plan should be prepared for each relevant child prior to them leaving care. In summer 2019, the revised Pathway Plan was launched; this was revised in consultation with young people and uses the 'signs of safety' methodology. The professional preparing the plan on behalf of the Local Authority must engage constructively with the young person to help them define priorities and the focus of the plan. Never wanting to stand still, LCC and its partners are continually revisiting the Pathway planning process and the way we engage our young people in it. The Pathway Plan is now a regular feature of children service auditing and examples of good practice are now routinely shared across the teams

The Children Act 1989 Guidance and Regulations (Vol 3: Planning transition to adulthood for care leavers) identifies that, once a young person leaves care and they are a relevant child, or once they reach legal adulthood at age 18 and are a former relevant child, then the Local Authority will no longer be required to provide them with a social worker to plan and coordinate their care. In Lincolnshire, Barnardo's deliver the Leaving Care Service and appoint personal advisors to support them until the age of 21 and offer the support, guidance, and resources to enable the young person to grow into an independent adult, up to the age of 25 if required.

The Corporate Parenting Manager oversees the continual development the services offer to all our care leavers up to the age of 25. New developments have included additional accommodation resources, council tax relief for care leavers across all Lincolnshire, the growth of the Information Advice and Guidance (IAG) services offered to 21–25-year-old care leavers and growing relationships with adult based services to improve transitions across the board. There is a 4-way housing protocol ensuring that every care leaver is afforded local connection to district housing, they are always allocated priority status on housing lists and can have access to suitable, clean, and safe accommodation as a priority group.

The Leaving Care service has grown once again to now include 2 additional Aspiration champions whose sole focus is to support our young people into education, training, or employment. Following the pandemic Lincolnshire County Council chose to invest in these additional posts to ensure that our young people are given the very best opportunity to re-secure employment after the pandemic or get back into education and reach their full potential. Further to the two Aspiration Champions, Lincolnshire County Council and the Clinical Commissioning Group are now jointly funding a mental health worker to be seconded to the leaving care service. The aim of the mental health support worker post is to offer direct input and support to care leavers, to assist the team with advocating for young people to access the right services and to navigate complex systems to ensure they get the very best mental health support.

7.4. Staying Put Scheme

The 'Staying Put' scheme in Lincolnshire has, since its inception, enabled a total of 212 young people to remain with their previous foster carers. Staying Put arrangements provide the young person with stability at a key stage of their life remaining until their 21st birthday. Ongoing support and training for carers is provided by the Fostering Service, with the young people having their own designated Personal Adviser from Barnardo's Leaving Care Service. To further support young people in their transition to adulthood if they are ready to move on before their 21st birthday, or for those who join the military, each young person is given a window of up to three months in which they are supported by their carer. For those young people who attend university and live away, carers receive a retainer in recognition of the ongoing support they provide, and to enable the young person to return during holidays and continue life within their family setting.

Lincolnshire's Staying Put Service has continued to support young people and their carers with a total of 44 young people living in a Staying Put arrangement at the end of March 2022. Of these, 28 were in full time further education an increase of 4 from 2021. 7 attending university an increase of 2 young people. 3 young people are in employment, 2 young people are on Apprenticeship Schemes one with an engineering firm; and 2 young people are on the Care Leavers Apprenticeship Scheme and 2 young people were NEET.

The Staying Put offer in Lincolnshire positively reflects the current guidelines and best practice from the Government and Fostering Network. Signs of Safety is used and embedded in all the documents relating to Staying Put with Social Pedagogy being used to support the transition and understanding around moving to adulthood.

During the past 12 months connections with careers have remained in place; with Supervising Social Workers and the Staying-Put Co-ordinator keeping in contact with carers by telephone, virtually or face to face meetings. Microsoft Teams has been used to complete virtual meetings and there has been a return to face to face-to-face meetings where we can build relationships and ensure young people and carers fully understand Staying Put and to timely complete the relevant paperwork relating to the arrangement.

Looking forward to the next 12 months, there are currently 23 referrals waiting to join the Staying Put scheme. There may well be additional young people move into this provision (if this is the preferred option for them and their carers) this scheme continues to be an option for those leaving care at the point of attaining adulthood.

