



WHERE

CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL

THURSDAY, 7 JULY 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

Item	Title	Pages
1	Election of Chairman	
2	Election of Vice-Chairman	
3	Apologies for Absence/Replacement Members	
4	Declarations of Interest	
5	Minutes of the previous meeting held on 12 May 2022	3 - 8
6	Announcements by the Chairman, Executive Councillors and Chief Officers	
7	Children in Care Performance Report Quarter 4 <i>(To receive a report from the Head of Service – Fostering, Adoption and Leaving Care, which invites the Panel to consider and comment on the Children in Care Performance measures for Quarter 4 of 2021/22)</i>	9 - 36

- | | | |
|-----------|--|---------------|
| 8 | Lincolnshire Leaving Care Service Annual Report 2021/22
<i>(To receive a report from Lisa Adams, Service Manager - Barnardo's Leaving Care Services, which invites the Panel to consider a report which details the performance of Lincolnshire Leaving Care Service)</i> | 37 - 44 |
| 9 | Legal Services Lincolnshire end of year report (April 2021 to March 2022)
<i>(To receive a presentation by Nicola Corby, Acting Principal Lawyer, which provides details of the Legal Services Lincolnshire end of year report for April 2021 to March 2022)</i> | Verbal Report |
| 10 | Voices for Choices (V4C) Update Report
<i>(To receive a report by Ben Lilley, Team Manager - Quality and Standards, which provides a summary of the activities regarding V4C between February – June 2022 and the actions to support future V4C planning and progress)</i> | 45 - 52 |
| 11 | Corporate Parenting Panel Work Programme
<i>(To receive a report by Kiara Chatziioannou, Scrutiny Officer, which invites the Panel to review its work programme)</i> | 53 - 56 |

Distributed on Wednesday, 29 June 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, 7th July, 2022, 10.00 am \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

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



CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL 12 MAY 2022

PRESENT: COUNCILLOR S P ROE (CHAIRMAN)

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

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

Officers in attendance:-

Kieran Barnes (Virtual School Head Teacher), Kiara Chatzioannou (Scrutiny Officer), Robert Close (Democratic Services Officer), Deborah Crawford (Head of Service, Fostering, Adoption and Leaving Care), Paul Fisher (Team Manager - Quality and Standards), Andrew Morris (Corporate Parenting Manager) and Janice Spencer OBE (Assistant Director of Children's Safeguarding)

57 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE/REPLACEMENT MEMBERS

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mrs J E Killey.

58 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

59 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 10 MARCH 2022

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the previous meeting on 10th March 2022 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

60 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN, EXECUTIVE COUNCILLORS AND CHIEF OFFICERS

The Assistant Director for Children's Safeguarding advised the Panel that, following a focussed visit from Ofsted, she was pleased to report that the service received a very positive inspection and presented the headline findings to the Panel. The full report would be shared via email to the Panel.

In addition, she advised that Haven Cottage, previously graded Required Improvement in December 2022, had just been reinspected receiving a Good rating, with elements of Outstanding.

61 REGULATION 44 INDEPENDENT VISITORS REPORT

**CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL
12 MAY 2022**

Consideration was given to a report by the Team Manager - Quality and Standards, which invited the Panel to consider the annual report on the Regulation 44 Independent Visitors Service. Members were advised the Regulation 44 inspection identified that children and young people (CYP) were accessing education in a variety of ways. Effective and nurturing engagement from staff to CYP was observed representing a positive outcome. Ongoing development work with CYP continued to be successful through social pedagogy and restorative practice. Homes continued to participate in multi-agency partnerships, resolving issues raised by partners quickly and satisfactorily, particularly in the transfer of young people into adult care. The challenge of recruitment of permanent staff remained and solutions were being explored. However, agency staff recruited regularly under worked annual contracts which offered the CYP consistent supervision and steady relationships. Staff maintained regular and comprehensive record keeping in line with internal policies, any instances that were highlighted of record keeping inadequacies were addressed quickly. Home specific challenges remained present; however, inspectors were confident that Homes Managers continued to competently attend to challenges proficiently.

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

- All CYP in the Council's residential estates were originally from Lincolnshire, it was only independent residential provision that housed children from out of County.
- CYP who lived at the homes inherently presented no greater challenge than any other teenager, however, these challenges were assessed within their regularly reviewed independent care management plans. Regulation 44 inspectors were confident that homes worked very well with social workers and other agencies.
- All CYP were encouraged to participate in education provisions and staff collaborated closely with virtual schools and providers to promote engagement. Some homes opting to limit electronic device availability or facilitate direct engagement to CYP from education providers. A 100 per cent engagement in education rate was not expected to be achieved in the immediate future, however, staff sought to encourage engagement wherever possible.
- Noting the flexible response from staff in response to service demands, Members stressed their appreciation and admiration for their efforts.
- The Panel felt, as the impact of Covid-19 reduced, that Members should be encouraged to make arrangements to visit their local Children's Homes. Moreover, Members that were not on the Corporate Parenting Panel should receive update reports for the home that they were going to.
- CYP's voices in the homes were facilitated through a variety of methods including residents' meetings and discussions with members of staff, key workers, or independent advocates. Generally, officers sought not to overwhelm CYP with questions. Additionally, some homes implemented an anonymous feedback form to varying extents of efficacy.
- The Big Conversation highlighted a demand for previous residents of the homes to act as mentors, work was progressing with this, and officers hoped to offer an update at the next meeting of The Big Conversation.
- There were a variety of reasons why siblings were split between different homes primarily due to poor internal relations. No decision to split siblings at any point throughout their journey was taken lightly and extensive engagement and consideration took place.
- If a child or young person were to disclose anything to a member of staff that would be considered a child protection issue, staff had a duty to disclose that information through the proper channels. Sometimes, the child or young people may have chosen to confide something to their advocates which was not necessary to pass onto officers. It was stressed that young people should feel comfortable in their homes.

RESOLVED

1. That the Panel received and endorsed the Regulation 44 Independent Visitors Report and were satisfied with the activity of the independent visitors and the assurance they provided.
2. That future Regulation 44 Independent Visitors Reports contain feedback regarding engagement with education.

62 INDEPENDENT REVIEWING SERVICE YEARLY REPORT 1ST APRIL 2021 - 31ST MARCH 2022

Consideration was given to a report by the Team Manager - Quality and Standards, which invited the Panel to consider the annual report on the Independent Reviewing Service for 1st April 2021 - 31st March 2022. Members were advised that new ways of working were continually being perused to engage with CYP and parents through the use of technology facilitating hybrid and virtual meetings dependant to what best fit the stakeholders. 99.77 per cent of reviews were carried within acceptable timescales and 225 reviews were rearranged from January 2022 to March 2022. CYP were offered consultation documents prior to reviews and were regularly engaged by the service seeking to identify satisfactions and areas of improvement. There was rise of 49 children in care over a 12-month period which subsequently had an impact of the demand for reviews. Delays in court processes impacted the number of foster care changes for some children.

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

- The increase in the children in care population resulted, in part, because CYP were not exited from care during the Covid-19 pandemic. Moreover, the delay for court hearings resulted in CYP, who were going through the process of adoption or fostering, being unable to have their care plans legally ratified. To address this, CYP were not taken before the court unnecessarily as per the public law outline. As court capacity increased, CYP in care were expected to decrease
- Other local authorities saw similar increased in their children in care population, however Lincolnshire's still sat at 49 per 10,000 whereas statutory neighbours sat at 54 per 10,000 and all of England averaged at 63 per 10,000.
- Lincolnshire, for the first time, was seeing staffing shortages in care for children, in particular social workers being offered greater remuneration through agencies. It was observed that new generations of social workers often operated with different employment expectations to previous generations. Whilst Agency staff often expressed interest in staying with the Council permanently, however commuting demands relocating deterred them. A shortage of Social Workers was a nationally concern. the Council saw growing vacancies, they were not at the level of other local authorities. Current social workers were offered part time and flexible working arrangements where practical to encourage retention and vacant roles were backfilled through the redeployment of early help workers. All staff were supported through a wellbeing service which they were aware of and could access whenever they needed to.
- The Heath Visiting Service visited all CYP who were of concern and mitigated a great deal of the dependence of General Practitioners (GPs). Furthermore, if the Health Visiting Service felt that an appointment with a GP was necessary, they were often highly effective at securing one.
- Supported living schemes were inspected under the Regulation 44 process through a light touch exercise looking at care standards and establishing independence. It was not currently a

regulatory requirement to undertake Regulation 44 inspections, although this was expected to change over the coming years. The current light touch process was an additional safeguarding practice undertaken to provide additional assurance to senior managers. It was clarified that six of the eight CYP in supported living schemes were in education, employment and training (EET).

