

# Children and Families Scrutiny Panel

Scrutiny Monitoring – 1 October 2020

Date	Title	Action proposed	Action Taken	Progress Status																				
23/07/20	Children's Services - Performance	1) That officers examine the benchmarking data provided for LAC 1, Looked After Children, and update the Panel on the findings at 1 <sup>st</sup> October meeting of the Panel.	<p>The accuracy of the data has been confirmed with the data team, who have updated that published statistics from statutory returns submitted by local authorities, Local Authority Interactive Tool (LAIT data) and / or published data returns are used to calculate the numerical averages. It is suggested that alongside the numbers, the panel consider the rate of looked after children per 10,000, 0 – 17 years. August 2020 data is included below:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="1144 639 1921 751"> <thead> <tr> <th>Southampton LAC rate per 10,000 0 – 17 yrs</th> <th>Statistical Neighbour</th> <th>National</th> <th>Regional</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>97</td> <td>86</td> <td>65</td> <td>53</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Southampton LAC rate per 10,000 0 – 17 yrs	Statistical Neighbour	National	Regional	97	86	65	53	Completed												
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		2) That an indicator measuring the number of looked after children in residential care placements is included in the dataset presented to the Panel.	<p>A meeting is being convened with the finance and data teams in October 2020 to discuss including residential provision in the monthly data set. In the interim, the data is included below.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="1144 1011 1944 1193"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">Placement Type</th> <th colspan="6">Month Beginning</th> </tr> <tr> <th>1<sup>st</sup> May</th> <th>5<sup>th</sup> Jun</th> <th>3<sup>rd</sup> July</th> <th>7<sup>th</sup> Aug</th> <th>4<sup>th</sup> Sep</th> <th>11<sup>th</sup> Sep</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Residential Independent Sector</td> <td>38</td> <td>40</td> <td>39</td> <td>43</td> <td>43</td> <td>45</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Number of children in residential placements, September 2020</p> <p>The service has identified that the Independent Fostering Agency (IFA) market is really challenging now; with the current pandemic impacting upon placement available overall. Analysis of the four children placed in residential provision in August and September indicates a high level of mental health needs, alongside complex behavioural issues.</p>	Placement Type	Month Beginning						1 <sup>st</sup> May	5 <sup>th</sup> Jun	3 <sup>rd</sup> July	7 <sup>th</sup> Aug	4 <sup>th</sup> Sep	11 <sup>th</sup> Sep	Residential Independent Sector	38	40	39	43	43	45	
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		3) That anonymised case studies, highlighting interventions by the Early Help Service that have prevented escalation to safeguarding services, are circulated to the Panel before the 1 October meeting.	Circulated to the Panel - 22/09/20	Completed
		<p>4) That briefing papers are circulated to the Panel, in advance of the 1 October meeting, on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The development of City Council residential care provision;</li> <li>• IT provision for Children's Services in preparation for the second wave of the Coronavirus pandemic;</li> <li>• An update on the plans for a new IT system for Children's Services.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Development of City Council residential care provision</b></p> <p>Development of the City's own residential position has been delayed due to the pandemic. However, a working party has now been convened and this has met on three occasions since July 2020. The Head of Service for Children's Social Care has been chairing the group and the new Executive Director will attend the next meeting to check on progress. Property services have been engaged to discuss suitable properties and work is in train to advertise the Service Manager post.</p> <p>The development of the residential offer is part of the peer-support / consultation offer agreed through Hampshire Children's Services as part of the Partners in Practice programme. Capital costs have been agreed for the provision; but, staffing costs still need to be agreed. These will need to take into account a period where staff will be in situ and training / preparing for the residential placements to begin.</p> <p><b>IT provision for Children's Services in preparation for the second wave of the Coronavirus pandemic</b></p> <p>The capacity of the original remote access solutions has been tripled since the start of lockdown so the contention for users is much reduced. By the end of September 2020, Business Operations and Digital will have moved everyone over to a replacement remote access technology (called AOVPN) which is more robust, and importantly routes a lot of the traffic away from the council network completely. (Anything Microsoft related will go direct to Microsoft rather than into the council and back out again if colleagues are working from home).</p> <p>Changes were made to the Citrix environment to reduce things like screen colour depth and other factors which did</p>	Completed

