



CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL

THURSDAY, 6 JULY 2023 at 10.00 AM
in the COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY OFFICES, NEWLAND, LINCOLN LN1 1YL

MEMBERSHIP

Lincolnshire County Council: Councillors S P Roe (Chairman), K H Cooke, A G Hagues, Mrs J E Killey, C Matthews, N Sear and M A Whittington

Added Members (non-voting): Polly Coombes, Ann Wright, Amy-Louise Butler, Elizabeth Bunney and
1 Vacancy(Children In Care Council Representative)

AGENDA

Item	Title	Pages
1	Election of Chairman for 2023/24	
2	Election of Vice-Chairman for 2023/24	
3	Apologies for Absence/Replacement Members	
4	Declarations of Interest	
5	Minutes of the previous meeting held on 11 May 2023	3 - 6
6	Announcements by the Chairman, Executive Councillors and Chief Officers	
7	Children in Care Performance Report - Quarter 4 <i>(To receive a report by Tara Jones, Assistant Director – Children’s Safeguarding, which invites the Panel to consider the Children in Care Performance measures for Quarter 4 of 2022/23 that is relevant to the work of the Panel)</i>	7 - 34

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| 8 | Fostering Quarterly Performance Report - Quarter 4
<i>(To receive a report by Deborah Crawford, Head of Service - Fostering, Adoption and Leaving Care, which provides an overview of the Fostering Service Performance for Quarter Four of 2022-23)</i> | 35 - 54 |
| 9 | Lincolnshire Leaving Care - Annual Report 2022/23
<i>(To receive a report by Lisa Adams, Programme Manager – Barnardo’s, which invites the Panel to consider the annual report for the Lincolnshire Leaving Care Service)</i> | 55 - 64 |
| 10 | Supported Accommodation (England) Regulations 2023
<i>(To receive a report by Deborah Crawford, Head of Service - Fostering, Adoption and Leaving Care, which provides an overview of the implementation to the Supported Accommodation (England) Regulations 2023 and Lincolnshire County Council’s preparation and update regarding the implementation of these as registered provision from October 2023)</i> | 65 - 72 |
| 11 | Corporate Parenting Panel Work Programme
<i>(To receive a report by Kiara Chatziioannou, which invites the Panel to consider its work programme)</i> | 73 - 76 |

Distributed on Wednesday, 28 June 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, 6th July, 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



**CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL
11 MAY 2023**

PRESENT: COUNCILLOR S P ROE (CHAIRMAN)

Lincolnshire County Council: Councillors Clio Perraton-Williams (Vice-Chairman), K H Cooke, A G Hagues, Mrs J E Killey and M A Whittington

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

Officers in attendance:-

Kiara Chatziioannou (Scrutiny Officer), Tara Jones (Assistant Director - Children's Safeguarding), Andrew Morris (Corporate Parenting Manager), Emily Wilcox (Democratic Services Officer), Laura Bonner (Head of Service (East Lindsey Locality)), Deborah Crawford (Head of Service, Fostering, Adoption and Leaving Care), Sarah Lane (Interim Virtual School Headteacher), Nicola Wilkinson (South West Lincolnshire CCG) and Richard Stone (Team Manager - Quality and Standards)

54 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE/REPLACEMENT MEMBERS

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor C Matthews and Ann Wright (Foster Carer Representative)

55 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None were declared.

56 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 9 MARCH 2023

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 9 March 2023 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

57 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN, EXECUTIVE COUNCILLORS AND CHIEF OFFICERS

The Chairman announced that since the last meeting of the Panel, the Children's Services Directorate had received an inspection by Ofsted and there was an expectation that feedback be provided in June 2023.

**CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL
11 MAY 2023**

The Chairman had also attended the Big Conversation event, which he commended as a successful and informative event.

The Chairman has also attended the Foster Carers Celebration event alongside the Head of Service – Fostering, Adoption and Leaving Care. The Head of Service – Fostering, Adoption and Leaving Care gave an update on the celebration event, which was described as joyous and fantastic event full of gratitude and celebration and appreciation for Foster Carers.

The Foster Carer Representative reiterated the success of the event and the positive experience of meeting and celebrating with many other Foster Carers across the County.

The Assistant Director – Children’s Safeguarding was delighted announced that the department had been successful in a bid for a Department for Education Funding Grant of £1.3m over 2 years for the Staying Connected project, which was similar to the Council’s Staying Put programme which allowed young people to remain with their foster carers once they became care leavers which was important in maintaining important relationships and providing wraparound support.

58 REGULATION 44 INDEPENDENT VISITORS REPORT

Consideration was given to a report by the Team Manager– Quality and Standards, which invited the Panel to consider a 6 monthly update on the Regulation 44 Independent Visitors Service. The presentation highlighted the key updates within the report, as referenced in appendix A.

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

- Regulation 44 Inspections provided high challenge to identify potential emerging themes and provided the quality assurance that was needed to ensure that on a day-to-day basis outcome for children living within residential care were improving. Previous recommendations by Ofsted would be considered during inspections to any challenges or developmental issues were addressed during to ensure standards were consistent throughout services whilst meeting the needs of individual children.
- Assurance was provided that for residential homes which had been identified as needing improvement by Ofsted, Regulation 44 would work with those homes to develop and monitor an action plan to ensure that improvements were made in the areas identified.
- Members welcomed improvements to Northholme and the progress made within the service.
- Officers expressed their disappointment in respect of the Ofsted judgement of ‘inadequate’ for the Beacon children’s home, however the Panel was reassured that a series of meetings and action plans commenced immediately and following a large multidisciplinary effort the rating the home had been rated ‘good’ following a reinspection.

- In relation to Albion Street Home, the Panel welcomed the rules put in place for visitors of the homes and these were agreed to be circulated to the Panel. The need to ensure that residential homes were homely to the children and felt like a family environment was emphasised.

RESOLVED:

1. That the report be endorsed and the comments made be recorded;
2. Assurance and satisfaction of Panel Members be recorded that the Independent Visitors are fulfilling their obligations in visiting the Local Authority homes each month as required and inspecting against the 9 quality standards as outlined in Part 6, regulations 43 of the Children's Home Regulation 2015

59 INDEPENDENT REVIEWING SERVICE ANNUAL REPORT (1 APRIL 2022 - 31 MARCH 2023)

Consideration was given to a report by the Team Manager– Quality and Standards, which invited the Panel to consider the Independent Reviewing Service Annual Report (1 April 2022-31 March 2023). The report highlighted the key areas of the report, as referenced in the full report at appendix A.

The Panel commended the positive report and thanked Officers within Children's Services for their work during the year.

RESOLVED:

1. That the report be received and endorsed;
2. That the work undertaken to date be commended and that the Panel Members be satisfied with assurances received that Independent Visitors are fulfilling their obligations in visiting the Local Authority homes be commended.

60 CHILDREN IN CARE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE - ADDENDUM TO VIRTUAL SCHOOL ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2021 -22

Consideration was given to a report by the Interim Virtual School Headteacher, which provided the overview of the school attendance of children in care of Lincolnshire for the academic year 2021-22, as set out at appendix A.

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

- The Panel were reassured that there was an increased focus to work together to improve attendance.
- It was suggested that it be useful to include a graph showing a starting point and the progression of the education of children' in care so that progress could be monitored

in future reports. Officers confirmed that this data was monitored and could be used in future reports to the Panel.

- All children had an initial personal education plan that was completed within 10 school days of them coming into care and the level of attendance at school would be monitored. For those children who had previously been home educated, the quality of education would be assessed and children would be given the opportunity to share their views on education. A phased transition back into school would be made if appropriate.
- Whilst tuition could offer some level of support, the importance of attending school to develop personal, social and emotional skills was essential.
- An update report on attendance prior to the LCC Virtual School Report scheduled to be programmed for March/April 2024 was requested.

RESOLVED:

1. That and the report be received and that the comments made be recorded;
2. That the report be endorsed;
3. That an update on attendance statistics for the virtual school be added on the Panel's work programme.

61 CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL WORK PROGRAMME

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

As requested in the previous item, the Scrutiny Officer would programme an item on the attendance for the virtual school to the work programme.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted and the work programme be agreed, subject to the addition of the item listed above.

The meeting closed at 11.10 am



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

Report to:	Corporate Parenting Panel
Date:	06 July 2023
Subject:	Children in Care Performance Report - Quarter 4

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 4 2022/23 that is relevant to the work of the Corporate Parenting Panel.

Actions Required:

Members of the Panel are invited to consider and comment on the performance information contained in the appendices of this report and 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 18 measures in total that relate to CiC that are reported on in Quarter 4. Of these measures 8 did not meet their target and 1 are ahead of the target set by the services.

1.1 Measures that did not meet their target:

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

There has been continued significant delay in the length of time care proceedings are taking 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 as well as an increase in the number of children deemed harder to place in general. 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.

1.1.2 Stability of placements of Children in Care: Number of moves - This is a cumulative indicator identifying those children who experience 3 placement moves. Our performance is in line with the recently published data from other East Midland authorities where an average of 9% of children in care experienced 3 placement moves in a year.

The first half of the year's performance was promising, however there remain ongoing challenges in respect of placement availability, resources, and suitability of matching some children with the right fostering household/provision. Placement availability has remained static and foster carers have continued to be very resourceful and committed to the children they care for resulting in some households choosing not to take additional placements. This enables carers to give their energy and focus to these children who have experienced trauma and have a range of complex needs and behaviours. However, with a backdrop of raised numbers of children in care and a limited number of foster carers available, effective matching remains a considered priority in promoting and maintaining placement stability and improving outcomes for all children in care.

1.1.3 Stability of placements of Children in Care: length of placement - Performance remains below target. For all placements, the service continues to ensure that foster carers are well supported and that potential problems are identified early to support them in continuing to care for children whose needs are varied and complex. This has been supported using the Valuing Care toolkit and the embedded caring2learn approach which has supported and empowered foster carers to share, find and deliver solutions within a context of a tailored fostering service training and support offer. Nevertheless, the service has continued to see that some stable placements disrupt unexpectedly, and this can have a significant impact upon this indicator. The service has also seen an increase in the entrants of older children (teenagers) which poses some challenge in terms of identifying longer term accommodation options whilst the younger cohort of children with care plans for long-term fostering presents challenges in achieving placement stability due to the local and national shortage of foster carers who want to care on a longer term or permanent basis. Alongside positive fostering recruitment, it is envisaged that an anticipated cost of living increase in fostering allowance will aid new enquiries into fostering and help to retain our valued volunteers.

1.1.4 Percentage of Children in Care with an up-to-date health check - The number of children in care has increased and there is evidence of more young people aged 16/17 entering care and exercising their right to refuse an assessment. These include young asylum-seeking children who have come through the national transfer scheme. This age group of children are often not committed to accessing their health assessment, although they continue to access healthcare when required. The Children in Care Teams continue to encourage and promote health assessments with their young people but must accept

their right to refuse. There has been a lot of activity to improve the timeliness of Initial Health Assessment and this measure has significantly improved.

1.1.5 Children in Care persistent absence rate - Our children and young people have performed well historically for persistent absence, with the last 3 years of complete data prior to Covid showing fewer persistently absent pupils compared to national, regional, and statistical neighbour averages. As with overall absence, there have been large increases in persistent absence across the board across all pupils and all comparators in 2022. Although the persistent absence rate for our children in care is below that for all children in Lincolnshire, robust monitoring has been introduced with the aim to reduce barriers to improved attendance. In addition to an increased focussed discussion in Personal Education Plan (PEP) meetings, the Virtual School has introduced half termly attendance monitoring meetings to enable early identification of dips in attendance. In line with DfE statutory guidance, from September 2023 Local Authorities will also be carrying out termly support meetings with every school nationally to identify, discuss and agree joint targeted actions for all pupils for whom attendance is below expected levels.

1.1.6 Percentage of Children in Care achieving 9-5 in English and Maths GCSEs - GCSE results for 2020 and 2021 were school based assessments due to the covid pandemic and this makes direct comparisons to exam assessed grades difficult. Although below national and regional comparators, there is a 1% increase from 2019 when pupils last sat examinations. This year's cohort included an increased number of pupils with EHC plans who attended special schools compared to last year. Changes in placement for some Year 11 pupils resulted in school moves which also impacted on outcomes. Despite the drop in performance in terms of attainment, progress data is comparable to the figures achieved in 2018 and 2019.