- Family financial pressures were considered relevant in CYP's protected in their family networks. If that incident were to occur, the Council would intervene to ensure that the child or young person was safeguarded. Currently, there had been no increase in children in care resulting from socio-economic pressures, however officers still worked closely with families to ensure stability.
- Officers stressed that foster carers were very highly valued and children in care greatly benefited from family settings. The Council sought to recruit further suitable carers while also expanding its residential estate to house further children.
- Each child in care benefitted from an individual care plan which included contact with any and all family members, therefore, even if siblings had been split, opportunities to bring them into contact would be considered and reassessed regularly.
- The Panel endorsed the work undertaken in the Absent Fathers task and finish group adding that their residents relayed to them the issue's importance.
- It was clarified that the Lincolnshire Secure Unit housed a mixed of welfare and criminal justice young people. The six young people in the secure accommodation, as referred to in the report, represented those accommodated on welfare grounds, thus, were not exhaustive of the overall occupancy. Moreover, the secure unit was considered to deliver outstanding service by inspectors, offering a number of supportive interventions. While accommodation within the secure unit was considered to be draconian, young people were supported to promote positive life choices and behave appropriately within the community.
- Lincolnshire had a number of methods to support to recruitment of new social workers. The Council had close links with Bishop Grosseteste University and Lincoln University, which offered Social Care degrees, offering students work experience opportunities. The Central Government Scheme Step Up To Social Work resulted in a number of successful post graduate candidates now employed. The Council, a contributing member of the Apprenticeship Levy, primarily relied on internal apprentices to ensure the long-term sustainability of its care workforce. Apprenticeship opportunities were focussed on staff already in a similar role, particularly early help. Commissioned services were also being explored as a potential area from which to recruit social workers. Generic advertising to the wider public had not previously proven resource effective due to the time commitments involved.

RESOLVED

1. That the Panel received and endorsed the Independent Reviewing Service Yearly Report.
2. That future wording detailing the occupancy of the Lincolnshire Secure Unit be amended to reflect the timing of different residence and the wider capacity.

63 CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL WORKSHOP UPDATE

Consideration was given to a verbal report by the Corporate Parenting Manager and the Head of Virtual Schools, which updated the Panel to consider on the Corporate Parenting Panel Workshop. Members were advised that the workshop opened to both the Corporate Parenting Panel and the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee and was attended by five Members in total.

Attendees were given the opportunity to view both local and national data, comparing Lincolnshire to statistical neighbours and national averages. Subsequently, exploring the Council's statutory duties and local service needs. The workshop then sought to identify why Lincolnshire had a generally lower rate of EET for young people in, or leaving, care compared to the equivalent cohort living with families. Discussing case studies, the workshop considered the impacts later entry to care and personal trauma. Members were advised that young people in EET increased by seven per cent over recent months. While full time employment may be the aspiration for some young people aged 16-18, absence of education or training would not satisfy the requirement for EET. Officers suggested that the conflict generated between the demand for EET, and the ambitions of young people should be reconsidered. The workshop was advised of the achievements in the leaving care service including the transitions from the virtual schools into the leaving care service. As a result of the workshop, officers were exploring the use of surplus finances to boost virtual school capacity. During the workshop consideration was given to the use of the Post 16 Pupil Premium. Additionally, officers were exploring setting up specific education and training pathways in collaboration with the Lincolnshire Learning Partnership.

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

- Members who were in attendances stressed their appreciation of the workshop, giving particular praise to the case studies which they felt demonstrated the person effects of the work of corporate parenting. They suggested if it were to be offered per annum, they would be grateful.

RESOLVED

That the Panel received and endorsed the Corporate Parenting Panel Workshop Update.

64 CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL WORK PROGRAMME

Consideration was given to a report by the Scrutiny Officer, which invited the Panel to consider and comment on the content of its work programme, as set out in the agenda pack.

Members expressed their interest in visiting the Council's Corporate Parenting assets in person in the 2022/23 Council Term.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted, and the work programme be agreed.

The meeting closed at 11.44 am

This page is intentionally left blank



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

Report to:	Corporate Parenting Panel
Date:	07 July 2022
Subject:	Children in Care Performance Report Quarter 4

Summary:

This item enables the Panel to consider and comment on the report and accompanying appendices to this report, that provide key performance information for Quarter 4 2021/22 that is relevant to the work of the Corporate Parenting Panel.

Actions Required:

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

1. Background

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

There are 18 measures in total that relate to CiC that are reported on in Quarter 4. Of these measures 10 did not meet their target and two are ahead of the target set by the services.

1.1 Measures that did not meet their target:

1.1.1 Fostering/adoption of Children in Care aged 10 to <16 years old- This performance remains slightly under target. The vast majority of CiC within this age group are placed in foster care settings, however this has been impacted by the Covid 19 pandemic as placement options have reduced as a result of foster carers initially isolating, remaining 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 19.

There has been an increase in the numbers of younger children requiring 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.

1.1.2 Stability of placements of Children in Care: Number of moves - This is a cumulative indicator identifying those children who experience three placement moves. The target is challenging and has slipped under target again this year although our performance is generally better than other East Midland authorities where an average of 8% of looked after children experienced three placement moves in a year. The year has been challenging for all children but foster carers have proven to be very resourceful and committed to the children they care for. However, placement availability has been negatively impacted as some foster carers have chosen to concentrate on the children already in their care and declined to take additional placements. With a back drop of increased numbers of CiC and a depleted pool of foster carers available, effective matching for children has been more difficult.

1.1.3 Stability of placements of Children in Care: length of placement - Performance remains below target. For all placements, the service continues to ensure that foster carers are well supported and that potential problems are identified early.

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.

1.1.4 Percentage of Children in Care with an up to date health check - The Covid 19 pandemic has had less negative impact on this area of the children's health than dental care and the immunisation programme. However, the number of CiC has increased and there is evidence of more young people (16/17 age range) exercising their right to refuse an assessment. There have been a number young people in this age range becoming looked after and generally they are not committed to accessing their health assessment.

The CiC Teams continue to encourage and promote health assessments with their young people but have to accept their right to refuse. There has been a lot of activity to improve the timeliness of Initial Health Assessment, however there are still challenges due to the availability of GP appointments across the county. Where there appears to be a particularly long wait for an appointment the nurses are telephoning the carers to undertake a triage to identify to ensure that there are no significant areas of

concern/worry that need to be addressed urgently. However, this does not replace the health assessment which is still completed by the GP.

1.1.5 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 Covid 19, 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 Covid 19 pandemic has impacted significantly on the number of CiC 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 CiC 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.

1.1.6 Percentage of Children in Care with an up to date routine immunisations - The number of routine immunisations being completed continues to be impacted by the Covid 19 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 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 Covid 19 and flu immunisations.

1.1.7 Children in Care persistent absence rate - This persistent absence data covers the period September 2020 to July 2021 and includes the periods of government restrictions due to Covid 19. Despite Covid 19 and the various school closures and shielding for vulnerable people, Lincolnshire CiC performance was below the national average when compared to the six years previous to the pandemic persistent absence rate which is an excellent achievement.

During the period of restrictions/lockdowns/closures, CiC and other vulnerable groups were prioritised to continue attending school. The data for persistent absence was in line with that for CiC nationally (30.5%). Throughout this period, Children's Services Teams, carers and school staff worked together to support our CiC overcome the many challenges that emerged throughout the pandemic and to ensure that all CiC attended school either virtually or on a full time or part time basis wherever possible.

1.1.8 Percentage of Children in Care achieving 9-5 in English and Maths GCSEs - The impact of the Covid 19 pandemic was that examinations were replaced by school-based teacher assessments during this period. Despite falling below the range for percentage of CiC achieving English and Maths Grade 5-9 in both English and Maths combined, the outcomes for the individual subjects of English and Maths

both saw an increase compared to the previous year. There was also an increase across the board for Grade 4 and above in English and Maths combined when compared with the previous year.

1.1.9 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 4%. All of our 16 and 17-year-olds are supported by the Virtual School through the Personal Education Planning process (PEP). This brings social workers, carers and providers together to focus on educational need and ensures that our young people are supported appropriately while participating in learning.

Some of our young people in care struggle to access learning and the team also works with those young people not participating in learning to ensure that they can access therapeutic support and/or appropriate educational opportunities when they are ready to do so.

The Virtual School has participated in the National Department for Education (DfE) Post 16 pilot which was completed at the end of March 2022. 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 has assisted the Virtual School to find placements for those young people not participating in learning and provide individual learners with advice and support through the PEP regardless of where placed. The final evaluation of the pilot is currently with the DfE and we are awaiting a decision on the continuation of this additional funding at the end of July 2022.

Care Leavers in Education, Employment or Training (EET)- This measure remains below target but is slowly improving despite fluctuations and is up from 52.3% to 53.1%. 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.

1.2 Measures that are ahead of their target:

1.2.1 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 - The performance in Quarter 4 has improved significantly as compared to Quarter 3 where Lincolnshire were slightly above the target figure of 175. The average for the year as a whole was 166 which is an excellent outcome at a time

when there is still an impact due to Covid 19. The target has reduced in line with the national picture and the acknowledgment of additional delay, but the performance of Lincolnshire has continued to be well within the timescales. This is due to continued attention to family finding at the earliest opportunity, so that once children are subject to a Placement Order there is wherever possible a placement already identified so that practice is timely and effective.

1.2.2 Children in Care Living Within A Family Environment - Performance continues to remain above target in this area and is following an above the target range trend. For many CiC, 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 4 performance for Children in Care and Young People, and Members of the Corporate Parenting Panel are invited to review and raise any questions on its content and recommend any actions or changes to the Executive Councillor for Children's Services, Community Safety and Procurement.

