

CORPORATE PARENTING SUB OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AGENDA

Thursday, 17 January 2019 at 1.30 pm in the Bridges Room - Civic Centre

From the Chief Executive, Sheena Ramsey

Item	Business				
1	Apologies				
2	Minutes (Pages 3 - 6) The Committee is asked to approve as a correct record the minutes of the last meeting held on 11 October 2018				
3	Missing from Care Annual Report (Pages 7 - 20) Report of the Strategic Director Care, Wellbeing and Learning				
4	Education of Looked After Children - REALAC Virtual School Annual Report (Pages 21 - 40) Report of the Strategic Director Care, Wellbeing and Learning				
5	Gateshead Looked After Children and Young People's Health Team - Annual Report 2017-18 (Pages 41 - 48) Report of the Strategic Director Care, Wellbeing and Learning				
6	Work Programme (Pages 49 - 52) Joint report of the Chief Executive and the Strategic Director, Corporate Services and Governance				
7	Exclusion of Press and Public The Committee may wish to pass a resolution to exclude the press and public from the meeting during consideration of the following item on the grounds indicated: <table border="1"><thead><tr><th>Item</th><th>Paragraphs of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>8</td><td>1</td></tr></tbody></table>	Item	Paragraphs of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972	8	1
Item	Paragraphs of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972				
8	1				
8	Regulation 44 Report (Pages 53 - 58) Report of the Strategic Director Care, Wellbeing and Learning				

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GATESHEAD METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
CORPORATE PARENTING SUB OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
MEETING

Thursday, 11 October 2018

- PRESENT:** Councillor B Oliphant (Chair)
- Councillor(s): M Hall, S Craig, D Bradford, P Craig, L Kirton, K McCartney, C McHugh, M Ord, R Oxberry and S Ronchetti
- CO-OPTED MEMBERS** Malcolm Hedley and Jeremy Cripps
- APOLOGIES:** Councillor(s): B Clelland, E McMaster and N Weatherley

CP41 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors McMaster, Weatherley and Clelland.

CP42 MINUTES

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting held on 12 July 2018 be approved as a correct record.

CP43 YOUNG PEOPLE'S PRESENTATION

The Committee heard from several young people on some work that they had undertaken to raise funds.

The young people had been offered some match funding by the Council. In order to raise funds the young people made soap and crocheted cloths and also were able to get money through the key fund.

The young people described how lots of planning had gone into the fund raising and they worked as a team to achieve their goals. The funds paid for a trip to London and the team visited the Houses of Parliament and went to see Aladdin. There were some new members of the group so it was a good opportunity to get to know each other.

The group are currently making some short video clips to go on the website which describe what it is like to go into foster care and help people who are new to the system. One Voice Youth Network have also developed an email address for non-urgent questions.

The Regional Children in Care Council are currently looking at two areas, Rights and Entitlement and Contact (Family Visits). The children have been looking at Contact, including whether venues are suitable, whether a different name should be used. The young people spent some time in separate groups with members of the Committee and updated them on some of the work they had done so far.

The Committee thanked the young people for their time and their input into the meeting.

RESOLVED - That the information in the presentation be noted.

CP44 LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW

The Committee received a report on the statistics relating to looked after Children in Gateshead covering the period up to the end of August 2018. The report and presentation focussed on presenting key characteristic data and the data is themed as follows:

- How many looked after children do we have, and how does that compare to other areas
- How many children entered care and how many children and young people left care
- What are the characteristics of our current looked after population

At the end of August 2018 Gateshead had 409 Looked After Children, this is an increase of 4.1% from the end of March 2018. Those 409 children came from 230 individual families. A flow of 106 children entered care since March 2018 and 86 left care in the same period. On average over the last twelve months, 15 children entered care and 14 left care per month. Overall activity for admissions and discharges over the last twelve months was lower than the previous twelve, 352 compared to 369 in the same period last year. In September 2018 Gateshead had 11 children entering care and 10 leaving so it appears the numbers are slowing down.

The circumstances for individual children coming into care vary, the recorded primary need code shows that the largest category is Abuse and Neglect, 168 of all of the admissions in the last 12 months. Factors identified whilst the cases were being assessed included, domestic violence, mental health issues and neglect. There has been a slight decrease in the number of children leaving care and returning home, although there has been an increase in the number of children leaving care on special guardianship and child arrangement orders.

The majority of children are placed in mainstream fostering placements, there are still a high number of children in family and friends places. The aim is to use very few independent foster agency placements although the numbers are slightly higher. There has also been an increase in the number of children who have to be placed in independent residential placements.

There are currently 197 children placed out of borough, however, 150 of those are in

Gateshead owned provision. 135 of those placed out of borough are located within the North East.

With regards to performance there are three indicators where targets have been met. There are two indicators which are not meeting targets and 2 indicators have been revised and are new to have no targets.

8 out of 409 (1.96%) looked after children experienced 3 or more placement moves in the previous 12 months. At the same time last year there were 6 out of a total of 391 (1.35) looked after children. Gateshead's performance compares favourably with the national picture where around 10% of children have experienced 3 or more placement moves on average.

There were 109 out of 133 children who have been looked after for over two and a half years who have been living in the same placement for at least 2 years (81.95%).

At the same time last year there were 96 out of 109 children in the same placement (88.1%). Whilst this is a reduction from last year the current figure continue to compare extremely favourable to the National average which stands at around 72%.

During the period April to August 2018 there were 11 children who had been looked after for over 6 months and had been adopted 1 child has left care on a Special Guardianship Order.

During the period there were a total of 67 children who have left care giving an overall performance of 17.9% slightly below target. Early indicators for this indicator are positive for next year with a number of new matches already being made so far.

During April to August 2018, 11 adoptions took place, 4 of which were within the best interest date timescale (36%). At the same point last year there were also 11 adoptions of which 5 were within the time (45.5%). Gateshead currently have 44 children in the adoption process, 35 have a placement order granted and 18 have been placed, 17 have been matched waiting to be placed.

There are several factors which contribute to the delays and not meeting of the targets, these include delays in family finding when trying to place siblings together. Adoption placement held up waiting for proceedings to conclude. Lengthy court proceedings and then external family finding undertaken to reflect the child's cultural background.

Of 100 care leavers, 58 (58%) are in some form of education, employment and training with the remaining 42 (42%) not in employment, education or training. Recent trends indicate improving outcomes in this area.

Of 100 care leavers that are currently allocated, 99 (99%) were judged to be in suitable accommodation. The 1 case judged to be in unsuitable accommodation is in custody.

It was noted that there is a need to look in more detail at the numbers. This is something which officers are looking at in weekly performance clinics. It is known

that the reasons are complex and varied as to why/how things are happening. It was queried that if there is an area where targets are not being met, is it the case that the targets are too ambitious. It was noted that this was not the case and that the reasons for not meeting targets were complex and were being investigated further. It was also noted that some additional tracking and monitoring of processes has been put in place so officers can see where barriers arise and can look at opportunities to change processes.

RESOLVED - That the information contained within the report be noted.

CP45 WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee were presented with the work programme report. It was noted that the Fostering and Adoption reports will be presented at the January meeting. The reports going forward will be brought to the July meeting of the Committee.

RESOLVED - That the information contained within the report be noted.

CP46 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED - That the press and public be excluded during consideration of the following item.

CP47 REGULATION 44 REPORT

The Committee received a report outlining Ofsted Regulation 44 independent visits and inspection outcomes carried out in the Council's children's homes between June 2018 and September 2018.

Since the last meeting Blaydon Children's Home have been inspected. The formal report has not yet been published, however, initial feedback is that it will receive a Good. It was noted that there is some work to do in respect of Risk Assessment which need to be updated daily. Fire drill records are required for AM/PM. The other issue raised was about staff handovers and when staff were made aware of risks.

RESOLVED - That the information contained within the report be noted.

Chair.....



**CORPORATE PARENTING
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
17 January 2018**

TITLE OF REPORT: Missing from Care Episodes and child sexual exploitation for Children and Young People Looked After by Gateshead Council

REPORT OF: Caroline O'Neill, Strategic Director, Care Wellbeing and Learning and Director of Children's Services

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides an updated summary of missing from care episodes from December 2017 to November 2018 and an update regarding protection and monitoring of child sexual exploitation.

1. Background

Young people who go "missing" from the care of the Council whether from foster care or residential care, do so for many often complex reasons which cannot be viewed in isolation from their home circumstances and their experience within the Looked After system.

2. Policy Context

Gateshead Council has clear procedures regarding missing children and young people which incorporate a joint protocol between Northumbria Police and Children's Social Care. The procedures and data systems form part of the Local Safeguarding Children Board's (LSCB's) oversight of arrangements. A designated officer is a legal requirement for each Local Authority. This remit is delegated to Service Manager Looked After Children.

3. Definition of Missing from Care

"A Looked After young person is considered missing if he/she is absent from her place of residence without authority." Children can be reported missing within 30 minutes to 3 hours from their anticipated return time.

