



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

Report to:	<b>Corporate Parenting Panel</b>
Date:	<b>11 March 2021</b>
Subject:	<b>Children in Care Performance Measures - Quarter 3 2020/21 (October to December 2020)</b>

**Summary:**

The accompanying appendix to this report provides key performance information for Quarter 3 2020/21 that is relevant to the work of the Corporate Parenting Panel.

**Actions Required:**

The Corporate Parenting Panel is invited to review 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 Children in Care used by Children's Services. This is available for questions.

There are 14 measures in total that relate to Children in Care that are reported on in Quarter 3. Of these measures, seven are outside of the target set by the services. These are:

### **Fostering/Adoption of Looked After Children aged 10 to 16 year olds**

This performance remains under target. The vast majority of children looked after within this age group are placed in foster care settings but this has been impacted by the pandemic as placement options have been reduced as a result of foster carers shielding and unable to take additional placements. However, there has been an increase in the number 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 has 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.

### **Stability of Placements of Looked After Children: Number of Moves**

This is a cumulative indicator identifying those children who experience three placement moves. The target is challenging and slipped under target last year, although our performance is generally better than other East Midlands authorities where an average of 10% of looked after children experienced three placement moves in a year. At this stage performance remains good, but this is a cumulative indicator and may change at year end. 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.

### **Stability of Placements of Looked After Children: Length of Placement**

Performance has improved during this quarter but remains just 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 success of the Caring2Learn project which has encouraged foster carers to share and find solutions to problems and developed a whole range of tailored training. 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.

### **Percentage of Looked after Children with Up to Date Routine Immunisations**

The significant restriction and changes to the way in which health services are delivered to the public continues to impact on our children in care. There are limitations in respect of the number of children who are able to attend their schools. This has resulted in immunisations for those children who were due to be immunised within the school building having not all taken place. We continue to have number of refusers, including parents who have their children placed with them under placement with parent regulations, and adolescents. It has been an on-going challenge to encourage older young people to engage with medical services to have their Td/IPV vaccine.

### **Percentage of Looked after children with an Up to Date Dental Check**

There continues to be a significant under performance in this area. This is due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the restrictions which have been put on dental practices as a result of this. This has included dental practices being closed to patients, and when open, having significant restrictions in the number of patients which they are able to see. It is not anticipated that this measure will move to previous levels until the spread of the virus is managed in a manner which results in a significant reduction in infections.

### **Care Leavers in Education, Employment or Training (EET)**

The Leaving Care Service continues to monitor every single young person who is not in EET. The Leaving Care 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 and is satisfied that the Service is working to re-engage young people. Covid-19 continues to have an impact on the service sector and this does directly affect care leavers. Most young people start their working lives with jobs in bars, restaurants, shops and front line customer services where the largest job losses are being witnessed and the recent lockdowns continue to impact on the ability of these employers to open. It is anticipated that Covid-19 will continue to impact on EET and the percentage remains in the low to mid 50% range. All young people open on apprenticeships remain in employment and are progressing their qualifications. Since December, two new young people have started the Care Leaver Apprenticeship Scheme (CLAS). This performance continues to be carefully tracked.

### **Children in Care Living Within a Family Environment**

This is performing ahead of target. It confirms that, for the vast majority of children in care, a family placement is the most effective means of offering care. Of these, 39 children at the end of the quarter were living with parents and were either subject to an order as part of care proceedings or reunified home.

## **2. Conclusion**

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

## **3. Consultation**

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

Not Applicable.

## **4. Appendices**

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

## **5. Background Papers**

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

This report was written by Simon Hardcastle, who can be contacted at [simon.hardcastle@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:simon.hardcastle@lincolnshire.gov.uk).

This page is intentionally left blank