3. Consultation

a) Risks and Impact Analysis

N/A

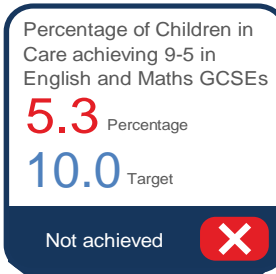
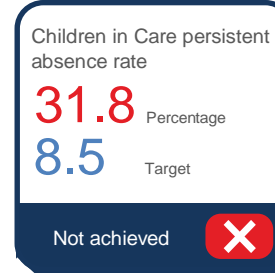
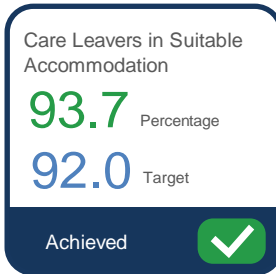
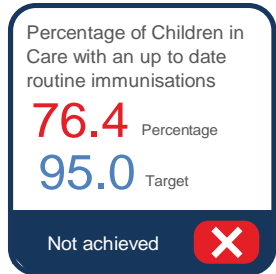
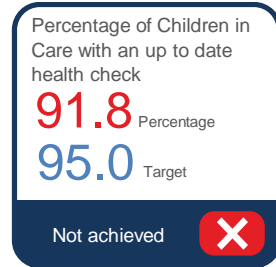
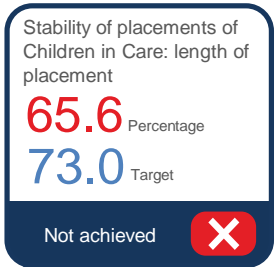
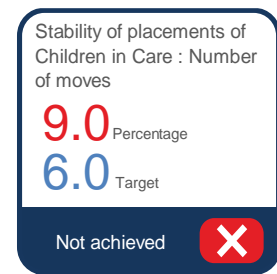
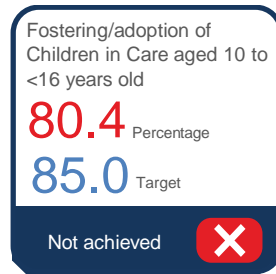
4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Children in Care - Performance Measures - Q4

5. Background Papers

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

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



Corporate Parenting Panel

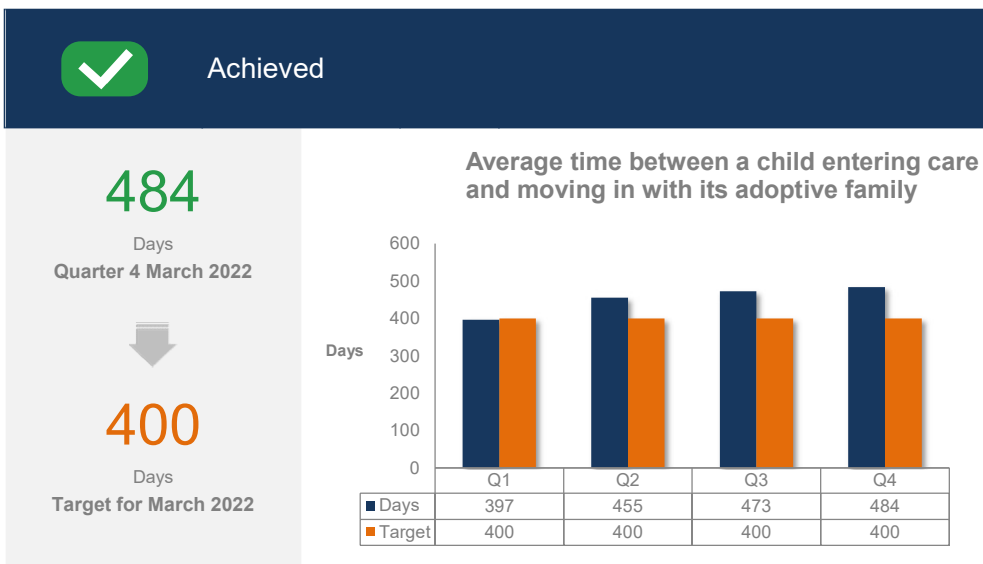


Healthy and Safe

Children are Healthy and Safe

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

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



About the latest performance

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

With the recent easing and gradual recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic, Lincolnshire continues to achieve target in this measure. There continues to be some delay in getting cases through the courts during Covid, and this will continue to have some impact on the statistics and data for this year and accounts for the increased timescales. This measure is a 'rolling' 3 yearly average, as we have moved forward the calculation has considered more of the period covered by the pandemic, which has in turn increased the rolling average figure. 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).

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.

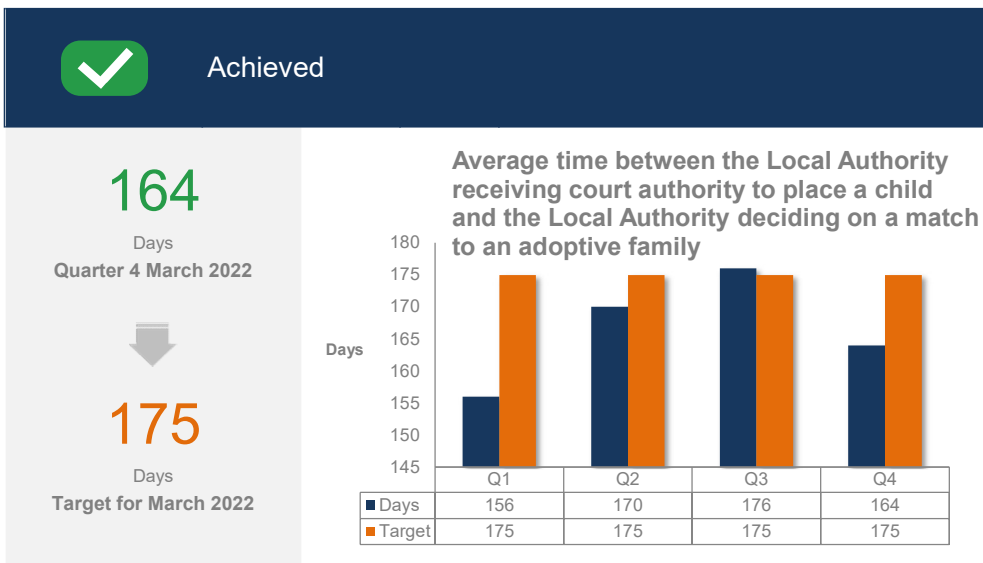


Healthy and Safe

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 in quarter 4 has improved significantly as compared to quarter 3 where Lincolnshire were slightly above the target figure of 175. The average for the year as a whole was 166 which is an excellent outcome at a time when there is still an impact due to Covid. The target has reduced in line with the national picture and the acknowledgment of additional delay, but the performance of Lincolnshire has continued to be well within the timescales. This is due to continued attention to family finding at the earliest opportunity, so that once children are subject to a Placement Order there is wherever possible a placement already identified so that practice is timely and effective.

About the target

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 2019



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

80.4

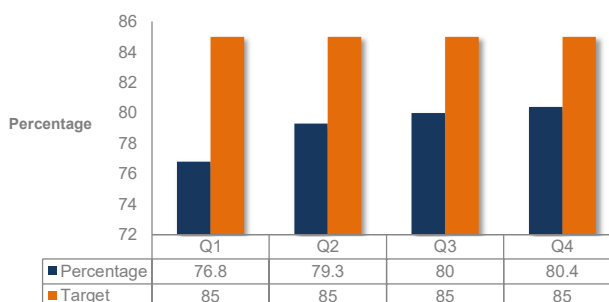
Percentage
Quarter 4 March 2022



85.0

Percentage
Target for March 2022

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 slightly under target. The vast majority of children in care within this age group are placed in foster care settings, however this has been impacted by the Covid 19 pandemic as placement options have reduced as a result of foster carers initially isolating, remaining 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.

There has been an increase in the numbers of younger children requiring 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.



Achieved

49.9

Rate

Quarter 4 March 2022

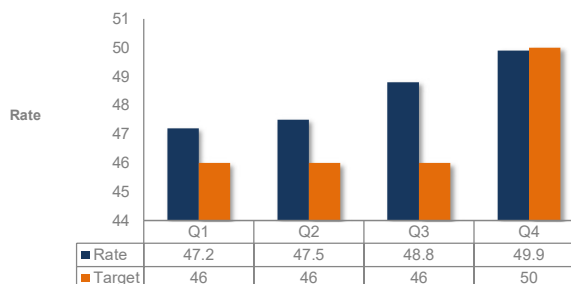


50.0

Rate

Target for March 2022

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 achieved target, however this target has been revised in Quarter 4 from 46 to 50 per 10,000 take into account the effects of the National Transfer Scheme. As with Quarter 3, the number of Children in Care starters over Quarter 4 has remained at a relatively high level whilst the number of care leavers has remained reasonably static. The increase in new entrants to care has continued to keep the Children in Care per 10,000 figure high over the past quarter. The growth in numbers is attributable to the Council's safeguarding responsibilities and is partly attributable to the number of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children that have arrived as part of the new temporary mandated National Transfer Scheme. The expectation is that Lincolnshire will take a maximum of 103 children which equates to 0.07% of the general child population and therefore there continues to be a likely impact of growth going forward. Despite the growth this quarter and the potential for future increase there continues to be an emphasis on prevention from children coming into care and exit planning from the care system where it can be achieved. However, 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).