In July 2017 Northumbria Police adopted the new missing definition to identify the type of missing activity;

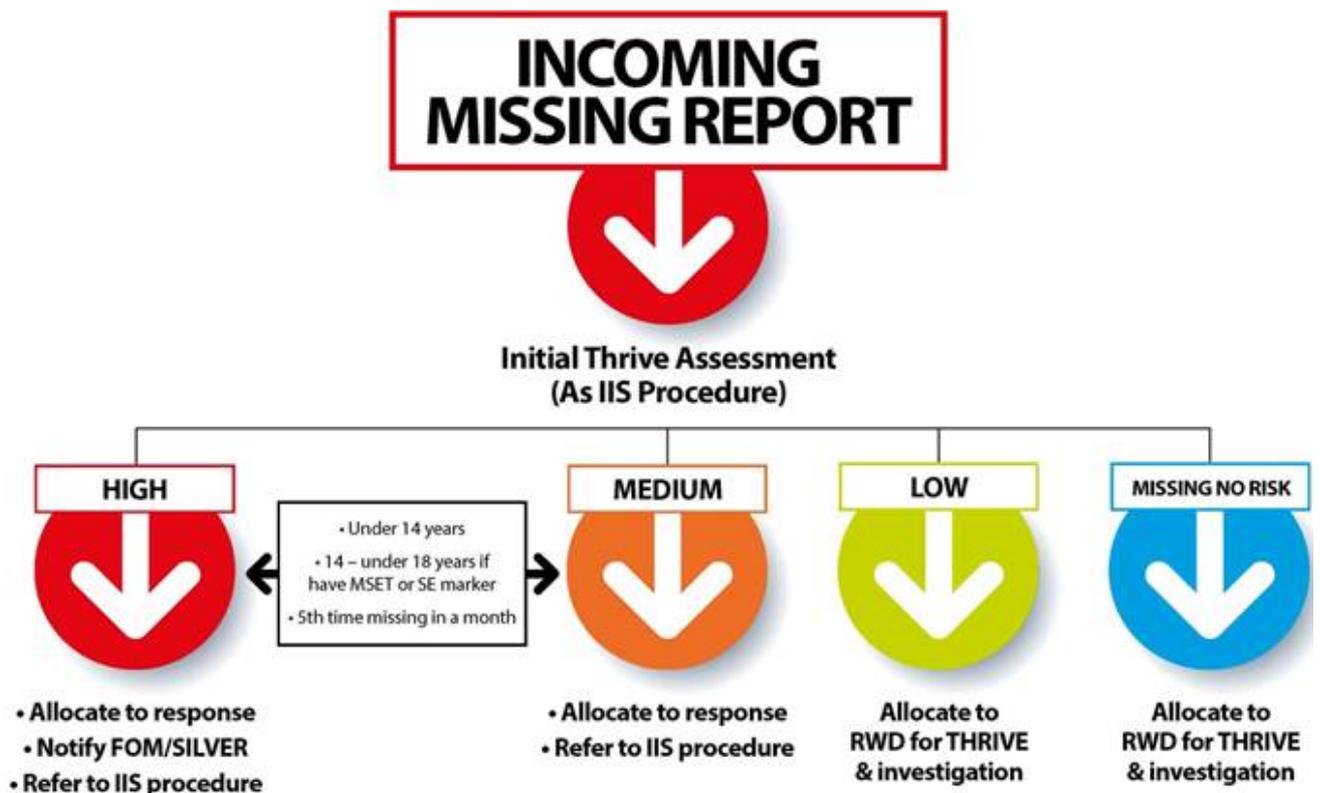
"Anyone whose whereabouts cannot be established will be considered as missing until located, and their wellbeing or otherwise confirmed."

All reports of missing people sit within a continuum of risk from 'no apparent risk (absent)' through to high risk cases that require immediate, intensive action. The police determine the level of risk (low/medium/high) based on the information shared with them.

All professionals must ensure that all known information held on a child/young person is shared with the Police to ensure that the correct level of risk is applied – including if child is LAC or if they have any other vulnerabilities

A missing strategy for each young person may be different depending upon the management of assessed risks relating to the young person.

- **Absent** – no apparent risk of harm to either subject or public
- **Low** - Risk of harm to subject/public is possible but minimal
- **Medium** – Risk of harm to subject/public likely but not serious
- **High** – risk of 'serious harm' to subject/public is assessed as very likely (serious harm is defined as – risk that is life threatening and/or traumatic, from which recovery, whether physical or psychological can be expected to be difficult or impossible)



Missing

A child is categorised as missing when their location or reason for absence is unknown **and/ or** there is cause for concern for the child because of their vulnerability or there is a potential danger to the public.

A child or young person who is absent should be classified as missing if one or more of the criteria below apply:

- There is identified or imminent risk of the child or young person being exposed to significant harm
- The child or young person poses a risk of significant harm to others
- There are suspicious circumstances
- The absence is out of character or unusual behaviour
- There are indications that the child has already come to harm
- There are indications that the episode is not a deliberate or careless act
- There are indications that the child or young person
- Is not expected to return within reasonable time limits
- Is not staying at homes of others known to them
- Will not be easily located

A child or young person in this category must be reported to the police.

Absent

Absent - "A person not at a place where they are expected or required to be and there is no apparent risk."

The 'absent' category should comprise cases in which people are not presently where they are supposed to be and there is no apparent risk. 'Absent' cases should not be ignored and must be monitored over periods of time with consideration given to escalating to 'missing' if there is a change to the circumstances that has increased the level of risk.

Some children absent themselves for a short period and then return and during their absence their whereabouts are known or they have made contact. Sometimes children stay out longer than agreed, either on purpose or accidentally, and may be testing boundaries, but do not jeopardise their wellbeing. This kind of boundary testing is within the range of normal teenage behaviour and not necessarily considered a risk.

Whether the absence is careless or deliberate, if there is no apparent risk for their immediate safety, or that of the public, it may fall within the absent category. The assessment of the carer is initially that they are safe but are away from home without permission. It is still important that staff/ carers record these incidences (as absent, not missing episodes), in case the level of risk changes and decisions are auditable. Absent episodes must be carefully monitored however as the child may subsequently go missing.

If a child's whereabouts are known then they cannot be 'missing'. For example, in some circumstances young people staying with a friend without prior agreement

may not be 'at risk' and it would be inappropriate to flag this event as a missing from care incident or report it to the police.

In situations where a child is absent without permission the first response may be that providers of their care along with any relevant staff from their responsible authority, which could include the child's social worker, should act as a responsible parent and take all practical steps to establish the child's location and to ensure that they return to their placement without delay.

A child or young person who is not where they are expected to be absent should be classified as absent if the criteria below apply:

- They have deliberately or carelessly absented themselves
- They are likely to return of their own accord or they are staying with others known to them
- They are likely to be easily located
- They are unlikely to suffer or cause significant harm whilst absent

The carer or residential staff member should record any information gained on the whereabouts of the young person whilst absent, and this should be shared as appropriate with the police. Where the person remains absent, and the carer/ staff feels the individual may be at risk of harm then a report should be made to the police.

4. Risk Assessment

In assessing the significance of any child's absence a risk assessment must be undertaken. The service has developed a screening assessment tool based which is completed by the care team and if there are persistent missing episodes this is presented to the Multi agency Sexual Exploitation Trafficking meeting.

Where a child is missing, relevant staff from Local Authority and Police must consider the above definitions and take into consideration the child's care plan and factors listed below, when assessing risk:

- The legal status of the person in care (e.g. Emergency Protection Order, Full or Interim Care Order, remanded, curfew conditions etc.)
- Previous behaviour patterns. (Such as a history of absence and quick return)
- The child's state of mind/perceived risk. (Is child likely to self-harm or commit suicide? Does child see risks in a balanced way?)
- Group behaviour at the time of the absence
- Whether the young person is perceived as running to someone or running from a situation
- Any physical or learning disabilities the child may have which increase the risk to them
- Is the child vulnerable due to age or infirmity or any other factor?
- Is the child suspected to be the victim of a significant crime in progress, e.g. abduction?
- Are there family /relationship problems or recent history of family conflict, including domestic abuse

- Does the missing person have any physical illness, disability or mental health problems?
- Are they in the company of a person who may cause them harm?
- Do they require essential medication which is not likely to be available?
- Is there ongoing bullying or harassment, e.g. racial, sexual, homophobic or local community concerns and/or cultural issues?
- Do they pose a threat of harm to others?
- Is there drug or alcohol dependency or substance misuse?
- Any other particular circumstances at the time of the incident influencing the risk assessment?

It is important that the assessment of risk is a dynamic process and should be re-considered and challenged at every point during a child or young person's absence. As a minimum requirement when a child is missing the risk assessment should be reviewed every eight hours and the level of prevailing risk agreed by carers and other professionals responsible for that young person's health safety and wellbeing.

Categories of risk

HIGH

The risk posed is immediate and there are substantial grounds for believing that the child or young person is in danger through their own vulnerability or may have been the victim of a serious crime, or

The risk posed is immediate and there are substantial grounds for believing that the public are in danger.

MEDIUM

The risk posed is likely to place the child or young person in danger or they are a threat to themselves or others.

LOW

There is no apparent threat of danger to either the child or young person or the public. The key messages from research regarding young people Missing from Care over the last five years indicated the need for a regional approach and highlighted that:

- Few young people leave their local area
- Many stay with friends known to them/relatives, less than a third or a quarter sleep rough
- Most common reasons for running away are conflict with parents/step parents and carers and wanting to spend time with friends and partners
- Young people who run away are more likely to be absent from school through refusal to attend or exclusion
- Young people are at as much risk whether they are missing for the first time or on any subsequent occasions

- Young people who go missing place are often very vulnerable and place themselves at risk and are exposed to violence, victimisation, sexual exploitation and involvement in crime

5. Overall data

There were 948 missing episodes in total between December 2017 and November 2018, of which 612 (65%) were looked after children. This represents an increase in the total number of missing episodes compared to 2016-17 (936) and also an increase in terms of the number of missing from care episodes which involved looked after children for the same period (565 (60%)).

In January 2016 Northumbria Police began to differentiate between a “missing” episode and an “absent” episode. The figures shown below include those reported as missing and absent.

There is a difference between the number of missing/absent episodes each month and the number of missing/absent individuals as some people will have more than one episode. Each month the number of individual young people in total and individual Looked After Children reported missing varies and is different from the number of missing episodes.