8. Consultation with Children in Care

8.1. Voices 4 Choices (V4C)

V4C is Lincolnshire's Children in Care Council. It shares experiences of being in care, informing Children's Services about what does and does not work for them, and what needs to change. V4C meetings are held every month in each of the 4 localities and are delivered by Senior Youth and Community Development Workers, with support from Participation Officers.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions implemented in March 2020 V4C groups met online using Zoom. The priority and challenge were to maintain engagement with CiC which was achieved through a range of activities. One group leader sent out craft kits which were used during online sessions. Others responded to requests and ran a mix of one-to-one and group 'catch-up' sessions including visiting residential children's homes. Online music sessions were also delivered in partnership with soundLINCS. And the groups cooperated collaboratively in an online quiz called 'Let's Get Quizzical. Covid-19 guidance was monitored closely to see if groups would be able to meet physically. As of July 2021, and in line with Covid guidance, face to face V4C meetings have begun to be introduced alongside virtual meetings. Meetings have

been held within LCC buildings at present with future plans to offer more external activities going forward.

8.2. Big Conversation Events

Due to Covid-19 restrictions Big Conversations did not take place in 2020. Big Conversation 21 took place in October 2021.

8.3. Development work

Pieces of work done by V4C in Big Conversation have continued to be developed:

- Language that Cares – implementation across Children's Services
- Caring Promise – launched in May 2021.

9. Advocacy and Complaints

The "Coming into Care kit" has been reviewed and redeveloped by the Participation Team with views and input from young people attending V4C. This provides children with information as to how they can express any feelings of dissatisfaction they may have including making formal complaints. There are however several informal dispute resolution options which are available to children and young people who are in the care of the local authority.

These include the following: -

Voiceability: All children and young people coming into care are offered an Independent advocate from our commissioned provider Voiceability who can attend their 28-day review and/or represent their views in a report. Voiceability also provide an issues resolution service which CIC can access as and when required.

Independent Reviewing Officers: The Independent Reviewing Officer has a duty to engage with children and young people to ascertain their views in respect of their care plans and to advise them of their entitlements including their right to complain. Children are encouraged to attend their reviews in order that they are aware of their plan and can comment on this. Where children's wishes are contrary to the plan, the Independent Reviewing Officer can escalate matters on behalf of the child in order to resolve matters in a timely manner. Where children and young people continue to be dissatisfied, the Independent Reviewing Officer can support young people in making formal complaints.

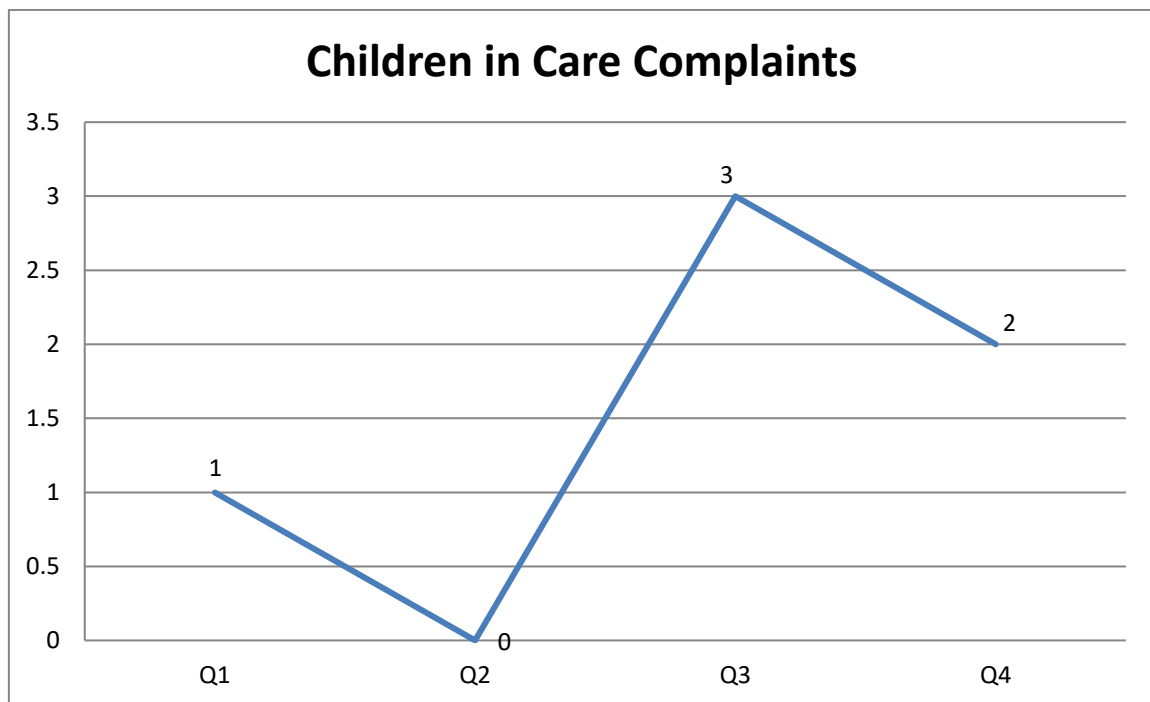
Regulation 44 Visits: The Regulation 44 Officer is an Independent Visitor who visits all residential homes within the authority monthly. An integral part of the role of the Independent Visitor is to talk to children, young people, and their families about their

