

## **CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD**

### **AGENDA**

**Meeting to be held in the Civic Centre (Committee Room 2) on  
Monday 2 July 2018 at 5.30pm**

#### **Part I**

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ELAINE WAUGH  
Head of Law and Governance

Civic Centre  
SUNDERLAND

22 June 2018

## **CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD**

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 16 April 2018 in Committee Room 2,  
Civic Centre, Sunderland at 5.30pm**

### **Part I**

#### **Present:**

#### **Members of the Board**

Councillor L Farthing (in the Chair)	Washington South Ward
Councillor R Davison	Redhill Ward
Councillor B Francis	Fulwell Ward
Councillor I Kay	Millfield Ward
Councillor L Lauchlan	Washington Central Ward
Councillor C Marshall	Doxford Ward
Councillor P Smith	Silksworth Ward

#### **Young People**

Clark Brettwood

#### **Also in Attendance**

Councillor L Williams	Washington Central Ward
Councillor A Lawson	Shiney Row Ward

#### **All Supporting Officers**

Jane Ivory	Director of Performance and Quality, TfC
Catherine Witt	Principal Social Worker, TfC
Anne Brock	Safeguarding Children Lead Nurse and Designated Nurse LAC
Dr Sarah Mills	Designated Doctor for LAC
Janet Thomson	Assistant Director, NTW
Margaret Clouston	Head of Commissioning and Quality Assurance (South), NTW
Abbi Adair	Together for Children
Gavin Taylor	IRO Service, Together for Children
Jane Wheeler	Participation and Complaints Manager, TfC
Loren Nergaard	Participation and Engagement Officer, TfC
Maurice Davis	Foster Carer
James Harrison	Sunderland Echo
Gillian Kelly	Governance Services

## **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Debra Patterson, Sheila Lough, Suzanne Miller and Rihanna Parkinson.

## **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

## **Minutes**

19. RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 29 January 2018 be agreed as a correct record subject to the inclusion of Anne Brock's apologies and an amendment to the beginning of the last sentence on page 7 to read:  
*"There were a number of young people with challenging behaviour . . ."*

## **Change Council Update**

Clark Brettwood presented the report of the Change Council and advised that after a lot of hard work the pledges had now been revised and re-launched as 'commitments'. The young people decided that they did not want the commitments to be matched to elected Members or service managers as this had not always worked in the past, however it would be necessary to ensure that the commitments were actioned, measured and moved forward. The commitments were: -

1. When you come into care we will make sure you feel like you have a sense of belonging.
2. If you need to come into care we will make sure that you are safe and properly cared for.
3. We will make sure your voice is heard and listened to.
4. We will make sure you get a good school education and support you to go into higher education if you would like to.
5. We will make sure you have opportunities to keep fit and healthy.
6. We will make sure you don't need to leave care until you feel ready and have the right support into independence.

The Chair suggested that 'Commitments' be included as a standing agenda item to ensure that progress was being made and welcomed other suggestions for how these could be monitored.

The Board were informed that preparations for this year's regional children in care conference taking place in October/November had begun and a residential had been planned for July to enable the young people to plan the event.

The Change Council had looked at a draft for the local offer in February and identified areas which they thought should be included and also discussed how it should look and how the message should be communicated.

The Chair noted that she had seen an 'app' at the conference which could be used to display the local offer and this would be something for the Change Council to take forward.

The Board were informed that five young looked after or leaving care young people had won awards at the Sunderland Young Achievers 2018 and the overall winner had been Chantelle Beaney.

Sunderland had joined in and supported 'Care Day' this year. This was a joint initiative between children's charities across the UK under the 5 Nations 1 Voice Alliance. Care Day 2018 on 16 February 2018 looked at the rights of the child and Sunderland had a large number of Together for Children staff and young people taking part in writing placards for Care Day including Next Steps staff, residential staff, service managers and many more.

The Change Council had discussed how to spread MOMO (Mind of My Own) further and to encourage more people to use it. The group thought that training foster carers would be a good idea because they could encourage young people to use it and support them if they wanted to make a statement.

The Chair commented that some schools were willing to get involved in MOMO training and Jane Wheeler advised that all SENDCos in primary and secondary schools had been trained.

The Change Council had also discussed pets and how children in care were missing out on the opportunity to have their own pet due to rules in some of the children's homes or foster care settings. Older members of the group who were transitioning to independence said that they would love to have a pet in order to feel less isolated in their accommodation. The Chair agreed that this was a challenge for all corporate parents and should be a future agenda item for the Board.

