

CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

16 January 2018

Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee Performance Summary
Quarter 2 2017/18

Reasons for the Report

1. The purpose of the report is to provide the Committee with information and performance data in respect of Quarter 2 2017/18 to enable the Committee to:
 - a. Understand the factors that impact on outcomes for looked after children.
 - b. Consider opportunities for improving outcomes for looked after children.
2. This is the latest attempt at a more strategic approach to reporting to Committee. It will be used as the basis for developing future reports that will give Members an understanding of cross cutting issues relating to looked after children both within the Council and wider partnerships.
3. Quarter 2 covers the period from 1st July 2017 to 30th September 2017.
4. The performance report attached at **Appendix A** has been constructed to highlight the progress made in delivering the key objectives, associated performance indicators, and commentaries that help to identify progress, issues and actions planned where the trend in performance is falling. To make the information in the performance report clearer, each indicator is accompanied by an arrow, and in some cases, a happy, indifferent or sad face.
5. For your information, these symbols represent the following:

- The face symbol shows whether performance is likely, unlikely to, or may meet the target set for the year.
 - The arrow direction shows whether performance has declined, has been sustained or improved when compared with an appropriate previous period.
6. The new Social Services & Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 that came into force on 6th April 2016 provides the legal framework for improving the wellbeing of people who need care and support, and carers who need support, and for transforming social services in Wales.
 7. We are looking to develop future reports that include more infographics and less text.

Overview of Performance

8. Within Quarter 2 performance was mixed and there are some areas of strength, particularly given demand pressures, however there are also some areas for improvement. Performance in relation to initial child protection conferences improved slightly to 94% (109 / 116), which is on target.
9. However, performance in respect of timely wellbeing assessments reduced to 76% (516 / 675) from 83% (523 / 630) in Quarter 1. This is in the context of a 7% (45) increase in the number of assessments completed.
10. Performance in relation to allocation of children on the Child Protection Register and looked after children to social workers remained at 100% (230 / 230).
11. Work to progress the Directorate's commitments in the Corporate Plan has continued and key areas of progress include:
 - a. **Improve engagement with faith communities** - Key strategies around communication and engagement have been successfully developed with the Muslim Council of Wales and in partnership with Cardiff and Vale

Regional Safeguarding Children's Board; this has led to the publication of 'Safeguarding our Children: A Guidance for Mosque Schools and Islamic Studies Settings'. The guidance is about valuing and keeping Muslim children who receive an Islamic education in Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan safe. Its purpose is to raise community awareness about safeguarding children and to provide information about how to deal with concerns. Copies have been distributed to all mosques in Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan and a launch is planned for Quarter 3.

- b. **Young carers** - Implementation of the regional young carers' action plan is ongoing and will facilitate better awareness of this group and the support available to them. Young Carer's Champions have been identified in two high schools, one in the East and one in the West of Cardiff. Future development includes identifying additional school based support workers with posts expected to be operational in Quarter 1 2018/19. The Young Carers in Schools programme is currently being piloted by a number of schools across Wales including, Gwynedd, Denbighshire, Conwy, Pembrokeshire, Merthyr Tydfil, Caerphilly, Cardiff and Greater Gwent. Supporting Young Carers in Schools: A Step-by-Step Guide for Leaders, Teachers and Non-Teaching Staff, is part of the Young Carers in Schools programme. The guide uses a number of tools to assist in raising awareness, identifying, assessing and supporting young carers in schools. Wider use of the guide will be explored in Quarter 3 looking at the potential for the guide to be used across other agencies including social care.
- c. **Signs of Safety** - Implementation of the Signs of Safety approach within Children's Services is ongoing and is on target to meet the milestones set out in the Directorate Plan. Practice Leader workshops have continued to take place throughout the quarter and a 5 day intensive Practice Leader course is due to be held in the first week of October. Engagement and sharing of best practice continues with other Local Authorities within both Wales and UK wide. The project plan is progressing well.

- d. **Corporate Parenting Strategy** – The Corporate Parenting Strategy implementation plan has been delivered and operational during the past 12 months with the majority of the actions having been met in full. As a result it has been decided that the formal launch of the Strategy is no longer necessary.