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			<p>improve performance. Business Operations and Digital have provided a significant amount of equipment including laptops and smartphones to the service as well as getting everyone migrated to Office365 so some of the e-mail / office (non-case management system) issues will also have been eased.</p> <p>There can still be performance challenges, it is one of the reasons that we are still pushing on with the client case management system project as this is a more modern architecture, and there are further improvements still being added such as updated servers in the Citrix estate to help with the speed. There has been definite progress and we expect to see much less, if any, issues similar to the first lockdown but there are on-going projects to improve things further.</p> <p><b>Update on the plans for a new IT system for Children's Services</b></p> <p>We are currently scheduled to go live with our new case management system, Care Director in April 2021. The Head of Service for Children's Social Care attends the CCM programme board and a Children and Learning operational group meets regularly to provide a structured interface between the service and the project team; as we focus on data cleaning and the data migration strategy, staff engagement and training. The Executive Director for Children and Learning is being briefed on the project on 23rd September 2020.</p>	
23/07/20	Education and Early Years – Covid 19	1) That the issue of additional support to help reduce the attainment gap is included on the agenda for 1 <sup>st</sup> October meeting when the Panel undertake the customary scrutiny of educational attainment in the city.	Attached as an appendix to the Educational Attainment agenda item.	Completed
27/08/20	Learning report	1) That the updated governance structure chart, which includes the role of the Children and Families Scrutiny Panel, is circulated to the Panel.	Included within the Children's Services Improvement Plan report	Completed

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		<p>2) That, until the Panel decide otherwise, progress in the delivery of the Ofsted Improvement Plan is included as an agenda item for each future meeting of the Children and Families Scrutiny Panel. The report should include specific reference to progress against the action plan developed in response to the Learning report.</p>	<p>The Children's Services and Learning Improvement Plan item is on Scrutiny Panel agenda.</p>	
		<p>3) That the key outcomes of the meetings to be held under points two, three, eight and nine, under recommendation two of the draft action plan, identified below, are to be shared with the Panel after said meetings have been held. This could be incorporated into the progress reporting identified above.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monthly safeguarding assurance visit to one service by Executive Director for Children &amp; Learning Services and the Lead Councillor to review performance and listen to the experiences of front-line staff;</li> <li>• Bi-annual safeguarding assurance meeting to take place between the Chief Executive, the Leader, Lead Councillor and the Executive Director for Children &amp; Learning Services to discuss successes, challenges, pressures and concerns;</li> <li>• A quarterly meeting to be established between the Chief Executive and the Principal Social Worker to ensure a direct connection with front line practitioners;</li> <li>• Executive Management Board meeting every six months to review whole council approach to embedding outcomes for children &amp; young people in the city.</li> </ul>	<p>Details identified in the Children's Services Improvement Plan report.</p> <p>Monthly safeguarding assurance visit to one service (Robert Henderson and Cllr Hammond) service visits set up for 07/10/2020; 05/11/2020; 10/12/2020</p> <p>Bi-annual safeguarding assurance meeting (Sandy Hopkins, Robert Henderson and Cllr Hammond) – booked for 12/11/2020 and 12/05/2021</p> <p>A quarterly meeting (Sandy Hopkins and Stuart Webb.) – booked for 24/11/2020; 23/02/2021; 25/05/2021; 24/08/2021</p> <p>Six-monthly agenda item request has been sent for Mid-October 2020 and May 2021</p>	
27/08/20	Improvement Plan	<p>1) That the revised Improvement Plan be presented to the 1 October 2020 meeting of the Children and Families Scrutiny Panel.</p>	<p>Agenda item for 1<sup>st</sup> October meeting of the Panel</p>	