



## **CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL**

**Thursday, 10 March 2022 at 10.00 AM**  
**In the Council Chamber, County Offices, Newland, Lincoln LN1 1YL**

### **MEMBERSHIP**

**Lincolnshire County Council:**

Councillors S P Roe (Chairman), Clio Perraton-Williams (Vice-Chairman), K H Cooke, A G Hagues, Mrs J E Killey, C Matthews and M A Whittington

**Added Members (non-voting):**

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

### **AGENDA**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Pages</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Apologies for absence/Replacement Members</b>	
<b>2</b>	<b>Minutes of the previous meeting</b>	<b>3 - 12</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Declarations of Members' Interests</b>	
<b>4</b>	<b>Announcements by the Chairman, Executive Councillor and Lead Officers</b>	
<b>5</b>	<b>Voices for Choices (V4C) Update Report</b> <i>(To receive a report from Ben Lilley, Practice Supervisor – Quality and Standards, which provides an update on activities and future planning for Voices for Choices)</i>	<b>13 - 20</b>

- |           |  |         |
|-----------|--|---------|
| <b>6</b>  | <b>Children in Care - Quarter 3 Performance Report</b><br><i>(To receive a report from Janice Spencer, Assistant Director – Children’s Safeguarding, which provides key performance information for Quarter 3 of 2021/22 which is relevant to the work of the Corporate Parenting Panel)</i>     | 21 - 42 |
| <b>7</b>  | <b>Fostering Permanence Report February 2022</b><br><i>(To receive a report from Deborah Crawford, Head of Fostering, Adoption and Leaving Care, which provides an overview of the Fostering Service in-house Matching Events relating to securing Permanence for Children in Care)</i>          | 43 - 54 |
| <b>8</b>  | <b>Council tax relief to children leaving care - local and national context</b><br><i>(To receive a report from Andrew Morris, Corporate Parenting Manager, which outlines the achievement to secure Council tax exemption and some of the more recent collaboration with district councils)</i> | 55 - 56 |
| <b>9</b>  | <b>Virtual Tour of Secure Unit</b><br><i>(To receive a virtual tour of Lincolnshire’s Secure Unit from Dave Clarke, Service Lead – Secure Estates)</i>   |         |
| <b>10</b> | <b>Corporate Parenting Panel Work Programme</b><br><i>(To receive a report from Kiara Chatziioannou, Scrutiny Officer, which invites the Panel to consider its work programme)</i>   | 57 - 60 |

Distributed on Wednesday, 2 March 2022

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, 10th March, 2022, 10.00 am \(moderngov.co.uk\)](https://www.moderngov.co.uk/agenda-for-corporate-parenting-panel-on-thursday-10th-march-2022-10.00am)

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](mailto:emily.wilcox@lincolnshire.gov.uk)



## CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL 20 JANUARY 2022

### **PRESENT: COUNCILLOR S P ROE (CHAIRMAN)**

**Lincolnshire County Council:** Councillors Clio Perraton-Williams (Vice-Chairman), K H Cooke, A G Hagues and C Matthews

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

attended the meeting as observers

Officers in attendance:-

Lisa Adams (Service Manager, Barnardos), Amy Allcock (Senior Commissioning Officer), Kieran Barnes (Virtual School Head Teacher), Kiara Chatziioannou (Scrutiny Officer), Deborah Crawford (Head of Service, Fostering, Adoption and Leaving Care), Bridie Fletcher (Commissioning Officer), Kerry Mitchell (Assistant Director Barnardo's (Lincolnshire)), Andrew Morris (Corporate Parenting Manager), Janice Spencer OBE (Assistant Director of Children's Safeguarding) and Emily Wilcox (Democratic Services Officer)

### 37 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE/REPLACEMENT MEMBERS

None had been received.

### 38 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 11 November 2022 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### 39 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest.

### 40 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN, EXECUTIVE COUNCILLOR AND LEAD OFFICERS

There were no announcements by the Chairman, Executive Councillor or Lead Officers.

### 41 COMMISSIONING EXCELLENCE: MEETING THE SUFFICIENCY DUTY 2018-2022 ANNUAL UPDATE AND TIMELINE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEW 2023-2027

STRATEGY

Consideration was given to a report by the Commissioning Manager – Commercial, which presented an annual update to the Action Plan of the Looked After Children Placement Sufficiency Strategy – 'Commissioning Excellence: Meeting the Sufficiency Duty 2018-2022' as well as an indicative development timeline for the Children in Care Commissioning Strategy 2023-2027, which were set out at Appendix A and B to the report.

The Panel were advised that the Council had been operating within their new youth housing contract, NEST, for a year which had been successful. NEST offered three sites across Lincolnshire with 72 beds in total. Officer commended the innovation and tenacity of the provider of the contract, NACRO, and highlighted their willingness to engage with social care and leaving care colleagues. The contract had provided intensive support units and successfully provided young people with complex behaviours further support prior to their transition into larger accommodation hubs.

An expansion of the digital offer to service users and young individuals within certain services had been welcomed, particularly operating virtual sessions and within children's centres, Voices4Choices and Big Conversation groups. It was important to note that the virtual offer did not detract or replace long term face to face engagement, but it could deliver positive outcomes when used appropriately.

The Lincolnshire Leaving Care Service (Barnardo's) was a highly effective service in supporting the county's care leavers and was also presenting high KPI performance.

From a commissioning perspective there was service review of both the open select list (OSL) procurement methodology and the closed ordered list (COL) procurement, pertinent to all supported accommodation for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children. What was looked at in the first instance (OSL) was Independent Non-Maintained Special Schools (INMS) providers, residential providers, foster care and intense needs supported accommodation which was unregulated. Any replacement procurement practice and system was aimed to be in place by Sep-Oct 2022. In terms of COL it was added that unaccompanied asylum seekers that arrived out of hours were party of the National Transfer Scheme.

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

- There was a balance to be made in ensuring that all 72 beds for (2 spare beds) were filled whilst also ensuring that there was some capacity to support young people who may need accommodation urgently. It was noted that the Council had a statutory obligation to accommodate any under 18-year-olds who had become homeless. Members were reassured that NACRO and NEST operated a well-managed and responsive service which provided low level supported accommodations as well provided a responsive service in terms of youth homelessness. The Council operated a spot purchase agreement via the OSL in which they could spot purchase accommodation to ensure that no child was left homeless at any time.

- The Panel were encouraged to see the County working together with District Councils and other partners to provide an excellent Care Leaver offer.
- The Panel was pleased that from April North Kesteven, West Lindsey and South Kesteven District Councils would be offering free leisure activity access to Looked After Children and care leavers.
- There had been further progress made on the Care Leaver offer over recent years, that included Council tax relief for some young people and some District Councils identified themselves as fostering friendly organisations.
- Officers were working to progress the healthcare offer within the Care Leaver Service as well as working on ways to communicate the offer to Care Leavers in a young person friendly way.
- Officers also hoped to develop more employment and training opportunities for young people.
- It was acknowledged that there was a shortage of affordable, accessible, one bedroom accommodation available nationally which could be an issue for care leavers. However, Officers continued to support care leavers to obtain suitable accommodation.
- The 65% target for care leavers accessing education, employment or training was an aspirational target and the 62% that had been achieved was a fantastic achievement for care leavers and was higher than the national average. Despite challenges, Officers continued to prioritise progressing this target to support young people into education, employment or training. The Council had obtained funding to recruit to a post which would support young people through the barriers to education, employment or training, which were often related to mental health issues.

## RESOLVED:

That the updated action plan for the Sufficiency Strategy 2018 - 2022 and the indicative timetable for the development of the Children in Care Sufficiency Strategy 2023-27 be endorsed.

42      LINCOLNSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL VIRTUAL SCHOOL ANNUAL REPORT ACADEMIC YEAR 2020-2021

Consideration was given to a report presented by the Head Teacher – Virtual Schools, which provided the Lincolnshire Virtual School Annual Report for the academic year 2020-21, as set out at appendix A to the report.

Despite a challenging period, the Virtual School Team had remained focussed on being ambitious for the young people and continued to ensure that adequate support through education was provided. The Head Teacher – Virtual Schools highlighted the key messages within the report, which included: -

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**20 JANUARY 2022**

The Lincolnshire Virtual School Team continued to be ambitious for all of Children in Care and continued to promote a holistic approach to learning. It was understood that promoting better educational outcomes was important for everyone and therefore the team provided training, challenge, advice and support to schools, children's services colleagues, foster carers, parents and others so that they could better advocate for the learning of children and young people in their care.

There remained a continued and growing emphasis on the development of "Learning Homes" where carers became increasingly skilled to support learning and schools were committed to creating an environment where the specific emotional and educational needs of children and young people were understood, and their potential fulfilled.

Pupil Premium was allocated to schools in a timely way and was linked to targets outlined in the Personal Education Plan, which had continued throughout Covid-19 and additional tuition had been commissioned to support Children in Care wherever possible.

The importance of early intervention was emphasised to promote outcomes and as a result all Children in Care or entering care aged 3-13 continued to receive support from Specialist Teachers so that schools were better informed of strategies to improve communication and language needs, if appropriate.

The Virtual School Team continued to work effectively and in cooperation with carers, parents, schools and Children's Services colleagues to support the education of Children in Care throughout the period of lockdown and recovery up to August 2021, working closely with children and young people with the specific aim of developing strong and effective working relationships and ensuring the voice of the children and young people was heard and their successes celebrated.

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

- The Panel expressed its thanks to officers within the team for their work on virtual schools.
- There was a national issue with children having anxieties around returning to school following the pandemic. The Panel was reassured that the Virtual Schools Team were developing a strategy to address the issue.
- It was acknowledged that children had missed out on vital education and were missing out on knowledge in certain areas as a result of the pandemic. All Children in Care had had personal education plan meetings at least three times a year which would set specific targets. The Council would look to provide further tuition to those children in which learning gaps had been identified.
- The offer of additional tuition was available for Children in Care where appropriate, which could also provide support for emotional wellbeing.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Virtual School Annual Report 2020-21 and the recommendations for the academic year 2021-22 be endorsed;
2. That consideration be given to the comments made by the Panel.

43      LINCOLNSHIRE LEAVING CARE - 6 MONTHLY UPDATE REPORT

Consideration was given to a report by the Service Manager – Barnardo’s Leaving Care Service Team, which provided an update a six-monthly update report in relation to Lincolnshire’s Leaving Care Service which was managed by Barnardo’s.

The Panel was informed that throughout the pandemic, the team had continued to carry out face to face visits with young people, alongside increasing the use of virtual forums and WhatsApp messages to communicate with young people on a regular basis.

The Service Manager -Barnardo’s emphasised the good working relationships that had been established between the Council and Barnardo’s for the NEST service and Supported Lodging Schemes, which was a rental room arrangement in which young people were matched to providers supported within their placement. An assessment process was in place for new placements and providers.

The service adapted, worked hard to continue to support young people undertaking apprenticeships through covid-19 and had recently undertaken a piece of work to understand the reason why Care Leavers were not taking up employment, education or training opportunities. Of 52 young people, 15 care leavers were able to provide responses which had indicated a number of ‘wellbeing’ issues that were stopping care leavers from accessing opportunities. Therefore, the Leaving Care Service were looking to advertise for a Wellbeing Worker to sit alongside the employment and training specialists which would target the group and try and encourage engagement and attendance.