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

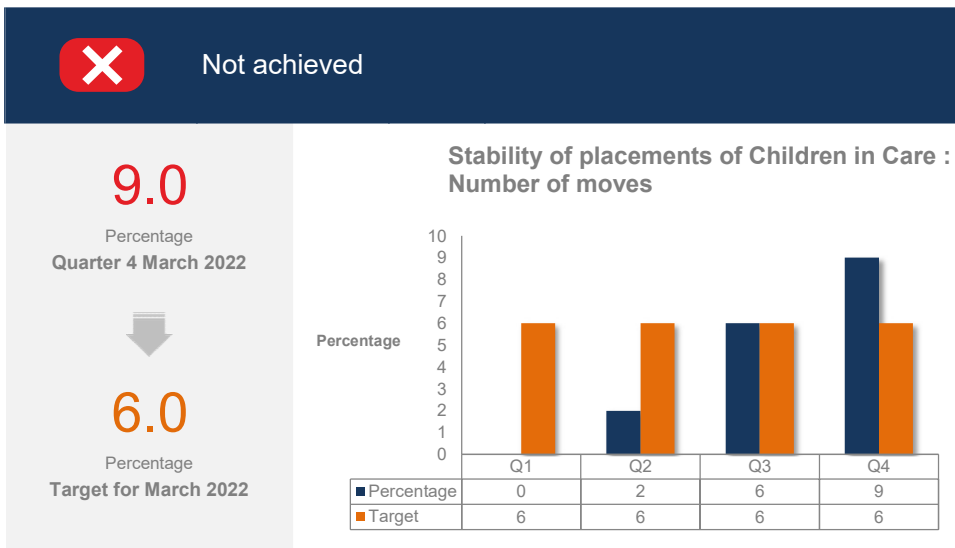


Healthy and Safe

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%

This is a cumulative indicator identifying those children who experience 3 placement moves. The target is challenging and has slipped under target again this year although our performance is generally better than other East Midland authorities where an average of 8% of looked after children experienced 3 placement moves in a year. The year has been challenging for all children but foster carers have proven to be very resourceful and committed to the children they care for. However placement availability has been negatively impacted as some foster carers have chosen to concentrate on the children already in their care and declined to take additional placements. With a back drop of increased numbers of children in care and a depleted pool of foster carers available, effective matching for children has been more difficult.

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 derioration 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