experiences of the residential home. The Regulation 44 Visitor can engage in discussions with the homes manager to resolve any issues which the child may identify. Where this early attempt at resolution is unsuccessful, the Independent Visitor can support the young person in making a formal complaint.

Social Workers: Social Workers meet with children on a regular basis. A fundamental part of this visiting is ascertaining the wishes and feelings of children and young people. Where children are unhappy with the level of care which they are receiving, their social worker will in the first instance work with the child to see whether changes are able to be made which would comply with the child's wishes. Social Workers can direct children to the advocacy service if they wish to pursue a formal complaint.

9.1. Complaints

This year has seen no complaints made directly by children who are in care. However, 13 contacts were received from parents or carers of children in care. Of these 13 contacts one was resolved informally. This was in relation to an incorrect address being used to send review documents to. The remaining 12 entered the formal complaints process.



Quarter 1

A single complaint was received which was not upheld and was not escalated to the next stage of the complaints process.

Quarter 2

No complaints in relation to Children in Care were received in this quarter. The national lockdown, because of the Coronavirus Pandemic, remained in place at this time.

Quarter 3

3 complaints were received in the 3rd quarter and were all from parents of children in care.

- Family complained that assessments were taking too long to be sent through. This complaint was not upheld as all relevant documents were sent through in a timely fashion and this was evidenced.
- Parent complained that appropriate safeguarding measures were not taken in the home that their child was resident in and did not believe their child should remain there– This is directly linked to Covid-19 as the precautions in question were PPE. This complaint was not upheld as the PPE used were in line with central government guidance.
- A final complaint was received from a mother unhappy with the information that had been detailed about her in an assessment. This complaint was not upheld as it was evidenced where the information had been gathered from.

Quarter 4

The 4th quarter saw 2 complaints in regard to children in care and the details of these are as follows:

- A parent complained that she felt the information about her included within a report was misleading and felt discriminated against. This complaint was not upheld as the statements that parent advised were made were not found in any report.
- A Parent complained that she was purposefully being excluded from updates about her son. This complaint was partially upheld.

10. Conclusion

There has been a slight increase in the number of Children in Care in 2021/22. Lincolnshire continues to invest in a range of preventative services and interventions which promote the birth family and their network as the preferred place for children to grow up.

This report incorporates full year health data, which enables a better understanding of the essential characteristics of Children in Care. The partnerships across health and social care within Lincolnshire remain strong, with a determination to continue improving the effectiveness of services to reduce the disadvantages that these children and young people are acknowledged to experience. The associated workforce is committed and skilled in supporting Children in Care.

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic continues to affect the numbers of immunisations and dental checks being completed for children in care. Due to the backlog of appointments, it has

been estimated that it will take up to two years to catch up with the scheduled immunisation programme for children. The shortage of Dentists in Lincolnshire also continues to pose challenges in accessing dental care for looked after children. The annual data during future years will enable comparative information to inform services and commissioning.