Over the last 12 months young people who have been recorded as missing from care have in the majority of cases returned fairly quickly to their placements. Young people who are persistent in being absent without permission often leave their placements because of conflict primarily due to boundary setting, for example around coming in times or refusal to allow them to undertake activities which are not felt to be consistent with promoting their welfare. Some young people have links with others in other placements and are absent from their placements together. Social workers and staff are familiar with these young people, their contacts, likely whereabouts and they usually return later that day, rarely are young people in the care of the Council missing overnight or more than 24 hours.

A small cohort of missing episodes of Looked After Children are for more than a 24-hour period. They are young people who are in the older age group and who have had very complex needs and backgrounds. Clear procedures are in place to manage these longer episodes.

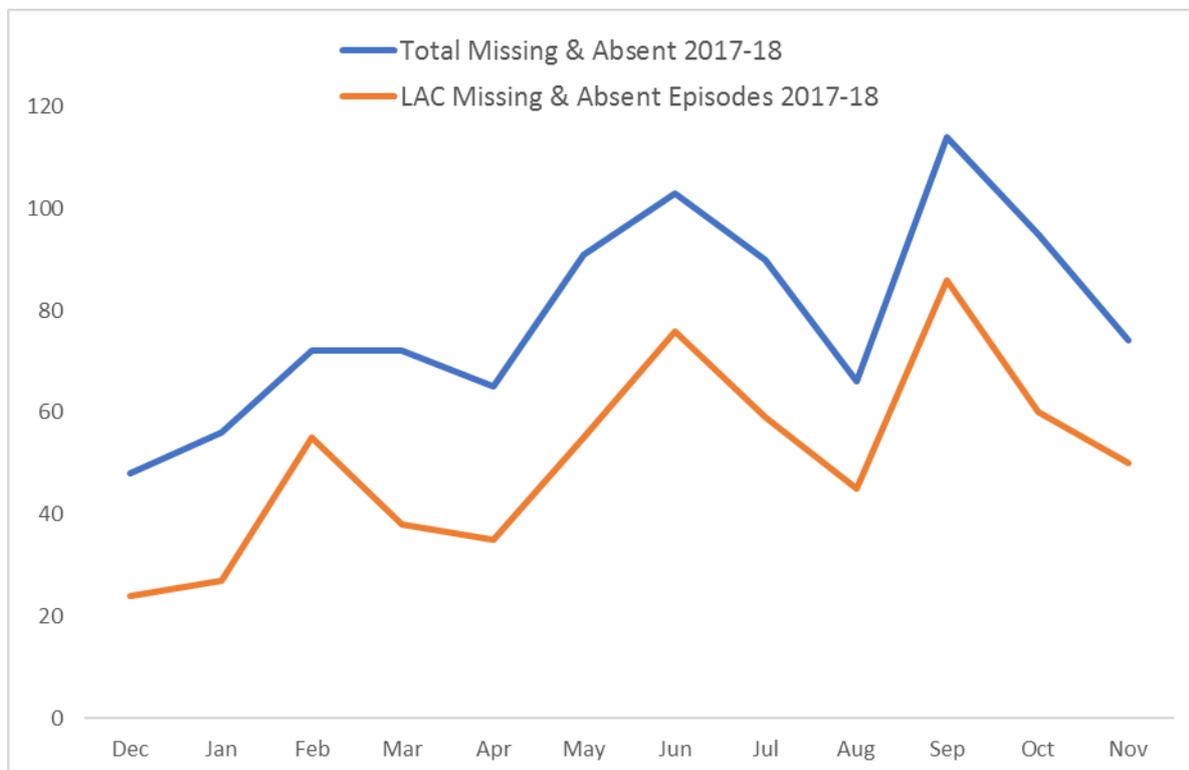
Between December 2017 and November 2018 there were 145 episodes where a young person was missing or absent for over 24 hours. The majority of those young people were missing from care (57%), which is a reduction on last year.



It is always a concern when young people are missing for over 24 hours which is why it is monitored to see if there are any patterns for individual or groups of young people. Targeted interventions are implemented and disruption plans looked at by MSET to ensure everyone is doing all they can to keep young people safe

Dec 2017 – Nov 2018 data

Month	Total missing and absent episodes	Number of individuals	Episodes over 24 hours	LAC missing and absent episodes	Number of individual LAC
December	48	24	6	24 (50%)	14
January	56	34	7	27 (48%)	15
February	72	28	10	55 (76%)	17
March	72	38	14	38 (53%)	13
April	65	40	19	35 (54%)	19
May	91	45	19	55 (60%)	21
June	103	37	10	76 (74%)	19
July	90	38	8	59 (66%)	21
August	66	38	6	45 (68%)	23
September	114	48	30	86 (75%)	25
October	95	53	13	60 (63%)	25
November	74	38	3	50 (68%)	22
TOTAL	946		145	610 (65%)	



To try and understand the missing episodes of Looked after children the following data looks at where young people are placed and the number of missing episodes linked to both residential placements and foster placements

Month	Placement Young Person reported missing from (number of episodes)				Total
	Residential		Foster Care		
	in-house	Other residential (out of borough, private, independent living)	Gateshead (in-house)	IFA placements	
December	1	15	8	0	24
January	4	7	16	0	27
February	9	16	23	7	55
March	4	8	17	9	38
April	6	5	22	2	35
May	14	14	26	1	55
June	17	32	26	1	76
July	16	12	25	6	59
August	12	14	19	0	45
September	20	33	31	2	86
October	12	17	29	2	60
November	5	11	34	0	50
Total	120	184	276	30	610

The data demonstrates that from May 2018 to October 2018 there was a significant amount of missing episodes from our in house residential provision. However, these missing episodes relate to a relatively small number of young people with one young person having 42 missing episodes, and another having 33 missing

episodes. Following intensive work and support from the staff this has reduced significantly.

In relation to out of borough residential, the high numbers of missing episodes relate again to a relatively small group of young people. One young person went missing 33 times, another went missing 24 times and a further 6 young people went missing between 17 and 22 times each, which accounts for 174 of the 184 missing episodes

In relation to children placed with in-house foster carers, the majority of these missing episodes relate to 10 young people who each had over 10 missing episodes. The largest number of missing episodes related to one young male who was missing a total of 34 times. The remaining 9 young people accounted for 163 missing episodes out of the remaining 242 episodes.

6. Other relevant information

Return interviews

When a child is reported missing from home or care for the second or subsequent time in a six month period or for a single episode lasting longer than 24 hours they are offered an Independent Return Interview. This differs from a police Safe and Well Check (which all missing people receive on return) and is carried out by skilled and experienced workers to determine underlying reasons for the missing episode and wider risks and vulnerability factors. The interviews are also used to identify broader trends, including “CSE hotspots” and there are clear links into MSET meetings and intelligence sharing with police.

These interviews are undertaken by workers in early help and the outcome of the return interview is shared with the young person’s social worker, the police and any other relevant professionals. In cases where a Gateshead child is looked after and placed out of borough the return interview is commissioned and undertaken by someone within the area the young person lives. This information is shared with the social worker and the hosting local authority.

Participation levels for Return Interviews is an area of work that needs to be improved as often young people refuse to engage at all and of the ones carried out young people are often quite reluctant to share the reasons why they have gone missing or absent.

Summary of reasons given by young people for going missing or absent

	Care	Home
Alcohol	37	18
Bullying	11	0
CSE	20	3
Domestic Violence	2	1
Drugs	30	12

Emotional	41	12
Neglect	5	0
Physical	16	2
Planned	45	11
Sexual	17	4

Even though the overall uptake is approximately 58% it essential that this work continues as the information provided feeds into the MSET. This completion rate is significantly higher than in other LSCB areas where external services are commissioned to provide the service and reflects the specialist skills and local knowledge that the youth workers have whilst also retaining independence from the case. The early help workers also have links in to other services which means that appropriate support can then be put in place for young people when required.

7. Case Scenario

The following outlines a typical response to a young person missing from children's home:

- Child A, a male aged 14 years is placed in Residential Care under a Care Order.
- The young person leaves goes out to meet friends at 5:30 and it is agreed he can return at 9:00pm. He does not return at this time and the staff try to contact him via mobile phone but get no answer.
- He has a history of coming home late (usually within 30 minutes) and he has occasionally stayed out overnight
- The residential staff allows him half an hour before reporting him missing to the police. This had been agreed by the care team and formed part of his risk assessment. The police wanted to class him as absent rather than missing, however as he was vulnerable and at risk of CSE the staff ensured that the police classed her as missing. They informed EDT of the missing episode, shared the Missing from Care details and gave them the police log number.
- He returned to the placement at 11.30pm under the influence of drugs and alcohol. Staff informed the police and EDT that he had returned to placement..
- Police visit the residential home to ensure the young man was safe and to try and find out who he had been with. He is unwilling to say where he has been, other than to say he was safe and was with friends.
- An Independent Return Interview in line with LSCB Missing from Care Procedures takes place, however no further information is shared about who he had been with.
- The care team meeting reviewed the risk assessment and agree incentives and rewards to try and break the cycle of missing's
- The young person has two further similar episodes in a 3 week period and the residential staff share all relevant information with professionals
- He is discussed at the MSET meeting, scrutinising the plan and considering the risk assessment and disruption plan to ensure a co-ordinated approach is taken to try and minimise risk and to get the young man to work with relevant professionals.
- An MSET referral is made and he is discussed at MSET and a new disruption plan is implemented
- He is subsequently re scored for the MSET pre meet 2 months later and professionals were happy that there had been no further missing episodes

8. MSET and Child Sexual exploitation

In addition to being reviewed and monitored by their own social workers and care team, children who go missing regular from care are also monitored by the LSCB **Missing, Sexually Exploited and Trafficked Group** (MSET). MSET is a multi-agency sub group of the Strategic Sexual Exploitation Group which monitors and coordinates multi-agency activity for children who are reported missing from home or care and also has oversight of cases where there are concerns about sexual exploitation.