1.1.7 16–17-year-old Children in Care who are participating in Learning - Although the performance for this quarter is below the lower target tolerance for this performance indicator by 2%, it does show an 8% improvement on Q3 and a slight improvement on Q4 last year. The Virtual School co-ordinates termly Personal Education Plans for all our 16- and 17-year-old children in care. These bring young people, their social workers, carers and providers together on a termly basis to focus on educational need and ensures that our young people are supported appropriately while participating in learning. As some of our young people in care struggle to access or sustain engagement in learning, access to therapeutic support and/or alternative routes into educational opportunities are explored through the Personal Education Plan and may be supported by Post 16 Pupil Premium funding. Challenges in securing mid-year school places for recently arrived unaccompanied asylum-seeking young people aged 16 has impacted on this quarter's performance.

1.1.8 Care Leavers in Education, Employment or Training - This measure remains below target and has declined slightly. The Leaving Care Service continues to monitor every single young person who is not in Education, Employment or Training (EET). The Service continues to report monthly on the efforts of the service to re-engage individuals back into EET. The Corporate Parenting Manager tracks this performance regularly and monitors those young people who fall into Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) and those that re secure EET. A survey carried out with every Care Leaver who are not in EET highlights that the main barriers to EET are poor mental health (depression and

anxiety) a lack of qualifications and substance misuse issues. This paper has been shared with members to aid with context.

The Leaving Care service is working with the Corporate Parenting Manager to look at the emotional wellness and recovery of young people, alongside the plethora of activity, to support young people accessing EET. As mental health/emotional wellbeing is one of the biggest barriers to our young people accessing EET, a wellbeing worker and Mental Health professional remain in post to offer additional support to those young people with poor mental health and those who are unable access to work.

Individual wellbeing and recovery are central to improving the EET in the long term. The impact of these posts within the service was praised during a recent Ofsted inspection as an effective method of listening to what young people need, addressing their needs and effectively reintroducing young people to EET and overcoming barriers to remaining EET.

It is important to note that data set used to measure this performance indicator is fixed in time and is not rolling. This cohort in this measure (903) captures young people within a rigid DOB range and pulls in information for all the young people, even if they have been stepped forward to the 21+ service and we are unable to affect change due to age. The more flexible live measure of data on the Children's services Analysis Tool (ChaT) shows 51% in EET. To assist members with perspective, the England average is 54% EET, the difference between our performance and that of the England average equates to 8 young people.

1.2 Measures that are ahead of their target:

1.2.1 Number of Children in Care per 10,000 under 18s - This measure has exceeded the 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. 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 (70 per 10,000 and 65 per 10,000 respectively as of 31st March 2022).

2. Conclusion

This report summarises the Quarter 4 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.

3. Consultation

a) Risks and Impact Analysis

N/A

4. Appendices

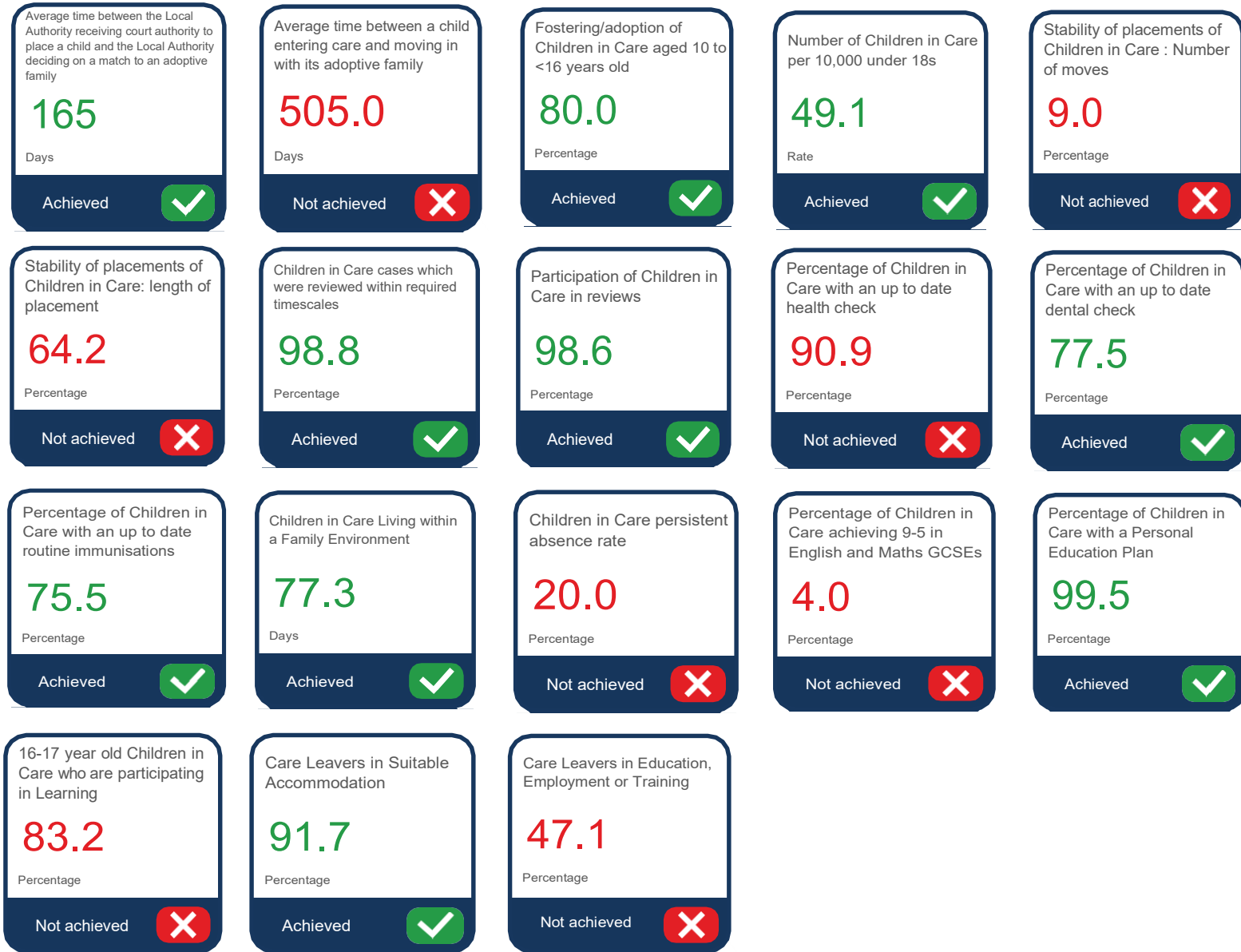
These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Children in Care - Performance Measures Quarter 4

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 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

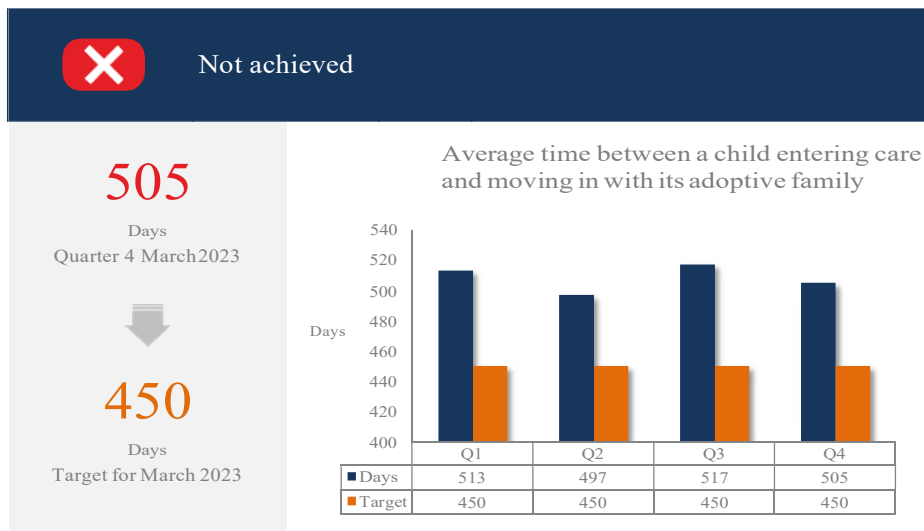


Children Are Healthy and Safe

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

There has been continued significant delay in the length of time care proceedings are taking 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 as well as an increase in the number of children deemed harder to place in general.

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.



Children Are 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

165

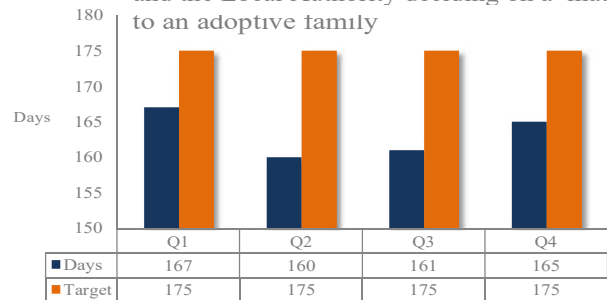
Days
Quarter 4 March 2023



175

Days
Target for March 2023

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 Q4 remains significantly 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.



Children Are 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

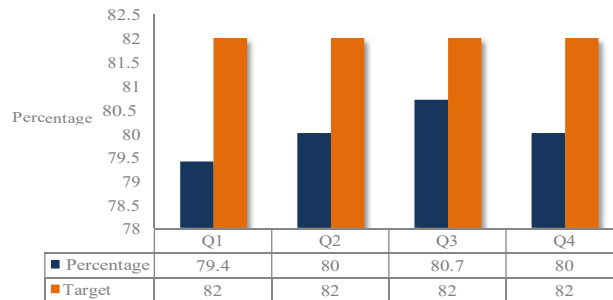
Percentage
Quarter 4 March 2023



82.0

Percentage
Target for March 2023

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

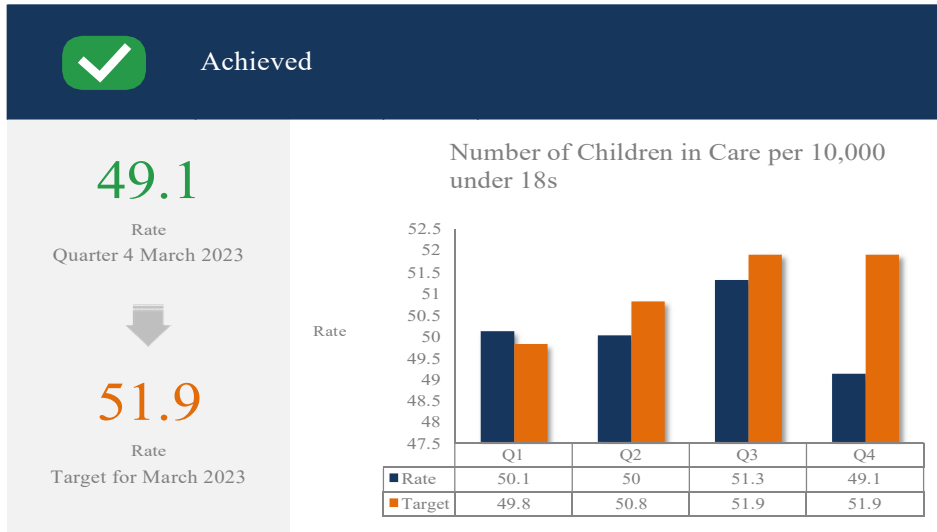
Benchmarking data no longer available

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.



About the latest performance

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

This measure has exceeded the 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. 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 (70 per 10,000 and 65 per 10,000 respectively as of 31st March 2022).

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.



Children Are 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



Not achieved

9.0

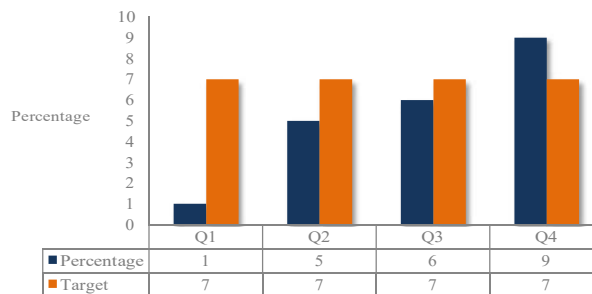
Percentage
Quarter 4 March 2023



7.0

Percentage
Target for March 2023

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. Our performance is in line with the recently published data from other East Midland authorities where an average of 9% of children in care experienced 3 placement moves in a year.