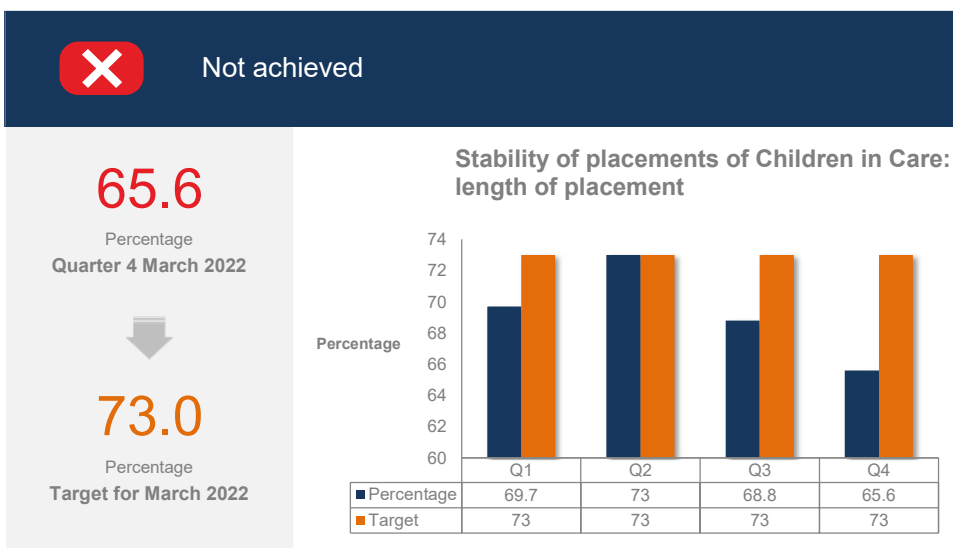


Healthy and Safe

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

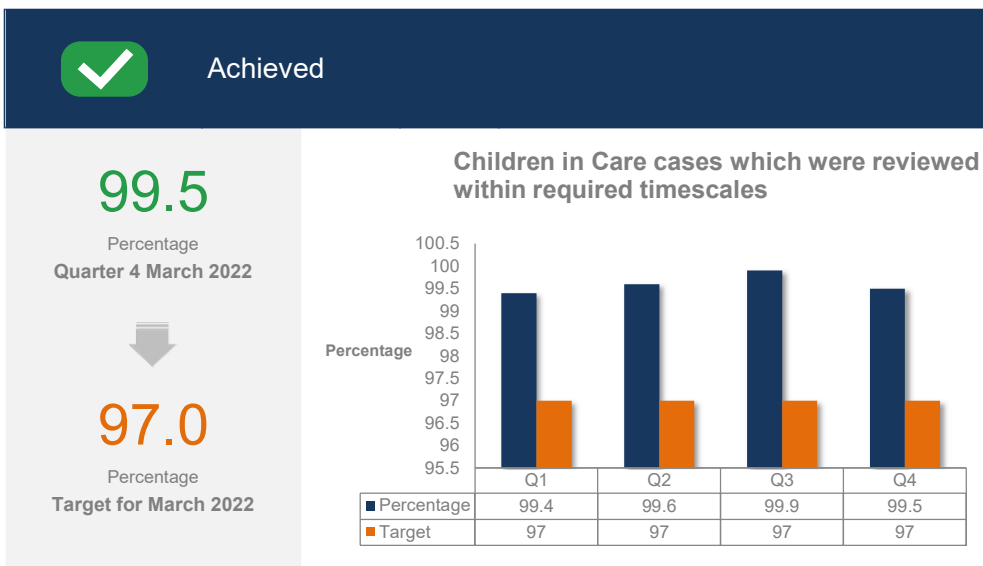


Healthy and Safe

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

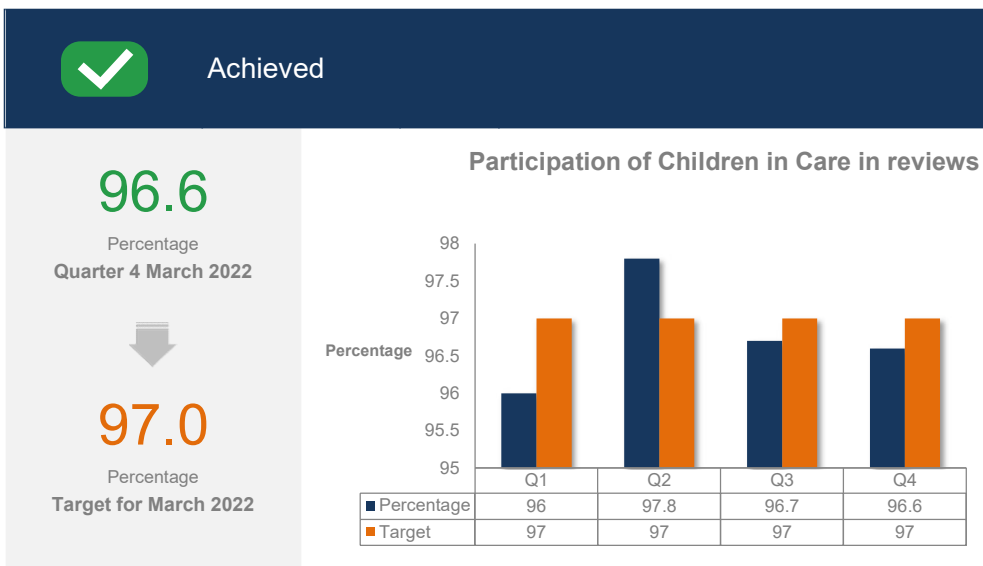


Healthy and Safe

Children are Healthy and Safe

Participation of Children in Care in reviews

Percentage of Children in Care who participated in their reviews



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

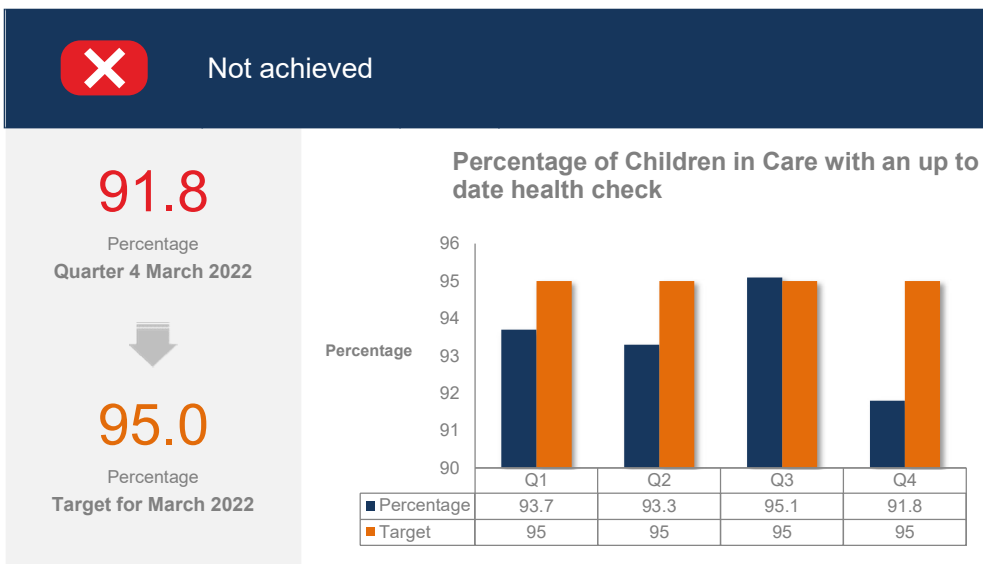


Healthy and Safe

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%

The Covid Pandemic has had less negative impact on this area of the children's health than dental care and the immunisation programme. However, the number of children in care has increased and there is evidence of more young people (16/17 age range) exercising their right to refuse an assessment. There have been a number young people in this age range becoming looked after and generally they are not committed to accessing their health assessment. The Children in Care Teams continue to encourage and promote health assessments with their young people but have to accept their right to refuse. There has been a lot of activity to improve the timeliness of Initial Health Assessment, however there are still challenges due to the availability of GP appointments across the county. Where there appears to be a particularly long wait for an appointment the nurses are telephoning the carers to undertake a triage to identify to ensure that there are no significant areas of concern/worry that need to be addressed urgently. However, this does not replace the health assessment which is still completed by the GP.

About the target

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

About the target range

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

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

About benchmarking

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



Healthy and Safe

Children are Healthy and Safe

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

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



Not achieved

73.5

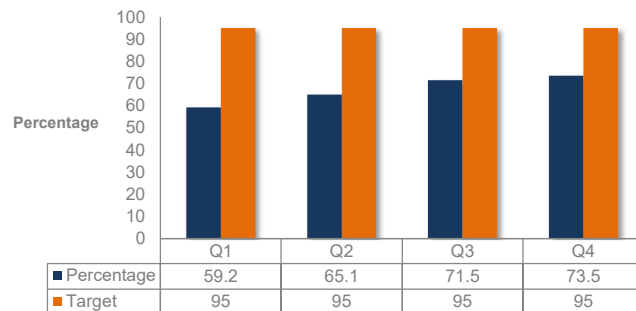
Percentage
Quarter 4 March 2022



95.0

Percentage
Target for March 2022

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 73.5% which is a slight increase from Q3, 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

76.4

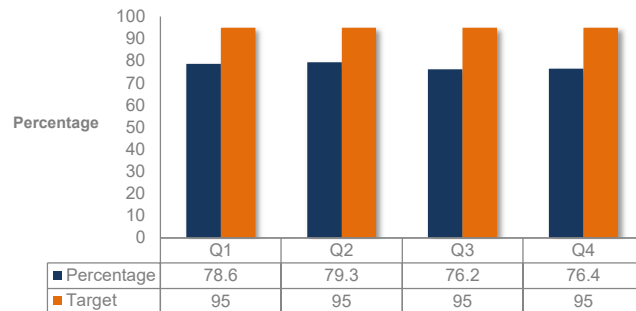
Percentage
Quarter 4 March 2022



95.0

Percentage
Target for March 2022

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 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



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

81.0

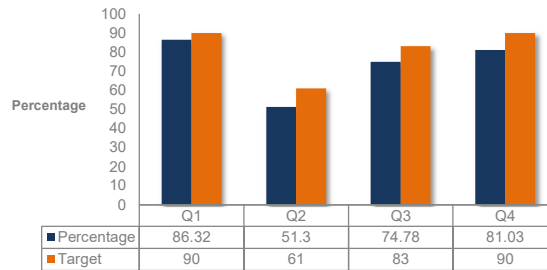
Percentage
Quarter 4 March 2022



90.0

Percentage
Target for March 2022

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 4%. All of our 16 and 17 year olds are supported by the Virtual School through the Personal Education Planning Process. This brings social workers, carers and providers together to focus on educational need and ensures that our young people are supported appropriately while participating in learning. Some of our young people in care struggle to access learning and the team also works with those young people not participating in learning to ensure that they can access therapeutic support and/or appropriate educational opportunities when they are ready to do so.

The Virtual School has participated in the National DfE Post 16 pilot which was completed at the end of March 2022. 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 has assisted 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. The final evaluation of the pilot is currently with the DfE and we are awaiting a decision on the continuation of this additional funding at the end of July 2022.

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

93.7

Percentage

Quarter 4 March 2022

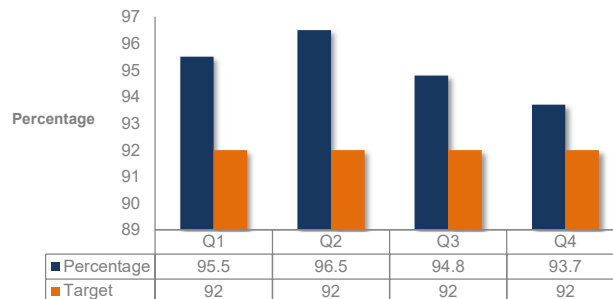


92.0

Percentage

Target for March 2022

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, during and after the pandemic continues to ensure safe accommodation is on offer. The above combined with persistent and creative work of leaving care staff has ensured that nearly all care leavers are suitably accommodated if they wish. A small number of young people in custody are there for deemed to be unsuitably accommodated, and one care leaver declined the support of housing authorities which does impact on the figure.

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

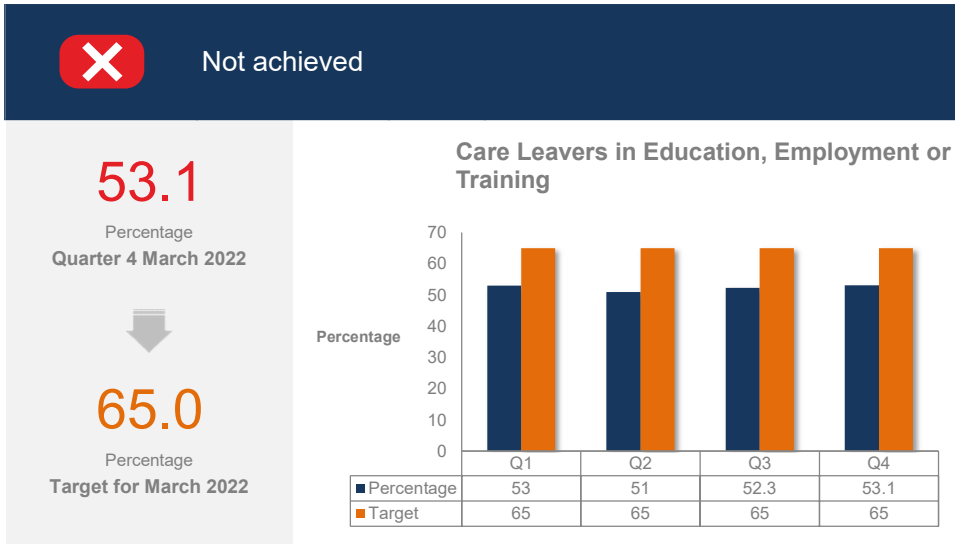


Ready for Adult Life

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



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 52.3% to 53.1%. 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



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

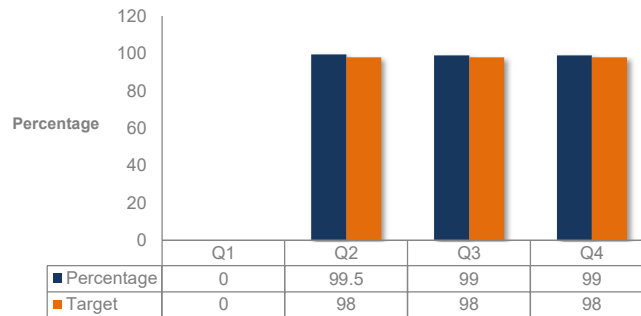
Percentage
Quarter 4 March 2022



98.0

Percentage
Target for March 2022

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.