The LSCB Missing, Sexually Exploited and Trafficked Sub Group (MSET) There were **79 cases** discussed at MSET due to concerns about them in 2017-2018, 20 of

which were discussed on more than one occasion. This is a **68% increase** from 2016-2017 when there were 47 cases discussed (27 of those were discussed more than once).

It is not possible to separate how many of those cases were discussed due to missing episodes and how many due to CSE due to the overlap between the two, but a CSE risk assessment was carried out for each case that was discussed and disruption plans put in place. It is thought that this increase represents improved awareness rather than increased incidence of sexual exploitation. More detail on the work of the MSET is set out in Appendix 4. It is not possible to provide case studies on how the work of the group improved outcomes as they may lead to young people being identified.

During 2017-2018 a refresh of the CSE framework/MSET assessment was carried out to ensure that all agencies are focused on CSE and understand local processes. The revised risk assessment allows for a more thorough, corporate risk assessment to ensure that the right children are being discussed at MSET. The framework will be used by all LSCBs in region to ensure a more corporate and consistent approach and improve referrals into Team Sanctuary South.

Team Sanctuary South was formally established in April 2016 and the Detective Inspector from the team took over the chairing of MSET to ensure that there were clear links between Gateshead MSET and Team Sanctuary. The Gateshead embedded social worker also attends MSET to ensure that there is early effective sharing of information and an efficient referral and allocation into the team and partners.

There has been a significant amount of work conducted to improve the sharing of intelligence between agencies with the Team Sanctuary South Intelligence Cell being the central point of collection. This has allowed hot spot areas to be identified and disrupted. A number of disruption packages were produced from MSET intelligence in relation to vehicles, potential perpetrators and potential victims.

It is not possible to share specific case studies to demonstrate how the work of the MSET has helped reduce risks to young people and improve outcomes as this may lead to young people being identified in this report. Disruption plans have included specific actions to reduce missing episodes, disrupt relationships with inappropriate adults and work to promote self-esteem and improve individual young people's awareness of risk.

A series of "MSET road shows" took place in 2017-2018 to refresh professional with regard to processes for CSE, trafficking and missing children and young people. The multi-agency workshops were for professionals to highlight and discuss the new MSET referral process and risk assessment framework.

The LSCB Business Manager and Social Worker for Sanctuary South have also visited schools and attended team meetings to provide training and support use of the screening tool. This offer has been extended across all agencies and a number of workshops are planned for 2018-2019.

Work will also continue with regard to continued intelligence sharing between agencies to ensure that as many preventative and disruption tactics can be

introduced and considered. This will ensure that all agencies are working together (coordinated by Team Sanctuary Intelligence) to keep children and young people safe from CSE and human trafficking. Through robust challenge by MSET panel members appropriate and effective individual safeguarding plans will be devised to reduce the risk presented in relation to CSE and missing and trafficked children. Gateshead Council will also continue to support Team Sanctuary South by funding the embedded social worker and there is a strong commitment from Northumbria Police to maintain the model.

8. Practice developments

Northumbria police continue to have 3 dedicated Missing from Home Coordinators with a remit to improve the police response when someone is reported missing, and to work strategically with partners to reduce the numbers of children and young people reported missing from care. This continues to work well and will continue for the next 12 months

There has also been the development of a strategic MSET group which the operational MSET group also reports. This group is developing further awareness and strategic plans linking resources to the CSE focus developing multi agency information and training.

The LSCB continues to receive written reports three times a year on children who go missing from home and care and are at risk of sexual exploitation.

The local authority continues to work to develop a system to capture and share accurate and meaningful information on missing from care episodes with the LSCB.

The local authority will continue to work with the LSCB to strengthen work to protect those young people vulnerable to sexual exploitation

Return interviews will continue and services will work together to try and improve the uptake and quality of these.

9. Recommendation

It is requested that the Looked After Children Overview and Scrutiny Committee continue to receive an annual report on missing from care issues within Learning and Children.

CONTACT: Jill Little
Service Manager
Looked After Children and Corporate Parenting
Ext 3420

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TITLE OF REPORT: Education of Looked After Children – REALAC Virtual School Annual Report

REPORT OF: Caroline O'Neill Strategic Director Care, Wellbeing and Learning

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides the Overview and Scrutiny Committee with a summary of recent work by the Virtual School.

Purpose of Report

1. To update the Committee and provide a progress report on the work of the Virtual School.

Background

2. Attached to this summary is the annual report 2019 of the Virtual School. The report covers service provision and activities undertaken to support the education of looked after children. It includes detailed information on:
 - Outcomes data
 - Pupil Premium plus grant and Personal Education Plans
 - Support to teaching and learning for pupils and schools
 - Exclusions
 - Adoption
3. Officers will make a brief presentation to the Committee, drawing attention to some of the main features of the report.

Recommendations

5. The Corporate Parenting OSC is asked to:
 - Consider and comment on the attached annual report.
 - Consider the recommendations.

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VIRTUAL SCHOOL (REALAC)

Report to Corporate Parenting
Overview and Scrutiny Committee

January 2019



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1 Looked after Children Context

On 13 November 2018 there were 415 Looked after Children in Gateshead between the ages of 0-18 years old. The total has greatly increased in the last year.

1.1 Looked after Children School Population

The following tables provide an overview of the numbers of Gateshead LAC across a number of key stages, school and educational settings and also out of borough data where this has been available.

Looked after Children Numbers in and out of Borough per statutory age

Current Year Group	Jul-16	Jul-17	Nov-18
Year 11	35	34	34
Year10	26	23	21
Year 9	23	29	31
Year 8	25	19	24
Year 7	12	27	22
Year6	24	23	31
Year 5	20	18	30
Year 4	14	28	24
Year 3	24	27	12
Year 2	20	15	14
Year 1	17	12	12
Reception	4	6	19
Total	244	261	274

(Figures as of November 2018)

The largest number of looked after children (LAC) within the secondary sector is in Year 11 with 34 LAC in 2018. LAC at Key Stage 4 are the most challenging of all LAC year groups in terms of behaviour and the risk of fixed term and permanent exclusion. The challenges and demands this places and continues to place on service delivery is significant. The current Year 11 cohort have accessed a substantial amount of service resource due to the complexity of pupils' needs and bespoke support that was required in response to issues relating to behaviour, alternative provision and potential exclusion. There is also support given to prepare them for their exams and next stage of their education.

Years 9 and 10 are also two of the larger cohorts and are at critical stages of their education, Year 10 will be starting their GCSE courses and Year 9 will be making their curriculum choices which will have an impact on their future.

In Primary schools the Year 6 cohort is also large, this year group will also take up a lot of service time as they will be due to sit their SATs examinations and will require support for the transition into Secondary schools.

There are also large cohorts in Years 1, 2 and 3 which suggest that there are a greater number of children coming into care at a younger age and potentially in care for longer periods.

Looked after Children in Gateshead Secondary Schools

School	Gateshead LAC	LAC Attending Gateshead Schools from other Local Authorities	Total
Cardinal Hume	6	1	7
Emmanuel College	6	0	6
Heworth Grange	10	0	10
Joseph Swan	9	1	10
Kingsmeadow	6	2	8
Lord Lawson	6	0	6
St Thomas More	7	3	10
Thomas Hepburn	1	0	1
Thorp Academy	3	1	4
Whickham	9	3	12
Total	63	11	74

(Figures as of November 2018)

Overall the number of Gateshead LAC, including LAC from other Local Authorities attending Gateshead secondary schools, has decreased from the previous academic year from 95 to 74.

The school with the largest total of Looked after Children combined (Gateshead and non Gateshead) is Whickham with 12 whilst the lowest is Thomas Hepburn which has 1.

REALAC has a role in supporting other Local Authority LAC who attend Gateshead schools. There has been a drop in the number of non Gateshead LAC attending Gateshead schools with the current figure at 11 compared to 18 in the previous year. However, some pupils

from other local authorities can impact on REALAC when complex pupils attend Gateshead schools or other Local authorities seek places in our good and outstanding schools.

The figures for OOB may not always be totally accurate as we do not always get informed about OOB LAC attending Gateshead schools.

1.2 Looked after Children Educated out of Borough

Out of Borough	Number of LAC
Primary	31
Secondary	37
Special	14
Total	82

There is a significant number of Gateshead LAC being educated out of borough, (30% of the total Gateshead LAC population). This has necessitated an increased need to attend PEP meetings beyond Gateshead to ensure Pupil Education Plans are completed.

Looked after Children Educated out of Borough across all Key stages

Key Stage	Total
Early Years (EY, N & R)	3
Key Stage 1 (Year 1 & 2)	4
Key Stage 2 (Year 3, 4, 5 & 6)	27
Key Stage 3 (Year 7, 8 & 9)	23
Key Stage 4 (Year 10 & 11)	22
Key Stage 5 (Year 12 & 13 HE)	3
Total	82

(Figures as of November 2018)

Some of these pupils are beyond the local region, we have children placed in London, Cumbria, Scotland and other areas of the country.

Looked after Children Educated out of Borough according to setting

Number of out of borough Educational Settings

Primary	20
Primary Special	4
Secondary (including middle)	22
Secondary Special	7
Total	53

(Figures as of November 2018)

The 82 Gateshead LAC educated out of borough is spread across 53 settings, of which 21% are special school places.