The Gap Homes initiative was progressing, and the service now had a Specialist Mental Health Worker in post which was working exceptionally well. The initiative provided consultations with young people with mental health issues and helped find pathways to specialist services for care leavers.

The report highlighted some areas of success over the period, which included: Three of Lincolnshire Care Leavers spending time with Barnardo’s Chief Executive and representative from the House of Lords following feedback they had provided to the National Care Journey Collaborative. There were also a number of local businesses who had offered vouchers, haircuts and grants for young people in Louth.

Consideration was given to the report and in response to a question raised, it was confirmed that Barnardo’s were currently moving to their fourth round of mentorships in partnership with Serco, in which around 24 people had benefited from these. Following the success of the programme in Lincolnshire, Serco had recently proposed an extension to the project on a national basis.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received and the comments from the discussion be noted.

44 FOSTERING SERVICE QUARTER THREE PERFORMANCE REPORT

Consideration was given to a report by the Head of Service – Fostering, Adoption and Leaving in Care, which provided an overview of the fostering service performance for quarter three.

During this third quarter of this year, the service had continued to respond to the continuing effects of the pandemic by continuing to offer support in a variety of ways. Alongside face-to-face supervision and support, the virtual foster care community continued to grow from strength to strength providing a wraparound support service to all fostering families, which was critical in securing their wellbeing in the invaluable role they undertake in caring for children and promoting placement stability.

During quarter three the number of children in care had continued to rise to 696 (sourced by monthly reporting at the end of November 2021). At the same time those placed with Independent Fostering Agencies (IFA) decreased to 35.

Placing children and young people with family and friends remained the first consideration when they first entered care. This continued to be looked at throughout their care journey experience through Kinship. Kinship continued to work with the area locality teams in refining this process and regular discussions and joint supervisions with the children's social workers and practice supervisors were key within this process.

Staying Put continued to be an active part of the fostering service and referrals continued to be received. There were currently 29 young people waiting to join the scheme when they reached their 18th birthday. Each Staying Put arrangement was discussed at the first Children in Care review following the young person's 16th birthday. The decision regarding Staying Put was recorded within the young person's Pathway Plan and reviewed at each Children in Care review thereafter.

Fostering recruitment continued to work through the challenges presented by the pandemic and recruitment activity was returning to a more stable place that matched previous activity trends. Recruitment had developed into an area that was seen as everyone's responsibility with a wider pool of Supervising Social Workers completing half of initial visits. As restrictions had eased the service has adopted a smarter way of working using both face to face and online interactions and this will continue to be reviewed.

The Head of Service – Fostering reiterated her thanks to Foster Carers across the County for their hard work and dedication during an extremely challenging time.

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



- Private providers of foster care were required to adhere to the same regulations and the same standards as the Council, including Ofsted inspections. Any Lincolnshire child placed with an independent fostering provider was subject to the same level of scrutiny and would have each household would have a supervising social worker.
- Concerns were raised by the Panel over the commercialisation of foster care and the use of money to produce profits rather than for providing support to children.
- A corporate audit of the recruitment and retention progress within the fostering service was soon to be undertaken which would review the recruitment and retention processes for foster carers.
- It was clarified that the Council did not have any responsibility for children from other local authorities who were placed in Lincolnshire within private fostering providers.

**RESOLVED:**

That the report be received, and the comments made be recorded.

**45      CHILDREN IN CARE ANNUAL REPORT 2020/21**

Consideration was given to a report by Elizabeth Bunney, Lincolnshire Community Healthcare Services, which invited the Panel to consider the Children in Care Annual Report for 2020/21.

The report highlighted some of the key areas in relation to the healthcare service.

The Panel was advised that the number of children and young people placed into Lincolnshire from external authorities continued to rise which included those children who had been placed with family members within the County as well as independent foster carers and residential homes. Any child registering with a Lincolnshire GP was invited to an initial health assessment with the NHS.

The 16–17-year-old age group of Children in Care equated to over 20 percent of the Looked After Children population, of which the aim was to place as many children as possible within Kinship placements.

During the pandemic, nurses had initially carried out initial health assessments over the telephone, during this time the target to complete assessments within 20 days was being met. However, it had since been concluded the nurses were unable to undertake the initial health assessments and these were now being undertaken by GPs. It was noted that 95% of review health assessments were completed within the time that they were due.

Immunisation and vaccination figures had been impacted by Covid-19, but the immunisation teams were working to catch up on immunisations that had been missed in school and the NHS continued to work with foster carers to receive their immunisations.

The number of Looked After Children receiving dental treatment had also been impacted by the pandemic and it was acknowledged that access to dental care was challenging at the current time.

The recommendations for the current year were that the Council, the Clinical Commissioning Groups and an LCHS continued to work together to improve the number of health initial health assessments completed within statutory timeframe, which had involved the recruitment of two individuals who would carry out initial health assessments.

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

- Children and Young People placed into Lincolnshire remained the responsibility of the County Council they had been placed from, and Lincolnshire County Council would have no responsibility despite them receiving healthcare within Lincolnshire.
- Care Leavers faced unique challenges and many required lots of support to access further education, training or employment. Colleagues continued to build and maintain good relationships and provide support to individuals which was evident in the stay in touch figures.
- Concerns were raised over the lack of dental provision available to young people within Lincolnshire. The Panel was reassured that the Council were working with foster carers to ensure that all foster children had the means to access dental services.

RESOLVED:

That the report be endorsed, and the comments made be noted.

#### 46 CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL WORK PROGRAMME

Consideration was given to a report by the Scrutiny Officer, which invited the Panel to review its work programme to ensure its contents was still relevant and would add value to the work of the Council and partners.

A request was made for a report to the Panel which would provide further detail on the barriers to further education or employment for care leavers, in particular males within the 16–17-year-old bracket, and the plans that were in place to progress the issue.

RESOLVED:

That the work programme be agreed, subject to the proposed amendments.

The meeting closed at 11.41 am

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

Report to:	Corporate Parenting Panel
Date:	10 March 2022
Subject:	Voices for Choices (V4C) Update Report

### Summary:

This report gives a summary and overview of:

- Activities regarding V4C between October 2021 – February 2022
- Future V4C planning and progress, including consulting with children and young people within our residential settings

V4C is Lincolnshire's Children in Care Council with the aim being to share experiences of being in care in Lincolnshire and to inform teams who support Children in Care what does and does not work for them. V4C meetings are held within Children's Services locality quadrants and are delivered by Senior Youth and Community Development Workers and supported by Children's Services Participation Officers.

### Actions Required:

The Corporate Parenting Panel is invited to provide comment and steer regarding:

- (1) V4C activities and meetings undertaken within the reporting period.
- (2) Future planning and delivery of V4C meetings and activities.

## 1. Background

### V4C delivery October 2021 – February 2022

During this reporting period the delivery of V4C groups have been continuing to focus on holding face-to-face meetings following the easing of Co-vid restrictions. Meetings within this period have been held in LCC youth centre buildings and other settings where there are established risk assessments in place.

The details below provide a summary of V4C sessions and attendances by locality:

Lincoln and West Lindsey

Date of meeting	Venue	Number of young people attended
20.10.21	North Hykeham Youth Centre	6
27.10.21	Big Conversation	2
28.10.21	North Hykeham, Holiday Provision	4
02.11.22	Northholme Children's Home, Gainsborough	7
10.11.21	Lincoln Youth Matters Centre	5
05.01.22	Northholme Children's Home, Gainsborough	7
12.01.22	Bowling and MacDonalds Xmas outing	6

Regular face-to-face meetings have been held with young people who are attending enjoying the sessions, with regular attendance by several young people from Northholme Children's Residential Home.

Overview of sessions: during this period there has been a range of sessions, with young people taking part in the following:

- Lincolnshire Youth Commission Survey on Mental Health: all the V4C members took part in this whilst at the session with some interesting conversations deriving from this work.
- 'Kooth' Online Counselling: this online resource is being shared with young people and has been discussed within the V4C sessions and young people are reporting more that they are now using Kooth.
- The 'Big Question': to generate discussion/new topics.

Question – Climate Change (This is linked to the Lincolnshire Youth Council's current activities including a presentation from the City of Lincoln Councils climate change team)

- What does climate change mean to you?
- Are you worried about climate change?

Young people want to use future V4C meetings to discuss climate change issues further.

The meetings also focused on updates regarding:

- Big Conversation 21 feedback
- Hospital Services Consultation
- V4C film planning
- Update - Lincolnshire's Caring Promise (formerly Care Pledge)
- Update - Language that Cares

#### New V4C project: Supporting homeless young people in Lincoln

One of the young people has asked if the group could do something to support homeless young people in Lincoln. This was discussed within the sessions with the outcome being the group are planning a project this year that will include:

- Putting together 'Goodie Bags' for young people (ideas are to include a present, personal, hygiene's items, torch, handwarmers, scarves etc)
- Writing to local business for support
- Putting on Christmas Lunch including music games and a pop-up clothing bank

#### Boston and South Holland

Attendances within the Boston and South Holland locality are below, with regular monthly meetings taking place face to face. Support is being provided where needed for transport for young people to attend when needed and this is reviewed regularly to ensure there are no barriers to attendance if possible. Unfortunately, due to staff absences and Covid-19 some sessions have been unable to take place.

Date of meeting	Venue	Number of young people attended
13.10.21	Carlton Road Youth Centre, Boston	4
03.11.21	Albion Street Children's Home, Spalding	5
10.11.21	Carlton Road Youth Centre, Boston	3
01.12.21	Albion Street Children's Home, Spalding	6
08.12.21	Carlton Road Youth Centre, Boston	Cancelled due to sickness
05.01.22	Albion Street Children's Home, Spalding	Cancelled due to staffing sickness
12.01.22	Carlton Road Youth Centre, Boston	Cancelled due to sickness

### Overview of sessions:

- The 'Big Question' activity: this opened a debate with the young people about how sometimes young people feel marginalised in school. There was also discussion about how gender is also a target for bullying.
- The young people were excited about and enjoyed attending the Big Conversation at the end of October and feedback that they would like a future Big Conversation to be held closer to Spalding. This has been acted upon with the February Big Conversation planned to be held in Spalding.
- Following discussion with Albion Street children's home staff some sessions will take place within the home with a view of integrating these young people into the sessions at Boston in the future.
- The first session focused on building relationships with the young people gaining trust and asking questions around what they wanted from future meetings monthly. They indicated they wanted an activity session rather than the session being based around set discussion points
- All young people at the session also attended the Big Conversation so were aware of the process and what had been discussed. The young people said that they had enjoyed it and found the Young Inspectors programme of interest.

### East Lindsey

Virtual meetings have previously been difficult to progress in East Lindsey. However, with face-to-face meetings now re-established a group has been meeting and it is hoped that this will be a basis for attendance to grow further.

Date of meeting	Venue	Number of young people attended
19 <sup>th</sup> October 2021	Skegness Youth Centre	3
16 <sup>th</sup> November 2021	Skegness Youth Centre	2
21 <sup>st</sup> December 2021	Skegness Youth Centre	Session not held
18 <sup>th</sup> January 2022	Skegness Youth Centre	2

### Overview of sessions:

- The group have discussed the subject of the 'Big Question': Do schools do enough to prevent bullying? The consensus was that schools do not do enough to prevent bullying, but all felt that their schools did react positively when it had happened.
- V4C members have completed the Police Commissioners questionnaire on mental health needs of young people
- Discussion around climate change
- Feedback about the Big Conversation held in October and preparing for the Big Conversation in February. This involves thinking about what young people will



decide regarding the exercise of talking about what qualities they want from their support workers

- The group discussed a request for some feedback from the young people about the Children in Care and Care Leavers Strategy. Answers to questions about the care and support they have received, what worked well and what could be improved were discussed and this will be forwarded to be included within the new strategy.

