

# **CORPORATE PARENTING SUB COMMITTEE**

Agenda Item 38

Brighton & Hove City Council

<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Corporate Parenting Summary Performance Report Card</b>		
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>17<sup>th</sup> April 2013</b>		
<b>Report of:</b>	<b>Director of Children's Services</b>		
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Name:</b>	<b>Andy Whippey</b>	<b>Tel: 29-5391</b>
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<b>Key Decision:</b>	<b>No</b>		
<b>Ward(s) affected:</b>	<b>All</b>		

## **FOR GENERAL RELEASE**

### **1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:**

- 1.1 Corporate Parenting is a key responsibility for every Local Authority. Members are required to have an oversight of the care, well-being and outcomes for all children in care, and to ensure progress for young people leaving care.
- 1.2 This report provides a summary of performance indicators, with an analysis of key issues. Attached is a full report of performance indicators which will be useful as a document of record, to enable regular monitoring by all Members of the Council, as well as Members of the Corporate Parenting Board.

### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- 2.1 That members note and scrutinise the information in this report, to ensure full awareness of performance and outcomes for children in care in Brighton and Hove.
- 2.2 That members consider any particular issues they may wish to consider in more depth at future meetings.
- 2.3 That members consider how to relay this information to the broader council to ensure high awareness of the responsibilities for children in care.

### **3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:**

#### **3.1 Children Looked After Numbers**

Whilst the numbers of Children in Care remain high in relation to statistical neighbours and the England average, the rate of children looked after per 10,000 children aged under 18 has fallen from 98 as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012 to 90 as at 31<sup>st</sup> January 2013. The indication is that these numbers will fall further in 2013 due to

a combination of factors. These include the Family First Strategy children in long-term foster care that increasing numbers of children being cared for by the wider family network under special guardianship arrangements, alongside significant packages being put together for children in need to prevent them becoming looked after in the first instance.

There were 96 children in care proceedings as at 31<sup>st</sup> January 2013, down from 147 in February 2012. This will have an impact on overall numbers of Children in Care in the long term.

### **3.2 Distance Between Home and Placement**

There has been a significant media and political interest on the issue of the distance Children in Care are placed from their home authority. The recent interim report of the office of the Children's Commissioner has highlighted the increased risk of exploitation children may be exposed to when placed far from their communities of origin. The numbers of children placed within 20 miles of Brighton and Hove (this being the performance indicator which is used) is very high and above the national average, with 85% of children either placed within 20 miles or placed for adoption compared to the national average of 80%.

### **3.3 Health and Dental Checks**

The percentage of children with Health and Dental checks completed within 12 months is 74% as at 31<sup>st</sup> January 2013, below the national average of 84.3%. Recording of health and dental checks appears to be a significant factor which is being addressed and we would expect this figure to improve over the coming months.

### **3.4 Personal Education Plans (PEP)**

PEP activity has seen a significant increase over the last 12 months, with 90% of school age CiC having a PEP completed within 6 months. The Ofsted expectation would be a figure of no less than 95%. Information Officers now have a crucial role in terms of monitoring PEP completion and we expect the completion figure to continue to rise.

### **3.5 Offending behaviour by children in care**

We will be in a position at the next Corporate Parenting Committee to report on an individual basis relating to offending behaviour and patterns of offending behaviour.

### **3.6 NEET**

We will be in a position at the next Corporate Parenting Committee to report on an individual basis relating to those young people not in employments, education or training (NEET)

## **4. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION**

4.1 Children in Care and Carers should be actively involved in monitoring performance.

## 5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

### Financial Implications:

- 5.1 Although there are no financial implications as a direct result of the specific recommendations within this report, the service areas highlighted in the report encompass a significant part of the Children's Services budget. For 2013/14 the initial budget allocation for 'Looked After Children' is £25.8m and for 'Children's Safeguarding' it is £13.2m. It is vital that these resources are deployed in an efficient and effective manner ensuring the best value for money for the Council.

*Finance Officer Consulted: David Ellis*

*Date: 27.3.13*

### Legal Implications:

- 5.2 The report sets out some indicators against which members can consider the extent to which it is evidenced that the Authority is meeting some basic requirements to promote the welfare of the children for whom the Authority holds corporate responsibility. The Local Authority has an absolute duty of care to all Looked After Children, and a duty to promote their welfare. The Authority must ensure compliance with the regulations and guidance in relation to specific aspects of the care of all Looked After Children.

*Lawyer Consulted: Natasha Watson*

*Date: 27.3.13*

### Equalities Implications:

- 5.3 Children in Care generally suffer poorer health, education and life opportunities than other children. The efforts of the Social Care Service, Health and the Council as a whole are focused on addressing this in-balance.

### Sustainability Implications:

- 5.4 Concerted efforts have been made to reduce the numbers of Children in Care through earlier intervention.

### Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 5.5 Efforts are made to ensure children and young people in care are protected from risk of harm as victims of crime and do not become young offenders.

### Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

- 5.6 Brighton and Hove numbers of Children in Care are high in comparison with other Authorities. A concerted effort into early help may address family issues at an earlier stage.

### Public Health Implications:

- 5.7 Health colleagues are fully engaged in the support for Children in Care.

5.8 Corporate / Citywide Implications:

Support for Children in Care is in keeping with the Council priorities for equality and support for the most vulnerable.

**6. EVALUATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S):**

6.1 The Council has reorganised Social Care Services to bring greater focus and consistency to support Children in Need and Children in Care. This will be kept under review.

**7. REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS**

7.1 It is vital that Elected Members understand the position of Children in Care, and their role in supporting better outcomes for them.

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION**

**Appendices:**

1. Appendix 1 – Corporate Parenting Summary Report Card

**Documents in Members' Rooms**

1. None

**Background Documents**

1. None