1.3 Special Educational Needs (SEN) and LAC

The following tables provide data relating to LAC with SEN, across a number of key stages and year groups.

Year	Single Plan	SEN Support
Reception	0	1
1	2	3
2	2	5
3	0	8
4	3	8
5	7	11
6	8	10
7	9	6
8	7	8
9	8	13
10	7	4
11	2	21
Total	55	98

(Figures as of November 2018)

The table above gives a Breakdown of Looked after Children who have Special Educational Needs. There are 55 pupils with Educational Health Care Plans and a further 98 who receive SEN Support. REALAC closely works with SEN teams, schools and social care to ensure statutory processes are initiated and supported to ensure appropriate provision is in place.

Breakdown of Category for Looked after Children with Single Plan

Category	Number of LAC
Speech Language Communication Needs	6

Moderate Learning Difficulties	6
Other	1
Visual Impairment	2
Social Emotional Mental Health	27
Severe Learning Difficulties	6
Autistic Spectrum Disorder	7

(Figures as of November 2018)

The table above shows the SEND category breakdown for Looked after Children with a Single Plan. The biggest cohort of SEND need is Social Emotional Mental Health in which there are 27. Many of these pupils are in special schools where they receive high quality education that supports their attachment and emotional needs.

1.4 Looked after Children School Attendance

Attendance figures are drawn down to the Virtual school on a termly basis from EMIS and via school information requests. LAC who achieve 100% attendance are rewarded with a certificate and a voucher from REALAC. Where low attendance is identified as an emerging issue this is picked up in the PEP or reported by social workers and this is then followed up by the REALAC team.

As there has been a problem with the links between EMIS and the schools we are unable to give yearly attendance figures for 2017/18.

At present we can confirm that 27 Looked after Children have achieved 100% Attendance for 2017/18.

2 Pupil Premium Plus Grant 2017-18

Following discussions with the Children and Young People Portfolio meeting and Schools Forum, information was prepared for schools on the deployment and use of the grant for the financial year 2017-18. It explains payments of the grant to be received by the school for each individual LAC pupil entitled to the funding. In March/April 2018, each school (maintained and non-maintained but not private schools) will receive a payment broken down as follows:

£300 paid for each term.

£500 paid based on 2 completed Personal Education Plans over a 12 month period (statutory requirement) received into the REALAC/Virtual School

£500 to be retained by REALAC/Virtual School to be used for additional support to both Individual Looked after Children and their schools

It is expected that schools will use this funding to:-

- directly support the achievement and attainment of LAC
- close the attainment and progress gap between LAC and their peers
- support underlying issues and interventions for LAC who are at risk of exclusion, non- attendance and other issues that may affect learning

All social workers and designated teachers must follow the Gateshead PEP processes in ensuring each LAC has an up to date quality PEP. REALAC will monitor and compile an accurate list of qualifying schools for Finance in accordance with the above expectations

In 2018/19 The Pupil Premium Grant for Looked after Children will be increasing to £2300.

2.1 Personal Education Plans

The total number of LAC pupils currently tracked are 415.

Age range	Number
3-16	291
Post 16	61
Under 3	63

PEP Dates	
Number of LAC In Borough	Number of LAC Out of Borough
240	51
Number of PEP Dates returned In Borough	Number of PEP Dates returned Out of Borough
198	35
Number of PEP Dates not returned In Borough	Number of PEP Dates not returned Out of Borough
42	16

291 3-16 Year Olds

Completed PEPs	
% of PEPs returned In Borough	% of PEPs returned Out of Borough
83%	69%
% of PEPs not returned In Borough	% of PEPs not returned Out of Borough
17%	31%

- The REALAC team have set windows in the school year when they expect PEP reviews to be held in schools. The returns registered with the team are when they should receive the completed PEPs. Some PEPs may be received outside one of the windows because of changes to pupil circumstances e.g move of care or school place or cancel of review because of another circumstance.
- PEP contact by the team will be made with colleges and other provisions to complete post 16 PEPS in January 2019. The team will attend meetings and follow up on the provision and any issues for the students.

- There are ongoing issues around receiving information for LAC children particularly those who are aged 3 or have turned 3 and those moving educational place. This prevents the virtual school trying to follow up and monitor PEPS being completed.

3 Exclusions - December 2018

With the recent increase in exclusions both in and out of Gateshead's borough, the Virtual School (REALAC) has improved its monitoring system to allow greater detail of any fixed term or permanent exclusions that our Looked After Children receive. This enables REALAC to identify patterns of exclusions and risk to pupils. This process has been in place from May 2018 and is based on each academic year. Having these details allows the Virtual School to intervene at an early stage to prevent any further fixed term exclusions or persistent issues from re-occurring and developing into a more serious situation that could potentially escalate into a permanent exclusion. In Gateshead REALAC has an agreement of no permanent exclusions with our schools. We do, therefore, explore other solutions including support to help provide the best outcome for all involved. These include: a managed move to a different school or provision, being placed on either the Fair Access Panel or the Education Inclusion Panel. Furthermore, the Virtual School can intervene by placing an additional form of provision in place to help support the Looked After Child and the school. These include the following:

- Teaching - Extra support is available from our Teacher on a 1:1 basis to help aid their studies and ensure our Looked After Children maintain an educational focus.
- Tuition – The Virtual School currently uses a company called FLEET, which allows us to allocate the tutors to any children who require extra support and these block sessions can be personalised to suit the needs of our LAC.
- Additional funding – This funding is part of the Virtual School's Pupil Premium Plus and is distributed to the school at the Virtual Head's discretion; which is then used to support our Looked After Children.
- Learning Mentor – Support is available from our learning mentor to any LAC who are experiencing issues in school. This is normally a 1:1 basis which can also include counselling if required.

3.1 Exclusion Data

In **May** 2018, there were 395 children in care and 302 LAC aged between 3-16 years old who could receive a fixed term exclusion. During this period of 11 weeks, (May 2018 - July 2018) 13 LAC have been fixed term excluded accumulating a total of 23 fixed term exclusions and 58.5 days' worth of education missed. This is an average of more than 2 exclusions per week. The LAC who have received the fixed term exclusions range from Year 6 to Year 10 with a total of 10 different schools. The persistent offenders have been targeted by the Virtual School Headteacher to prevent these reoccurrences. Also, throughout this time frame there has been 9 occasions in which a Looked After Child has been on the verge of receiving a permanent exclusion. Of these 9 cases, 1 went to the Fair Access Panel and 1 to the Education Inclusion Panel providing a better outcome and the others have been sorted via other methods such as: providing alternative placements, receiving support by staff members of the Virtual School and extra funding to help support that specific LAC.

In **December** 2018, there were 412 children in care and 293 LAC aged between 3-16 years old who could receive a fixed term exclusion. Since the start of the academic year

(September 2018) 12 LAC have received a fixed term exclusion accumulating a total of 29 fixed term exclusions and 60.5 days' worth of education missed, averaging at two exclusions per week. The LAC who have received fixed term exclusions vary from Year 4 – Year 12 and a total of 8 different schools. This shows throughout this term there have been some LAC who have been receiving more than one fixed term exclusions. These young people are discussed at The Gateshead Virtual School's weekly team meetings and decisions are made by the Virtual Head Teacher to prevent any further exclusions or issues from escalating. Since the start of the academic year there have been 3 occasions where a Looked After Child has been on the verge of permanent exclusion and the Virtual Head Teacher has had to intervene. Of the 3 cases, 1 has been resolved via a managed move to another school, 1 is undergoing statutory assessment for a special school place and 1 has been resolved by receiving support from our learning mentor.

There is a wide variation in the reasoning behind the exclusions which are listed below:

1. Persistent refusal to follow instructions.
2. Verbal abuse towards adults and pupils.
3. Non-compliance.
4. Truancy.
5. Swearing at staff and pupils.
6. Physical assault against members of staff and other pupils.
7. Damage of property.
8. General behaviour issues.

3.2 Conclusion

This monitoring process has been a success as it has allowed the Virtual School to work closer with schools and input early intervention to support both the Looked After Child and the educational setup they are attending. Also, it has allowed the Virtual School to discuss the more complex cases in more detail by having a better quality of information regarding the LAC exclusions. This also has allowed case work to be allocated around the team in an attempt to reduce the amount of fixed term exclusions that is currently on the rise both in Gateshead and nationally.

4 Teaching and learning

4.1 Letterbox

The Letterbox Club programme aims to inspire a love of reading and engagement with numeracy. The packs include a variety of books, maths games and stationery that are sent out in colourful packaging on a monthly basis Letterbox Club also provides us with a special pack during the Christmas period that we send to the children as an additional extra. This year's cohort includes 70 children that range from Nursey up to Year 6. The cohort is divided up into 5 different packs depending on age, for instance: - Purple (Nursey & Reception), Orange (Year 1 & 2), Blue (Year 3 & 4), Red (Year 5 & 6) & Yellow for our children who have a Special Educational Need. For many children, it's the first time they have had a letter or a parcel through the post and for some it's the first time they have had books of their own.

Feedback is positive from our evaluation forms from both Foster Carers and pupils. This feedback shows how the Letterbox Club provides such a positive impact not only on the children's reading, but other aspects of their education and valuable skills that can be

transferred into their everyday life. This is a yearly process that will hopefully continue to make encouraging influence to other LAC children who become involved with Letterbox Club.

Some comments:

How did your child react to receiving the letterbox club parcels? (Foster Carer)

One foster carer quoted "Very excited to open the parcel and find lots of items to enjoy and play."

What was the best thing about Letterbox Club? (Child)

One of our LAC said "Opening and not expecting what was in it!"

Do you have any feedback about Letterbox Club? (Foster Carer)

"Excellent! From each and every parcel my child took some of his books and counting games to school to play with. He will use the items for year to come, thank you!"