Having thanked the Change Council for their report, it was: -

20. RESOLVED that the information be noted.

## **Health of Looked After Children**

The Safeguarding Children Lead Nurse submitted a report providing an update on health activity for looked after children.

The Board was reminded that local authorities were responsible for making sure that a health assessment of physical, emotional and mental health needs was carried out for every child looked after and Initial Health Assessments (IHAs) had to be carried out within 20 days of a child becoming looked after. In order for the health team to ensure compliance with this requirement, it was imperative that they were advised of the child coming into care in a timely manner.

Compliance in relation to IHAs had dipped in Quarter 4 and this had been due to late notifications as a result of the migration of data from CCM to Liquid Logic. The Chair explained for Board Members who were not aware, that Liquid Logic was the new system being used by Together for Children and when the data had been transferred there had been two weeks downtime and manual records had to be used. Anne Brock advised that the admin staff from the health team were being trained on the Liquid Logic system.

Councillor Williams queried if it was the entire cohort who had to be seen within 20 days and Anne confirmed that this was the case but numbers in the cohort would fluctuate each quarter. Members felt that it would be useful to have the actual numbers included within the data and it was suggested that some targeted narrative could be used to expand on key themes. The Chair said that it would also be interesting to know if there were particular common health needs being flagged up which needed to be addressed.

Review Health Assessments (RHAs) had to take place at least every six months before a child's fifth birthday and at least once every 12 months after that time. Compliance in quarter 4 was the highest for the year at 96% with the 4% non-compliance being due to children placed out of the area not having their health assessments on time.

The compliance for health passports stood at 100% and, with the exception of Quarter 3, this had been the case for the whole year.

The Board were advised of staffing changes within the LAC Health Team and that the Designated Doctor had stepped down from the role and the Designated Nurse would be leaving in June 2018.

21. RESOLVED that the content of the report be noted.

### **NTW Sunderland Looked After Children Data**

The Board received a report presenting the data for looked after children currently accessing services from CYPS.

Margaret Clouston introduced the report and explained that NTW were in the process of agreeing reporting mechanisms with the CCG and would produce a more narrative report once these were aligned. The figures quoted in the report were up to the end of February 2018 and the referrals were similar to the last report to the Board. Margaret added that the service was also looking at the specification for what CYPS would provide and it was a part of a national discussion about whether all children looked after should have a mental health assessment.

The Chair noted that it was the referrals which were not accepted which were of most concern and Margaret advised that this was often when a young person was not in a stable environment and ready to accept treatment. Anne Brock commented that she understood that wraparound services were offered even if a placement was not stable.

The Chair also highlighted the difference between young people being assessed and actually receiving treatment. Margaret stated that it tended to be the service user who fell out of treatment. She noted that in January and February there were increased numbers of referrals into neuro development treatment services and this was a trend which needed to be understood. One area which would be split in future in the data would be routine and priority referrals and it would also show children from out of the area who were receiving services in Sunderland.

Margaret went on to say that the waiting list was the area of largest concern and the service was not seeing children as quickly as it would like but there was some improvement work being developed within the service.

Councillor Kay asked how long children and young people were typically in treatment for and how their progress was monitored. He noted that the narrative around this would give the Board a picture of where investment was required.

Margaret said that Board Members would see a different scenario depending on the referral and treatment pathway taken by a young person. In response to a question about the clinical pathways, the Board were informed that the Intensive Care Treatment Service (ICTS) was equivalent to the adult crisis team and operated to see someone quickly. The neuro development pathway reviewed medication for young people with ADHD but also included referrals for Autism Spectrum Disorders. Those classed as 'no secondary referral' meant that at the time of the referral a triage process had not been undertaken to identify a secondary pathway for the client.

Councillor Williams referred to the large numbers in relation to some categories on the waiting list and Janet Thomson said that NTW would like to provide context on some of these cases. Jane Ivory suggested that Together for Children and NTW could jointly consider these cases and bring something back to the Board which might add value to the discussion. The Chair agreed that this would help promote learning on both sides and from a corporate parenting point of view, this needed to be right the first time as placements could be disrupted due to delays in treatment.

Councillor Williams went on to ask if there was a quick route for children looked after to access treatment, as she was aware of the waiting list for the general public and queried if this was comparable. The Chair commented that at the last Health and Wellbeing Board meeting, a report showed that only one third of young people in the general population got the treatment they needed. She noted that the Board focused on children looked after but comparing with the entire population was a valid point.

The Chair stated that her view was that a young person in a placement with scaffolding in place was preferable, although there was a long way to go to get this right, looking at case studies would help to identify what was going wrong and what was right.

