

**Cardiff Council
Social Services**

**Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee – Quarter 4 Performance Briefing
Note**

- At 31st March 2018, we had **830 looked after children**, 83 of whom started to be looked after during the quarter. The decisions to accommodate these children have been scrutinised and the Committee can be reassured that the **decisions were appropriate**.
- Whilst Quarter 4 performance was mixed, the Assistant Director advises that the Committee be **reassured** by the current performance of the service, particularly when taking demand pressures into account.
- **Average social worker caseload** in the looked after children teams is **18.5** compared with 18.9 across the whole of the service.
- 51% (864) of the 1,694 children with a Care and Support Plan at 31st March 2018, were being **supported to live at home** (i.e. were not being looked after). Compared with 55% in 2016/17.
- 8.7% (91) of the 1,042 children who have been looked after during the year have **returned home**.
- In addition to the 91 children who were returned home from care, 119 children were in the care of their parents, but remain subject to a Care Order, and 74 children were placed with relative carers.
- Performance in relation to timeliness of **looked after children's reviews** decreased during the quarter to 90% from 96% in Quarter 3. This, in part reflects the ongoing increase in the number of looked after children and the consequent demand on the Independent Reviewing Service. It also reflects the carry-over of reviews rescheduled from previous quarters. Arrangements are being made to mitigate against future meetings being out of timescale (pressure bid for 2 additional IRO posts and a duty rota to ensure cover).
- Performance in relation to statutory visits to looked after children also reduced slightly to 93% from 95% in Quarter 3. Performance for the year was 94.4%, very close to the target of 95%. This level of performance is considered to be good in the context of the increasing number of looked after children.
- During 2017/18, 249 **Care Proceedings** were issued and 218 were concluded compared with 235 and 228 respectively in 2016/17. All proceedings were concluded within the 26 week timescale.