During Quarter 2 2017/18, there were 21 referrals to the **Looked After Children Traineeship scheme**. Of these, 6 have started Traineeship Placements and 1 has attended taster days. 10 will receive pre-engagement work before starting a Trainee placement. The remaining 4 are due to be met early in Quarter 3. An additional 11 young started Traineeship Placements during Quarter 2 from referrals in previous quarters. 2 young people were offered and accepted Paid Trainee roles. 1 young person interviewed but was not successful for a Corporate Apprenticeship and 1 young person registered with Cardiff Works. At the end of the quarter there were a total of 11 Trainees and 6 Apprentices (as some of these arrangements commenced in previous years). Monies identified as part of the Cardiff Ambition to create a new post that will sustain and develop the Trainee Scheme, including opportunities outside of the Council. A focus group was held with young people who have been through the Trainee Scheme to look at changing the identity of the scheme. The scheme will be renamed Bright Starts Trainee Scheme and processes will be redesigned with Communications Team before being relaunched.

A **Participation and Consultation Steering Group** for looked after children has been established within Specialist Services (Looked After Children, Personal Advisers and Advocacy) that will give some governance and meaningfulness where young people are involved in participation and consultation exercises.

12. There has been some slippage in progress against some of the milestones in the Corporate Plan relating to:

- a. **Safeguarding Vision and Strategy** – The development of a Vision and Strategy for Safeguarding in Cardiff was originally targeted for completion by 31st March 2018, but vacancy related delays now mean that we are targeting completion in Quarter 1 2018/19.
- b. **Direct Payments** – 835 people have used the Direct Payment scheme during Quarters 1 and 2 (172 children and 663 adults aged 18+). During Quarter 2, 19 started Direct Payments and 12 ceased (of which, the main reason was deceased).

The new Direct Payments Support Service commenced on 31st July 2017. The transition to the successful provider, Dewis Centre for Independent Living (CIL) is being undertaken and the transition plans are being implemented. This provides a solid platform for improving performance in keeping with the target. The growth bid was successful and, as a result, the Personal Assistant rate and agency rate will increase from £10.02 to £10.52 and £11.96 to £14.66 respectively. Decision that Continuing Health Care is not available where Direct Payments are in place for children is being challenged.

- c. **Disability Futures** - The Disability Futures Strategy is making strong progress in a highly complex partnership environment and is effectively driving the changes needed in relation to models for a regional Complex Needs Service, regional recommissioning of services, transition, autism services and integrated respite for children. Despite strong performance in relation to the strategy, there has been some slippage against the milestones set out in the Directorate Plan.

Integrated delivery models for a regional **Complex Needs Service** are currently being explored, e.g. scoping out the development of a regional Occupational Therapy service for Children across Health, Education and Social Services.

The Project Group has undertaken a scoping exercise on the **regional recommissioning of services** e.g. Independent Living Skills (ILS). As a

result a project brief to support regional commissioning and alignment is to be considered by the Families First Programme Board.

Work to create a **Transition** process and protocol for Cardiff that can be closely aligned with regional partners is ongoing. Transition process workshops with key stakeholders working on transition in Cardiff Council Social Services were held and completed during the quarter. The draft process that was agreed at the workshop was further discussed and agreed at the regional operational group meeting with relevant Operational Managers from Cardiff, Vale, Education and the University Health Board.

Existing University Health Board and Cardiff and the Vale **autism services**, Cardiff and Vale Autism Spectrum Service (CAVASS) and Adult Autism Advice (AAA), have been restructured and aligned into an integrated Autism Service. The integrated service was launched by Cllr Hinchey (Cardiff), Cllr Kerry (Vale of Glamorgan) and the Minister for Social Services and Public Health on the 27th September. A wide range of stakeholders will come together to join the launch across varied Health directorates, Social Services, Education, schools and the Third Sector.

The Officer Decision Report (ODR) in relation to **Integrated Respite for Children** is being finalised and prepared for sign off in Quarter 3.