The first half of the year's performance was promising, however there remain ongoing challenges in respect of placement availability, resources, and suitability of matching some children with the right fostering household/provision. Placement availability has remained static and foster carers have continued to be very resourceful and committed to the children they care for resulting in some households choosing not to take additional placements. This enables carers to give their energy and focus to these children who have experienced trauma and have a range of complex needs and behaviours. However, with a backdrop of raised numbers of children in care and a limited number of foster carers available, effective matching remains a considered 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



Children Are 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



Not achieved

64.2

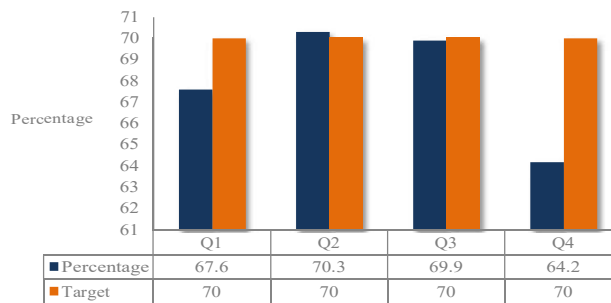
Percentage
Quarter 4 March 2023



70.0

Percentage
Target for March 2023

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%

Performance remains below target. For all placements, the service continues to ensure that foster carers are well supported and that potential problems are identified early to support them in continuing to care for children whose needs are varied and complex. This has been supported using the Valuing Care toolkit and the embedded caring2learn approach which has supported and empowered foster carers to share, find and deliver solutions within a context of a tailored fostering service training and support offer. Nevertheless, the service has continued to see that some stable placements disrupt unexpectedly and this can have a significant impact upon this indicator. The service has also seen an increase in the entrants of older children (teenagers) which poses some challenge in terms of identifying longer term accommodation options whilst the younger cohort of children with care plans for long-term fostering presents challenges in achieving placement stability due to the local and national shortage of foster carers who want to care on a longer term or permanent basis. Alongside positive fostering recruitment, it is envisaged that an anticipated cost of living increase in fostering allowance will aid new enquiries into fostering and help to retain our valued volunteers.

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



Children Are 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

98.8

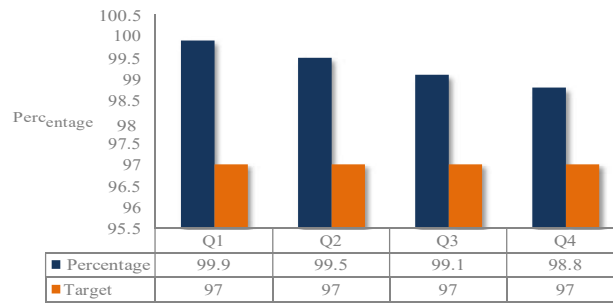
Percentage
Quarter 4 March 2023



97.0

Percentage
Target for March 2023

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



Children Are 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



Achieved

98.6

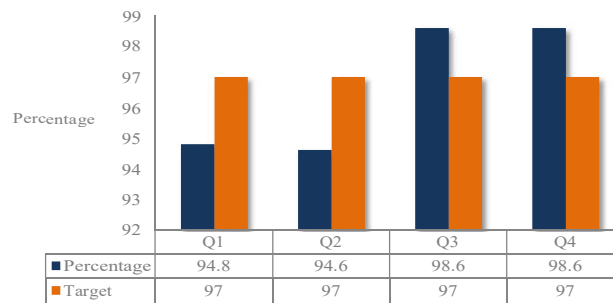
Percentage
Quarter 4 March 2023



97.0

Percentage
Target for March 2023

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%

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

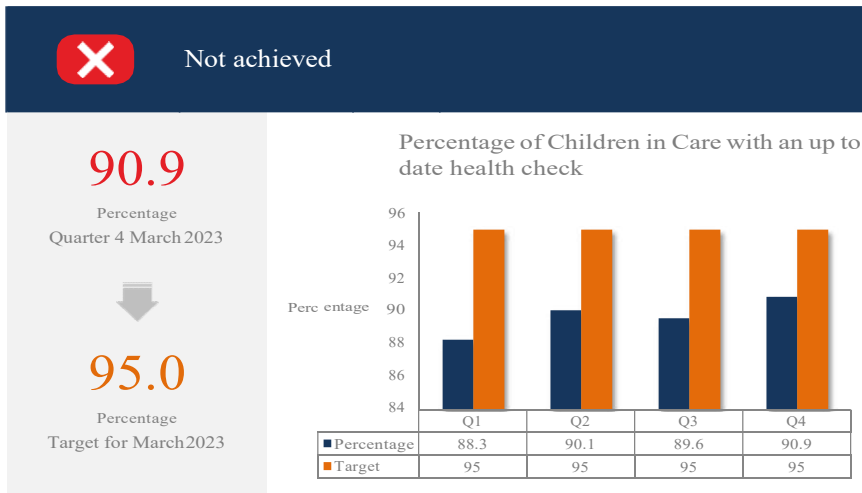


Children Are Healthy and Safe

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 number of children in care has increased and there is evidence of more young people aged 16/17 entering care and exercising their right to refuse an assessment. These include young asylum seeking children who have come through the national transfer scheme. This age group of children are often not committed to accessing their health assessment, although they continue to access healthcare when required. 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 and this measure has significantly improved.

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



Children Are 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



Achieved

77.5

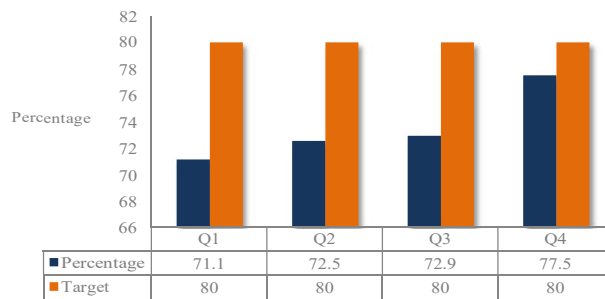
Percentage
Quarter 4 March 2023



80.0

Percentage
Target for March 2023

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%

Current performance has met the targets set.

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



Children Are 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



Achieved

75.5

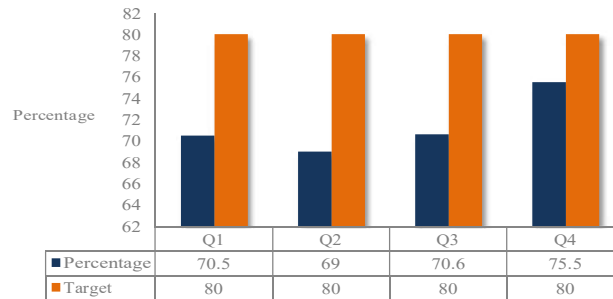
Percentage
Quarter 4 March 2023



80.0

Percentage
Target for March 2023

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%

Current performance has met the targets set.

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



Children Are 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

77.3

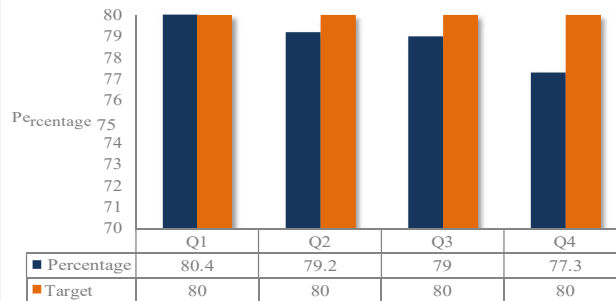
Days
Quarter 4 March 2023



80

Days
Target for March 2023

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 77.3%, 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.

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

Children in Care persistent absence rate

Persistent absence rate for children in care



Not achieved

20.0

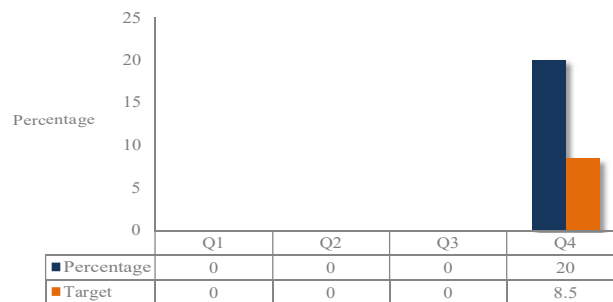
Percentage
Quarter 4 March 2023



8.5

Percentage
Target for March 2023

Children in Care persistent absence rate



About the latest performance

Performance in 2021/22 - 31.8%

Our children and young people have performed well historically for persistent absence, with the last 3 years of complete data prior to Covid showing fewer persistently absent pupils compared to national, regional, and statistical neighbour averages. As with overall absence, there have been large increases in persistent absence across the board across all pupils and all comparators in 2022. Although the persistent absence rate for our children in care is below that for all children in Lincolnshire, robust monitoring has been introduced with the aim to reduce barriers to improved attendance. In addition to an increased focussed discussion in Personal Education Plan (PEP) meetings, the Virtual School has introduced half termly attendance monitoring meetings to enable early identification of dips in attendance. In line with DfE statutory guidance, from September 2023 Local Authorities will also be carrying out termly support meetings with every school nationally to identify, discuss and agree joint targeted actions for all pupils for whom attendance is below expected levels.

About the target

The most recent data available from the 2018/19 SFR gave Lincolnshire's performance at 8.2%. Lincolnshire's average performance over the past 6 years is 8.5%. This is well above all of our comparators who have averaged 9.6% to 9.7% over the past 6 years.

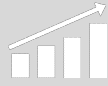
The suggested target is 8.5%.

About the target range

Target of 8.5% is aspirational relative to our comparators therefore any improvement on this (i.e. hit upper tolerance of 8.4%) should be celebrated. Lower is a 2% variance on target and would mean that we would be roughly in line with average National, regional and statistical comparator performance even if we perform towards to lower threshold of our target.

About benchmarking

Benchmarked against National, Regional and Statistical Neighbours.



Learn and Achieve

Learn and Achieve

Percentage of Children in Care achieving 9-5 in English and Maths GCSEs

Percentage of Children in Care achieving 9-5 in English and Maths GCSEs



Not achieved

4.0

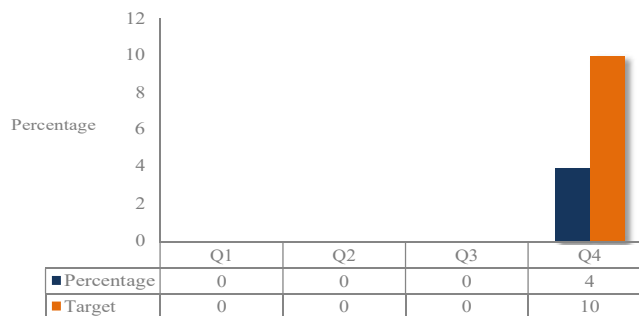
Percentage
Annual



10.0

Percentage
Annual

Percentage of Children in Care achieving 9-5 in English and Maths GCSEs



About the latest performance

Performance in 2021/22 - 5.3%

GCSE results for 2020 and 2021 were school based assessments due to the covid pandemic and this makes direct comparisons to exam assessed grades difficult. Although below national and regional comparators, there is a 1% increase from 2019 when pupils last sat examinations. This year's cohort included an increased number of pupils with EHC plans who attended special schools compared to last year. Changes in placement for some Year 11 pupils resulted in school moves which also impacted on outcomes. Despite the drop in performance in terms of attainment, progress data is comparable to the figures achieved in 2018 and 2019.

About the target

Nationally in 2019, 7% of looked after children achieved grade 9-5 in English and maths. In Lincolnshire in 2019, 3% of looked after children achieved grade 9-5 in English and maths.

The latest 2020 data is yet to be published but early indications suggest Lincolnshire increased to 8% for this measure and national is likely to stay around 7-8%.

The target has been set to 10% to get our performance above national performance for this measure. A figure of 10% also allows for a small increase in this measure nationally if we achieve the target.

About the target range

The tolerances have been made fairly broad on account of cohort size meaning each pupil is worth 2% to Lincolnshire's outcomes. The tolerance allows for flexibility to cohort numbers that will not be finalised for this measure until 31st March 2021.