### North and South Kesteven

Attendances for the North and South Kesteven locality are summarised below

Date of meeting	Venue	Number of young people attended
12.10.21	Eastgate Children's Home, Sleaford	4
19.10.21	Earlsfield Youth Centre, Grantham	3
16.11.21	Earlsfield Youth Centre, Grantham	2
21.12.21	Earlsfield Youth Centre, Grantham	3
18.01.22	Earlsfield Youth Centre, Grantham	2

Overview of sessions: during this period the young people have discussed if schools do enough to help prevent bullying. This was expanded to look at who in schools they can turn to for issues, and what they feel schools could do more of. Discussions were also held looking at how people's perception of issues like climate change can differ depending on what actions people see others take. For this the group looked at the recent issues with Insulate Britain, and if their actions made them feel differently about climate change. Feedback was given to young people on the Big Conversation, and a Christmas celebration with food and games was held.

In the January session the group started to discuss examples when workers have really helped them, and when they could have been better. Young people highlighted that having set people at schools to talk to really helps them at times. The group also began discussing topics as part of the new Children's Services Children in Care Strategy and asking them for feedback on questions relating to those so that their views can inform the strategy.

Links have been made with the Young Carers group to offer attendees the option of attending V4C as well and there has been another visit to Eastgate Children's Home in Sleaford to encourage young people attend.

### The Big Conversation

The most recent 'Big Conversation' as held in October 2021 and was attended by 16 children and young people. These meetings bring together representatives from each of the 4 V4C groups, along with senior offices and elected members. The meeting was successful with young people making significant contributions and sharing their work and views regarding topics including issues at school; reviewing the Coming into Care Kit; the

Caring Promise; the work of the Young Inspectors project and Barnardo's. The next Big Conversation is arranged in February and will be detailed in a future report.

### **V4C Planning**

The following points summarise current V4C planning:

- V4C meetings continue to take place across all 4 of the locality quadrants now on a face-to-face basis and this again has been the focus of this reporting period. Further discussions will take place with children and young people with a view to developing V4C further and building attendances.
- V4C staff have continued to visit children and staff in the residential homes to raise awareness of V4C and consult on what they would like future V4C sessions and delivery to look like.
- The option of providing virtual V4C meetings in addition to physical meetings is planned. This will help to offer V4C for young people who are unable or do not wish to attend physical meetings.
- There has been continued positive feedback about the return to face to face meetings and the activities taking place within the meetings which will help inform future discussion.

## **2. Conclusions**

- A) There has been a generally successful re-embedding of face-to-face meetings within this reporting period, and this provides a good base from which to progress. Meetings are taking place across each of the four localities although attendance numbers continue to vary.
- B) The groups have participated successfully in providing feedback both related to Children's Services (for example updating the Children in Care Kit and the Children in Care Strategy) and increasingly about wider societal issues such as climate change and schooling. To a degree this is widening the original purpose of V4C from being about feedback about the council and the support children receive and is a positive development.
- C) Ongoing work will continue to publicise V4C and review meeting options, with an aim to gain children and young people's views to encourage attendance and engagement.

### **3. Consultation**

#### **a) Risks and Impact Analysis**

Risk assessments are carried out via the Senior Youth and Community Development Workers.

### **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 Ben Lilley, Practice Supervisor (Quality and Standards), who can be contacted on 07876 212470 or at [ben.lilley@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:ben.lilley@lincolnshire.gov.uk)

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

Report to:	Corporate Parenting Panel
Date:	10 March 2022
Subject:	Children in Care - Quarter 3 Performance Report

### Summary:

This report and accompanying appendices, provide key performance information for Quarter 3, 2021/22 that is relevant to the work of the Corporate Parenting Panel.

### Actions Required:

The Panel is 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 used by Children's Services. This is available for questions.

There are 16 measures in total that relate to Children in Care that are reported on in Quarter 3. Of these measures seven are below target and one is ahead of the target set by the services.

The seven below target are:

**Fostering/adoption of Children in Care aged 10 to <16 years old-** This performance remains under target. The vast majority of children in care within this age group are placed in foster care settings but this has been impacted by the Covid19 19 pandemic as placement options have reduced as a result of foster carers initially isolating, being offline and some very recently returning to fostering.

Following the government relaxation and gradual easing the capacity of fostering beds available is still slowly recovering but is still significantly reduced to what it was prior to Covid19. However, there has been an increase in the numbers of younger children in residential placements in the past year. These are often children who have experienced a number of foster placements moves who struggle to adjust to the expectations of living in

a family environment. Residential care has provided a nurturing environment for this group and has enabled them to settle yet our transformational work which is ongoing supports our practice in identifying local resources for those children who are deemed to have sufficiently progressed and are assessed as suitable for foster care or alternative in house provision. There has also been a concentrated focus on reunifying children with their birth families this year whilst we await revocation of Care Orders or granting of private law orders e.g., Special Guardianship Orders within the Court.

**Number of Children in Care per 10,000 under 18s** - This measure has not achieved the target of 46 per 10,000, moving slightly above the upper target tolerance of 48 per 10,000. The number of Children in Care starters over Quarter 3 2021/22 has increased by around 39% compared to Quarter 2, whilst the number of care leavers has remained reasonably static. The increase in new entrants to care has pushed the Children in Care per 10,000 figure further up over the past quarter. The growth in numbers is partly attributable to the number of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children that have arrived as part of the new temporary mandated scheme for all Local Authorities in relation to the 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 growth this quarter and the potential for future increase there continues to be an emphasis on prevention from children going into care and exit planning from the care system where it can be achieved. However, despite the increase, the Lincolnshire number of Children in Care per 10,000 remains significantly below the most recent published figures both nationally and by our statistical neighbours (67 per 10,000 and 63.4 per 10,000 respectively as of 31st March 2021).

**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.

This has been reinforced by 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, we have continued to see that some stable placements disrupt unexpectedly, and this can have a significant impact upon this indicator. The impact of reduced carer resources during the pandemic has also played its part and cannot be underestimated. The service has also seen an increase in the number of much younger children with care plans for long-term fostering and this will present challenges in achieving placement stability for some children due to the local and national shortage of foster carers who want to care on a long term or permanent basis.

**Percentage of Children in Care with an up-to-date dental check** - This measure continues to improve and is now sitting at 71.5% which is an increase from 65.1% in the last quarter, however this measure remains below the target of 95%. Prior to Covid19, we were seeing increased difficulties in children being able to register with a National Health Service Dentist. Many of these appear to have made the decision to only provide private dentistry thereby impacting on the number of NHS practices available. This, coupled with

the impact of the COVID19 Pandemic has impacted significantly on the number of Children in Care with an up-to-date dental check.

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

**Percentage of Children in Care with an up-to-date routine immunisation** - The number of routine immunisations being completed continues to be impacted by the Covid19 Pandemic, with the measure staying broadly static at 76.2% in to 79.3% in the last quarter. The majority of overdue immunisations continue to be the teenage boosters which are undertaken in school. These were clearly delayed due to schools being closed for extended periods of time.

The health immunisation team have projected that it will take approximately 18 months for the programme to be fully back on schedule. However, further pressures have been added to their workload due to the need to catch up on those that have been missed/delayed during the pandemic and the increase in their workload due to all males now being offered the HPV and all school population being offered the Covid19 and flu immunisations.

**16–17-year-old Children in Care who are participating in Learning** - The performance for this quarter is below the lower target tolerance for this performance indicator by 3.2%. This represents approximately 4 young people. The Virtual School has been selected to participate in the DfE Post 16 pilot which runs from Sept21 – Mar 22. The pilot has enabled the Virtual School, working in partnership with post 16 providers, Leaving Care and Social Care colleagues, to allocate additional funding through the PEP process to promote young people's access to and engagement in further education. This will assist the Virtual School to find placements for those Young People not participating in learning and provide individual learners with advice and support through the Personal Education Plan regardless of where placed.

**Care Leavers in Education, Employment or Training-** This measure remains below target but is slowly improving despite fluctuations and is up from 49.8% to 52%. The Leaving Care Service continues to monitor every single young person who is not in EET. The Service continues to report on a monthly basis the efforts of the service to re-engage individuals back into EET and the Corporate Parenting Manager tracks this performance. A survey has been carried out with every Care Leaver who are not in EET, and the main barriers reported back are poor mental health (depression and anxiety) lack of qualifications and substance misuse issues. The new Aspirations worker is focusing on supporting young people back into employment and assisting young people to access the Covid19recover initiatives, but issues such as poor mental health and substance use continue to be a barrier. 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, so much so a wellbeing worker is being recruited. A further piece of work is being undertaken to fully understand the lived experiences of these young people in EET and fully appreciate why they are in EET and develop individual plans. It is anticipated that legacy Covid19 will continue to impact on emotional wellbeing and EET.

The one performance indicator ahead of target is:

**Children in Care Living Within a Family Environment-** Performance continues to remain above target and has improved slightly on last quarter (80% in Q3 2021/22 compared to 79.65% in Q2 2021/22). It confirms that, 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.

## **2. Conclusion**

This report summarises the Quarter 3 performance for Children in Care and Young People, and the Corporate Parenting Panel is asked to raise any questions on the content of the report.