- d. **Recruitment and retention of children's social workers** - The impact of ongoing work to recruit social workers is beginning to show, with vacancies reducing to 20% in Quarter 2, from 26% in Quarter 1. In September 2017, 30.0 / 153.8 social worker posts were vacant. The vacancy position dipped below 20% in August for the first time since September 2015. The improvement in the vacancy rate is despite 4 Principal Social Worker posts in the Looked After Children's Service being filled with existing staff, creating vacancies at Social Worker level.

13. In relation to the Directorate Plan, there has been progress in relation to:

- a. **Emerging areas of risk** - Think Safe Service Operational Manager appointed and in post. Practitioner and Team Manager posts for the service have been advertised and recruitment is underway. Cardiff Council arranged to host an all Wales network event on sharing best practice in tackling CSE, human trafficking and the exploitation of vulnerable adults (held on 2nd October 2017). The event was attended by UK speakers, Welsh Government and partners from across Wales.

- b. **Further embed First Point of Contact / Information, Advice and Assistance functions** – Work to develop an **Early Help Front Door** with the Team Around the Family (TAF) is ongoing. The purpose will be to enable referrers to have greater understanding of current services and their accessibility prior to contacting statutory services. The first phase of the plan will be to extend the current TAF service to give the team additional capacity to deal with Information, Advice and Assistance (IAA) contacts, using the freephone number as the main contact point. The team will also have additional capacity to provide key working support for families who are being stepped down from Intake & Assessment. Currently, the front door service is managed via the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) and there is evidence of improved communication between the MASH and referrers, particularly in light of the Signs of Safety model being introduced.

- c. **Recommission Families First Services** – Recruitment to central posts has concluded and appointments have been made. Service Specifications have been finalised and the draft Officer Decision Report is in development for sign off in Quarter 3. Recruitment of Social Workers from within Children's Services to the Early Help Front Door has also been concluded.

- d. **Integrated Finance and Service Strategy** – The scope of the Institute of Public Care (IPC) commission in relation to Adult Service's financial sustainability was agreed and will focus on 4 key work streams:

- i. Development of a whole systems '**Reablement Strategy**' with Health including:
 - 1. Review of Community Resource Team (CRT) operating model.
 - 2. Initiated Partner engagement.
- ii. Development of an **Accommodation Strategy for Older People**.
- iii. Development of a new model for **Adult Social Work practice** to parallel Signs of Safety.
- iv. Development of a new **Regional Learning Disabilities Strategy**.

14. There has also been some slippage in progress against some of the milestones in the Directorate Plan relating to:

- a. **Youth Offending Service (YOS)** – The numbers of First Time Entrants (FTEs) to the Youth Offending Service (YOS) has increased during Quarter 2 to 21 (from 14 in Quarter 1). The 21 young people committed 39 offences, averaging 1.86 offences per young person.

The final training session with staff in partner agencies regarding the **Enhanced Case Management (ECM) service model** has been completed. The model of intervention will go live in Quarter 3 with staff in the process of identifying suitable young people to start working with the ECM model.

An initial meeting has been held to develop a **Youth Offending Service (YOS) Young Person's Panel** – a lead officer has been identified in YOS to work in collaboration with regional YOS to develop a Participation Strategy. Cardiff Youth Service Active Involvement Team are currently identifying the young people who will participate in service feedback sessions and interview panels.

A contract has been awarded to the existing provider to continue delivering a **Triage Service** to the end of this financial year whilst the commissioning of new service through the tendering process is completed.

Restructure of YOS staff is an ongoing process. The next phase will involve Unions consulting with staff members on the impact of the creation and deletion of posts.

Building work is due to be completed by mid October, at which point staff will begin the **YOS relocation** to the John Kane Building in Gabalfa.

There is potential for mental health needs to be better met due to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) recruiting to a long standing vacancy that has resulted in the provision of a service across all referring agencies.