Dr Sarah Mills advised that a priority for the LAC Health Team was to improve their working relationships with CYPS and getting something in place to support a young person while they were waiting to see a professional. The LAC Nurse was hoping to link with a psychologist at a residential home to develop joint learning. It was noted

that there were new psychologists starting in the CYPS team which would make a positive impact on the service.

22. RESOLVED that the information be noted.

### **Leisure and Cultural Offer for Looked After Children and Care Leavers**

The Board received a report advising of the Local Leisure and Cultural Offer for Looked After Children and Care Leavers drafted in April 2018.

The aim of the leisure offer was to promote healthy and active lifestyles for children and young people in care and the offer from Everyone Active included discounted gym memberships, free gym passes, discounted holiday activities and coaching sessions. Free swim passes were also available for children looked after under the age of 18 years but data showed that this offer was not actually taken up very often.

The Next Steps service offered a maximum of £10 per week for social and leisure activities and where appropriate, Children's Services would pay for the membership of a hobby or leisure club and contribute towards the cost of equipment or special clothing and fees.

It was noted that it would be useful to have the detail of the take up of Next Steps monies and the Chair stated that all looked after children had a Personal Education Plan (PEP) which should include leisure activities and it would be a relatively easy exercise to analyse this information.

Young people had identified the following areas of activity in addition to gym passes or swimming: -

- Cinema
- Bowling
- Football Clubs
- Rugby Clubs
- Arts and Craft sessions
- Martial Arts
- Boxing
- Quaser Lazer
- Pool
- Climbing Wall

The Participation and Engagement Offer was focused on supporting the personal, social and emotional development of young people, raising their aspirations and building their resilience to prepare them for a better transition to adulthood. This was achieved through a range of group based positive activities and using groups such as the Change Council, LGBT+, Youth Parliament, Sunderland Young Inspectors, the Children and Young People's Advisory Network and the Takeover Challenge. There were also opportunities for young people to access arts, culture and music; parks and open spaces; and libraries.



The Max Card was also still available and offered discounts for foster families or families of children with additional needs. Together for Children bought 350 cards in May 2017 and 316 had been issued to date, however the activities where discounts were available did tend to be further afield.

The Board were also informed that Together for Children had sponsored three looked after young people to act as ambassadors for the Tall Ships with the aim of raising the profile of looked after children and dismissing the stigma associated with being looked after.

Maurice Dixon commented that some of the existing offer was pretty good. He had used the Max Card but not all attractions accepted it. Councillor Kay was conscious that discounted entry was a good thing but the costs ramped up once you were through the doors of the establishment.

The Chair referred to regional discussions about the offer and Jane Wheeler advised that all 12 of the North East authorities had different offers which were paid for by various services.

The Chair suggested that a promotions company would maybe push this forward and there were two different markets in relation to children looked after and care leavers and that the children's homes supported a lot of these activities.

Dr Mills referred to the 'Curious Monkey' charity in Newcastle which provided monthly theatre activities and was open to children across the region, which might be of interest as part of the offer. Maurice suggested that the Empire Theatre would also be a good institution to link up with.

Jane Ivory noted that the IRO service could ask carers and young people which activities they were interested in. Jane Wheeler said the Participation and Engagement team was often asked about young people who had an interest in a particular activity and how this could be supported.

Having considered the report it was: -

23. RESOLVED that the information be noted.

### **Local Offer to Care Leavers**

The Board were advised that the DfE had issued guidance to local authorities in February 2018 which required them to consult on, and publish, a local offer for its care leavers. This offer should provide information about all the services and support available to care leavers from the local authority, including their statutory entitlement as well as any discretionary support offered. The following services provided by the local authority should be included: -

- Health and Wellbeing
- Relationships
- Education and Training

- Employment
- Accommodation
- Participation in Society.

Once published the local offer should be reviewed regularly to ensure that the services on offer reflect what care leavers needed most. The local offer should be easily available and accessible to all care leavers in the local authority area.

As reported earlier, the local offer had been discussed at the Change Council in February and it had been suggested that an app could be used and this was being pursued. There was a lot of information contained within the offer and the Personal Advisors from Next Steps would discuss it with care leavers.

The local offer had been drafted with the Communications Team and was available in hard copy and on the Together for Children website. The text of the local offer was attached as an appendix to the report.

Jane Ivory asked if there was requirement to provide a young person with a passport as this was essential for ID purposes. Jane Wheeler advised that this was the case and young people were also supported to obtain bank accounts.