## **3. Consultation**

### **a) Risks and Impact Analysis**

Non-Applicable

## **4. Appendices**

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

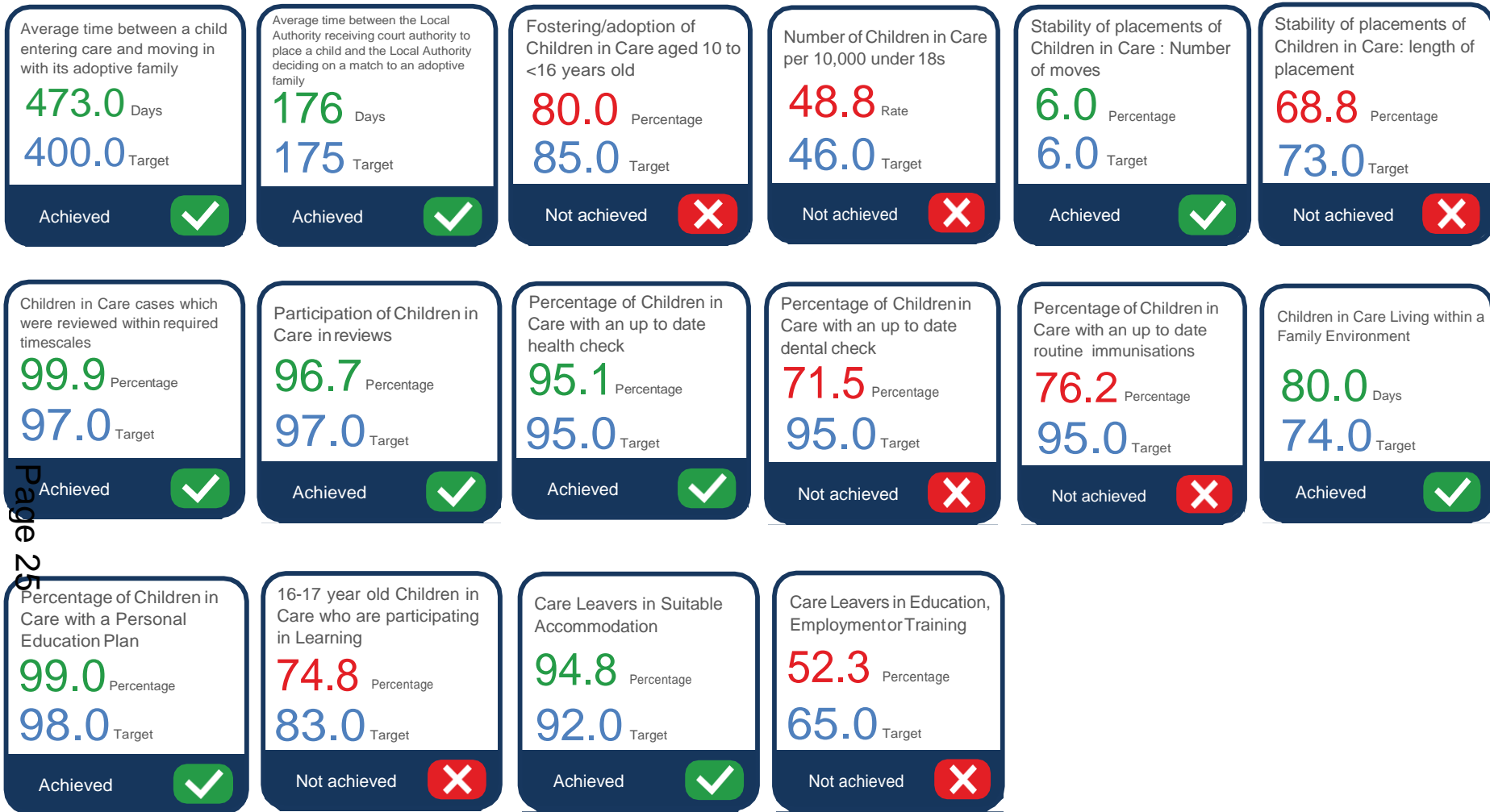
## **5. Background Papers**

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, who can be contacted on [simon.hardcastle@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:simon.hardcastle@lincolnshire.gov.uk).



## Appendix A – Children in Care Measures



Corporate Parenting Panel



## Healthy and Safe

### Children are Healthy and Safe

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

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



Achieved

473

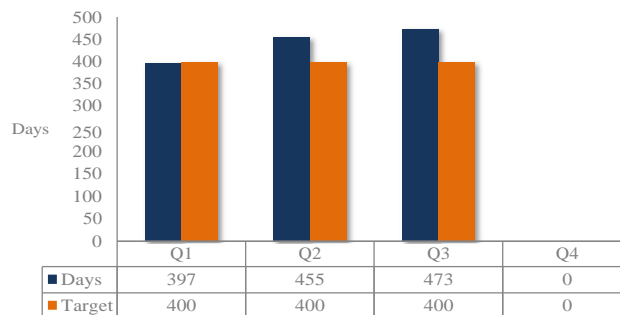
Days  
Quarter 3 December 2021



400

Days  
Target for December 2021

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



#### About the latest performance

Performance in 2020/21 - Q1: 415, Q2: 416, Q3: 368, Q4: 386

Despite the Covid-19 pandemic, Lincolnshire continues to achieve target in this measure. There has been some delay in getting cases through the courts during Covid, and this will have had some impact on the statistics and data for this year and accounts for the increased timescales. As the measure is a 'rolling' 3 yearly average, as we have moved forward the calculation has taken into account more of the time period covered by the pandemic, which has in turn increased the rolling average figure. The most recent published comparator data is from the three year period before the pandemic (2015-18), however, Lincolnshire remains better than the national figure (486) from that period, although it is now higher than the statistical neighbours (456.33) from that pre-Covid period.

#### About the target

Target set significantly better than national average.

#### About the target range

A lower value of 490 has been set as this would mean performance is worse than the most recent national figures

#### About benchmarking

Benchmarking information is available for 2018, however, 2019 figures have not yet been released.

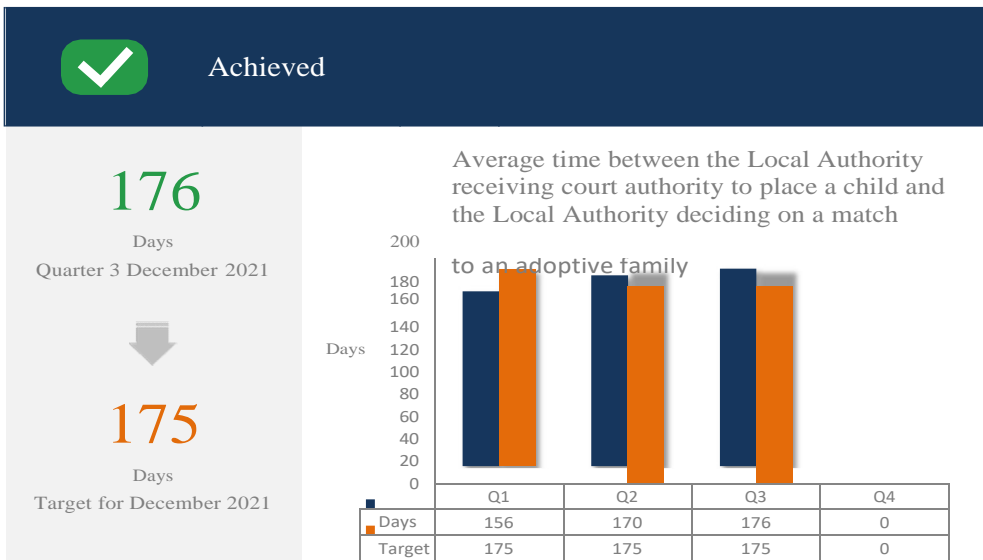


## Healthy and Safe

### 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.



#### About the latest performance

Performance in 2020/21 - Q1: 129, Q2: 131, Q3: 122, Q4: 153

The performance this quarter continues to achieve target, despite the Covid 19 pandemic, and is better than National comparator figures. However, it has shown an adverse trend recently. The Covid-19 pandemic continues to affect this PI and, as this measure is a 'rolling' 3 yearly average, as time has moved on the 'average' has taken into account more of the time period within the pandemic, pushing up the figure. The most recent published comparator data (Stat Neighbours 155.44 and National 175) is from a mainly pre-Covid period (2017-20) so is not a like-for-like comparison with Lincolnshire's current performance.

#### About the target

Target has reduced to 175 to take into account recent trends of a higher number of adoptions, which is expected to impact figures. However, the revised target remains significantly better than the most recent published National figures.

#### About the target range

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

#### About benchmarking

Benchmarking information is available for 2020



## 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



Not achieved

80.0

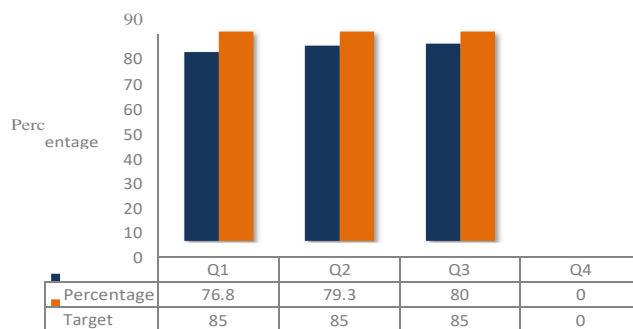
Percentage  
Quarter 3 December 2021



85.0

Percentage  
Target for December 2021

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



#### About the latest performance

Performance in 2020/21 - Q1: 79.8%, Q2: 78.1%, Q3: 76.8%, Q4: 78.9%

This performance remains under target. The vast majority of children in care within this age group are placed in foster care settings but this has been impacted by the Covid 19 pandemic as placement options have reduced as a result of foster carers initially isolating, being offline and some very recently returning to fostering. Following the government relaxation and gradual easing the capacity of fostering beds available is still slowly recovering but is still significantly reduced to what it was prior to Covid. However, there has been an increase in the numbers of younger children in residential placements in the past year. These are often children who have experienced a number of foster placement moves who struggle to adjust to the expectations of living in a family environment. Residential care has provided a nurturing environment for this group and has enabled them to settle yet our transformational work which is ongoing supports our practice in identifying local resources for those children who are deemed to have sufficiently progressed and are assessed as suitable for foster care or alternative in house provision. There has also been a concentrated focus on reunifying children with their birth families this year whilst we await revocation of Care Orders or granting of private law orders e.g. Special Guardianship Orders within the Court.

#### About the target

Target reduced to 85% as performance has remained under target at 82% over the past year. This is indicative of a reduction in the number of foster carers, challenges in foster carer recruitment and children with complex needs.

#### About the target range

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

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

#### About benchmarking

Benchmarking data no longer available



## Healthy and Safe

### Children are Healthy and Safe

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

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

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



Not achieved

48.8

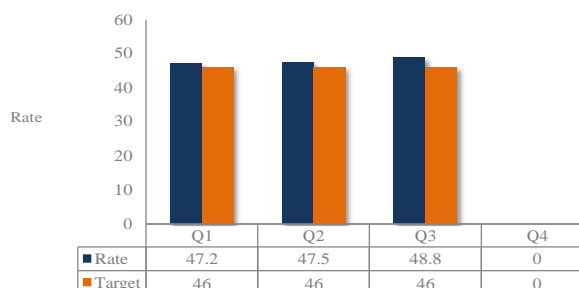
Rate  
Quarter 3 December 2021



46.0

Rate  
Target for December 2021

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



#### About the latest performance

Performance in 2020/21 - Q1: 44.4, Q2: 45.2, Q3: 47.1, Q4: 46.8

This measure has not achieved the target of 46 per 10,000, moving slightly above the upper target tolerance of 48 per 10,000. The number of Children in Care starters over Quarter 3 2021/22 has increased by around 39% compared to Quarter 2, whilst the number of care leavers has remained reasonably static. The increase in new entrants to care has pushed the Children in Care per 10,000 figure further up over the past quarter. The growth in numbers is partly attributable to the number of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children that have arrived as part of the new temporary mandated scheme for all Local Authorities in relation to the 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 growth this quarter and the potential for future increase there continues to be an emphasis on prevention from children going into care and exit planning from the care system where it can be achieved. However, despite the increase, the Lincolnshire number of Children in Care per 10,000 remains significantly below the most recent published figures both nationally and by our statistical neighbours (67 per 10,000 and 63.4 per 10,000 respectively as at 31st March 2021).

#### About the target

Target Remains Same as Previous Year

#### About the target range

The Upper and lower Target allows for the number of LAC to vary between approximately 626- 699. This is about +/- 35 children from target.

Anything above or below this number would be flagged as worse than target, i.e., indicating a significant variance from the current position.