- b. **Effectiveness of the current partnership arrangements for the delivery of Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services** – An initial meeting has taken place with senior officers from Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) – this engagement will need to continue whilst we measure the impact of improvements that CAMHS have suggested that we will see.

c. **Promoting Family Stability**

- Building work on the **Adolescent Resource Centre (ARC)** has been delayed due to discovery of some asbestos in the building that was not detected during the procurement process; associated cost implications are being considered.
- **Family Group Conferencing (FGC)** continues to be delivered by Tros Gynnal; the commissioning process for a new FGC service will be undertaken when the service specification has been finalised. It is anticipated that the service specification will be finalised by the end of Quarter 3.

d. **Support Services to Care Leavers**

- **Preparation Programme** – this is part of the recommissioning of accommodation happening in partnership with, and led by, Housing through a project group. Development of written information for care leavers has been deferred and will be taken forward via the Preparation Programme as part of the new outcomes framework for commissioning services.
- Once the recommissioning of the accommodation for **The Youth Gateway** has been completed we will be able to produce written information for young people which can include information about all resources available. The newly appointed Project Support Officer will be tasked with coordinating this work along with work on Transitions.
- Work on re-design of **Personal Education Plans (PEPs)** has been completed and the new PEPs are currently being printed. We are aware that Welsh Government plan to issue an all Wales PEP in the future.

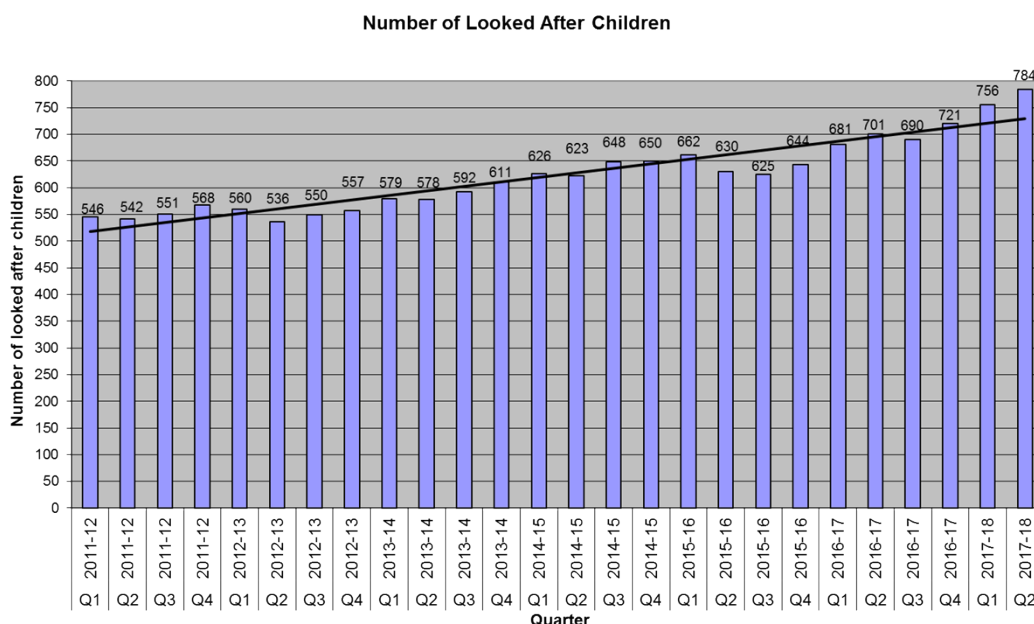
Progress in relation to the Education of Looked After Children

15. Seven schools in Cardiff have completed action research under the 'Promoting the Achievement of Looked After Children' programme. They shared their action research projects with each other on 10th July 2017. The research is in the process of being written up by University College London and learning from the projects will be shared with other schools across the region.
16. A regional co-ordinator for Looked After Children has been appointed and took up post in September. A Looked After Children consortium action plan is now in place. Schools in Cardiff have submitted plans to release the Looked After Children's Pupil Deprivation Grant to their school to work on capacity building and direct work / support for Looked After Children

17. The Achievement Leader and Looked After Children Education (LACE) team are having pupil progress meetings to discuss pupils that appear to be underachieving and to ensure that the school puts in additional support and intervention. Specialist Additional Learning Needs teams are supporting the LACE team to ensure pupils are receiving the additional support that they need.
18. The Looked After Education team are also attending social worker team meetings to ensure good communication and timely intervention where there are concerns from either side. The Achievement Leader attends the Children's Services Managers' meeting where placement moves are discussed so that education can be considered at the earliest possible opportunity.
19. The data sections of the current Personal Education Plans (PEPs) have been revised so they capture relevant outcome data for individual pupils. The work at a national level continues to produce a national PEP that will be used across Wales.
20. There has been preliminary reporting of the outcomes of Looked After Children 2016/17 to the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee. A full report will be submitted to the next committee in January.