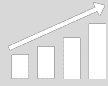
The upper tolerance I expect would see Lincolnshire's performance be well above the national average and close to the FFT 50 benchmark; an extremely aspirational target for this cohort. The tolerance would mean that we would need to achieve more than one extra pupil achieving the measure in order to pass the upper target threshold.

The lower tolerance would see Lincolnshire's performance roughly in line with the national average. It would also mean that we would need more than one less pupil not achieving the measure in order to pass below the lower target threshold.

About benchmarking

The FFT 50 benchmark for this cohort suggests our pupils would be in the top 50% of similar pupils nationally if approximately 15% achieved this measure in 2021.

Considering that the FFT Benchmark does not account for this cohort being Looked After and is mainly based on KS2 prior attainment data, the FFT 50 benchmark becomes a very aspirational target for our Looked After pupils to meet.



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



Achieved

99.5

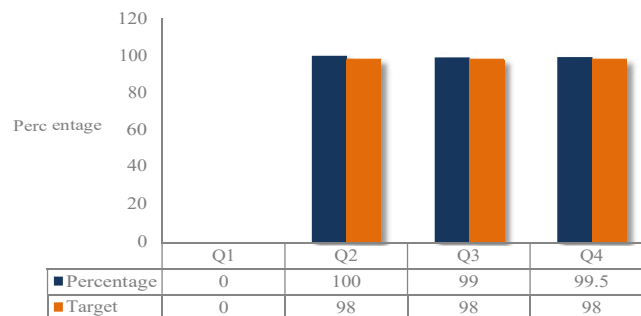
Percentage
Quarter 4 March 2023



98.0

Percentage
Target for March 2023

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.

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.



Readiness 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.



Not achieved

83.2

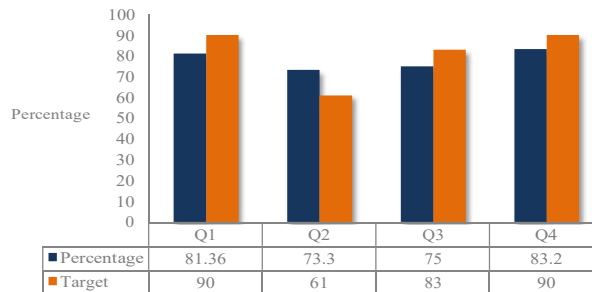
Percentage
Quarter 4 March 2023



90.0

Percentage
Target for March 2023

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%

Although the performance for this quarter is below the lower target tolerance for this performance indicator by 2%, it does show a 8% improvement on Q3 and a slight improvement on Q4 last year. The Virtual School co-ordinates termly Personal Education Plans for all our 16 and 17 year old children in care. These bring young people, their social workers, carers and providers together on a termly basis to focus on educational need and ensures that our young people are supported appropriately while participating in learning. As some of our young people in care struggle to access or sustain engagement in learning, access to therapeutic support and/or alternative routes into educational opportunities are explored through the Personal Education Plan and may be supported by Post 16 Pupil Premium funding. Challenges in securing mid year school places for recently arrived unaccompanied asylum seeking young people aged 16 has impacted on this quarter's performance.

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



Readiness 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

91.7

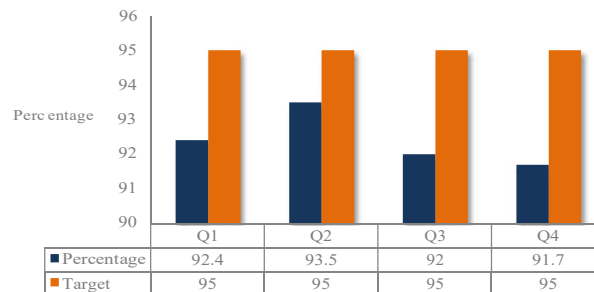
Percentage
Quarter 4 March 2023



95.0

Percentage
Target for March 2023

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 most recent Ofsted inspection reported a percentage of 94% in suitable accommodation.

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 continues to identify a small number of 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 still chooses to live in a caravan on their ex foster carers driveway. This arrangement is by mutual agreement and the young person is very happy there living close to her support network. This is still deemed as unsuitable by the criteria. There is also a small number of young people in temporary accommodation, provided by the District Council, whilst the housing authority is addressing homelessness and finding a long term solution with the leaving care service.

In addition to the above, custody is also always deemed unsuitable. There has however been a small decrease of young people went to prison in this time. Ironically, being in custody qualifies as being in education training and employment but is deemed as unsuitable accommodation.

The Corporate Parenting Manager continues to monitor 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.



Readiness for Adult Life

Readiness 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



Not achieved

47.1

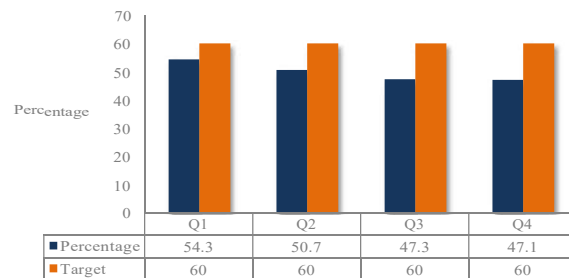
Percentage
Quarter 4 March 2023



60.0

Percentage
Target for March 2023

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%

This measure remains below target and has declined slightly. The Leaving Care Service continues to monitor every single young person who is not in EET. The Service continues to report monthly on the efforts of the service to re-engage individuals back into EET. The Corporate Parenting Manager tracks this performance regularly and monitors those young people who fall into NEET and those that re secure EET. A survey carried out with every Care Leaver who are not in EET highlights that the main barriers to EET are poor mental health (depression and anxiety) a lack of qualifications and substance misuse issues. This paper has been shared with members to aid with context.

The Leaving Care service is working with the Corporate Parenting Manager to look at the emotional wellness and the recovery of young people, alongside the plethora of activity, to support young people accessing EET. As mental health/emotional wellbeing is one of the biggest barriers to our young people accessing EET, a wellbeing worker and Mental Health professional remain in post to offer additional support to those young people with poor mental health and those who are unable access to work. Individual wellbeing and recovery are central to improving the EET in the long term. The impact of these posts within the service was praised during a recent Ofsted inspection as an effective method of listening to what young people need, addressing their needs and effectively reintroducing young people to EET and overcoming barriers to remaining EET.

It is important to note that data set used to measure this performance indicator is fixed in time and is not rolling. This cohort in this measure (903) captures young people within a rigid DOB range and pulls in information for all the yp, even if they have been stepped forward to the 21+ service and we are unable to affect change due to age. The more flexible live measure of data on the ChaT shows 51% in EET. To assist members with perspective, the England average is 54% EET, the difference between our performance and that of the England average equates to 8 young people.

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:	06 July 2023
Subject:	Fostering Quarterly Performance Report - Quarter 4

Summary:

The report aims to provide an overview of the Fostering Service Performance for Quarter Four January – March 2023.

Actions Required:

That the Corporate Parenting Panel reviews and comments on the contents of this report, and that the report be accepted as an accurate overview of the Fostering Service Quarter Four Report.

1. Background

To present an overview of the Fostering Service Quarterly Performance Report to members of Corporate Parenting Panel.

2. Conclusion

The work and progress within the service area to be recognised and the report attached is an accurate reflection of the service.

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	Fostering Service Quarter Four Performance Report
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5. Background Papers

No background papers, as defined in the Local Government Act 1972 were relied upon in the writing of this report.

This report was written by Deborah Crawford, Head of Service - Fostering, Adoption and Leaving Care, who can be contacted on 01522 552781 or by e-mail at deborah.crawford@lincolnshire.gov.uk.



Lincolnshire Fostering Service

Quarterly Report
January - March 2023

Quarter Four Fostering Report 2022/2023:

The Annual Report for 2021/2022 was presented to the Corporate Parenting Panel in September 2022. The statement of Purpose was revised and was ratified on the same day.

This is the fourth quarterly report for 2022/2023.

Introduction

In 2022/2023, the Fostering Service has an annual budget of £9,102,467. Most foster carer allowances have been increased by 2% for this financial year which has ensured that allowances continue to remain above the government recommended minimum rates. Moving forward and owing to the impact of the cost-of-living crisis and rate of inflation the service is reviewing and considering how the Council can best support foster carers in these challenging times.

Reviewing fostering allowances in the context of a broader support offer is critical in terms of supporting Lincolnshire fostering in undertaking this valuable and integral role in maintaining local children with local fostering families.

For Lincolnshire to be the carers provider of choice it is vital that allowances including the retention element, in the context of a strong supervision, support and development offer are key given the rigorous competition from other fostering agencies within the region.

The fostering budget continues to afford flexibility to provide enhanced allowances to certain categories of carers such as those offering permanence or managing particularly distressed children and those with challenging behaviours.

Given the economic challenges the authority supported fostering families with recognised discount cards that are compatible with what is available to Lincolnshire County Council Social Care staff alongside all other employees. This affords an additional benefit for carers going forward.

Nationally and regionally, it is observed that the fostering marketplace continues to be extremely challenging with competition at a peak level with several independent agencies actively recruiting in the Lincolnshire region.

It is recognised within the service and fostering community that the retention and ongoing recruitment of foster carers continues to be an absolute priority. Whilst remuneration, supervision and support are strong components of the Lincolnshire offer, the growing emergence of the fostering community online is one aspect of the support offer that cannot be replicated or underrepresented.

This community virtual support offer adds another dimension to what carers in Lincolnshire do well and how they appreciate and care for one another. This incentivises members and pools together a phenomenal amount of experience, advice, guidance and support for new carers and those more experienced ones too.

The emphasis on recruitment and retention remains a service priority and at the end of the year the service have been privileged to see a further number of households join the fostering community. This is important given the continued number of children in care and the national and local diminishing number of foster carers.

The Fostering Network, the UK's leading fostering charity lead on innovation in the field of recruitment and retention of foster carers and support agencies with research, new approaches and how agencies can improve the conversion rate of people who express an interest in fostering getting through. In conjunction to this, and as part of the Independent Review of Children's Social Care in England, the Fostering Network have elicited views concerning the main priorities of recruiting more foster carers given the continuing national urgency in the sector.

At the end of Quarter four the number of children in care had fallen to 723 from 759 at the end of the previous quarter . At the same time those placed with Independent Fostering Agencies (IFA) slightly decreased to 45.

During this quarter 51 children became children in care for the first time , of these 28 were placed in foster care and Kinship care arrangements. This compares to 83 children exiting care owing to their age, permanent arrangement being sought with other carers or exiting care and returning to family based on a current and favourable assessment. Therefore, the overall numbers have decreased by 37 children. The percentage of children in foster placements is 68%.

The fostering service continues to be engaged in developmental work with a strong focus on the core offer to foster carers and the ongoing development and practice of the Valuing Care Toolkit which is an integral part of the foster carer's annual reviews, experience and Form F assessments. The Valuing Care Toolkit implementation into all Kinship and Special Guardianship Order (SGO) assessments is underway in an effort to ensure that the support and skills set of the carers are suitable matched to the needs of the child given the lifelong arrangements that form part of these assessments.

The Fostering Service eagerly awaited the Government's strategy and response to the Care Review reforms- Stable Homes, Built on Love that was published in February 2023. This implementation of the pillars of reform will undoubtedly address the financial support to fostering households together with investment in national recruitment and retention programmes with a focus on local need in recognition this differs across the country.

In addition to the above the Department of Education accepted the recommendation from the care review to regionalise placement commissioning through the test and piloting of Regional Care Co-operatives. This principally which would serve to address the insufficiency, excess profits and poor outcomes for children who are placed a distance away or where placement availability results in instability.

Whilst the concept of regional working is not new given the introduction of Regional Adoption Agencies some years ago it is yet to be seen and understood how these national restorative actions will be implemented in an effort to deliver best practice for children in care and the valuable resources caring for them.

Recruitment and Retention:

Across the fostering service, recruitment and retention is understood as key in delivering an effective fostering service. It is well publicised that there continues to be a national shortage of foster carers and we are not untouched in Lincolnshire by that reality. As a forward thinking and innovative service, we still continue to struggle to meet the demand of placements in our own in house resource. Lincolnshire are maximising every opportunity to make local people more aware of the need for foster carers and recognise Lincolnshire fostering service as part of their community and their local choice and provider when considering fostering. During this financial year, the service has performed well with new approvals in a context where nationally the demand for foster carers outstrips supply.