#### About benchmarking

Comparator information is available and is showing an increasing trend

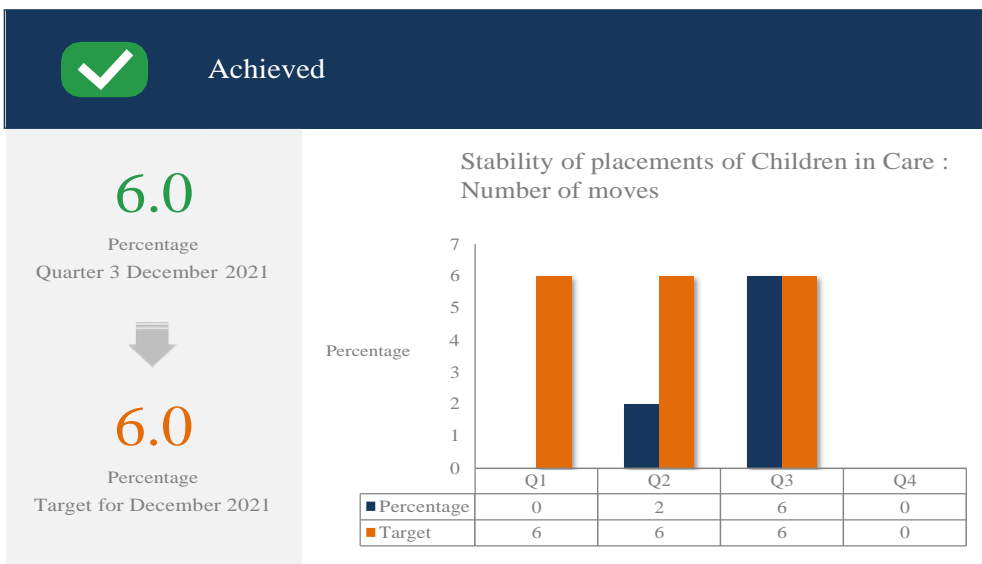


## Healthy and Safe

### 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



#### About the latest performance

Performance in 2020/21 - Q1: 1%, Q2: 1%, Q3: 2%, Q4: 8%

Current performance has met the targets set.

#### About the target

Target remains same as 2020/21. Performance remains good in comparison with the 11% stated national figure. However we have seen a deterioration this year which reflects the reduced choice of placement options and complexities of young people placed.

#### About the target range

Achieving the upper tolerance level should maintain LCC's position within the top quartile nationally and still maintain LCC as one of the best performing of our statistical neighbours. Comparative performance within our statistical neighbours is 9.6%. Anything below the lower level should be shown as a significant improvement over last year.

#### About benchmarking

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

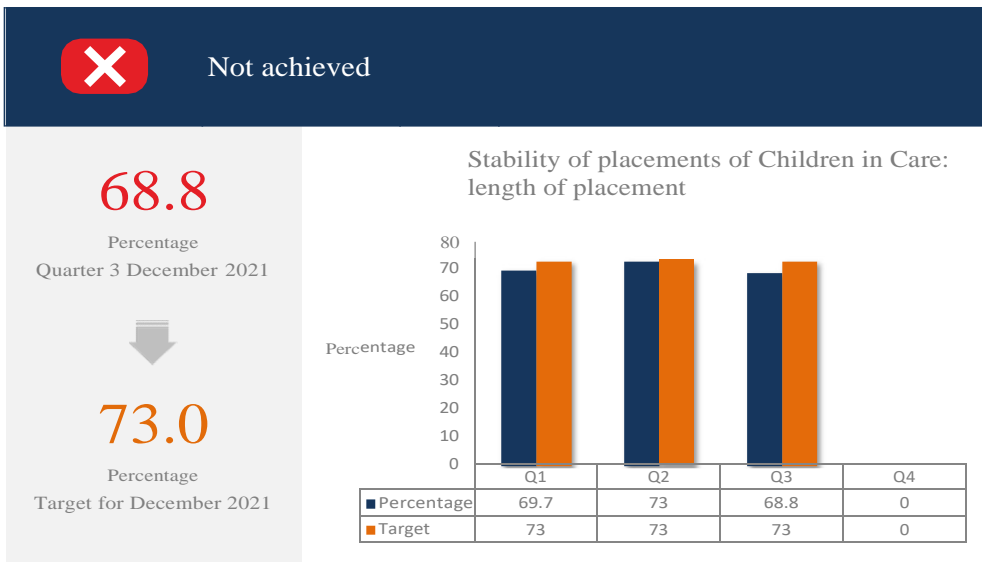


## Healthy and Safe

### Children are Healthy and Safe

#### Stability of placements of Children in Care: length of placement

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



#### About the latest performance

Performance in 2020/21 - Q1: 72.8%, Q2: 69.2%, Q3: 70.9%, Q4: 72.2%

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. This has been reinforced by 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 we have continued to see that some stable placements disrupt unexpectedly and this can have a significant impact upon this indicator. The impact of reduced carer resources during the pandemic has also played its part and cannot be underestimated. The service have also seen an increase in the number of much younger children with care plans for long term fostering and this will present challenges in achieving placement stability for some children due to the local and national shortage of foster carers who want to care on a long term or permanent basis.

#### About the target

Target remains the same as previous years and above the present performance of statistical neighbours. Tolerances for this measure take into account the current performance.

#### About the target range

Tolerances for this measure take into account the current performance.

#### About benchmarking

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

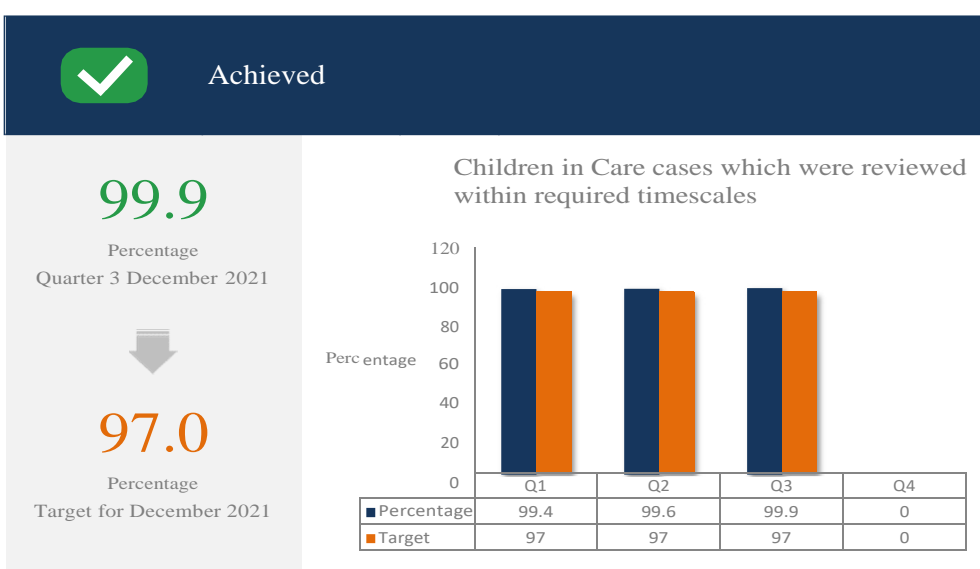


## Healthy and Safe

### Children are Healthy and Safe

#### Children in Care cases which were reviewed within required timescales

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



#### About the latest performance

Performance in 2020/21 - Q1: 99.2%, Q2: 98.6%, Q3: 98.4%, Q4: 98.7%

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 97%, an upper value of 3% has been set.

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

#### About benchmarking

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





## Healthy and Safe

Children are Healthy and Safe

### Participation of Children in Care in reviews

Percentage of Children in Care who participated in their reviews



Achieved

96.7

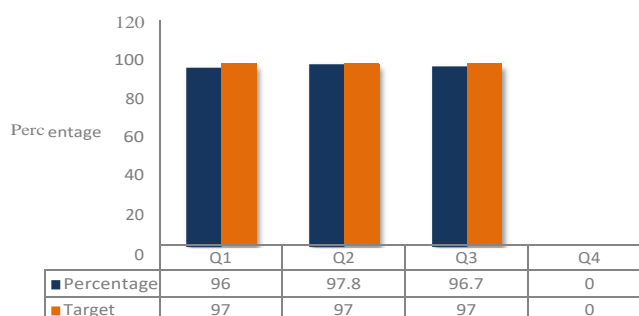
Percentage  
Quarter 3 December 2021



97.0

Percentage  
Target for December 2021

Participation of Children in Care in reviews



#### About the latest performance

Performance in 2020/21 - Q1: 99.7%, Q2: 99.8%, Q3: 99.2%, Q4: 97.6%

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 97%, an upper value of 3% has been set.

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

#### About benchmarking

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

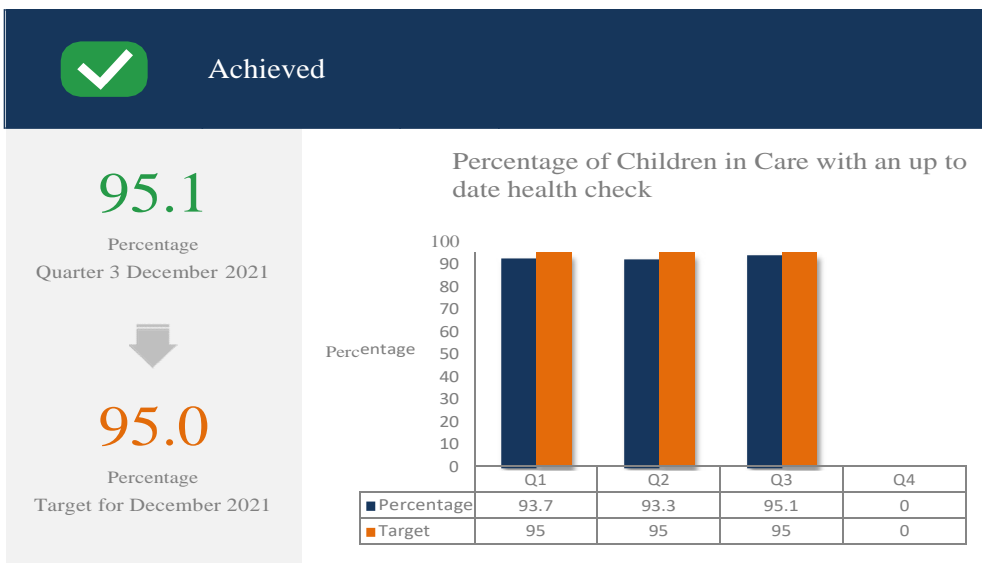


## Healthy and Safe

### Children are Healthy and Safe

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

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



#### About the latest performance

Performance in 2020/21 - Q1: 93.4%, Q2: 96%, Q3: 94.1%, Q4: 91.2%

Current performance has met the targets set.

#### About the target

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

#### About the target range

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

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

#### About benchmarking

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



## Healthy and Safe

### Children are Healthy and Safe

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

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



Not achieved

71.5

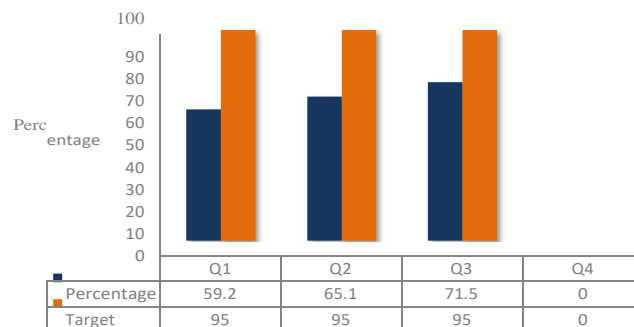
Percentage  
Quarter 3 December 2021



95.0

Percentage  
Target for December 2021

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



#### About the latest performance

Performance in 2020/21 - Q1: 89%, Q2: 76.5%, Q3: 69.9%, Q4: 49.5%

This measure continues to improve and is now sitting at 71.5% which is an increase from 65.1% in the last quarter, however this measure remains below the target of 95%. Prior to Covid, we were seeing increased difficulties in children being able to register with a National Health Service Dentist. Many of these appear to have made the decision to only provide private dentistry thereby impacting on the number of NHS practices available. This, coupled with the impact of the COVID19 Pandemic has impacted significantly on the number of Children in Care with an up to date dental check.