Detailed Commentary – Quarter 2 2017/18

21. The number of children who were looked after at 30th September 2017 (not including those children being looked after as part of a respite care arrangement) was 784 compared with 756 at 30th June 2017 (CS LAC 3e). This represents a rate of 10.6 children per 1,000 in Cardiff. Whilst this is above the all Wales rate of 9.0 per 1,000 as at 31st March 2016, the rise is consistent with national trends across Wales and the UK. Fluctuation in the number of looked after children is displayed in the graph below:



22. The percentage of children supported to remain living within their family (SSWB 25) was 51.2% (823 / 1,607) compared with 53.0% (856 / 1,612) in Quarter 1. Of the 1,607 children with a Care and Support Plan at 30th September 2017, 823 were being supported to live at home (i.e. were not being looked after).

23. The percentage of looked after children returned home from care during the year (SSWB 26) was 4.5% compared with 6.2% in Quarter 2 2016/17. Of the 890 children who have been looked after during the year, 40 have returned home. This PI is cumulative, and performance will improve as we progress throughout the year. In addition to the 40 children who were returned home from care, 95 children were in the care of their parents, but remain subject to a Care Order, and 67 children were placed with relative carers. It is noted that our judiciary have indicated a reluctance to discharge Care Orders, and continue to make new Care Orders as opposed to other orders, e.g. Supervision Orders.

24. The latter two PIs are a welcome measure of the effectiveness of the service in supporting children and young people within their families and are in line with our Corporate Parenting Strategy which seeks to promote family placements.

25. 72.4% (439 / 606) of looked after children were placed with agency providers at the end of Quarter 2 (CS LAC 44), decreasing from 73.7% (431 / 585) in

Quarter 1. The number of children placed in agency residential placements has further decreased to 45 from 50 at the end of Quarter 1. 47 care proceedings were initiated in Quarter 2, compared with 79 in Quarter 1.

26. 61.9% (375 / 606) of children in regulated placements were placed in Cardiff at the end of Quarter 2 compared with 62.9% (368 / 585) at the end of Quarter 1 (CS LAC 58). A further 106 children placed outside Cardiff were within 20 miles of their home address. 15 of the children not placed in Cardiff are placed with a relative carer. For some children placement outside the authority is in their best interests, examples include children placed with family members who live outside Cardiff, children placed in specialist placements and children who are placed in areas that are closer to their home address than some parts of the city.

27. 96.2% (577 / 600) of statutory reviews for looked after children were held within prescribed timescales in Quarter 2, stable from 95.8% (544 / 568) in Quarter 1 (SCC/021). Of the 23 reviews that were not held on time, 7 were held within a week, 6 within 2 weeks, 4 within 3 weeks, 3 within 4 weeks and 3 within 6 weeks.

28. 93.8% (563 / 600) of statutory visits were held in accordance with regulations in Quarter 2 showing a decrease from 96.0% (545 / 568) in Quarter 1 (SCC/025). This is in the context of an increase in both the overall population of looked after children and in the number of children placed at home with their parents who require a higher level of statutory visiting.

29. 100.0% (774 / 774) looked after children were allocated to a social worker at 30th September 2017.

30. As at 30th September 2017, 45 children were in external residential placements (including two young people in secure placements). Children's Services were solely responsible for funding 30 of these placements with the remaining 15 receiving contributions from Education, Health, or both. The average weekly cost per child was £3,511, although this ranged from £1,800 to £5,810. Contributions from Education range from 9% to 28% and Health range from 1%

to 33% of the weekly cost - the percentage of the contribution is based upon factors such as how much the provider charges for education and therapy costs, the number of weeks in the school terms, the period of therapy, continuing health care needs and whether the child is statemented.

Financial Implications

31. There are no direct financial implications arising from the report.

Legal Implications

32. There are no legal implications arising from this report.

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee is recommended to:

- Consider the contents of the report and report any comments to the Cabinet Member.

TONY YOUNG

Director of Social Services

17th November 2017