Online platforms and creative, targeted marketing continue to provide the service with the flexibility and low-cost options of supporting part of the services' recruitment activity. The fostering service has since the pandemic used and will continue to include online options to increase capacity, accessibility, and convenience for foster carers and fostering applicants in the future. This includes online recruitment events and the fostering preparation course.

Those making formal or informal enquiries to foster are encouraged to attend information events. Our information events have been advertised through paid adds on social media across Lincolnshire in targeted advertisement. The participation in recruitment information event remains higher than face to face events and can be delivered at a much lower cost. Online events will continue at this time but will be reviewed . This decision is supported in the feedback and improvement of conversion to people going on to stage 1 of the recruitment process.

The service has organised several pop-up stalls for the first quarter of the next financial year in public areas for increased visibility and the intention to build better relationships with local businesses.

The service had introduced recruitment events in the daytime these have been poorly attended and some applicants have been unable to attend an event in a timely way due to not been available, due to pop up stalls the information events have returned to evening times.

Ongoing analysis of the process and performance of becoming a foster carer, motivations, and barriers to becoming approved and how we can make improvements has supported improvements and developments in our application, assessment, and approval process.

Replacing those who leave the fostering community during the year is essential. Every year we expect to lose carers, some of these are unavoidable as carers come to the end of their fostering carers and retire or people’s circumstances change, or they experience ill health. Our focus remains on learning from those we lose that could have been avoided but also understanding more about why people choose to remain.

Retention of Foster Carers remains the most effective means of recruitment. Providing individual levels of support to our carers and specifically those newly approved remains crucial. Fostering needs to continue to grow the population of foster carers given the number of children coming into care has been rising in recent years thus enabling more choice whilst not disputing that the reliance on the independent market in some instances.

During the last annual survey, the service asked carers for the first time to identify who their Supervising Social Workers (SSW) were, this allowed us to better understand themes in practice, supervision groups. 66% chose to provide details of their SSW. The information that is identifiable by supervision group has been sent to the Practice Supervisor (PS) so that any learning, compliments or challenges could be restoratively addressed. The service wants to ensure the feedback is used to inform personal and professional development and celebrate great practice; the feedback has been discussed in supervisions with staff.

Through analysing the annual survey data, fostering was able to determine how supported carers felt in terms of the type of fostering they offered. Those carers feeling the most supported in their role were long term and task centred foster carers. It will be important through continued consultation to understand further the reasons why these groups feel the most supported and other groups report to feel less so. We cannot rule out simply these are the carers with the highest level of involvement with the service and likely to have the most needs.

The group that reports to feel supported only some of the time are largely represented in the respite group, although the area they feel needs to improve the most is financial. When considering this more closely, this is largely due to the way financial payments are reported on and the breakdown of their payments not being in a remittance slip rather than the support they receive from the service personnel or the standards they have to adhere too.

Although we are concerned about the number of carers that are unsure about their longer-term commitment to fostering or are planning on leaving the service according to this survey, we should see an improvement in retention over the next 3 years.

Do you think you will still be fostering in 3 years' time?	2021/22	2022/23	Difference
Yes	55%	62%	+7%
No	8%	5%	-3%
Maybe	36%	33%	-3%

The annual survey completed and reported on in January 2023 reported that 69% of our foster carers participating in the survey felt the financial package needed to improve. The fostering service anticipates increasing allowances from 1st April 2023 and in line with the government's recommended 12 % increase. The service has also reviewed its expenses payments and the collective feedback is foster carers is positive.

The recruitment strategy is revised monthly, and performance reported to help understand and inform the actions and trajectory of activity. Key recommendations from the State of the Nation Report (Fostering Network, 2021) and the Care Review (Department for Education, 2022) have been taken into consideration in all activity and planning for the service.

The work continuing will closely monitor quality with a strong emphasis on good customer service and community. The impact of changes in practice and processes can be seen through key performance indicators. Conversion rates from applying and approval has already seen a rise from 4-6% over the past 5 years to over 12% in March 2023.

Although conversion has improved across the service, it is important to explore the reasons why people become foster carers, their motivations and trying to understand better why people withdraw their interest. This helps the service to monitor, improve and understand the challenges the service face, support the development of quality information and customer experience. We have now introduced feedback forms that are sent to applicants at various stages of the process to learn about their journey and understand the reasons why they withdraw and continue. The service will begin to report on this next financial year thus providing us with richer data to inform our strategies and processes whilst maximising productivity.

Over the last 12-months work has continued to develop a community hub approach across the county. The support forums continue to act as a way for foster carers to access support from other foster carers and children's service's teams. This is providing a more integrated approach to support. This is something that requires more promotion, so it's clearly understood more widely, and foster carers feel confident in accessing and understanding what is available. The investment in a community approach to support is clearly felt by those engaged with this being reported as a one of the strongest parts of the support offer in the last annual survey.

The hub continues to be supported by the foster carer champions who have roles that cover responsibilities as 'Hub Links'. They also hold social groups and support with workshop delivery. Social groups are an area for development, foster carers have requested more face to face groups which will be planned and facilitated across Lincolnshire in the new financial year.

Marketing:

During this quarter 49 Initial Enquiries of Interest (IEI) were received from the public enquiring about becoming a foster carer.

There have been 12 newly approved households in this quarter of the financial year. 30 fostering households have been recruited since April 2022, completing the total for 2022/23.

Advertising:

In Lincolnshire, the service continually reviews the marketing strategy and continuously develop the approach as being a local option for carers wanting to care for Lincolnshire children.

During this quarter and for the whole year our objective is to draw upon the strengths of carers joining an Ofsted rated Outstanding authority who work collaboratively to find local placements within a local community for local children.

The continued energy in advertising is to ensure that the objective is understood that Lincolnshire is further establishing itself as a local option.

The last three months have had a continuous and busy approach to identifying Lincolnshire as a number one choice. The efforts are detailed below:

January- March 2023

- During January we concentrated on our permanence campaign, sharing profiles on social media of children seeking long term placements.
- “Myth Busting Monday” on our social media has continued, which shares either a 10 second video or a graphic created in house regarding misconceptions about fostering. These posts reach on average 320 people each week.



- Promoted refer a friend with virtual chat groups and the newsletter. We have had 3 approvals this year that have come from existing fostering households.
- Advertisements have been used regarding Lincolnshire’s offer to foster carers for social media, which has been well received by the public with a record number of likes and shares.



- Additional airtime was purchased with Lincs FM and this airtime was used with a focus on permanence.
- Article on Int Comms within the County Council advertising the information event in January.
- We agreed a new marketing campaign for advertising the service, using 4 different buses across the county during the month of February 2023.



- Libraries across Lincolnshire agreed and were provided with free Lincolnshire fostering service bookmarks, they are also displaying posters in their public areas.
- Posters were distributed to children centres and NHS buildings for display.
- An advert was created for Lincolnshire Life website for 3 months, running until April 2023.

Permanence:

Attracting long term foster carers remains a priority for the service. Profiles and campaigns are created for children seeking permanent foster homes, this includes anonymised profiles. These anonymised profiles are shared on the Council's social media platforms as part of the marketing campaigns to attract new carers, this includes the Caring2Learn closed Facebook page. The profiles are also readily available in the foster carers google drive and are shared with fostering applicants during the assessment period and at the preparation course. The campaign ad is played daily on Lincs FM and there is a dedicated page on the councils.gov webpage.

The profiles on social media create a lot of attention and are our most liked and shared posts. This is an area for development within the next financial year with paid adverts being developed.

Hi, we are Sarah and Skylar!
We are two sisters aged 12 and 9, and we are from Louth!

About Sarah:
People say I am a very lovable young girl who loves spending time with others. I wear glasses and I have difficulty hearing, but I never let that stop me! I like spending time on my computer and reading books in my spare time, but my favourite thing to do is going to the theatre. I am really excited as I will be attending a theatre group very soon!
I also enjoy spending time with my siblings and going to the youth club in my village.

About Skylar:
I am told I am a very confident young girl with a beautiful smile and a cheeky sense of humour.
Like my sister, I also have hearing aids that help me hear better.
I love to be outside on my scooter, bike, trampoline, or swing set. When I am at home, I love to cook and bake, and adults say I make delicious recipes! I also enjoy watching movies and doing crafts. I can be very creative, and I enjoy painting using lots of colours.
Bed time can be a very difficult time for me and I am still learning to be less stubborn and more honest, especially around that time. I need carers who can be patient but firm with me.

We need foster carers who can spend time with us giving us stability, love, and affection, while supporting us to grow more independent. Our carers also need to be supportive of our family time, especially with our other siblings.

If you feel you could offer a loving and stable home to Sarah and Skylar where they can live for the rest of their childhood and thrive, please speak to your SSW or email caring2learn@lincolnshire.gov.uk

HI, I'M TIFFANY
I AM 10 YEARS OLD AND I AM FROM LINCOLN

GET TO KNOW ME
I am described as being funny as I like to make people laugh, and I enjoy cuddles and one-to-one time with my carers.
I like to do lots of fun things like going to the park, having activity days out and going to the beach. I also like playing with my dolls, having stories read to me, and painting and drawing. I also enjoy going to brownies every week.

MORE ABOUT ME
I love spending time with adults, and I like getting lots of attention. Sometimes I will seek attention if others are getting more, as I struggle sharing things.
I will tell you if there's something I don't like. Sometimes if I'm not happy and things aren't going my way I will get angry and try to control things.
I also like to be included and making decisions, but only with simple options as otherwise I might get overwhelmed.

WHAT I NEED:
Because of what has happened to me in the past, it is hard for me to understand positive relationships and what is appropriate.
I need carers who are patient and understanding of my past and how this affects my behaviour.
I also need them to help me build my self-esteem, and understand and manage my own emotions.

If you feel you could offer a loving and stable home to Tiffany where she can live for the rest of her childhood and thrive, please speak with your SSW or email Caring2Learn@Lincolnshire.gov.uk

Hi, I'm Chloe
I am 11 years old and I am from Lincoln!

People often describe me as a confident and chatty girl. They say I have a cheeky smile that lights up the room!
They also say I am kind, smart and thoughtful.

I like being busy and doing lots of different activities. I am very sporty, so I enjoy running, going for walks and gymnastics.
I also attend Girlguides and I enjoy spending time outdoors going to the park or simply spending time in the garden.
I also love animals, and I would love to have my own pet one day!

I need a carer who can show me patience and understanding, and who can provide stability and put in place firm boundaries.

My favourite things are pretty clothes (especially if they are pink or with leopard print), days out, and spending time with family.

If you feel you could offer Chloe a loving and stable home where she can live for the rest of her childhood and thrive, please talk to your SSW or email caring2learn@lincolnshire.gov.uk

FosteringLincs
Lincolnshire Fostering Service

Campaigns are used to attract new carers, this year the service have approved 6 new carers for permanence. Supporting applicants considering long-term fostering early in the assessment process remains a priority, by engaging them early in family finders' events, matching and training.

In addition to attracting new carers, the service recognises that people's circumstances change, and Supervising Social Workers continue to have conversations about different types of fostering keeping long-term fostering on the agenda. Fostering households are kept up to date on long term events and can attend these to explore their interest and options.

Family Finding:

It has been an exciting and productive time quarter within Family Finders. The service has continued to meet monthly to consider all children with a care plan for long-term fostering who do not already have a long-term placement identified. This includes children in residential settings that have a trajectory to return to a fostering household.

Over this final quarter two additional children have been referred to Family Finders and there has been one child removed as his current carers has agreed to offer a permanent placement to him. There are now twenty-five children currently seeking long term placements, eleven of these are singleton placements and there are seven sets of two siblings.

One of these sets of siblings have moved to their permanent family and are likely to be removed from Family Finder shortly. The transition has gone well for these children and regular support meetings, additional training opportunities and the support of the Placement Support Worker (PSW) has been crucial in providing stability and consistency for the family.