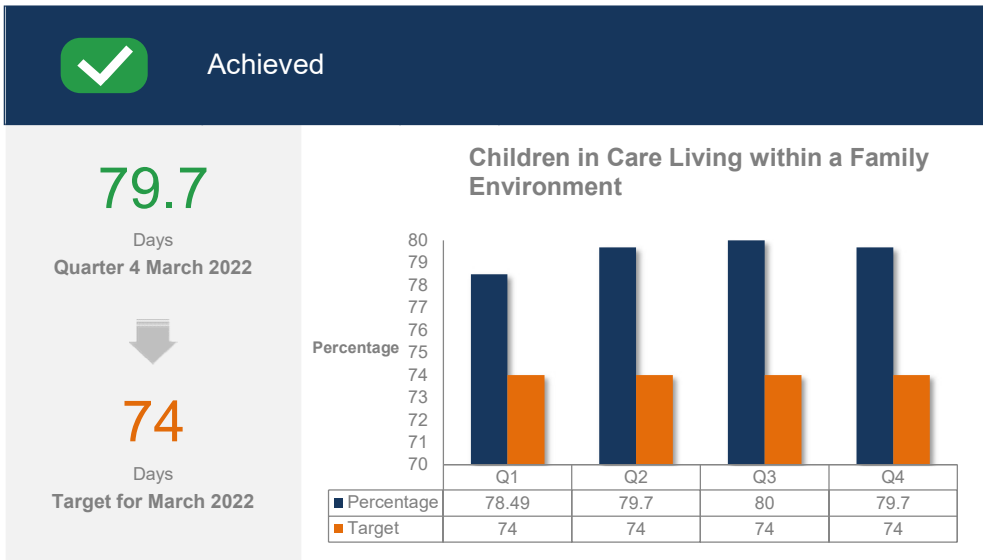


Healthy and Safe

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 continues to remain above target in this area and is following an above the target range trend. For many children in care, a family placement is deemed the most suitable means of offering care and maintaining children within their family networks. The Council continue to explore enabling children and young people to remain within their family or extended network if they cannot, for whatever reason, live with their parents.

About the target

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

Children in Care persistent absence rate

Persistent absence rate for children in care



Not achieved

31.8

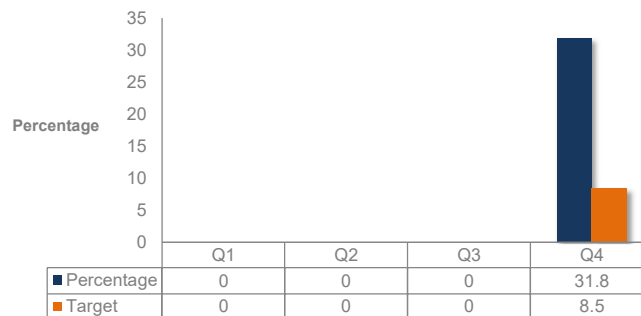
Percentage
Quarter 4 March 2022



8.5

Percentage
Target for March 2022

Children in Care persistent absence rate



About the latest performance

Performance reported Q4 2018/19: 9.8%, Q4 2019/20: 8.2%, Q4 2020/21: N/A

This persistent absence data covers the period September 2020 to July 2021 and includes the periods of government restrictions due to covid: Despite covid and the various school closures and shielding for vulnerable people, Lincolnshire Children in Care performance was below the national average when compared to the six years previous to the pandemic persistent absence rate which is an excellent achievement.

During the period of restrictions/lockdowns/closures, CiC and other vulnerable groups were prioritised to continue attending school. The data for persistent absence was in line with that for Children in Care nationally (30.5%). Throughout this period, Children's Services Teams, carers and school staff worked together to support our CiC overcome the many challenges that emerged throughout the pandemic and to ensure that all Children in Care attended school either virtually or on a full time or part time basis wherever possible.

About the target

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

The suggested target is 8.5%.

About the target range

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

About benchmarking

Benchmarked against National, Regional and Statistical Neighbours.



Learn and Achieve

Learn and Achieve

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

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



Not achieved

5.3

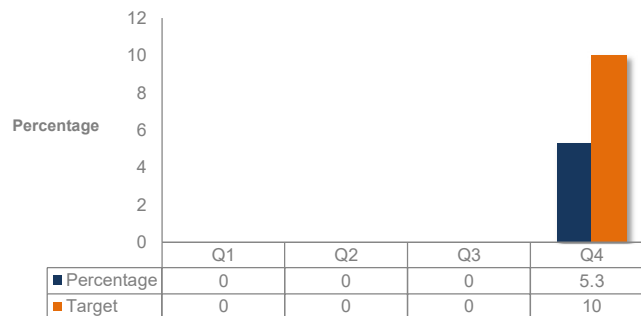
Percentage
Annual



10.0

Percentage
Annual

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



About the latest performance

Performance reported Q4 2018/19: 10.7%, Q4 2019/20: 3.2%, Q4 2020/21: 8%

The impact of the covid pandemic was that examinations were replaced by school - based teacher assessments during this period. Despite falling below the range for percentage of CiC achieving English and Maths Grade 5-9 in both English and Maths combined, the outcomes for the individual subjects of English and Maths both saw increases compared to the previous year. There was also an increase across the board for grade 4 and above in English and Maths combined when compared with the previous year.

About the target

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

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

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

About the target range

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

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

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

About benchmarking

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

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

This page is intentionally left blank



Open Report on Behalf of Lincolnshire Leaving Care Service

Report to:	Corporate Parenting Panel
Date:	07 July 2022
Subject:	Lincolnshire Leaving Care Service Annual Report 2021/22

Summary:

This is the annual report (April 21 – March 22) to the Corporate Parenting Panel provided by Barnardo's, on Behalf of Lincolnshire Leaving Care Service, that aims to demonstrate the performance of Lincolnshire Leaving Care Service regarding care leavers.

Actions Required:

Members of the Corporate Parenting Panel are invited to review the information provided in this report and discuss and highlight any relevant points for further consideration.

1. Background

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

- (1) Accessing and maintaining suitable, safe accommodation.
- (2) Accessing and maintaining appropriate Education Employment and Training opportunities.
- (3) Participation / Fundraising
- (4) New Initiatives
- (5) Conclusion

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

Head of Regulated Services (with lead responsibility for Looked after Children and Care Leavers).

Data contained within this report demonstrates performance from 1st April 2021 – 30th March 2022.

1 - Accessing and Maintaining Suitable, Safe Accommodation

Accessing and maintaining suitable, safe accommodation

Open Allocated Cases – Target 90%

April	May	June	July	August	September
2021	2021	2021	2021	2021	2021
276	275	280	283	284	283
95%	95%	96%	97%	98%	97%

October	November	December	January	February	March
2021	2021	2021	2022	2022	2022
279	275	273	274	273	273
96%	95%	94%	94%	94%	94%

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

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

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

Barnardo’s Supported Lodgings Scheme

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

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

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

Within Lincolnshire (in March 22) we were working with 16 providers who can provide 23 beds across County. The team provide vacancy information over to the Local Authority monthly but have officers available to deal with referral enquiries 5 days / week.

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

Barnardo’s media team have been working with one of our Supported Lodgings providers and some Lincolnshire Care Leavers in placement and have created a short film. I have copied the link below to enable members to review this: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wgD2jp92jik>

2 - Accessing and Maintaining Appropriate Education Employment and Training Opportunities

Open Allocated Cases – Target 65%

Open Allocated Young People – Education, Training and Employment

April	May	June	July	August	September
2021	2021	2021	2021	2021	2021
253	246	251	261	263	278
65%	63%	64%	65%	65%	68%

October	November	December	January	February	March
2021	2022	2022	2022	2022	2022
282	285	285	292	294	289
68%	60%	68%	68%	68%	68%

Over recent months we have targeted Lincolnshire Care Leavers who are not accessing, education, training or employment opportunities. We have commissioned some work whereby we have reviewed all Care Leavers who fit into this category and explored alongside the allocated Leaving Care Worker the reasons why Care Leavers are finding it difficult to access opportunities.

Noting data from March 2022:

- 09/03/2022 – Lincolnshire had 429 Care Leavers (18 to 21)
- 57% of 17- and 18-year-olds were in EET – England average = 49%
- 55% of 19- to 21-year-olds were in EET – England average = 50%

- 30 young people are unable to work due to illness or disability = 6%
- 22 young people are pregnant or parenting so not working = 5%
- 143 young people are NEET = 33%
- 18 young people were studying in higher education = 4%
- 204 young people are in education / training or employment = 47%
- 12 young people are in apprenticeships = 3%

Noting the work that reviewed this cohort mental health scored higher than any other issue as a challenge/barrier to young people not taking part in EET (employment, education, or training). Disability was the second highest category followed by issues relating to accommodation and behavioral factors. Within Lincolnshire Leaving Care Service we have just started working on a service development group that will continue to review and monitor this group of Care Leavers to target further support to enable them to achieve some positive outcomes. We have expanded the small team of staff who work alongside Care Leavers and the Leaving Care Workers to improve opportunities. The team structure is noted below:

- 1 FTE EET Coordinator
- 2 x 0.5 EET Workers
- 1 FTE Mental Health Specialist
- 1 0.6 Well-Being Worker

Alongside reviewing the NEET cohort (those not accessing Education, Employment or Training) this team also support young people with Work Preparation courses and support all Care Leavers who are on apprenticeships. They also can offer specialist advice across the service relating to employment and training opportunities.

Alongside the Corporate Parenting Manager and Head of the Virtual School the Leaving Care Service contributed to a workshop for elected members that was held on 5th April that considered this NEET cohort.

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

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

The Corporate Parenting Manager continues to be an advocate within Lincolnshire County Council in relation to the 'Care Leavers Covenant'. The Covenant is a promise made by private, public or voluntary organisations to provide support for care leavers aged 16-25 to help them to live independently. Central Government feel it's important that Local Authorities work together to secure meaningful offers of employment and support which

meet local need. Government believes the only way we can achieve this is through a whole council approach which allows all departments to look at not only what they are able to offer internally but also how they can facilitate and enable support externally from local business.