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

#### About the target

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

#### About the target range

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

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

#### About benchmarking

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



## Healthy and Safe

### Children are Healthy and Safe

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

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



Not achieved

76.2

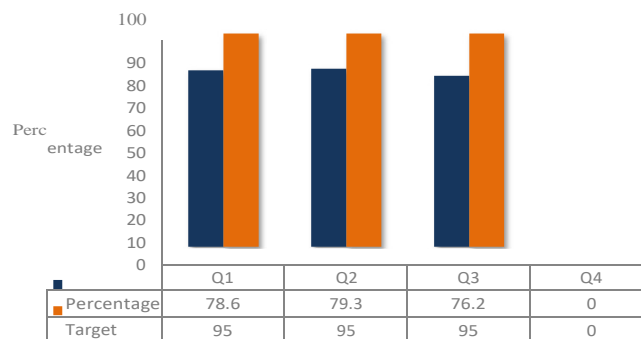
Percentage  
Quarter 3 December 2021



95.0

Percentage  
Target for December 2021

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



#### About the latest performance

Performance in 2020/21 - Q1: 85.8%, Q2: 79.8%, Q3: 76.5%, Q4: 80%

The number of routine immunisations being completed continues to be impacted by the Covid Pandemic, with the measure staying broadly static at 76.2% in to 79.3% in the last quarter. The majority of overdue immunisations continue to be the teenage boosters which are undertaken in school. These were clearly delayed due to schools being closed for extended periods of time.

The health immunisation team have projected that it will take approximately 18 months for the programme to be fully back on schedule. However, further pressures have been added to their workload due to the need to catch up on those that have been missed/delayed during the pandemic and also the increase in their workload due to all males now being offered the HPV and all school population being offered the COVID19 and flu immunisations.

#### 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. Achievement of this would indicate that all LAC received all their health checks within timescale – achievement of 100%.

A lower tolerance of 1% has been set to allow for under performance. Data from the last two years shows achieving 94% is very achievable and performance has not often fallen below this marker.

#### About benchmarking

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

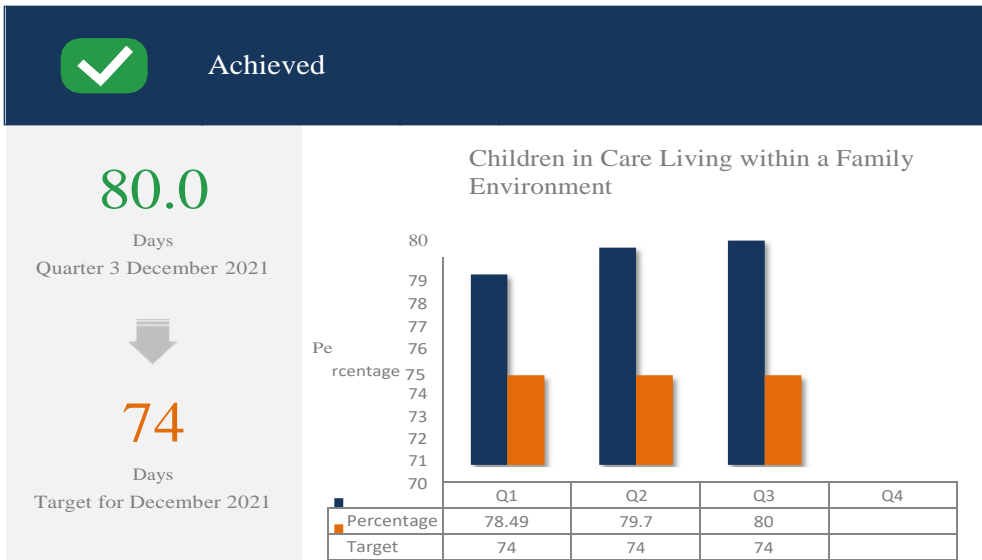


## Healthy and Safe

### Children are Healthy and Safe

#### Children in Care Living within a Family Environment

Percentage of Children in Care Living within a Family Environment



#### About the latest performance

Performance in 2020/21 - Q1: 79.6%, Q2: 78.6%, Q3: 78.6%, Q4: 77.8%

Performance remains above target and has improved slightly on last quarter (79.65% in Q2 2021/22 compared to 78.5% in Q1 2020/21). It confirms that, for the vast majority of children in care, a family placement is deemed the most suitable means of offering care and maintaining children within their family networks.

#### About the target

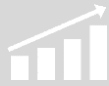
The target has been set to 74%. This is a new Performance Indicator which includes children in care living with parents as well as in foster and adoption placements.

#### About the target range

We would like to see performance between 70% and 77%, so we have set the lower range to -4% and the upper range to +3%.

#### About benchmarking

We are unable to benchmark against other local authorities as this measure includes children residing with their parents.



## 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

99.0

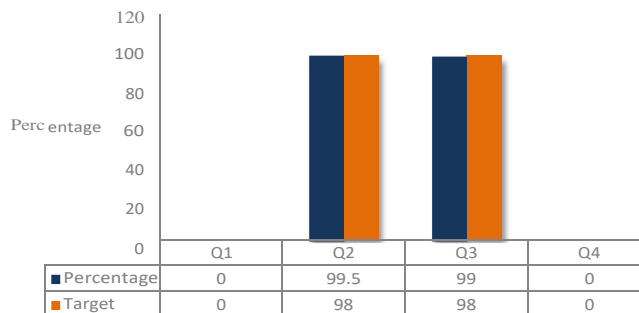
Percentage  
Quarter 3 December 2021



98.0

Percentage  
Target for December 2021

Percentage of Children in Care with a Personal Education Plan



#### About the latest performance

Performance in 2020/21 - Q1: N/A, Q2: 100%, Q3: 100%, 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.



## Ready for Adult Life

### Ready for Adult Life

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

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

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

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

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



Not achieved

74.8

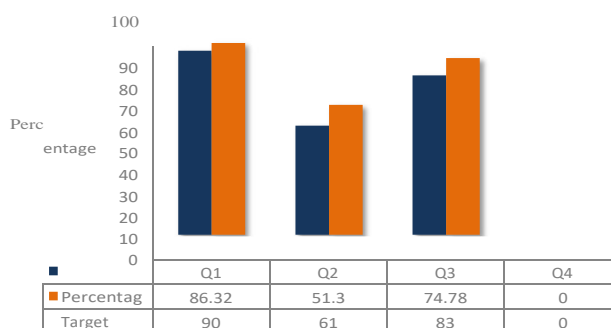
Percentage  
Quarter 3 December 2021



83.0

Percentage  
Target for December 2021

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



#### About the latest performance

Performance in 2020/21 - Q1: 87.5%, Q2: 58.8%, Q3: 85.96%, Q4: 89.47%

The performance for this quarter is below the lower target tolerance for this performance indicator by 3.2%. This represents approximately 4 young people. The Virtual School has been selected to participate in the DfE Post 16 pilot which runs from Sept21 – Mar 22. The pilot has enabled the Virtual School, working in partnership with post 16 providers, Leaving Care and Social Care colleagues, to allocate additional funding through the PEP process to promote young people's access to and engagement in further education. This will assist the Virtual School to find placements for those Young People not participating in learning and provide individual learners with advice and support through the Personal Education Plan regardless of where placed.

#### About the target

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

#### About the target range

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

#### About benchmarking

Benchmarking information is not available for this cohort



## Ready for Adult Life

### Ready for Adult Life

#### Care Leavers in Suitable Accommodation

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

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

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

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



Achieved

94.8

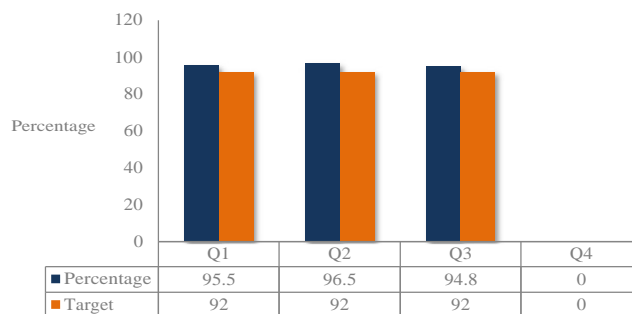
Percentage  
Quarter 3 December 2021



92.0

Percentage  
Target for December 2021

#### Care Leavers in Suitable Accommodation



#### About the latest performance

Performance in 2020/21 - Q1: 92.8%, Q2: 96%, Q3: 93.7%, Q4: 94%

The good performance in relation to accommodation continues to be down to good working relationships with District Councils and their willingness to view care leavers as a priority group. The continued flexibility and resilience of our housing provider Nacro should also be noted, which during the pandemic and with its gradual easing, continues to ensure safe accommodation is on offer. The above combined with persistent and creative work of the leaving care service continues to ensure that nearly every care leaver is suitably accommodated.

#### About the target

Target to remain the same as previous year, we are above both national and similar authority average

#### 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 and we constantly perform better than comparators





## Ready for Adult Life

### Ready for Adult Life

#### Care Leavers in Education, Employment or Training

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



Not achieved

52.3

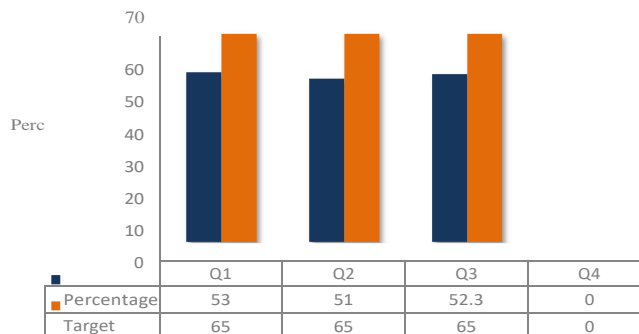
Percentage  
Quarter 3 December 2021



65.0

Percentage  
Target for December 2021

#### Care Leavers in Education, Employment or Training



#### About the latest performance

Performance in 2020/21 - Q1: 52%, Q2: 55.1%, Q3: 52.8%, Q4: 49.8%

This measure remains below target but is slowly improving despite fluctuations and is up from 49.8% to 52%. The Leaving Care Service continues to monitor every single young person who is not in EET. The Service continues to report on a monthly basis the efforts of the service to re-engage individuals back into EET and the Corporate Parenting Manager tracks this performance. A survey has been carried out with every Care Leaver who are not in EET and the main barriers reported back are poor mental health (depression and anxiety) lack of qualifications and substance misuse issues. The new Aspirations worker is focusing on supporting young people back into employment and assisting young people to access the Covid-19 recover initiatives, but issues such as poor mental health and substance use continue to be a barrier. 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, so much so a wellbeing worker is being recruited. A further piece of work is being undertaken to fully understand the lived experiences of these young people in EET and fully appreciate why they are in EET and develop individual plans. It is anticipated that legacy Covid-19 will continue to impact on emotional wellbeing and EET.

#### About the target

Target reduced to 65% 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

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

Report to:	Corporate Parenting Panel
Date:	10 March 2022
Subject:	Fostering Permanence Report February 2022

### Summary:

This report provides Panel Members with an overview of the Fostering Service in-House Matching Events relating to securing Permanence for Children in Care.

### Actions Required:

Members of the Corporate Parenting Panel are asked:

- (1) to consider and comment on the report; and,
- (2) that the report be accepted as an accurate overview of the in-House Matching activity of the service in relation to efforts made to secure Permanence for Children in Care.

