

**Open Report on behalf of Janice Spencer OBE,  
Interim Director of Children's Services**

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| Report to: | <b>Corporate Parenting Panel</b>                              |
| Date:      | <b>19 September 2019</b>                                      |
| Subject:   | <b>Quarter 1 Performance Report for Looked After Children</b> |

**Summary:**

The accompanying appendices to this report provide key performance information for Quarter 1 2019/20 that is relevant to the work of the Corporate Parenting Panel.

**Actions Required: For information**

The Panel is invited to consider and comment on the performance information contained in the appendices of this report and recommend any actions or changes to the Executive Councillor for Adult Care, Health and Children's Services.

## **1. Background**

Appendix A provides a full and detailed report that covers the measures that are relevant to Looked after Children used by Children's Service. This is available for questions.

There are 13 measures in total that relate to Looked After Children that are reported on in Quarter 1. Of these measures 2 are outside of the target set by the services. These are:

- **Fostering/adoption of Looked After Children aged 10 to 16 year olds** - The vast majority of children looked after within this age group are placed in foster care settings. However, there has been an increase in the numbers of younger children in residential placements in the past year. These are often children who have experienced a number of foster placement moves who struggle to adhere to the expectations of living in a family. Residential care has provided a nurturing environment for this group and have enabled them to settle. There has also been a concentrated focus on reunifying children with their birth families this year and some of this group are awaiting revocation of their care orders.
- **Percentage of Looked after Children in the same placement for at least two years** - Performance is at 68.9% at year end and continues to gradually improve. Considerable work has been undertaken to ensure that foster

carers are well supported and that potential problems are identified early. Nevertheless we have continued to see that some stable placements disrupt unexpectedly and this can have a significant impact upon this indicator. We have also seen an increase in the number of 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 basis. The fostering service has implemented a recruitment strategy to attract permanent foster carers with the ambition of offering improved placement opportunities for this group of children.

## **2. Conclusion**

This report summarises the Quarter 1 performance for Looked after Children and Young People, and the Corporate Parenting Panel is asked to raise any questions on the content of the report.

## **3. Consultation**

### **a) Have Risks and Impact Analysis been carried out?**

N/A

### **b) Risks and Impact Analysis**

N/A

## **4. Appendices**

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| These are listed below and attached at the back of the report |                                |
| Appendix A  | Looked after Children Measures |

## **5. Background Papers**

This report was written by Kevin Rands, who can be contacted on 01522 553099 or [Kevin.Rands@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:Kevin.Rands@lincolnshire.gov.uk).