3 – Participation/ Fundraising

We have been working hard on our participation offer for young people and Lincolnshire Care Leavers have been involved in several events over the past 12 months. These have included:

- Two of Lincolnshire Leaving Care's young people were invited to the Department of Education to meet with the head of Care Review Josh McCallister having contributed to the Care Collaborative. The young people had a tour of the Houses of Parliament and a trip on the London Eye with Lunch.
- Bowling Trips
- Creating Artwork - one of Lincolnshire's pieces of artwork featured as the front cover of a national document exploring the Care Review.
- Christmas meal
- Photo Shoot and film development in Skegness
- Attending the Big Conversation

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

- We have made links with a hairdresser in Louth who offered £100 of free haircuts for Care Leavers
- We have been in contact with Kate Ferdinand (Social Media personality) she donated several premature baby items to one of our Care Leavers (after one of our Leaving Care Workers contacted her)
- Donation from South Elkington Church (following Team Manager attending the carol service and Harvest Festival)
- Food donations from Trinity in Louth
- Christmas gifts from Morrisons in Skegness (one of our Leaving Care Worker used to work there)
- Fundraising donation from Tesco's in Lincoln totally £507 (one of our Leaving Care Workers led on this donation)
- Cash and gifts from the Orthodox Church in Lincoln (one of the congregations lived in a Barnardos Housing project 60 years ago and is a fabulous supporter of the charity)
- Mobile phones courtesy of Vodafone and Tesco
- Lincolnshire Care Leavers also benefited of the roll out of laptops for Children in Care and Care Leavers from central Government.

4 - New Initiatives

Specialist Employment, Education and Training Posts

As mentioned earlier within the report we have added an additional two joint funded posts into the service:

- Mental Health Specialist (two year post funded by Barnardo's, Health Commissioners and Lincolnshire County Council)
- Well-Being Worker (1 year post funded by Barnardo's and Lincolnshire County Council)

Both post holders will be working with Lincolnshire Care Leavers who would benefit from additional input to improve their mental health and wellbeing. The specialist mental health worker has excellent links into the Local Authority and specialist health teams to ensure that Care Leavers are accessing the right type of support at the right time.

Unaccompanied Asylum Seeker's New Posts

The Leaving Care Service continue to work the Local Authority to monitor and review the amount of Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Young People arriving in Lincolnshire. As members are aware the number of Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Young People are growing mainly due to the National Transfer Scheme (NTS). Given that this group of young people receive a full Leaving Care Service this has had an impact on the number of care leavers that the service works with. The Local Authority have agreed to introduce an additional 2 posts into the service that will be based in the South of the County. One of the post holders is a senior project worker who will have specific duties linked to this cohort.

GAP Homes

Gap housing is a model of accommodation whereby Barnardo's provide capital funding and support to build bespoke modern prefabricated modular housing for use by young people and Care Leavers.

The envisaged model for Lincolnshire is to develop one cluster of 4 houses for young people and 1 house on site with 24/7 staffing. Further to this the cluster will be associated with 4 further units of dispersed Gap houses nearby where more independent young people can be stepped forward.

- 4x Intensive cluster Gap housing beds with onsite staffing
- 4x Dispersed Gap housing beds with staff just off site

The Local Authority and Barnardo's have continued to build on the proposals noted above and have identified potential areas of land to build the homes.

Care Leavers Film Project

We have had several Care Leavers from Lincolnshire working with an organization called 'My Pocket's' The Care Leavers are currently working on an animation project that will help children in care transition into the service.

Service Development

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

- Induction & Retention
- Communication
- Roles and Responsibilities
- Review of Duty Service
- Allocation of Work
- EET and Supported Lodgings

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

We are currently starting a new round of Service Development sessions; some continue the work of previous groups, and some have been formed to address new issues. The groups are noted below:

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

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

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

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

5. Conclusion

This report reflects the progress and achievements during a 12-month period for Lincolnshire Leaving Care Service.

The current staffing establishment is noted below:

- 1 Service Manager
- 4.2 FTE Team Managers
- 1 Senior Administrator
- 6.1 FTE Administrators

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

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

6. Consultation

a) Risks and Impact Analysis

N/A

7. Background Papers

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

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



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

Report to:	Corporate Parenting Panel
Date:	07 July 2022
Subject:	Voices for Choices (V4C) Update Report

Summary:

This report gives a summary and overview of:

- Activities regarding V4C between February – June 2022
- Actions to support future V4C planning and progress

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 February – June 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
2 nd February 2022	Lincoln Youth Matters (LYM) Youth Centre	6
2 nd March 2022	LYM	5
5 th April 2022	Holiday activities - RAF Cranwell	2
7 th April 2022	LYM holiday activities	2
11 th April 2022	LYM junior holiday activities	1
12 th April 2022	LYM senior holiday activities	3
13 th April 2022	LYM junior holiday activities	3
14 th April 2022	Holiday activities – Karting, Lazer Tag	3
11 th May 2022	Northolme Residential Home, Gainsborough	6

Face to face meetings have been held with young people who are attending enjoying the sessions, and with regular attendance by several young people from Northolme Children’s Residential Home. Over this period there have been a range of holiday activity events taking place over the Easter break, linked to the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme, with some V4C members attending these sessions.

Discussions within the meetings involved children and young people giving their views on mental wellbeing, physical health, and feedback around summer holiday activities, with a view to feeding into the Big Conversation meeting held on 1st June.

Members of the group felt that they have a good selection of activities to attend over holiday times, along side time to meet with family members.

Members of the group discussed how the group identity could be developed and it suggested branded logo t shirts to wear would be a good option and will be progressed.

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.

Date of meeting	Venue	Number of young people attended
9 th February 2022	Carlton Road Youth Centre, Boston	5
9 th March 2022	Carlton Road Youth Centre, Boston	6
6 th April 2022	Holiday Activities	7

Date of meeting	Venue	Number of young people attended
4 th May 2022	Carlton Road Youth Centre, Boston	5

Overview of sessions:

Discussions with members of the group have focused on their experiences of moving into care and what has worked for them and not worked for them in terms of the support they have received

The young people feedback that they felt that they have been kept safe, but sometimes felt confused when in discussions with workers. As a result, they would like to have everything explained to them in a way they can understand so that they understand what is happening to them, and why.

Members of V4C also discussed getting support and issues affecting young people:

- Mental health issues were a serious issue with it commented that it feels like most children and young people are dealing with mental health issues, including depression
- In terms of physical wellbeing the group discussed their views about sport/physical activities that that are open to them – activities they would like to do but cannot, and if so, what barriers there are.

Activities such as dancing, football and hockey were given as examples of sports/physical activities they enjoy and have access to.

One young person viewed the law as a barrier to doing the sporting activities he wanted to do due to the recent law regarding trans athletes competing with their own gender.

The group discussed the barriers to attending activities in the holidays and developed a list of activities they would like to do in the holidays to feed into the Big Conversation meeting in June.

It was felt that they were sometimes unaware of what is available to them, and they do not always get the information passed on to them about possible opportunities.

The group also discussed what had gone well for them this included feeling safe, a good home life, enjoying being at school and V4C providing activities to them.

The Young Carers group has approached V4C in Boston and South Holland with a proposal to bring the groups together into a single meeting. This would help to share experiences, generate discussion and feedback and help build confidence of children and young people. It is proposed that this is piloted to determine if it is effective.

East Lindsey

Attendances for the East Lindsey locality area are summarised below:

Date of meeting	Venue	Number of young people attended
16 th February 2022	Big Conversation Event	2
15 th March 2022	Skegness Youth Centre	2
19 th April 2022	Skegness Youth Centre	2
17 th May 2022	Skegness Youth Centre	1

Overview of sessions:

Young people were given four 'Big Questions' on the topic of health and it was discussed that: they would speak to people they trust like family and friends; think mental health issues occur frequently among young people and that more advertisement is needed to raise awareness of mental health.

It was feedback that it was felt there are enough physical health activities, particularly through school, available.

The Big Conversation from February was reviewed, and feedback received - the one young person who attended liked being able to meet other young people in the same situation as them.

Discussions were held about their views on being in care and the support they receive from workers. They stated that they preferred contact over the phone, would like more regular contact and to get to know workers as well as getting support with school, home and mental health if needed.

Feedback was requested regarding V4C and the Big Conversation events:

- They preferred face to face delivery as it is harder to communicate and share with each other virtually
- They are happy to travel to Skegness but would be happy to travel to other locations if carers were able to transport them and that they would prefer to spread out activities and discussions over a longer period
- They suggested that having a way to get to a venue is the main barrier to attendance. It was proposed that the issue with attendance to V4C and the Big Conversation sessions is due to carers being unable/unwilling to transport children and young people to venues. They suggested that information is not passed on from workers about the opportunities/sessions available and that it would be better to contact the carers directly with this information to encourage attendance. A joint transport option to venues that are out of area was suggested so that multiple children and young people can be picked up and transported together

- They felt like they had an identity, particularly as a V4C group and liked meetings with similar people. They liked the idea of having t-shirts to promote identity and thought this would encourage attendance and suggested logos on pencils and jackets.