## 1. Background

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

For those children in the care of the Local Authority the legal framework of the Children Act 1989, subsequent guidance and regulations set out the arrangements the Council must make for looking after a child (children in care). The making of a care plan is central to these requirements and will contain information about how the child's current developmental needs will be met as well as the arrangements for the current and longer-term care for the child. It ensures that there is a long-term plan for the child's upbringing (referred to as 'the permanence plan') to which everyone is working, including the team around the child, the child and, where appropriate, the family.

One of the key functions of the care plan is to ensure that each child has a plan for permanence by the time of the second Children in Care review.

Permanence means making a long-term plan for how a child will be cared for which lasts throughout their childhood. There are a range of options for permanence, inside and outside of the care system. All should deliver good outcomes, giving children security, continuity, commitment, identity and belonging to ensure future positive life chances. Permanence options for children include returning home to their families; living with kinship (family/friends and connected persons) carers, including special guardians; living with adoptive families; living with long-term foster carers; or living in residential care.

## **2. Conclusion**

The report provides Panel Members with an update on progress within the service area to be recognised and taken as 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 Performance Report February 2022

## **5. Background Papers**

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in preparation 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 at [deborah.crawford@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:deborah.crawford@lincolnshire.gov.uk).



## Fostering Permanence Report

February 2022

### **Background Context:**

For those children in the care of the Local Authority the legal framework of the Children Act 1989, subsequent guidance and regulations set out the arrangements the Council must make for looking after a child (children in care). The making of a care plan is central to these requirements and will contain information about how the child's current developmental needs will be met as well as the arrangements for the current and longer-term care for the child. It ensures that there is a long-term plan for the child's upbringing (referred to as 'the permanence plan') to which everyone is working, including the team around the child, the child and, where appropriate, the family.

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### **The impact of Instability:**

Although children and young people are brought into care because it is deemed to be in their best interests for safety and wellbeing, children and young people will still experience a sense of grief and loss, even for the loss of those that have caused them harm. These emotions are further compounded if they go on to experience multiple placements arrangements. Children and young people that are unable to feel secure in their home and family arrangements will have many more challenges in relation to their sense of identity and establishing a sense of belonging. This can be observed through the behaviours of children and young people that have an uncertain future or have experienced grief, rejection, and repeated loss.

### **Permanence:**

Many children across the UK live with their foster families for many years, and sometimes for the whole of their childhoods and beyond. In 2015, regulations and statutory guidance came into force in England which together introduced a legal definition of long-term foster care and the conditions that need to be met and strengthened it as a permanence option. The changes introduced in 2015 were very helpful in terms of introducing a consistent definition of long-term foster care placements across England, and in setting out the key steps and commitments involved for all parties. The changes rightly strengthen the importance of foster care as a permanence option for children and young people in care.

Permanence is about having a family for life, supporting the development of a sense of belonging and connectedness. At its core is the continuation of the quality of good relationships built between children and their foster carers, regardless of the type of placement. Placement stability is an essential element of permanence as it creates the opportunity for children to develop relationships in a safe and secure arrangement. The development and continuation of high-quality relationships between children and the adults

that care for them, supports the building of security, secure attachments, a positive reference point on which children can model their own future relationships and develop a strong sense of belonging and identity.

Permanence for children can be reached through a variety of options, all of which can deliver good outcomes for individual children.

### **Types of permanence:**

For many children, a **return to their birth family (reunification)** is possible after those issues that led to a period in care have been supported and overcome.

**Kinship Care** remains a good option and involves a child living with a relative, friend or other **'connected' person** as a child in care. Kinship care is when a child lives full-time or most of the time with a relative or friend who is not their parent, usually because their parents are unable to care for them. That relative or friend is called a 'kinship carer', and it's estimated that around half of kinship carers are grandparents, but many other relatives including older siblings, aunts, uncles, as well as family friends and neighbours can also be kinship carers. There are clear benefits to children if they are kept within their family network. Research shows that children in kinship care benefit from increased placement stability compared to children in Local Authority care and can maintain family relationships. Even so, many children who go to live with kinship carers have had a very difficult start in life, and their behaviour is often greatly affected by past experiences.

For a proportion of children permanence is achieved through **Adoption** which is the legal process by which a child or a group of siblings who cannot be brought up within their birth family become full, permanent, and legal members of their new family.

Adopters become the child's legal parents with the same rights and responsibilities as if the child was born to them.

The majority of adopted children have suffered significant abuse, violence, or neglect in their birth families and most have spent time in foster care.

Adoption gives children a second chance of stability, permanence, and the love and nurture that all children need. The outcomes for adopted children are better than for those who stay in care.

**Special Guardianship** is a formal court order which places a child or young person with someone permanently and gives this person parental responsibility for the child. This could be a grandparent, close relative, or a family friend.

Special Guardianship means that the child lives with carers who have parental responsibility for them until they are grown up. If the child was looked after before the Special Guardianship Order was granted, they will no longer be the responsibility of the Local Authority.

The order usually lasts until the child is 18 years old.

**Child Arrangements Orders** is an order that regulates with whom a child is to live, spend time or otherwise have contact, with any person. Each Child Arrangements Order is decided on the circumstances of the individual family and on what is in the best interests of the child.



Where all above options have been duly considered and a decision is reached that the child/ren is unable to exit care **long-term foster care** can have similar outcomes to adopted children and this is a positive permanence option for those children who still identify with, and maintain links to, their birth families. It can also be a positive option for children with complex care needs or who are harder to place for adoption, such as sibling groups or older children, providing them with long-term stability and ongoing care and support.

Living within a family setting will be the preferred permanence option for most children, including those for whom residential care is a positive short-term option. However, for a small number of children and young people a **long-term residential placement** could equally be the best option when all other options have been comprehensively exhausted. This can be the case for children who are unable or unwilling to participate in family life due to previous experiences or the emotional demands of family living.

#### **Permanence through an unrelated Foster Carer:**

Foster Care can provide permanence within the care system and is an important option for children. It can provide children with the security and stability they need until adulthood. Thereafter, 'Staying Put' offering an important option to extend the foster family role into early adulthood as a Leaving Care option.

Nationally, Foster Care is the most common placement choice for children in care: three-quarters of children in care are in foster care (85% of them with unrelated carers). 17 per cent of all fostered children between ages 5 and 18 have been in the same placement for more than five years (DFE 2013).

#### **Lincolnshire – Context and Recruitment:**

There are different types of fostering that carers and their families can choose to specialise in with the assessment considering their motivation and preferences amongst several other key significant factors that are considered as part of their approval and statutory review in accordance with the Fostering National Minimum Standards 2011.

For some carers they consider their strengths and commitment to a certain type of fostering and this can change once they have gained invaluable experience and upon reflection of their experience and skills. It is not uncommon for carers to be approved at fostering panel for several types of fostering before carers choose to progress with offering that longer term and more permanent option.

Irrespective of a carers approval a robust assessment will determine the most appropriate route to secure any permanent arrangement. For some children this may mean they remain with their current carer if it is felt this is in the best interest of the child and the foster carer long term. The fostering service works in partnership to establish a match for a child using 'Family Finding' process where all efforts and opportunities for permanent homes are considered for children with this care plan. We will consider those carers that are approved for permanence, we will also use targeted marketing to recruit possible matches for children in care. We currently have 4 children where we have been unable to successfully match them with foster carers in house.

There is a marketing and advertising strategy in place for attracting members of the public that feel they would be able to offer a child a long-term home. Finding permanent placements for sibling groups is particularly challenging. Nationally there is a shortage of people coming forward to care for sibling groups and older children.



## **Matching:**

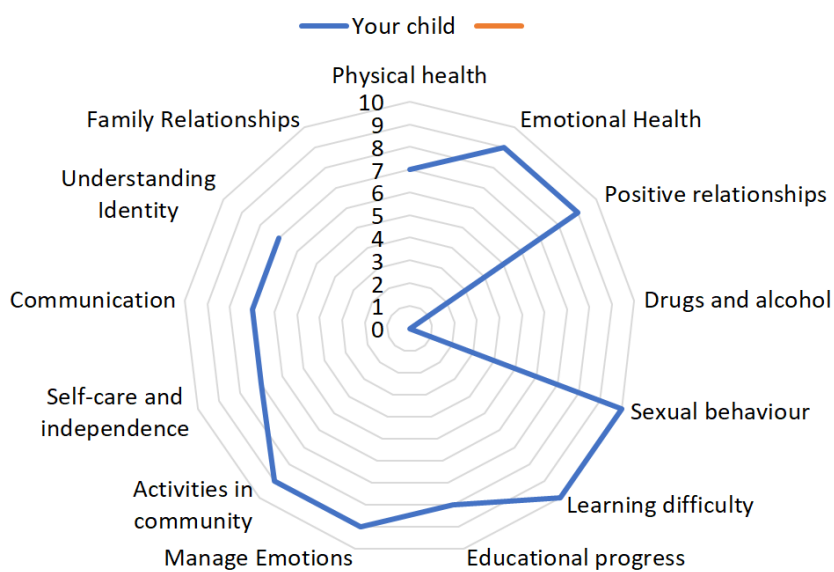
A key factor in stability and permanence in foster care is the 'match' between child and carers, which often depends on the 'chemistry' between them. The matching process is applicable for all children in care.

Careful consideration must be given to the ongoing needs of the child and the support available. The right match is critical for the stability and long-term outcomes for the child and so great care and a shared commitment across Children's Services is established.

The **Re-Think Fostering Workstream** is a partner in practice collaboration, jointly promoting fostering as a partnership, working with foster carers every step of the journey by providing the right support, training and resources when needed through evidence based and relational practices.

This workstream has been fundamental in exploring new innovative approaches in fostering, with the creation of the In-House Matching Event, being one of them. This event brings together the opportunity for those that know the children to present a profile of them, which has been developed using the Valuing Care approach. This in conjunction with the carers profile Valuing Care toolkit embedded within their Annual Review and progress reports aim to identify whether a match is achievable.

## **Valuing Care assessment profile**



### **Female Child, aged 8**

It is possible through this assessment tool and using a holistic view to consider the needs that will need to be met and understood by those that are going to care for this child.

- High needs identified within the area of positive relationships and sexual behaviour. Due to the type of abuse that this child has experienced they have a distorted understanding of relationships, and this can result in sexual behaviour towards others. This child needs a carer that understands the impact of sexual harm, an adult that demonstrates patience and understanding and can support the child to learn how healthy relationships are formed, how we should act with one another and explain that her private parts are on her body are not for others to play with. A carer would need to consider if they could support these types of behavior and support the child to process previous experiences and develop a new mental model for her future.
- It is clear to see the impact of developmental trauma for this child, as they struggle with those skills and understanding that rely on the foundations and structure of cognitive function. Social and communication skills, understanding other intentions and social cues, regulating her own emotions, controlling impulses etc... The primary caregiver for this child would need to have a good working understanding of child development, be able to provide this child even at the age of 8 with an early year's education to ensure that the structures and foundation on which learning is built can be established and then built on. The child would need to grow up in a household that understand education and learning widely and actively supports learning and development in partnership with education and social care.



Foster Carers have their own profile, which clearly highlights their strengths and those areas that need to be developed.

The intention and purpose of these events was developed to ensure the right children are being presented at the right time to the right potential foster carers. This aims to avoid drift and delay in care planning for children with a continued aim to promote stability at the very earliest point.