On the 17th January 2023 a Family Finding permanence event took place in Woodall Spa. The format was very similar to previous events. Current carers and those in the assessment stages

that are interested in offering permanence alongside those respite carers that are interested in making a long lasting, connections and relationship with a young person are invited to attend the event to learn more about the children on Family Finders. An experienced set of carers also shared their positive experience of supporting a young person transitioning to their care from a residential setting.

In total eleven sets of carers who were interested in permanence attended the event to learn more about the young people. This was a mix of carers already approved and those who at the time were still being assessed with a panel date of February/ March 2023.

During the event five sets of children were highlighted and presentations given about these children. The presentations are jointly given by the child's social worker, foster carer and placement support worker (where applicable). The Valuing Care toolkit was used to evidence strengths and area where these young people will need additional supports, photos about the children and any artwork or anecdotes are shared about them to give a holistic view of the young person in context of their lived experience.

The other young people who were not showcased had their information shared around the room on storyboards and their social workers were also present to answer any questions or queries about them.

At the closing of the event the carers were asked to highlight any children that they were interested in knowing further information about. Of the thirteen sets of children ten of these were highlighted by carers as wanting to know further information about. All of the children that were showcased received positive interest which highlights how important such presentations are.

At the current time the event has potentially created permanence for six children in total (two sibling groups and 2 single children and information sharing meetings and transitions are being considered at the moment. One of these six has already moved to his permanent placement following a Signs of Safety (SOS) mapping using the Valuing Care profiles to consider whether these carers could meet his needs.

We are now planning the next family finding event which will take place on July 12th, 2023, in Lincoln. Our ambition is to maintain the momentum and continue with these well attended and invested events in order to maximise the chances for all children/young people and those carers who want to commit to longer term/permanent fostering.

Training and Development:

The training offer has been reviewed this quarter and the training for the next financial year has been planned. This will offer a combination of eLearning, face to face and virtual options. The training offer ensures a range of training at different levels to support the ongoing personal and professional development of carers with a range of different skills and levels of experience.

The fostering training offer will remain under review and alongside the scheduled events the service ensures that carers are updated on events that are offered by partner agencies and organisations such as the national association of therapeutic parents and the fostering network. These expand and compliment the available learning opportunities to support personal and professional development, avoids duplication and helps to build relationships across services which was identified by the community as a priority for development.

Foster carers training programmes continue to be considered are part of the support packages developed, this includes the 6-week therapeutic parenting course, delivered jointly by foster carer champion and PSW. This includes 6 one to one sessions with a PSW to support implementing the learning and reflecting on children needs and behaviours. As a group learning session and form of support it encourages networking between households. This has been successful and now runs throughout the year.

The ongoing personal and professional development of foster carers and their families remain a key priority, equipping households with the knowledge, skills, and practices to meet children's needs. It is also important to consider how the service better prepare families for fostering. Lincolnshire believe well prepared households will experience a smoother transition and are less likely to leave fostering early in their fostering journeys. Applicants have access to training and development throughout the assessment period. Recruitment have seen an increased number of applicants accessing the offer and booking mandatory training in advance of approval. This early investment in their journey is having a clear impact on the conversion to approval.

In this quarter 27 courses were delivered with 410 attendees taking part from fostering households. This is an increased number compared with 3rd quarter.

Training Courses:

In this quarter the training schedule has continued to be delivered to assist the training and development of Foster Carers.

Various courses have been available including:

- First Aid/ paediatric training
- Safeguarding
- Safe Care
- Fostering Preparation Course
- Foster Carer Induction
- Therapeutic Crisis Intervention
- 3 Day Restorative Practice

Practice Workshops:

- Introducing Social Pedagogy
- Introduction to Restorative Practice
- Introduction to mindfulness, Creating Calm
- Introduction to Trauma Awareness
- Supporting sleep, nightmares, and night terrors.
- Supporting grief, loss, and positive endings
- Relational repair
- Fostering Weekly therapeutic parenting Programme (Caring2gether, 6 weeks)
- ADHD and FASD, a carers perspective

E-Learning:

LSCP eLearning courses are still being accessed and Foster Carers have attended.

- Safeguarding
- Safeguarding refresher
- Hidden harm
- Covid 19
- Think Safe be safe
- Equality and inclusion
- E-safety

Learning Homes:

The toolkit for new carers which includes the standards from the Training, Support and Development Standards (TSDs) is now embedded and common practice within the service.

Currently there are 87 homes and five residential settings that have achieved their Learning Homes Award. Due to all new carers completing the award within twelve months of approval as part of the TSD; the service is seeing the number of awarded homes to continue to rise.

Celebration Event:

The annual event has been arranged for April 2023 and will take place at Hemswell Court. The event recognises the contribution and achievements of our fostering community and welcomes all new carers. Foster carers will receive their long service awards together with a gift as a token of acknowledgement and appreciation.

Kinship:

The summary findings of the Care Review continue to place family networks at the forefront of best practice. The review further reminds the service of the significance, value and impact for children and young people being cared for within their network, kinship placements by

their very nature place children within the centre of their family network where they have an already established relationship.

Across the Country there are already thousands of grandparents, aunts, uncles, brothers and sisters who care for their family members, this commitment has been recognised on a national level and services have seen the provision of additional funding to develop the Kinship Peer support group.

Lincolnshire have also become part of this initiative to allow the creation of additional support within the local and national communities. Kinship peer support provide both bespoke training and support groups to the kinship community, including coffee mornings, further strengthening our current support offer. This is shared regularly with kinship carers via their Supervising Social Workers. Additionally, this will be included in the Fostering Newsletter.

The fostering service have also further developed the foster carers support hub which kinship carers are very much a part of. Specific foster carer online forums seek to support and connect foster carers, this enables them to seek advice and guidance. In addition to this fostering are working closely with the post adoption support team to develop further the support provision for those carers who will be progressing as Special Guardianship carers.

As part of Lincolnshire's ongoing commitment to staff development the Kinship team are part of the delivery programme to the Assessed and Supported Year in Employment (ASYE) and Social Work Apprentice scheme which supports staff in their early career to fully understand and appreciate both fostering as a whole and kinship specific work. This allows staff to ask any questions and be signposted to the policies, procedures and legislation in relation to fostering and regulatory requirements. This practice fully embeds and supports staff from the start of their practice to think about a child and families network and the pivotal role of kinship care.

Lincolnshire has also created One Minute Briefings which are readily accessible and quick to read documents for staff when needing support. In particular one minute briefings have been developed for each specific area around private fostering, regulation 24 and special guardianship orders. This has enabled staff to readily access information as and when needed, in a time effective manner. This keeps this alive and high on the agenda.

Further development work is ongoing with the Mosaic team to develop kinship specific workflows and to further embed the valuing care toolkit into practice.

The service continues to work closely with the Quality Assurance team to analyse and improve practice; this has included audits being undertaken and building on strengths. The Advanced Practitioners within the team who take a lead on kinship work have been working effectively

to further develop and review the kinship assessment paperwork, the kinship preparation course and training offer. This will further improve our practice in particular ensuring kinship carers are well informed and improving the effectiveness of the assessment process.

Between the 1st January 2023 and 31st March 2023, the following data reflects the work undertaken during this period:

Number of Referrals	SGO	Reg.24 / SGO	Reg. 24 / Connected Person	Private Fostering Including Ukraine	Statutory Checks/CAO
36	12	10	8	5	1

The number of referrals has reduced in quarter four in comparison to the third quarter and this reduction is mostly in the number of Reg 24 assessments. The numbers remain stable other than this and demonstrate Lincolnshire’s priority to place children with family or connected persons where it is safe and appropriate to do so. Exploration of the child’s network remains at the forefront of practice throughout the case journey from the front door through to the conclusion of care proceedings and beyond.

Overall, this period has seen a reduction in the assessments requested which correlates with the fluctuating children in care figures. However, when considering themes and trends this is not unusual or a cause for concern.

For statutory checks, these are undertaken when the children’s social work teams are completing assessments of family members for private law orders such as Child Arrangement Orders or Special Guardianship Orders. The circumstances in which the assessments are being completed outside of public law proceedings, or when the children are not children in care. The number of these has dropped slightly since the last quarter.

What is working well:

- Kinship work continues to be a priority to ensure court timescales and regulations are adhered to.
- Kinship Peer Support, a national independent kinship peer support program, is in the process of being set up in Lincolnshire and incorporated within the SGO support package.
- Kinship staff have close working relationships with the Business Support teams who support and undertake kinship work such as Panel Admin, FPKinship and Children’s Financial team. These close working relationships enable all required tasks to be completed effectively and in a timely manner.

- During this quarter there has been a continued focus on joint supervisions between Kinship and the children's teams. This has supported joined up working and a consistent approach from the Local Authority.
- The children's teams will seek advice and guidance from the Kinship team where issues arise and give prior notice where kinship referrals may be made. This enables them to ensure their viability assessments are thorough, the regulations are clear and best decisions and recommendations can be made for children.
- Kinship has been undertaking work with the Mosaic team to develop how we record and improve the forms.
- The kinship application packs have been reviewed and made more streamlined to ensure a smoother and simpler process for applicants.

How we intend to further improve practice:

- Kinship continues to work with the Mosaic team to keep developing the forms and how we record.
- The Kinship preparation course is under review to explore how this can be further developed to meet the needs of the kinship carers. This is being undertaken through gathering feedback from kinship carers.
- The Fostering Newsletter to be provided with regular updates regarding kinship support in the community as a way of communicating this with kinship carers.

Staying Put:

During quarter four, the total number of young people in Staying Put arrangements was forty-five. The scheme continues to receive a steady flow of referrals from Children in Care Social Workers. There are currently nineteen young people waiting to join the scheme when they turn 18 years of age.

Of these forty-five young people in the scheme 39 of them are in education, employment or training with 6 young people temporarily not in education, employment, or training (NEET) during this quarter owing to mental health and physical health problems. It is important that young people are fully supported by a wide range of services to enable them to engage positively with education, employment and training as this is a core requirement of this scheme. It is recognised that for some young people this can be difficult at times, and we work collaboratively with the Leaving Care Service and providers to support young people.

During this quarter four young people left the Staying Put scheme and saw young adults transition to other accommodation or remain with their carers as part of their longer-term planning. The emphasis of joint working with the Leaving Care Services affords each young person at 21 a step across service unless they require additional support and eases them into independent living.

Positively, approximately half of the young people on Staying Put arrangements were previously cared for by a kinship or connected person foster carer. Staying Put has provided this group of young people with the opportunity to be supported by their former connected person carers, enabling them to maintain those lifelong relationships whilst having stability and support as they reach adulthood.

The number of out of county Staying Put arrangements has risen again this quarter by a further two. There are currently seven out of county arrangements with one in Leicester, one in Mansfield, one in Scarborough, one in Plymouth, one in Shipley, one in Worksop and one in Birmingham.

If a Staying Put arrangement is at risk, we continue to work alongside Staying Put Providers, the young person, and the Leaving Care Service to resolve issues and put solutions in place to stabilise the arrangement, this is where joint working and timely interventions continue to be a key to the scheme's success.

Since the change in the law in May 2014 and the Council's commitment to support young people staying with their foster carers beyond the age of 18 if both parties agree, the scheme continues to be a success. This scheme allows a number of young adults to remain living in a household that they are familiar with whilst being supported by a team of people that can provide comprehensive personal to support enable the planning and transition into adulthood less of a burden. This scheme is available to all carers and young people and is part of the leaving care core offer which is for some but not all.

As part of the induction program for new staff in the Children in Care team and in the Fostering Service an introduction to Staying Put has been included. This includes a meeting with the Staying Put Co-ordinator to present the Staying Put scheme, and the opportunity to observe a Staying Put license agreement meeting.

This quarter Staying Put refresher sessions were also held with members of the Leaving Care Service.

Conclusion:

Within this quarter there have continued to be pressures on placement availability and despite this most children are placed within the Lincolnshire County Council approved foster carers community. There has and will continue to be a reliance on external resources hence the need for this service to recruit and retain carers to maximise placement sufficiency.

There are many variables that can affect the match of a child with a carer and the strengths based approach together with the Valuing Care toolkit enables those searches to take place and give the children the best possible chance to achieve positive and child focussed outcomes.

The service continues to prioritise the matching of children with permanent carers where possible and this quarter has seen a positive and encouraging event in January 2023 with plans in place for the summer event.