4.2 Private Tuition

Within the period September 2017 - July 2018 a total of 16 Looked after Children received one to one private tuition totaling 275 sessions overall. The majority of these sessions were through a national company called Fleet Tutors. We have also now started to use a local company called Vision for Education and arranged sessions through other Virtual Schools for some of our children placed Out of Borough.

The numbers receiving tuition are slightly less than in the previous year, we have been able to fund this by using some of the Pupil Premium money that we retain in REALAC.

The tutoring support offered during this period was in English and Math's and targeted mainly at Years 10 and 11 LAC to support those who were about to take their examinations. We were also able to offer some sessions to Year's 12 & 13 for students who were re-sitting their examinations.

4.3 Learning Mentor Support

Our learning mentor is a qualified counsellor and has significant experience in supporting children in secondary and primary schools. Since she took up post in June 2018, she has worked with 17 Looked After Children supporting their emotional wellbeing in both an educational and personal settings. She has been an advocate for them and they have shared issues and concerns they have regarding their education. Seven students are key stage (KS) 4, six students KS3 and three students KS2. Depending on each young person's needs and abilities, she has used strategies such as cognitive behaviour therapy to help them simply manage a day. She has helped them build their confidence and self-esteem. She has supported them in class to ensure they do not miss out on lesson content and peer interaction.

She has built a strong and positive relationship with social workers, schools, foster carers and more importantly the young persons that receive support. As a result trusting relationships have developed where pupils will share issues, for example, two secondary students had a similar issue with their tutors and the mentor was able to work with the school to help resolve this. Other examples of her work show how some of our children with

complex mental health needs and trauma are responding well to her consistent contact with them.

In the new year she will be using the Drawing and Talking therapy programme to support some of the emotionally vulnerable students, within their educational setting. This programme helps them to feel safe, build their confidence and self-worth and break down any anxieties they may have.

She will also be delivering Group Theraplay sessions to primary school children, to again promote healthy, positive relationships and help with feeling safe, protected and confident.

4.4 Education Psychology

Over the last year there has been a two day group theraplay training course which was delivered in Gateshead through the Theraplay Institute in July 2018. Schools with historically high numbers of looked after children were offered a free place with the agreement that they would then run at least one group theraplay intervention in their schools during the academic year 2018-2019. The training was attended by representatives from 13 schools as well as 2 members of the REALAC Team, 2 Educational Psychologists and a member of the Early Years Team. This has greatly increased capacity to deliver an evidence based intervention which draws upon principles of attachment theory, inter-subjectivity, brain research and the importance of play, to support looked after children in our schools as well as other vulnerable young people including adopted children and those living with family members through Special Guardianship Orders. It has also increased the capacity within the REALAC team to deliver the intervention in those schools that have not accessed the training. Feedback from those who attended the course was excellent and there are a growing number of groups within schools. We have now established a network meeting which takes place twice a year where we share good practice. We have also linked up with a regional network meeting to share practice with other local authorities.

We have continued to use our transition document which we developed based on evidence from the resilience literature, to offer an additional layer of support for our looked after children as they make the transition from primary to secondary school. This piece of work involves collecting information from Year 6 staff about areas of strength, areas for development, supportive strategies and key outcomes. The information is then passed to secondary schools to be discussed at the initial Year 7 PEP. We hope that this will be embedded as an annual process, dependent on capacity within the team.

The Education Psychology role has also involved delivering training to primary and secondary schools, staff from Newcastle college and foster carers. Topics have been related to the impact of early trauma and attachment difficulties for young people in schools and Supporting Young People who have been given a diagnosis of Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder.

A trainee Educational Psychologist has some time allocated to the REALAC team and she is about to start work with a carer and looked after child using an evidence-based approach called Video Interactive Guidance (VIG) which focuses on attunement and relationships.

Additionally the REALAC EP is involved in liaison with the Educational Psychologists in Gateshead around their work with looked after children in the schools that they cover. She has also been directly involved in casework and facilitating statutory processes with a number of looked after young people who have not been able to access an Educational Psychologist input through the usual school route linked to changes in care and education placements.

4.5 Teacher support to pupils

The REALAC teacher has provided a variety of one to one support to fourteen LAC (7 primary, 7 secondary pupils) during the period September 2017-July 2018.

The teacher has mainly worked with pupils who have special educational needs or who have gaps in their learning as result of earlier adverse experiences. She has liaised with Speech and Language specialists and Educational Psychologists in the support of these young people. She has provided 1:1 support for pupils preparing for Key stage 2 SATs. For example, she has helped several pupils address gaps in Maths and English programmes following systematic schemes and has worked on reading fluency and inference skills. Another important aspect of her work has been in preparation for GCSEs and maintaining pupils on their GCSE courses so that they sit the exams.

5 Outcomes

5.1 Key Stage 1

Gateshead Year 2 Looked after Children cohort was 15 pupils. Below is a table showing results of their end of year assessments.

Number Achieving Expected Level	6	6	6
Number in Cohort	13	13	13
% Achieving Expected Level			
Writing	46		
Reading		46	
Maths			46

The cohort was 13 in 2017-18 which is less than 2016-17 when it was 15.

6 Children have special educational needs – 46% of the cohort, this is a large increase on the previous year when it was only 13%. Of the 13 children, 7 were working below the expected standard for their age on entry to reception. All those pupils working at the expected early learning goals for their age achieved standards in writing, reading or maths.

The table below shows a comparison between Looked after Children Results at Key Stage 1 for 2017-18 and 2016-17.

% Achieving Expected Level	2017	2018
	13% SEND	46% SEND
Writing	80%	46%
Reading	80%	46%
Maths	87%	46%

5.2 Key Stage 2

Gateshead Year 6 Cohort was 18 pupils.

% Achieving Expected Level	LAC 61% SEN	All Gateshead
Writing	33%	82%
Reading	50%	80%
Maths	50%	81%
Writing, Reading and Maths	33%	70%
Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling	50%	84%

This is the third year for the new SATS tests which are marked differently to previous years where a Level 4 was seen as making Expected Level, they are now marked out of a 120, anyone achieving a score of 100 or above is classed as being at Expected Level, 99 or below is classed as not meeting Expected Level. The children sat a series of tests for each subject to gain their score, the exception to that is in Writing where it is graded through Teacher Assessments.

The Cohort in 2017-18 was 18 compared to 2016/17 when it was 20. 11 of 18 children were SEN – 61% of the cohort who were working below the expected standard on entry to key stage 1 with 7 at the expected standard. However, 9 children gained the expected level in reading, maths and grammar. Only one pupil didn't make the expected standard from their starting point in writing.

Gateshead schools all pupils SATs results were higher than the National Average in all subjects. We do not as yet have the national average for looked after children to compare averages for them. The Key Stage 2 results overall for Looked after Children for 2017-18 have risen in some areas such as Reading and Maths and also Writing/Reading/Maths combined from the previous year.

5.3 Key Stage 4

Gateshead's Looked after Children Year 11 Cohort was 30 Children. Below is a table showing Provisional Results for their GCSE/Equivalent Results.

30 Looked after Children SEN 63% of which 23% in special schools	No of Children	Percentage
5 (9-4)	6	20
5 (9-1)	17	57
5 (9-4) inc M&E	3	10
1 (9-1)	23	77

This year's GCSE's come under the new Grading System, they are marked by a number system between 9 and 1, 9 would be the equivalent of a A* while 1 would be the equivalent of a G. 4 is the classed as a C which is seen as a standard pass. These examinations are generally accepted as being of a Higher Level and harder to attain the standard pass or above.

23 Looked after Children achieved 1 x GCSE Passes at Grade 1 or above.	
17 Looked after Children achieved 5 x GCSE Passes at Grade 1 or above.	
6 Looked after Children achieved 5 x GCSE Passes at Grade 4 or above.	
3 Looked after Children achieved 5 x GCSE Passes at Grade 4 or above including English & Maths.	

Please note – 63% were SEN of which 23% of the cohort attend Special schools and were not expected to make 5 (9-4) because of SEN needs. These pupils took other qualifications such as functional skills or may not be able to gain accredited courses through exams. The cohort for this year had a higher ratio of SEN children increasing from 56% in 2017 to 63% in 2018. 13% of the cohort attend PRU's because of being at risk of permanent exclusion.

5.4 Post 16 Progression routes

The following table provides a snapshot of the destinations of students in year 12, 13 and post year 13 (as of 20/11/18).

2018 (provisional data as of 20/11/18)			
Year Groups (size of cohort)	Year 12 (34)	Year 13 (32)	Year 14 (34)
Progression Routes			
6 th form	8	4	0
College	13	13	11
Study Programme/ Traineeship	4	2	4
Apprenticeship	1	5	4
NEET	3	4	4
University/HE level course	Not applicable	Not applicable	3
Princes Trust/personal Development Programme	0	1	
Work (eg without accredited training or part time)	1	0	4
Combined care and education	1		
Pregnant			2
Teenage Parent	1	2	1
Not available to the work place/ Other		1 in voluntary drug rehab	1 in full time care
Not available to the work place/ Other	1 incarcerated	0	
Other	1 missing	0	

Higher Education (HE)

The numbers of LAC progressing to higher education remains low. It is most likely that some previously looked after young people engage with HE at a later stage but there are no figures at present to capture this. REALAC continue to financially support students in their first year at university when they receive an HE bursary of £2,000.

EET meeting

The EET meeting, which is a joint monthly meeting between REALAC and Social Care has continued to identify and plan work with young people who are NEET or who are at risk of becoming NEET. External partners have been brought into this group to improve monitoring and target work to be done with the young people. These include Gateshead and Newcastle College, Learning & Skills and Early Help's Careers Advisers.