11. Recommendations for 2022-2023

1. LLA, Lincolnshire CCGs (now Integrated Care Board – ICB) and LCHS to continue to work together to improve the number of Initial Health Assessments completed within the statutory timeframe.
2. LCHS to continue to recruit GPs to complete IHA's and to work with ULHT to agree an arrangement whereby Community Paediatricians complete IHA's as part of their job role.
3. The annual report to be shared with the IRO service to promote improvement in constructive challenge.
4. A revised multi agency approach to the management of and support provided to children with above average SDQ scores
5. The pilot of "care skills" to be expanded and jointly delivered with the Leaving care service
6. Official launch of the Children's promise and refresh of the children in care and care leaver's strategy.
7. Roll out of the valuing care toolkit and expansion of our residential estates as part of our transformation programme in response to the shortage of local placements for children in care.

APPENDIX 1

2020 - 2021 Data from the Children in Care health assessment questionnaire

Dental

COUNT OF DENTAL PROCEDURES PERFORMED [LAST 12 MONTHS]					
AGE GROUP	0 - 4	5 - 9	10 - 15	16 +	Unrecorded
Brace	0	1	17	10	0
Extraction	4	5	10	4	0
Filling	4	17	28	8	1
Flouride paint	1	11	8	3	0
No treatment	83	82	192	56	2
Other	2	1	24	8	0
TOTAL	94	117	279	89	3

Total Children in Care (children corporately parented by Lincolnshire County Council, and children placed by external Local Authorities)

COUNT OF DENTAL PROCEDURES PERFORMED [LAST 12 MONTHS]					
AGE GROUP	0 - 4	5 - 9	10 - 15	16 +	Unrecorded
Brace	0	1	12	6	0
Extraction	1	4	6	3	0
Filling	2	9	13	4	0
Flouride paint	1	7	6	3	0
No treatment	55	43	116	33	1
Other	0	1	12	6	0
TOTAL	59	65	165	55	1

Total for Lincolnshire Children in Care

COUNT OF DENTAL PROCEDURES PERFORMED [LAS 12 MONTHS]					
AGE GROUP	0 - 4	5 - 9	10 - 15	16 +	Unrecorded
Brace	0	0	5	4	0
Extraction	3	1	4	1	0
Filling	2	8	15	4	0
Flouride paint	0	4	2	0	0
No treatment	28	38	76	23	1
Other	2	0	12	2	0
TOTAL	35	51	114	34	1

Total for External Local Authority Children in Care

Number of Children in care who have been seen by specialists (Lincolnshire LAC and children placed by external Local Authorities)

SEEN BY A				WEAR GLASSES	Referred By Dental/Otho d	AGE RANGE	TOTAL CHILDREN	IMMUNISATION UP TO DATE				GP INFORMED		
OPTOMETRIS T	AUDIOLOGIST	DENTIS T	YES					NO	REFUSED	Blank	YES	NO	Blank	
79	160	94	11	4	0 - 4	415	385	25	1	4	22	1	2	
121	14	116	55	3	5 - 9	194	184	7	1	2	7	0	0	
277	17	273	170	34	10 - 15	417	338	71	5	3	66	3	2	
92	3	87	72	13	16 +	169	128	36	3	2	34	2	0	
2	0	3	2	0	Unrecorde d	5	2	3	0	0	3	0	0	
571	194	573	310	54	TOTAL	1200	1037	142	10	11	132	6	4	

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% SEEN BY / % WHO HAVE					AGE RANGE	TOTAL CHILDREN	IMMUNISATION UP TO DATE				GP INFORMED		
OPTOMETRIS T	AUDIOLOGIST	DENTIS T	GLASSES	REFERRED			% YES	% NO	% REFUSED	% Blank	% YES	% NO	% Blank
19%	39%	23%	3%	1%	0 - 4	415	93%	6%	0%	1%	88%	4%	8%
62%	7%	60%	28%	2%	5 - 9	194	95%	4%	1%	1%	100%	0%	0%
66%	4%	65%	41%	8%	10 - 15	417	81%	17%	1%	1%	93%	4%	3%
54%	2%	51%	43%	8%	16 +	169	76%	21%	2%	1%	94%	6%	0%
40%	0%	60%	40%	0%	Unrecorde d	5	40%	60%	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%
48%	16%	48%	26%	5%	TOTAL	1200	86%	12%	1%	1%	93%	4%	3%

During the reporting year 2020-2021 LCHS amended the questionnaire used to record data about the health of children in care to include more qualitative data. Unfortunately, due to how the questionnaire had been built, it is not now possible to report on the remaining data accurately. This is being addressed

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Open Report on behalf of Andrew Crookham, Executive Director – Resources

Report to:	Corporate Parenting Panel
Date:	19 January 2023
Subject:	Corporate Parenting Panel Work Programme

Summary:

This item enables the Panel to consider and comment on the content of its work programme for the coming year to ensure that scrutiny activity is focused where it can be of greatest benefit. The work programme will be reviewed at each meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel to ensure that its contents are still relevant and will add value to the work of the Council and partners.