The service and Council work hard to recruit and retain foster carers and this year to date the service are above the national trend for conversions ending the year on 30 new approvals. In the tough climate fostering is operating in this is an impressive figure. The early offer and tiered approach to involve applicants commencing this journey has been warmly received and hopefully delivers a key valuable message from the outset. Despite this the service take nothing for granted and have some key challenges going forward which hopefully will be eased by the continued retention payments and a review of payments from April 2023..

During this quarter supervision and support to carers has been ongoing and invaluable in terms of maintaining best practice standards and improving placement stability . Many fostering households continue to make the difference and have despite the enormous challenges in recent years, demonstrate their commitment to the Lincolnshire children in their care. The impact of the cost of living crisis upon carers and their fostering families is fully appreciated and understood hence the Council's attention to this matter now and going forward.

The service continues to be heartened by the interest from the Lincolnshire public in the fostering role and the service hope to secure an increased trend in registrations of interest and applications going forward. The efforts of foster carers, staff and the community in generating interest and delivering high quality services is a continued achievement.

The transformation programme will continue to support the service in maintaining and developing the core offer for fostering households. This remains a key strategic approach to maintain and further enhance an effective and ambitious service that continue to want to grow their caring community and give children the opportunity to live their best lives in a loving family environment.

Deborah Crawford

Children's Head of Regulated Services



Open Report on Behalf of Lincolnshire Leaving Care Service

Report to:	Corporate Parenting Panel
Date:	06 July 2023
Subject:	Lincolnshire Leaving Care Service Annual Report 2022/23

Summary:

Annual Report Provided by Barnardo's on Behalf of Lincolnshire Leaving Care Service (April 2022 – March 2023).

Actions Required:

The Corporate Parenting Panel is invited to review and comment on the contents of this report which are relevant and provide to information on the performance of the Leaving Care Service.

1. Background

This is the annual update report to Lincolnshire's Corporate Parenting Panel to demonstrate the performance of Lincolnshire Leaving Care Service regarding care experienced young people. 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 and Location
4. Participation / Fundraising
5. Mental Health and Wellbeing
6. Conclusion and New Opportunities

Lincolnshire County Council's Leaving Care Service is currently delivered by Barnardo's. The contract specification (since 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 regular 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 Children in Care and Care Leavers).

Data contained within this report demonstrates performance from 1st April 2022 – 31st March 2023.

Accessing and Maintaining Suitable, Safe Accommodation

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

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

October 2022	November 2022	December 2022	January 2023	February 2023	March 2023
426	427	418	420	415	428
95%	95%	95%	96%	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 Experienced Young People). 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 specialises in housing provision for care experienced young people, 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.

There are some great housing options available for Children in Care and Care Experienced Young People who are open to Lincolnshire Leaving Care Service. Housing packages are tailored to meet individual needs (it's never a one size fits all approach). The Leaving Care Service have excellent links with a number of housing providers who work with Lincolnshire young people.

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 Experienced Young People – Children in Care over 16- and 16/17-year-olds who are homeless and require an 'assessment bed'.

Within Lincolnshire (in March 2023) we were working with 17 providers who can provide 30 beds across County (some full-time beds and some respite). 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 2022 / 23 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 have been working with the Local Authority on the 'Staying Close Staying Connected Bid' and in 2023 we will hopefully see the introduction of two new 'Connected Workers' within the team. These new post holders will work alongside the Local Authority Social Workers and Leaving Care Workers to either assist Lincolnshire Young People to seek housing options within the County or help ensure their Leaving Care offer is as good as they would receive if living within County.

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%

October	November	December	January	February	March
2022	2022	2022	2023	2023	2023
305	305	295	295	291	306
68%	68%	67%	67%	67%	68%

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 Experienced Young People who fit into this category and explored alongside the allocated Leaving Care Worker the reasons why this cohort 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 Experienced Young People 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

Lincolnshire also benefits from having the Virtual School however young people can only access the support of this service up to the age of 18.

Local Data (not explicit to Care Experienced Young People) indicates that:

- *Lincolnshire has less NEET 16/17-year-olds compared to England and East Midlands average: The latest data (Feb 2023) shows 2.1% of Lincs 16- and 17-year-olds are NEET (National 4.6% and East Midlands 4%).*
- *Lincs 16/17-year-old NEET rate has reduced by 0.8% in the last year when Lincolnshire had higher NEET than England and East Midlands.*
- *Greater Lincolnshire has a population similar in number to Birmingham, spread across an area almost 20 times the size which leads to challenges matching people and jobs, and leaves people without access to the full range of training provision.*
- *The current and long-term labour market challenges are spread across eight Travel to Work Areas covering some of the most deprived and some of the least deprived in the country.*
- *Availability of transport and the cost of travel are major barriers – the critical importance of being able to drive and having a car cannot be overlooked.*

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'.

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 Experienced Young People.

We are embarking on a review of the services we offer to our Care Experienced Young People in relation to our Education, Employment and Training offer. We have noted a significant difference in the emotional wellbeing of Children in Care as they transition into our service, and we already recognize that work has to be more targeted and individualised to encourage some young people to be 'work ready'. We are seeing significant personal achievements in some of our young people after they have benefited from individual work from specialist well-being workers.

Care Leavers Cohort

Lincolnshire Leaving Care Service is working with approximately 470 young people. Over the last financial year alongside the Local Authority, we have 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

Where Do Our Care Leavers Live? (Figures correct as of May 23)

DISTRICT	COUNTY	NUMBER OF YP
Boston	Lincolnshire	33
East Lindsey	Lincolnshire	46
Lincoln	Lincolnshire	116
North Kesteven	Lincolnshire	36
South Holland	Lincolnshire	19
South Kesteven	Lincolnshire	38
West Lindsey	Lincolnshire	23
Out of County	Avon and Somerset	1
	Belgium	1
	Buckinghamshire	1
	Cambridgeshire (MAJORITY PETERBOROUGH)	88
	County Durham	1
	Derbyshire	8

Devon	2
East Sussex	1
Greater London	7
Greater Manchester	1
Hampshire	2
Humberside	2
Kent	1
Leicestershire	9
Middlesex	1
Norfolk	2
North East Lincolnshire	16
North Yorkshire	4
Northamptonshire	3
Nottinghamshire	28
Scotland	1
South Glamorgan	1
South Yorkshire	6
Staffordshire	1
Tyne & Wear	2
West Midlands	8
West Sussex	1
West Yorkshire	5
Wiltshire	3

Participation/ Fundraising

Barardo's participation offer has grown significantly over the period of this report. We have a dedicated Participation Worker who has developed a number of forums and opportunities for Lincolnshire Care Experienced Young People to participate in. Below is a list of some of the events Lincolnshire Care Experienced Young People have taken part in:

- The Big Conversation
- LBTQ Group
- Cooking Lessons (Louth, Lincoln and Peterborough)
- Care Review Consultation (on-line and House of Commons)
- Art Events
- Nail Art Class
- Triangles Project (a group of Care Leavers have worked with Barnardo's to create a presentation / event for representatives from the Leaving Care Service, Barnardos, and Local Authority Commissioners)
- Film Production – joint venture with 'My Pocket's' film company
- Football Sessions at Peterborough
- Go Karting Event
- Day at the Seaside

- Banking on Barnardo's (a charity evening where some of our young people attended a star studded event in London).

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 (both at Christmas and Easter).
- We were 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 cash 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 Lincoln, Lincolnshire young people are benefitting from weekly cooking courses and take-home meals following each session.

Mental Health and Wellbeing

Trauma informed practice

The whole Lincolnshire leaving care service have completed a trauma informed training by Beacon House. To support staff to:

- Gain confidence in their ability to identify and understand how repeated trauma affects children and adolescents.
- Understand the breadth and complexity of Developmental Trauma and associated difficulties.
- Develop their empathic understanding through ideas for experiential learning.
- Understand the principles of a trauma-informed approach to supporting traumatised children and adolescents.
- Learn a range of practical strategies to help regulate distressed children.

WRAP (Wellness Recovery Action Plan)

To allow the staff to give their best to care experienced young people Barnardo's believe we need to create an open culture and culture of wellness – the roles that leaving care workers complete can be complex and trauma reducing or a stressor or triggering for staff and impact their own wellbeing. All members of the leaving care service and the Corporate Parenting Manager have completed their level one WRAP programme, and some have gone on to complete level two WRAP – so within service we can now deliver WRAP programmes to Care Experienced Young People. The first session for Care Leavers is planned for Summer 23.

Specialist Post Holders

As mentioned earlier in this report as a service we have recognized the need for a new type of worker in the service who alongside the allocated Leaving Care Worker can offer some intensive support to improve mental and physical wellbeing. Leaving Care Workers have a duty to visit Care Experienced Young People once every 8 weeks, which for some Lincolnshire Care Leavers doesn't provide the type of support required to help them achieve their goals and ambitions.

Within Lincolnshire Leaving Care we currently have a Mental Health Specialist and a well-being worker. The Mental Health Worker started in post in September 2021 with both clinical and social supervision being provided by Futures for Me, which is part of LPFT, Lincolnshire. A Barnardo's Team Manager attends four meetings per year that include the Clinical Supervisor to enable matrix management and strong partnership working.

From October 2021- January 2022 there have been 176 consultations with Leaving Care Workers and other professionals by the Specialist Mental Health Worker. This has led to 262 signposts and referrals to other services within the community and within LPFT services.

2. Conclusion

This report reflects the progress and achievements during a 12-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

Turnover of staff has continued to be an issue with Leaving Care Workers 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 over a significant period of time.

3. Consultation

a) Risks and Impact Analysis

N/A

4. 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 (Programme Manager) who can be contacted on 01522 575 955 or by e-mail at lisa.adams@barnardos.org.uk.

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

Report to:	Corporate Parenting Panel
Date:	06 July 2023
Subject:	Supported Accommodation (England) Regulations 2023

Summary:

This report provides an overview of the implementation to the Supported Accommodation (England) Regulations 2023 and Lincolnshire County Council's preparation and update regarding the implementation of these as registered provision from October 2023.

Actions Required:

Members of the Panel are invited to consider the Council's implementation of the Supported Accommodation (England) Regulations detailed in the appendix of this report.

1. Background

Lincolnshire County Council as a Corporate Parent prides themselves on providing children in care and care leavers the best possible care throughout their childhood and preparing them into adulthood to lead enriched, healthy, happy, and fulfilling lives.

As with all children in care and care leavers our priorities and principles are to care, support and encourage children and young people and support their journey into adulthood. In doing so, children in the older cohort, namely 16- & 17-year-olds often are assessed and supported to live in supported accommodation.

Lincolnshire County Council and commissioned services provide dedicated accommodation driven by high standards within a setting that provides stability aiding them to transition to adulthood and independence safely and successfully.

The introduction of the regulations outlines the standards that all providers in the public and private sector will have to follow and be inspected against to ensure that the physical surroundings of the accommodation, as well as how children and young people are kept safe and the mental and emotional support they are given is of the required standard.

2. Conclusion

The report is submitted to the Corporate Parenting Panel for the impact of the Supported Accommodation (England) Regulations 2023 for the provision for young people in care to be appraised.

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	Supported Accommodation Regulations 2023

5. Background Papers

No background papers, as defined in the Local Government Act 1972 were relied upon in the writing of this report.

This report was written by Deborah Crawford, Head of Service - Fostering, Adoption and Leaving Care, who can be contacted on 01522 552781 or by e-mail at deborah.crawford@lincolnshire.gov.uk

Appendix A

NEW CRITERIA AND SUPPORTED ACCOMMODATION (ENGLAND) REGULATIONS 2023:

BACKGROUND:

Supported accommodation can be vital for young people leaving care and transitioning into independent living. The accommodation should provide a safe and supportive environment where young people can develop their independence while receiving the necessary support to achieve positive outcomes.

Supported accommodation, as defined in The Supported Accommodation (England) Regulations 2023, is a type of accommodation that provides support to young people aged 16 and 17 who are children in care with the local authority or care leavers. The aim of supported accommodation is to help these young people develop their independence in preparation for adult living while keeping them safe in a homely and nurturing environment.

These young people may have experienced various difficulties in their lives, such as family breakdown, abuse, neglect, or other forms of trauma and consequently will continue to need support to adulthood and beyond.

