

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

Report to:	Corporate Parenting Panel
Date:	14 November 2019
Subject:	Looked After Children (LAC) Annual Report 2018/19

Summary:

This Annual Report is intended to inform LAC/YP, the general public, elected members, stakeholder partners and staff of the progress and developments of the services to date. It has been jointly produced by Lincolnshire Community Health Services (LCHS) LAC/YP team, the LAC/YP team from Lincolnshire Local Authority (LLA), Lincolnshire Partnership Foundation Trust (LPFT) and Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG).

This report covers the period 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019. The Department of Health Statutory Guidance on Promoting the Health and Well-being of Looked after Children (DCSF/DH. 2015) requires a report on the delivery of service and the progress achieved for the health and wellbeing of children in care. In addition, the Local Authority (LA) requires an annual report to provide a summary of the core activities relating to Looked after Children/Young People (LAC/YP).

Actions Required:

Members of the Corporate Parenting Panel are requested to consider and comment on the Looked After Children Annual Report and highlight any recommendations for future consideration.

1. Background

There has been reduction in the numbers of looked after children/young people in 2018/19 which appears to be at variance to national trends. Resources have been allocated to bolster preventive services in order to sustain that trend. In 2018/19 this has included the development of the Futures4me service, a multi disciplinary team focusing on preventive work with older children on the cusp of care. Nevertheless older children comprise a greater percentage of the looked after cohort and meeting their needs remains a significant challenge due to complexity of behaviour and limited placement options.

This report incorporates full year health data, which enables a better understanding of the essential characteristics of looked after children/young people. The partnerships across health and social care within Lincolnshire remain

strong, with a determination to continue improving the effectiveness of services in order to reduce the disadvantages that these children and young people are acknowledged to experience. The associated workforce is committed and skilled in supporting looked after children/young people.

The health data indicates that in many areas, we are achieving better than the national average in meeting the health needs of our Looked after Children/young people. The health assessment questionnaire continues to provide a valuable source of data about the health profile of our Looked after Children/young people. The annual data during future years will enable comparative information to inform services and commissioning.

2. Conclusion

That the report for the year 2018/19 to be accepted as an accurate overview of the Service.

3. Consultation

a) Have Risks and Impact Analysis been carried out?

N/A

b) Risks and Impact Analysis

N/A

4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Looked After Children (LAC) Annual Report 2018/19

5. Background Papers

This report was written by John Harris, who can be contacted on 01522 554109 or john.harris@lincolnshire.gov.uk