Discussions about school holidays were held and the following feedback was received:

- Barriers to attendance: cost, transport, taxis not showing up, scared to go to activities alone
- Ideas for school holidays: art, going to the park, hiking, rugby, football, rounders, cooking/baking, movie night, escape room, swimming, ice skating, fun fair, go karting, dance
- Awareness of activities: some young people in care know about activities because carers/workers are informing them what is available, but others do not – suggestion of more publicity/social media, workers need to give out the information.
- Positive story: a young person stated they feel safe and happy since being in care and came 1st in a 300m running race!

They also completed a review around Missing Return Meetings leaflets for children and young people at the request of the service. They fed back on a leaflet explaining the return home meeting and the name of the multi-agency meeting. They liked the colour, length, and words which they felt were easy to understand but needed a section on why young people run away.

North and South Kesteven

Attendances for the North and South Kesteven locality are summarised below

Date of meeting	Venue	Number of young people attended
15 th March 2022	Earlsfield Youth Centre, Grantham	3
19 th April 2022	Earlsfield Youth Centre, Grantham	4
17 th May 2022	Swingbridge Children's Centre, Grantham	2

Overview of sessions:

During this period, we have asked the question around how supported the young people feel they are in school. The young people said they have good teachers that they can go to in school, and they were able to name times workers have helped them to engage in other activities.

The young people also took part in some feedback work requested by the Future4Me service to look at the Young Person Missing Return process, and specifically changes to the name of meetings held for young people who frequently go missing, and feedback on the missing return interview leaflet given to young people. The feedback was passed back to the service and will form part of the broader consultation regarding the changes.

Young people had discussions around potential barriers and challenges they face with regards to accessing holiday activities, ranging from transport, and not wanting to travel too far, to costs being too expensive and if they have pets there not being anyone who can look after them. Young people said they tend to find out about opportunities via social media and their friends, but it would be better if their workers informed them of other activities going on and not just the ones that LCC run.

The Big Conversation

Date of Meeting	Venue	Number of young people attended
1 st June 2022	Storehouse Conference Centre, Skegness	19

19 children and young people attended the latest Big Conversation meeting, which was held on Wednesday 1st June in Skegness at the Storehouse Conference Centre. In the afternoon, an activity at a ‘high ropes’ centre was provided for the children and young people to enjoy. Transport was provided where needed to help young people attend.

Discussions with senior managers and elected members were held with feedback provided by some children and young people on matters such as making the residential homes more homely, having more things in the garden, and improving broadband and internet access within children’s residential homes. The children and young people were pleased to hear that this has already been recognised as an issue and there would be actions taken to address this.

There were also discussions and feedback regarding views on holiday activities and the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme. There was a consensus that there were a good range of options though further publicity and raising awareness of opportunities would be helpful.

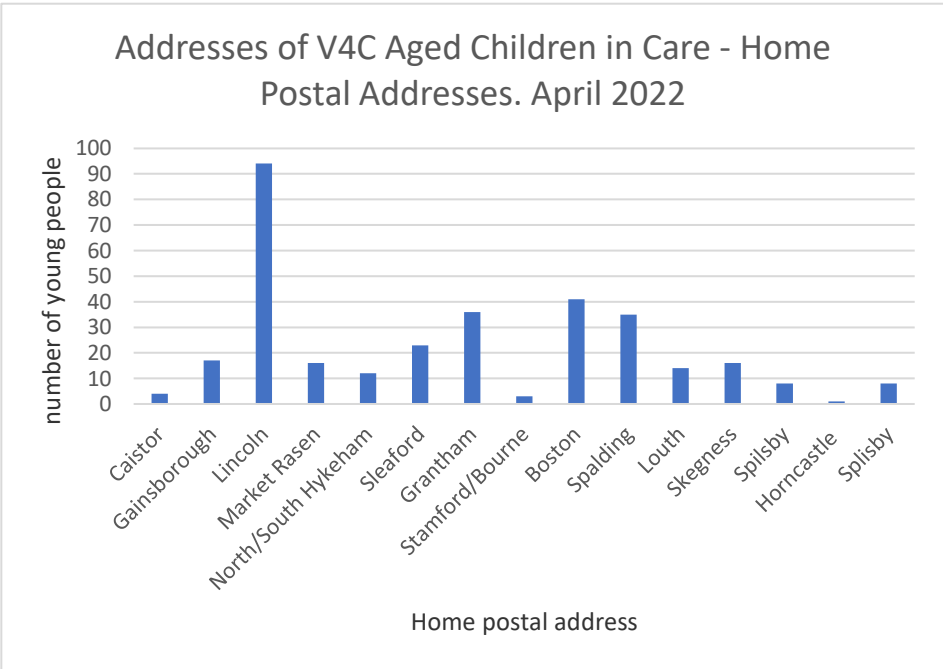
V4C Planning

There are ongoing attempts to raise awareness of V4C to increase attendances. Key to this is encouraging staff and carers to discuss V4C with children and young people and referring them to the Participation Team so they can be contacted, and any support needed for them to attend can be put in place. The following points summarise current V4C planning:

- The Children’s Services Participation Officers have visited Children’s Services Children in Care, Fostering and Virtual School teams over this reporting period to

raise awareness of V4C and to request that Social Workers speak with children and young people about V4C to encourage attendance. Ongoing further visits to front line teams across Children’s Services will continue for this purpose.

- 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. Attempts have been made to hold virtual meetings as an option but there has not been interest in this option currently.
- New publicity regarding V4C has been developed and shared, with work taking place with the Council’s Digital Engagement Team to update information regarding V4C on the Council’s website. A new SharePoint page has been developed as a site for information regarding V4C for staff as well to help raise awareness and provide information. Information regarding V4C is sent out to carers via the Foster Carer newsletter on an ongoing basis. A short film where V4C members talk about how V4C has helped them and what they do will be produced to help raise awareness further.
- 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.
- An analysis of postcodes of Children in Care has been completed to help inform future V4C delivery in terms of geographical delivery:



2. Conclusions

- A) Face-to-face meetings within this reporting period have continued across each of the 4 Children's Service's quadrants, although attendances have not yet increased.
- B) Several actions have been outlined in this report to raise awareness of V4C to increase attendances. Key to this is the importance of front-line workers and carers discussing V4C with children and young people in care to encourage attendance
- 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.
- D) There seems to be higher attendances and more interest when there is a centralised day time meeting during holiday times. Feedback received is that this is easier for children and young people to attend when compared with the current monthly evening meetings. A possible reformatting of the timetable of V4C meetings to be held as single central meetings and to include daytime meetings in each of the 6 school holiday periods could be an option to increase attendance, engagement and identify of V4C.

3. Consultation

a) Risks and Impact Analysis

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

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.



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

Report to:	Corporate Parenting Panel
Date:	07 July 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:

Members of the Corporate Parenting Panel are invited to:

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

1. Background

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

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

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

2. Work Programme

7 July 2022		
Item		Contributor
1.	Election of Chairman & Election of Vice-Chairman 2022/23	Democratic Services
2.	Children in Care Performance Measures - Quarter 4 2021/22 (January to March 2022)	Janice Spencer, Assistant Director- Children's Safeguarding
3.	Leaving Care Service Annual Report 2021/22 (April 2021 to March 2022)	Lisa Adams, Service Manager, Barnardo's Leaving Care Services
4.	Legal Services Lincolnshire end of year report 2021/22 (April 2021 to March 2022)- Verbal Report/Presentation	Nicola Corby, Acting Principal Lawyer
5.	Voices for Choices (V4C) Update Report	Ben Lilley, Team Manager (Quality and Standards)

8 September 2022		
Item		Contributor
1.	Children in Care Performance Measures Quarter 1 2022/23 (April to June 2022)	Janice Spencer, Assistant Director - Children's Safeguarding
2.	Adoption Annual Report and Statement of Purpose	Deborah Crawford, Head of Service Fostering, Adoption and Leaving Care
3.	Fostering Annual Report and Statement of Purpose	Deborah Crawford, Head of Service Fostering, Adoption and Leaving Care
4.	Fostering Quarterly Performance Report Quarter 1	Deborah Crawford, Head of Service Fostering, Adoption and Leaving Care
5.	Corporate Parenting, Children in Care and Care Leaver Strategy Priorities Action Plan Update	Andrew Morris, Corporate Parenting Manager

11 November 2022		
Item		Contributor
1.	Children in Care Performance Measures Quarter 2 2021/22 (July to September 2022)	Janice Spencer, Assistant Director Children's Services
2.	Children in Care Annual Report 2021/22	John Harris, Children's Services Manager: Regulated (North and Fostering)

11 November 2022	
Item	Contributor
3. Independent Reviewing Service – 6 Month Report (April to September 2022)	Carolyn Knight, Quality and Standards Manager
4. Regulation 44 Independent Visiting Service – Six Month Report (April to September 2022)	Carolyn Knight, Quality and Standards Manager
5. Fostering Quarterly Performance Report Q2	John Harris, Children’s Services Manager: Regulated (North and Fostering)
6. Private Fostering Annual Report and Statement of Purpose	Deborah Crawford, Head of Service Fostering, Adoption and Leaving Care

3. Items to be programmed

- Issues caused at facilities for young persons (16-17yo) with complex support needs and the engagement in education - beyond good practice.

4. Conclusion

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

5. Consultation

a) Risks and Impact Analysis

N/A

6. Background Papers

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

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

This page is intentionally left blank