This event is pulled together over numerous stages which includes a permanence course for all foster carers that are currently considering this type of fostering. This builds upon the information in the fostering assessment and carers annual reviews which supports reflection, planning and their development whilst they develop a profile that will help support them and the fostering service to consider the 'right match' for them and their family.

The family finders/permanence lead within fostering holds both the profiles for children and carers and with a team of representatives will highlight possible matches and brings these to the attention of the child's and foster carer's social worker. The carers would then be encouraged to attend an in house matching event.

The in-house matching event was first piloted virtually in June 2021. This enabled valuable evaluation and feedback from those foster carers in attendance to help shape up a future one. In January 2022, a further event was held which was well attended and received by foster carers. This event will now be held on a regular basis and built into business as usual to support all the permanence work.



The event welcomes the children's social workers who will present the children, offering a good overview and insight into the strengths, challenges and needs of the child; they will also offer further informal discussions to those that want to understand more about the child. The support is discussed. The social worker at the event will explain the type of care that the child requires, the style of care, the skills, knowledge, and experience that will be needed to help them meet their full potential. Any possible matches and interest from foster carers are carefully considered, more detailed information is shared and where it is felt to be a potential match a transition plan and support offer is put in place. Every plan for permanency revolves around the child's needs, and that means listening to their wishes and feelings. We have a duty to make sure

that children not only understand what's going on but are fully involved in the decisions that will have such a fundamental impact on their lives.

### **Placement Support:**

Placement stability can be undermined if the placement is not adequately supported, as well as an Adoption and Special Guardianship support offer, where permanence is sought through unrelated foster carers careful consideration is given to a wraparound offer that is designed with the carer and child in mind.

All foster carers in Lincolnshire have access to a range of support which offers different levels of intervention and services to ensure the right support at the right time.

All Foster Carers regardless of the type of fostering they do have access to support through the Hub within the frameworks developed by Caring2Learn. This includes a local community network for peer support, social networks, a training and development offer and support from Foster Carer Champions and Placement Support Workers for the delivery of targeted intervention.

In permanence this is further developed and built upon within planning to help support both shorter term and long-term actions.

This can include support that is not routinely on offer to the general carer population.

- Specialist training
- Specialist equipment
- Access to specialist services and therapeutic intervention
- Regular, planned respite with a long term connected respite carer

### **Conclusion:**

In Lincolnshire we are committed to supporting our children in care to be happy and healthy, having the best start in life and being afforded every opportunity to reach their full potential. For children who are no longer able to remain with their birth family, research indicates that outcomes are significantly improved for children when they are in a safe, secure, and stable environment.

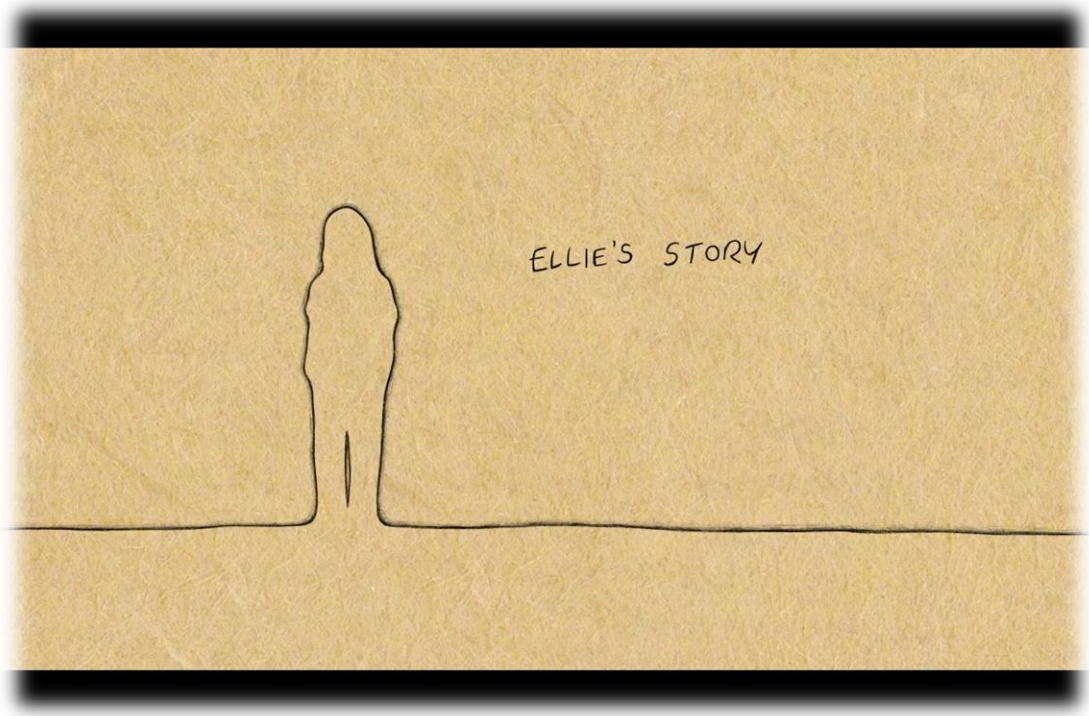
The research and good practice guidance reinforces and underpins the efforts made to secure permanent arrangements for those children requiring long term placements in foster care. There are various options as identified above yet the new dedicated initiative in respect of the In-House Matching events promote the efforts alongside our general family finding activities to secure a longer-term protective and nurturing environment in a family setting.

The continued focus on planned transitions for children in care which focus on meeting the child's needs can provide reassurance and help children to settle and start to build relationships, as well as develop a sense of belonging. Good matching of a child's needs with a foster carer's skills and expertise, alongside child-centred transition planning that always has the child's best interests at heart, is central to good decision making.

All children and young people in need of permanent foster care should be placed with a foster family who is able to understand what each child needs to thrive, build relationships, learn, and develop while supporting them to navigate life's challenges. If it is decided that the permanency plan for a child is to be in long-term foster care, then the matching process is critical.

Finding the right foster family for any child is vitally important to help them achieve good outcomes. This matching event ensures sufficient, child-centred and up-to-date information about the child is shared with the prospective fostering family which offers an efficient method to match children with carers who want to offer children a longer-term home.

There are clear advantages for identifying and matching children with permanent carers and this continues to be a service priority however the national and local shortage of foster carers continues to be a significant barrier in a challenging yet hugely rewarding environment.



[Ellie's Story - Bing video](#)

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## Open Report on behalf of Janice Spencer OBE, Assistant Director - Children's Services

Report to:	Corporate Parenting Panel
Date:	10 March 2022
Subject:	Council tax relief to children leaving care – local and national context

### Summary:

Looked After Children (Children in Care) and Care Leavers are amongst some of the most vulnerable people in our community. By the nature of their life experiences, prior to coming into care, they have often experienced considerable abuse, neglect, and harm. This group of young people have therefore nearly always experienced significant childhood trauma and outcomes are poorer based on their experience prior to coming into care.

The young people in the Care of Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) are legally our responsibility and together with all our partners we have a parenting responsibility to them. This brief paper outlines the achievement to secure Council tax exemption and some of the more recent collaboration with district councils.

### Actions Required:

Members are requested to review the paper, the achievements to date, and consider how best to enhance and discharge their Corporate Parenting duty with partners.

## 1. Background

The role that the County Council has to play in looking after children is one of the most important things we do. The term 'corporate parent' is broadly understood as being Directors of Children's Services and Lead Members for Children. However, this also includes those working directly in children's services, elected members, and wider statutory partners in District Councils, the Police and Health. Corporate parenting is an important part of the role of all members, and it is vital that all parts of a local authority, beyond those directly responsible for children's care and pathway planning, recognise they have a key role too.

In Scotland they chose to introduce a care leaver compact. This means that across every local authority in Scotland there is a standard approach to what is on offer to children in



care and care leavers. In England the government devolved decisions to every Local Authority (LA) area to negotiation and develop local agreements. This has resulted in a multitude of offers across the whole of England with each area negotiating the offer; this has limited the scope and does not cross the borders to other LA areas.

- 1) After a 9-month process of discussion and negotiation, in 2019 every District Council agreed to award Council Tax exemption to all care leavers from Lincolnshire. This is now extended to the age of 24 for every District.
- 2) Every District Council now affords young people priority on housing list and agreed that no care leaver will be considered intentionally homeless without a multi agency meeting first.
- 3) Every young person in Lincolnshire can access any of the 7 housing registers for accommodation. The 7 Districts waived the local connection requirement for Lincolnshire care leavers.
- 4) More recently North Kesteven, South Kesteven, West Lindsey and East Lindsey have all agreed to offer care leavers free access to leisure facilities and fitness and wellbeing services. This is managed on an individual basis through the leaving care service

The District Council and County Council offer to our care leavers continues to grow. It is important to note that these offers are not replicated for our young people in other authorities as England does not have a national care leaver compact.

## **2. Conclusion**

The offer to our looked after children and care leavers continues to grow. Members are requested to review the progress above and consider what other offers from Districts might further support excellent outcomes for our Children in Care and those Leaving Care.

## **3. Consultation**

### **a) Risks and Impact Analysis**

N/A

## **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 Andrew Morris, Corporate Parenting Manager, who can be contacted on 01522 553916 or [andrew.morris@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:andrew.morris@lincolnshire.gov.uk).





**Open Report on behalf of Andrew Crookham, Executive Director - Resources**

Report to: **Corporate Parenting Panel**  
Date: **10 March 2022**  
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:**

The Corporate Parenting Panel is asked to agree the work programme and identify any items for future meetings.

## **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.

## Work Programme

10 MARCH 2022		
Item		Contributor
1.	Voices for Choices (V4C) Update Report	Ben Lilley, Practice Supervisor (Quality and Standards)
2.	Children in Care Performance Measures - Quarter 3 2021/22 (October to December 2021)	Janice Spencer, Assistant Director - Children's Safeguarding
3.	Performance Matching Event Report	Deborah Crawford, Head of Service Fostering, Adoption and Leaving Care  Rebecca Fleming, Practice Supervisor
4.	National Approach to Council Tax Relief / Exemption for Care Leavers	Andrew Morris, Corporate Parenting Manager
5.	Virtual tour to secure unit	Dave Clarke, Service Lead – Secure Estates

12 MAY 2022		
Item		Contributor
1	Fostering Quarterly Performance Report - Quarter 4	Deborah Crawford, Head of Service Fostering, Adoption and Leaving Care
2	Regulation 44 Independent Visiting Service – Annual Report 2021/22	Carolyn Knight, Quality and Standards Manager
3	Independent Reviewing Service Annual Report 2021/22	Carolyn Knight, Quality and Standards Manager
4	Children in Care Performance Measures Quarter 4 2021/22	Janice Spencer, Assistant Director Children's Services
5	Fostering Quarterly Performance Report - Quarter 4 2021/22	Deborah Crawford, Head of Service Fostering, Adoption and Leaving Care
6	CPP Workshop – Update Report	Andrew Morris, Corporate Parenting Manager  Kieran Barnes, Virtual School Headteacher

7 JULY 2022		
Item		Contributor
-	Election of Chairman & Election of Vice-Chairman 2022/23	Democratic Services
1	Leaving Care Service Annual Report 2021/22	Barnardo's
2	V4C The Looked After Children Council Report	Ben Lilley, Team Manager Quality and Standards

## 2. Consultation

### a) Risks and Impact Analysis

Not Applicable

## 3. 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](mailto:kiara.chatziioannou@lincolnshire.gov.uk).

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