Work Experience

Background

The Pathways2Work (P2W) project supports Looked After Young People in year 10 – year 13 to find work experience during their school/college holidays within a real working environment. The aim is to help to improve their chances in life by developing the skills needed for future careers. It can also improve their confidence and helps them to learn more about a particular career before finalising their plans.

A young person can work for a period of one day to several weeks. They are supported to help identify the correct type of placement suitable to their needs.

Pathways2Work Participation (Feb 18 to Oct 18)

Half Term	No of students out per holiday	Total days 2018
February Half Term	6	25
Easter (across the 2 weeks)	12	66
May Half Term	2	8
Summer	12	110
October	6	26
Total		
Supported student to find own placement for their school work experience	1	5

Types of Placement

In 2018, examples of placements included: Retail, Maintenance, Catering, Elderly Care, Architecture, Hospitality, Web Design/Graphics, Special Olympics, Hospital discharge, Motor Vehicle, Construction, Childcare, Sport, ICT, and Outdoor Pursuits. As a result of one work experience a pupil was offered a part time job.

Raising Aspirations

Gateshead Virtual School continues to work with the North East Raising Aspirations Partnership to try to improve young people's knowledge and experience of university. This is via their Choices programme, which has 2 strands: 'Choices together' and their themed Foster Family Fun Days. Choices Together is aimed at year 10 and 11 and comprises of 5 sessions. Foster Family Fun Days are aimed at years 8 and 9, but the whole foster family can attend the sessions. Unfortunately, numbers remain low on the take up of these events, but drop out is low, indicating that the students who take part in the programme enjoy it and feedback is usually positive. To try and improve numbers, REALAC has liaised with the Choices Coordinator and arranged for them to attend a Designated Teachers meeting and facilitated contact with the Fostering team so that they can promote the programme.

6 Adoption

For previously looked-after children, the Virtual school headteacher (VSH) is the source of advice and information to help their parents to advocate for them as effectively as possible. REALAC has appointed a teacher to provide this advice and respond to parent and school queries as required. This has already resulted in visits to schools and phone queries from parents.

A leaflet has also been produced for schools so they can inform parents on how to get pupil premium plus funding.

7 Recommendations

- 1 To further develop practice in colleges by:
 - implementing a new system for improving PEP returns for all Post 16 LAC
 - extending the Transitions Protocol for Looked After Children beyond year 11.
- 2 Continue to provide appropriate intervention and provision for those pupils at risk of permanent exclusion to maintain their school place and to challenge where schools haven't made appropriate provision.
- 3 Ensure communication with social care enables more timely information to REALAC on new children into care of nursery age.

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TITLE OF REPORT: Gateshead Looked After Children and Young People's Health Team – Annual Report 2017-18

REPORT OF: Caroline O'Neill Strategic Director, Care, Wellbeing and Learning

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides a summary of the work and outcomes for the Looked After Children and Young People Health Team in Gateshead 2017-18. Themes from the team's annual report are presented. There is brief information regarding the work undertaken by colleagues in sexual health and drug and alcohol services. Priorities for the future year are also included.

Background

This document aims to give an overview of the work and achievements of the Looked After Children's Health Team for Gateshead 2017-18.

The Looked After Children's (LAC) Health Team in Gateshead is commissioned by Newcastle Gateshead Clinical Commissioning Group. The team consists of:

Medical Secretary -1WTE

Named Nurse LAC 1 WTE

Specialist Nurse LAC 1WTE

LAC Administrators – 1 WTE and 0.5 WTE

All employed by Gateshead Health NHS Foundation Trust since 1.10.16.

The team is based at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Gateshead.

The Designated Doctor LAC retired in December 2016 and the work has been covered by other paediatricians in the department since then. A LAC Designated Doctor was appointed in March 2018, commencing in September 2018. For ease of reading the activity covered by the group of paediatricians continues to be referred to throughout this report as the work of the Designated Doctor.

Activity

Initial Health Assessments

- The team received a total of 154 notifications of children and young people becoming looked after in 2017-2018 of which 148 had IHA's completed. The remaining 6 were not completed for the following reasons: 5 left care after consent received but before appointment could be arranged, 1 refused

- Our overall compliance for Medical Practitioners to complete the IHA (DH/DfE 2015) was 100%.
- There is on-going monitoring of timeframes for completion of Initial Health Assessments within 28 days (20 working days) (DH/DfE 2015). In 2017-2018 we have achieved 65.85 % compliance, this is an improvement from 43.82% for the previous year.
- The LAC Health Team were able to offer IHA appointments to 93.29% of children within 20 working days of consents being received, an increase on the previous year (77.16%)

A challenge in meeting the overall time frame was the delay in obtaining parental consent from social workers (68.78%). This is an increase from 40.12% the previous year.

Contributing delays:

Late consents together with late notifications	total	34
Lack of clinic appointments		1
Appointments not attended or cancelled by carers		10
Did not attend appointment		5
Returned home		7
Out of area		2
Refused		1
Hospital inpatient		1

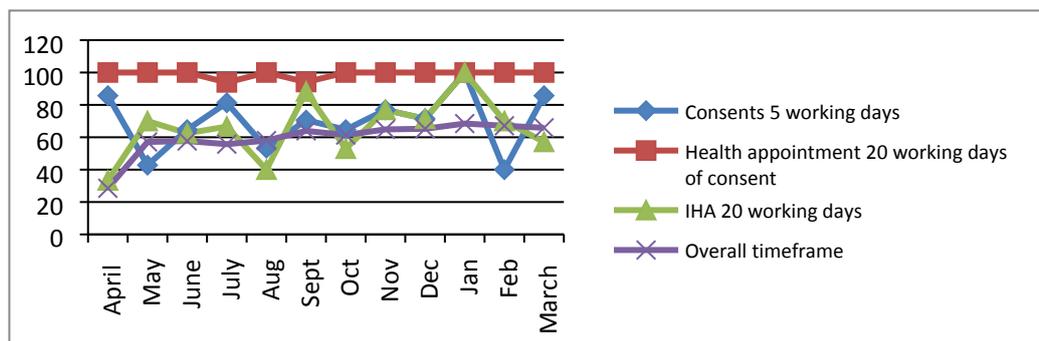
In order to achieve a better understanding of how these difficulties are contributing to timescales not being met on a monthly basis and to ensure that actions are appropriately targeted, data has been collected from April 2017 onwards in the following way:

Total numbers of admissions to care

% of consents received within 5 days

% of appointments offered within 28 days of receiving consent

% of appointments offered within 28 days of becoming Looked After



Review Health Assessments

- A total of 350 RHA's were completed in 2017-2018, a rise from 286 the previous year. 94.3% of these were completed within 28 days of their due date, which is an improvement of 85% for the previous year.

Leaving Care

- The LAC Health Team are commissioned to provide services for Looked after Children up to their 18th birthday. A leaving care health consultation is undertaken by the Named or Specialist Nurse LAC, during the final year (age 17-18). This may be achieved at the time of the final statutory health assessment or may be done as a separate contact closer to their 18th birthday if there are additional needs for services and support.
- The document provided is a Leaving Care Health Passport, which has been developed with young people involved in the consultation phase. Amendments have been made to include links on health promotion and advice on access to health services, previous health and immunisation history are included.
- If the young person agrees a copy is sent to the young person's social worker. Leaving Care Health Passports were provided to 42 of the 42 young people recorded as leaving care (100%). This is an improvement from 94.87 % in the previous year and 68.7 % in the year prior to that.
- Support has been given to personal advisors from the Local Authority to develop their skills on health needs and services.
- The Named and Specialist Nurse LAC have attended the Transitions Meeting to support young people with a learning disability in the transition between children and adult services.
- A Drop In for Care Leavers has been tried and the LAC Health Team have supported this.

Statistical Returns

- The team have achieved good returns as reported by the Local Authority in their SSDA 903 returns to Central Government.

	31/3/18	31/3/17	31/03/16	31/03/15	31/03/2014	31/03/13
Health Assessments	99%	98.8%	99.1%	96.6%	95.7%	96.98%
Dental Appointments	97%	94.7%	90.7%	94.4%	87.9%	92.08%
Immunisations	94%	99.2%	96.9%	94.8%	96.1%	92.83%

- The task of distributing and scoring the Strength & Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ) lies with the Local Authority and once completed the scores are shared with the LAC Health Team. Information provided by Gateshead Local Authority indicates that during the reporting year 96.7 % of eligible children had an SDQ score submitted. 59.1% had a score 14 or over. The average score was 15.2. As recommended by CQC the scores, when available, have been added to the BAAF health assessment forms and practitioners are expected to interpret the score and reflect on the child's needs and services in place or required, this is being supported through training and supervision.

Children and Young Peoples Service (CYPS)

- Northumberland, Tyne & Wear NHS Foundation Trust Children and Young Peoples services (CYPS) provide services for children and young people in Gateshead and Newcastle who present with mental health difficulties. The LAC Health team have no data from the service and would expect that this will be available within the CYPS own Annual Report.
- A LAC Consultation Clinic takes place twice a month. Professionals can refer to this service to discuss cases.

Safeguarding

- The LAC Health Team continue to recognise that the Looked After population are more vulnerable to exploitation and some other forms of abuse and harm. They are therefore not only involved in training to ensure awareness of this within the wider health community but also participate in reviews of Serious Incidents which have involved Looked After Children to see if learning can be identified. The Specialist / Named Nurse LAC attends the LSCB Missing Sexually Exploited and Trafficked (MSET) subgroup to consider individual cases where Looked After Children may be vulnerable and attend Gateshead NHS Foundation Trust Safeguarding Committee.

Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD)

- A significant number of children and young people who are Looked After have been diagnosed with FAS/FASD in recent years. There is a planned review of this work and paediatric services in Gateshead remain involved in the development of a regional approach to the assessment of children with possible FASD. This work remains a long-term objective and is important both for the Looked After population but also the wider population of Gateshead.

Drug & Alcohol Services

- Drug and Alcohol Services for children and young people in Gateshead is provided by the PLATFORM service. There were 16 referrals from 1st April 2017 to 31st March 2018. The referral sources were: A&E – 1, Social Services – 6, LAC Health Team -5, School Nurse – 1, YOT – 2, Aycliffe Secure Unit – 1. The first substance of choice was: Alcohol - 6, Cannabis - 4, MDMA - 1, Nicotine – 5.

Sexual Health Services

- Young people are encouraged to access generic sexual health services in their placement area as required. Those young people identified as in need of specialist intervention are assessed on an individual basis and professionals work together to ensure that their identified needs are met.
- There were a total of 3 young people who had pregnancies during the year. 1 had her baby during the reporting period and two are expected to have their babies after the reporting period. The young lady who had her baby during the reporting period engaged with the Family Nurse Partnership.

- Information provided by Ann Carey, Specialist Nurse Sexual Health, South Tyneside Foundation Trust. There were 29 LAC contacts. These contacts included contraception, pregnancy testing and STI screening. There were also 3 contacts were for pregnancy options.

Adoption

- The Designated Doctor LAC is the Medical Advisor to the adoption agency. This is a statutory role which has been vacant since the retirement of the previous post-holder in December 2016. Since that time this element of the role has been covered by other community paediatricians with appropriate experience. This has involved:
 - Close working with social workers and members of the adoption team to ensure that historical medical information is collated, the child's family and genetic information considered, and that all the child's health and development needs are identified and shared openly with the prospective adopters. This entails meeting with adopters face to face and providing them with a comprehensive medical report.
 - Participating in the stage one training of adopters to highlight the role of the medical advisor and the key risks e.g. the invisible disability associated with exposure to pre-birth alcohol.
 - Sitting on the adoption panel as an advisor and as an independent panel member.
 - Actively considering the implications of Regionalisation of Adoption Services and the ongoing major procedural and legislative changes in adoption which continue to impact upon the Medical Advisor role.
- The previous Designated Doctor LAC had a particular interest in Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) and was continuing to develop this until her retirement. This work is not yet part of a commissioned pathway of care. Further review and development of this work is needed, hopefully on a regional basis, drawing in colleagues from other areas.
- 24 adoption medicals (including reviews) were undertaken during the year.
- The Adoption Panel considered 29 matches of children with prospective adopters during 2017/18 which is similar to the previous year number of 26. The Medical Advisor met 25 prospective adopters for 30 children to share all available health information and a detailed health report was prepared for the adopters to share with the new primary health care worker for the child.
- In total during 2017 / 2018 25 children were adopted which is similar to the previous year (23).
- The Medical Advisor reviewed a total of 26 adult medicals with advice being provided to the agency and the panel.

Fostering

- Adult medical advice to the Foster panel has been provided by doctors working with the LAC Health Team. There has been an increase in the number of adult medicals requiring medical advice in 2017/18 (199 – compared to 132 in

2016\17). The Named Nurse has attended some of the panels as an independent panel member.

Training

- Training has been offered to residential and foster carers about the health needs of Looked after Children.
- Looked after children's health needs & issues are included in Level 2 and 3 training delivered to Gateshead NHS Foundation Trust
- Level 3 Safeguarding training – 'Looked After Children –Health Professional Role' continued to be delivered to community health staff that have or may have involvement with this client group and this training was delivered on a quarterly basis in 2017 by the Named Nurse for LAC &YP from South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust. The training on Quality Health Assessments for LAC is delivered as part of this course for those carrying out health assessments from South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust.

Inspection

- On 20th March 2018, Ofsted conducted a Focused Visit to Gateshead Local Authority Children's Services with a focus on care leavers. Some areas for further development were suggested. Though none of these were specific to the LAC Health Team. It was acknowledged that all young people leaving care in 2017 - 2018 had a health passport.

Newcastle Gateshead Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)

- The team have fulfilled contractual obligations to the CCG. Team members have attended LAC strategic meetings linked to the CCG LAC strategy 2017-2020. This links with the Corporate Parenting Health Workstream.
- Efficiency has been demonstrated through Dashboard reporting to the CCG.
- External quality assurance has been provided by the Designated Nurse LAC from the CCG undertaking audits of Review Health Assessments.

Team Developments

- A database is being developed and information has started to be collated. In the future this should enable profiling of the health needs of Gateshead Looked after Children and Young People.
- The coverage of Leaving Care Health Passports has improved to 100% coverage. The support to care leavers has continued by improving the coverage of Leaving Care Health Passports, attendance at the Transitions Meeting, introduction of a RAG rating and support to the Leaving Care Team.
- A Care Leavers Drop in has been trialled and LAC nurses will contribute to this once it is set up by the local authority. From October 2018 this has been established and supported by the LAC Nurses.

- The LAC nurses are now completing the majority of review health assessments on the children and young people who are placed out of the area, attending education out of area or not in education but are still placed within the region. These have all been completed in timescale.
- The LAC nurses attend the majority of Strategy Meetings they receive an invite to.
- The team have worked with the local authority to improve the SDQ and consent process.
- The provisional statistics for Key Performance Indicators for the end of year have remained high. The dental percentage has improved from previous years.

Priorities 2018 -2019

- The program of audit will be ongoing and improvements made from the recommendations made.
- To continue to develop work supporting the care leavers.
- The regional pathway for the diagnosis and management of children with FASD will be further developed. Review of the work that has already happened in Gateshead will feed into this process.
- To continue to work closely with the Local Authority to improve the overall timeframes for Initial Health Assessments.
- Support to Designated Doctor LAC who will be new in post.
- To monitor the updated process for SDQs and to use the score as part of the health assessment.
- Obtain feedback from young people regarding the leaving care health passport.

References

Dept. Children School & Families (DH / DfE) 2015 Statutory Guidance –Promoting the Health & Emotional Well-being of Looked After Children

Royal College of Nurses & Royal College of Paediatrics & Child Health (RCN & RCPCH) 2015 Looked After Children, Knowledge, skills and competence of health care staff. Intercollegiate Role Framework.

Contact

Jean Hubble

Named Nurse - Looked After Children & Young People, Gateshead.

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TITLE OF REPORT:	Work Programme 2018-19 and Development of Work Programme for 2019 - 20
REPORT OF:	Sheena Ramsey, Chief Executive Mike Barker, Strategic Director, Corporate Services & Governance

Summary

This report is set out in two parts. The first part sets out the provisional work programme for Corporate Parenting Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the municipal year 2018-19 and the second part details the current position / next steps in the development of the work programme for this OSC for the municipal year 2019-20.

2018-19 Work Programme

1. The Committee's provisional work programme was endorsed at the meeting held on 26 March 2018 and Councillors have agreed that further reports will be brought to future meetings to highlight current issues / identify any changes / additions to this programme.
2. Appendix 1 sets out the work programme as it currently stands and highlights proposed changes to the programme in bold and italics for ease of identification.

Development of 2019-20 OSC Work Programmes

Background

3. Every year each Overview and Scrutiny Committee draws up a work programme based on the Council's policy framework which is then agreed by the Council as part of the policy planning process.
4. The Committee's work programme is a rolling programme which sets the agenda for its quarterly meetings. It is the means by which it can address the interests of the local community, focus on improving services and seek to reduce inequalities in service provision and access to services.

Current Position

5. The process for developing all the OSC work programmes for 2019-20 is now underway and views are currently being sought from councillors' on potential priority issues for inclusion which fall within the remits of the relevant OSCs and support the 5 pledges under the Thrive agenda:-
 - Put people and families at the heart of everything that we do
 - Tackle inequality so people have a fair chance

- Support our communities to support themselves and each other
 - Invest in our economy to provide sustainable opportunities for employment, innovation and growth across the borough.
 - Work together and fight for a better future for Gateshead
6. At this OSC meeting on 17 January 2019 there will be an opportunity for the OSC to comment on / discuss emerging issues for this OSC / put forward additional issues for consideration.

Next Steps

7. Subsequently, in line with usual practice, partner organisations will be consulted on the emerging themes for each OSC for 2019 – 20 with a view to OSCs considering any feedback/ additional suggestions / endorsing their respective work programmes at their March / April 2019 OSC meetings and referring them to Council for agreement.

Recommendations

8. The Committee is asked to:-
- a) Note the provisional work programme for 2018-19;
 - b) Note that further reports on the 2018-19 work programme will be brought to the Committee to identify any additional policy issues which the Committee may be asked to consider.
 - c) Comment on the emerging issues for this OSC's 2019-20 work programme / highlight any additional issues for consideration.

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APPENDIX 1

Draft Corporate Parenting OSC 2018/19	
12 July 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulation 44 Report • Permanence Planning (Adoption) – Case Study • Care Leavers Offer – Quality and Impact • Work Programme
11 October 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young People’s Presentation • Performance Overview • Work Programme • Regulation 44 Report
17 January 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Missing from Care Annual Report • Education Annual Report (incl focus on employment/training/ apprenticeships) • Health of LAC Annual report • Regulation 44 Report • Work Programme
28 March 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young People’s presentation • Performance Overview • Care Leavers Offer – Quality and Impact • Work Programme • Regulation 44 Report

Issues to slot in:

- **Fostering Service Annual Report 2018 (Deferred from July and October 2018 meetings)**
- **Adoption Annual Report 2018 (Deferred from July and October 2018 meetings)**

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By virtue of paragraph(s) 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

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