Actions Required:

Members of the Corporate Parenting Panel are invited to:

- (1) Review and approve the work programme; and,
- (2) Highlight any additional activity which could be included for consideration in the work programme.

1. Background

Overview and Scrutiny should be positive, constructive, independent, fair, and open. The scrutiny process should be challenging, as its aim is to identify areas for improvement.

Scrutiny activity should be targeted, focused and timely and include issues of corporate and local importance, where scrutiny activity can influence and add value.

Members are encouraged to highlight items that could be included for consideration in the work programme.

2. Work Programme

19 January 2023	
Item	Contributor
1. Commissioning Excellence: Meeting the Sufficiency Duty 2018-2022 Annual Update	Amy Allcock, Commissioning Manager – Commercial Bridie Fletcher, Senior Commissioning Officer- Children's Strategic Commissioning
2. Lincolnshire Virtual School Annual Report 2021-2022	Kieran Barnes, Virtual School Headteacher
3. Lincolnshire Leaving Care Service - Six Monthly Update Report	Lisa Adams, Service Manager, Barnardo's Leaving Care Services
4. Children in Care Performance Measures Quarter 1 2022/23 (July to September 2022)	Tara Jones, Interim Assistant Director for Children's Safeguarding on behalf of John Harris, FAL Manager
5. Children in Care Annual Report 2021/22	Tara Jones, Interim Assistant Director for Children's Safeguarding on behalf of John Harris, FAL Manager
6. National Safeguarding Review – EXEMPT Report	Carolyn Knight, Head of Service Quality and Standards and Principal Social Worker Sheridan Dodsworth, Head of Service (SEND) Charlotte Gray, Head of Service- Children's Strategic Commissioning

9 March 2023	
Item	Contributor
1. Children in Care engagement in education- Impact of Department for Education (DfE) Post 16 pilot	Kieran Barnes, Virtual School Head Teacher
2. Voices for Choices (V4C) Update Report	Ben Lilley, Practice Supervisor (Quality and Standards)
3. Children in Care Performance Measures - Q3 2022/23 (October to December 2021)	Tara Jones, Interim Assistant Director for Children's Safeguarding on behalf of John Harris, FAL Manager
4. Fostering Quarterly Performance Report Q3	Deborah Crawford, Children's Head of Regulated Services
5. Criminal Activity, Outcomes and Pathways for Children in Care	Andy Cook, Head of Service – Future4Me and Youth Offending

11 May 2023		
	Item	Contributor
1.	Legal Services Lincolnshire end of year report 2021/22	Nicola Corby, Acting Principal Lawyer
2.	Regulation 44 Independent Visiting Service – Annual Report 2022/23	Carolyn Knight, Quality and Standards Manager
3.	Independent Reviewing Service Annual Report 2022/23	Carolyn Knight, Quality and Standards Manager
4.	Children in Care Performance Measures Q 4 2022/23	Tara Jones, Interim Assistant Director for Children’s Safeguarding on behalf of John Harris, FAL Manager
5.	Fostering Quarterly Performance Report - Q 4 2022/23	Deborah Crawford, Head of Service Fostering, Adoption and Leaving Care

3. Items to be programmed

- Children in Care Sufficiency Strategy 2023-2027 (Annual Update) – April 2024

4. Conclusion

Members of the Panel are invited to review and comment on the work programme and highlight any additional activity which could be included for consideration in the work programme.

5. Consultation

a) Risks and Impact Analysis

N/A

6. Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by Kiara Chatziioannou, Scrutiny Officer, who can be contacted on 07500 571868 or by e-mail at kiara.chatziioannou@lincolnshire.gov.uk.

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Agenda Item 12

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