This legislation and related quality standards are essential to the regulatory framework for supported accommodation. They set out the outcomes that providers must meet for young people in supported accommodation, and they allow flexibility in how this is achieved, recognising that individual young people have different needs and therefore require different degrees and forms of support.

The quality standards are important because they provide a clear framework for ensuring that young people in supported accommodation receive high-quality care and support. They cover four key areas: leadership and management, protection, accommodation, and support. Each standard includes a set of outcomes that providers must achieve to ensure that young people are safe, well-supported, and able to develop their independence in preparation for adult living.

By complying with the quality standards, providers can demonstrate that they deliver high-quality services that meet the needs of young people in supported accommodation. This can help build trust with local authorities, commissioners, and other stakeholders interested in improving outcomes for vulnerable young people. It serves to improve the sector's overall reputation by promoting best practices and driving up standards across all supported accommodation settings across the country.

Lincolnshire County Council within their own right have existing supported accommodation namely the residential estates of Denton and Rowston that sit under the Corporate Parenting Manager that provides support to 16 and 17 year old young people and this continues to be a valuable resource. In order to continue with this service in conjunction with the commissioned services of other providers, Lincolnshire have commenced the process for registration. Likewise, we will be joining forces with our independent colleagues to support them going through this process in order for them to remain a commissioned provider.

Until now, this type of provision nationally has had no independent scrutiny, potentially leaving children in unsuitable accommodation. After this date it will be an offence to provide supported accommodation without having a registration application accepted as complete.

It is reassuring to share that Denton and Rowston elected to have Regulation 44 oversight to ensure best practice and albeit non regulatory serves as an independent monitoring visit akin to what happens in children's homes. This provides for oversight and scrutiny to ensure the homes are being managed and assess the overall quality of the service provide.

Lincolnshire as an existing provider of supported accommodation must have applied to register with Ofsted by 28th October 2023. Our current timescales are working towards our registration being submitted by the end of June 2023. After October 2023 it will be an offence to provide supported accommodation without having a registration application accepted as complete.

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK:

Within the preparation and planning for the new legislation and quality standards, Children's Services have responded positively to these in terms of planning and preparation for their introduction. Children's Services DLT have already agreed to regrade the supported accommodation manager's post so this is commensurate with children's homes managers to recognise the appropriate skills, experience and knowledge as they will have oversight of the two homes.

In addition, a Residential Care Officer (RCO3) level 3 role will be introduced to provide oversight and leadership alongside the manager of the two properties.

The new regulations are as follows:

The Quality Standards

- The protection standard – Regulation 5
- The accommodation standard – Regulation 6
- The support standard – Regulation 7
- Statement of Purpose – Regulation 9
- Workforce Plan – Regulation 10

Staffing

- Fitness and employment of staff – Regulations 17 – 19

Policies for the protection of young people and records

- Safeguarding Policy – Regulation 20
- Missing Child Policy – Regulation 21
- Behaviour Management Policy – Regulation 22
- Contingency Plan Policy – Regulation 23

- Young Peoples Case Records – Regulation 24

Notifications and complaints

- Notification of a serious event – Regulation 27
- Complaints – Regulation 31

Reviewing and monitoring supported accommodation

- Quality of a Support Review – Regulation 32
- Absence of a Registered Service Manager and other changes – Regulation 33 and 34
- Death of a Registered Person – Regulation 42

New regulations - [Guide to the Supported Accommodation Regulations including Quality Standards \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/671122/guide-to-the-supported-accommodation-regulations-including-quality-standards.pdf)

IMPLEMENTATION AND IMPACT:

Within the regulations there are four categories of independent accommodation including:

- Supported Accommodation in a self-contained unit for children in care and care leavers,
- Supported Accommodation in shared or group living for children in care and care leavers,
- Supported Accommodation in shared or group living that is not limited for children in care and care leavers
or
- Supported accommodation provided by an individual or individuals in a private residence which is the main residence of that individual or those individuals.

Ofsted grant registration to supported accommodation providers subject to these categories of provision, and provider registration is conditional upon operating only within the category or categories stated on the provider's registration. Lincolnshire will of course be registering to ensure that our provision is covered and to ensure that we reduce the need to vary any registered provision.

Lincolnshire will register as a provider and does not need to register each property they utilise.

The regulations outline an expectation that each semi-independent provision (Category 2) will have a robust model of staffing that covers 24/7 to support young people. They also confirm that the homes need to be caring, but not provide care and states that the homes need to be fully staffed.

Denton and Rowston Close jointly accommodates up to 10 young people across two homes and will remain to be staffed 24 hours per day with a lone working procedure in situ and will be resourced with staffing of one staff member or two when shifts overlap, or the needs of

young people arise in an effort to ensure that young people are safe and fully supported. The additionality of the RCO 3 will build in extra resilience to this model and package of support.

This will result in a stronger focus in the regulations around good quality management oversight, management of staff, high quality supervision and accountability woven into how the homes are managed.

Whilst this provision has to assume a level of independence for the young people placed there and the regulations will not be as restrictive as those for a registered children's homes, there still needs to be sufficient staffing and management oversight to ensure compliance with the regulations.

Ofsted have confirmed they will inspect providers and provide a grading at least every three years. They are also publishing further guidance on inspection, compliance and enforcement in the summer of 2023.

It has been agreed that this work will now form a workstream and sit within our Children in Care Transformation Programme.

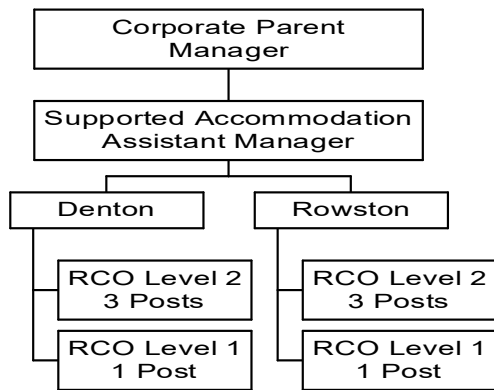
The Council have recently received a S31 Government Grant for the Implementation of Supported Accommodation Reforms of £112,627.50 to support this. Further payments of this equivalent amount are due in October 2023, April 2024 and October 2024 as outlined in the communication publicised by the Department for Education on 28th April 2023.

The immediate costs associated are £3600 for registering the service each year owing to the Council registering less than 10 premises. The costs for the registered service manager equate to £900 as a one off payment. Any fee will be reviewed and updated each year.

SUPPORTED ACCOMMODATION MODEL:

Denton and Rowston are our in house supported accommodation provision, with one located in Gainsborough, the other Grantham. Each home supports 5 young people from 16 to 18, with a bespoke targeted plan, coupled with robust trajectory planning, to support their journey to independence.

Originally when this supported accommodation model was set up, it reflected a very lean staffing structure, to support both homes. This consisted of 8 staff across the two homes, line managed by an assistant manager. This is shown in the structure chart below :



This staffing structure is also predicated on a lone working staffing model, which means staff lack peer support and have limited support and supervision as the assistant manager is split over two sites, which are based 50 miles apart, with line management responsibility for 8 staff. Furthermore, the lone working model of 4 staff on a rota means that any short-term sickness (or long term) means that a quarter of the work force can be lost due to 1 member of staff being sick or on leave.

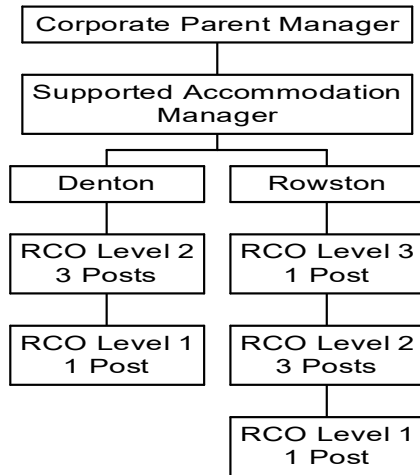
In summary, as it stands the model is not robust enough to manage sickness, leave, or time away for training and will fall short of the new regulations, placing the authority with an inspection risk.

PROPOSED STRUCTURE:

To support the operational management of the homes, the following options have been developed and agreed by DLT.

These regulations support that the registered provider (the Council) will require a nominated individual at senior level (Director or Assistant Director) accompanied by the registered service manager (Senior Manager). It is proposed that operationally the service manager who is permitted to delegate this responsibility (unlike in a registered children’s home) will discharge these via the Supported Accommodation Manager, day to day.

This structure reflects the requirement to have a Supported Accommodation Manager on a grade 12, reflecting the same role and responsibility as a residential homes manager, over both of the homes, further supported by one RCO Level 3. This new RCO Level 3 post, working on a rota over 7 days will add additional operational management to support staff, cover shifts and facilitate robust QA of appraisal, training and supervision and daily running of the homes.



CONCLUSION:

Lincolnshire County Council recognise providing high-quality accommodation is essential in supporting young people preparing to leave care. We welcome the 2023 guide to the Supported Accommodation Regulations and Quality Standards which establish standards that ensure young people receive high-quality support during their transition to independent living.

Together with commissioned partners we will serve to ensure that we all meet these standards to ensure that vulnerable young people receive the necessary support. With the proper support, young people leaving care can have a better chance of achieving positive outcomes, such as education, employment, and stable housing. Therefore, we will continue to invest in supported accommodation and other forms of support for young people leaving care to help them succeed in their transition to adulthood.

Deborah Crawford
Head of Service – Fostering, Adoption and Leaving Care



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

Report to:	Corporate Parenting Panel
Date:	06 July 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

6 July 2023		
	Item	Contributor
1.	Election of Chairman for 2023/24	Emily Wilcox, Democratic Services Officer
2.	Election of Vice Chairman for 2023/24	Emily Wilcox, Democratic Services Officer
3.	Children in Care Performance Measures Q 4	Tara Jones, Assistant Director – Children’s Services
4.	Fostering Quarterly Performance Report - Q 4	Deborah Crawford, Head of Service Fostering, Adoption and Leaving Care
5.	Lincolnshire Leaving Care Service Annual Report 2022/23	Lisa Adams, Service Manager - Barnardo’s Leaving Care Services
6.	Supported Accommodation (England) Regulations 2023	Deborah Crawford, Head of Service Fostering, Adoption and Leaving Care

7 September 2023		
	Item	Contributor
1.	The Mental Health Needs and Support Available for Children in Care and Care Leavers in Lincolnshire	Charlotte Gray, Head of Service- Children's Strategic Commissioning
2.	CiC Sufficiency Strategy 2023-27 and Market Position Statement 2023-24	Birdie Fletcher, Senior Commissioning Officer
3.	Children in Care Performance Measures Q 1	Tara Jones, Assistant Director – Children’s Services
4.	Fostering Quarterly Performance Report Q 1	Deborah Crawford, Head of Service Fostering, Adoption and Leaving Care
5.	Adoption Annual Report 2022-23	Sharon Clarke, Interim Team Manager, Adoption
6.	Fostering Annual Report 2022-23	Deborah Crawford, Head of Service Fostering, Adoption and Leaving Care Nicola Brangam, Fostering Team Manager
5	Outcomes from Ofsted Review	Tara Jones, Assistant Director – Children’s Services

9 November 2023	
Item	Contributor
1. Independent Reviewing Service Yearly Report 1st April 2023 - 30th September 2023	Carolyn Knight, Quality and Standards Manager
2. Regulation 44 Independent Visitors Report	Carolyn Knight, Quality and Standards Manager
3. Private Fostering Annual Report and Statement of Purpose	Deborah Crawford, Head of Fostering, Adoption and Leaving Care
4. Annual Report of the Regional Adoption Agency	John Harris, Head of Regional Adoption Agency

3. Items to be programmed

Report Title	Est Date
School attendance	TBC, 2023
Prevalence of emotional health and our response	TBC, 2023
Children in Care Performance Measures Q 2	January 2024
Fostering Quarterly Performance Report - Q 2	January 2024
Children in Care Annual Health Report 2022/23	January 2024
Lincolnshire Leaving Care - 6 Monthly Update Report by Barnardo's	January 2024
Children in Care Sufficiency Strategy 2023-2027 (Annual Update)	March/April 2024
LCC Virtual School Report Academic Year 2022-23	March/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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