The Board therefore: -

24. RESOLVED that the information about the local offer be noted.

### **Sufficiency Strategy for the Accommodation of Children Looked After and Care Leavers 2017-2020**

The Sufficiency Strategy for the Accommodation of Children Looked After and Care Leavers for 2017/2020 was submitted to the Board. Jane Ivory advised that the local authority was required to have a strategy which outlined how Sunderland intended to meet the Sufficiency Duty as laid out in section 22G of the Children Act 1989 and it had been worked on by all areas of the service to consider whether there were sufficient placements in the right locations.

The principles of the Sufficiency Strategy were: -

1. The voice of children and young people is central to our strategy and delivery.
2. As ambitious Corporate Parents, we will only look after children who need to be looked after and will expect the best for them. To achieve this we will provide a range of support services as a Company and as partnership to support children and young people to stay with their family when it is appropriate to do so.
3. We aspire to a 'no disruption' principle, and will ensure that placement stability is at the centre of our planning for children, including stability of placement, education provision and consistent health services.
4. We want to ensure that children are cared for in family setting wherever possible.
5. We will ensure that we have high quality services and a range of placements for all our children and young people in Sunderland to ensure sufficient choice in the local area.

6. We will work with all our services and providers to ensure that services are child focused, high quality and represent value for money.

The strategy had been developed alongside an action plan and also included a commitment to support children in staying with their own families and preventing them coming into care in the first place. Together for Children was also investing in foster care and making sure that children's homes had appropriate facilities.

Jane Ivory stated that there was more work to be done on the action plan, but officers were happy with where they had got to so far.

Councillor Williams asked about the action to open a new children's home and Jane Ivory stated that the homes which existed in Sunderland were registered for children aged 12 and over and there were children under this age who were in residential care outside of Sunderland. It was proposed that a small unit be established to provide intensive support for these young people closer to home. It was also planned to work towards getting the younger children into a family setting and this was also a principle of the strategy.

Councillor Williams went on to ask if the mix of children was considered and Jane said that matching was absolutely crucial and was carried out in children's homes at the moment.

With regard to the timing of the new home's development, the Chair commented that this was not really starting until June 2018 and expressed a wish that recruitment of staff take place as soon as possible and be moved forward quickly. She added that the Virtual School Head had looked at the current external placements for children and said that all of this could be done in Sunderland and queried whether there would be more new facilities developed in the city.

Councillor Kay made reference to leaving care provision and that he had been involved in the phasing out of Chester Road. He stated that he had been encouraged about the clear view from staff about what was good accommodation and hoped that a bigger and more appropriate facility would be found soon.

The Chair highlighted that when a young person secured paid employment they could not then always afford to pay for their accommodation and suggested that this could be a future agenda item for the Board, how young people could afford to live in supported accommodation.

With reference to the strategy for foster carer recruitment, Maurice asked if there was anything definitive in mind and noted that fees had been discussed for quite a while.

The Chair agreed that this was important as foster care was effectively a paid occupation, however at the regional conference it had been felt that local authorities wanted to recruit people whose first motivation was to look after children and that a 'care first' approach should be adopted.

Catherine Witt advised that the work to simplify fees had almost concluded and Maurice noted that these had to be competitive if someone had to give up paid employment to be a foster carer.

25. RESOLVED that the Sufficiency Strategy be noted.

### **Sunderland's Guide to Corporate Parenting**

The Children and Social Work Act 2017 introduced Corporate Parenting Principles which comprised seven needs that local authorities in England must have regard to whenever they exercised a function in relation to children looked after or care leavers. The principles were intended to secure a better approach to fulfilling existing functions in relation to children looked after and care leavers and for the local authority to facilitate as far as possible, nurturing and positive experiences for these children.

The Corporate Parenting Principles were as follows: -

- To act in the best interests and promote the physical and mental health and wellbeing of those children and young people.
- To encourage those children and young people to express their views, wishes and feelings.
- To take into account the views, wishes and feelings of those children and young people.
- To help those children and young people gain access to and make the best use of services provided by the Local Authority and its relevant partners.
- To promote high aspirations and seek to secure the best outcomes for those children and young people.
- For those children and young people to be safe and for stability in their home lives, relationships and education or work.
- To prepare those children and young people for adulthood and independent living.

The Corporate Parenting Principles did not replace or change existing legal duties but were intended to inform how a local authority carried out those existing responsibilities, whether that was about assessing a child looked after's needs or listening to, and taking account of, the wishes and feelings of care leavers. The principles were intended to encourage local authorities to be ambitious and aspirational for their children looked after and care leavers.

26. RESOLVED that the information be noted.

(Signed) L FARTHING  
Chair

## CHANGE COUNCIL UPDATE APRIL- JUNE 2018

### Change Council Away Day 2018

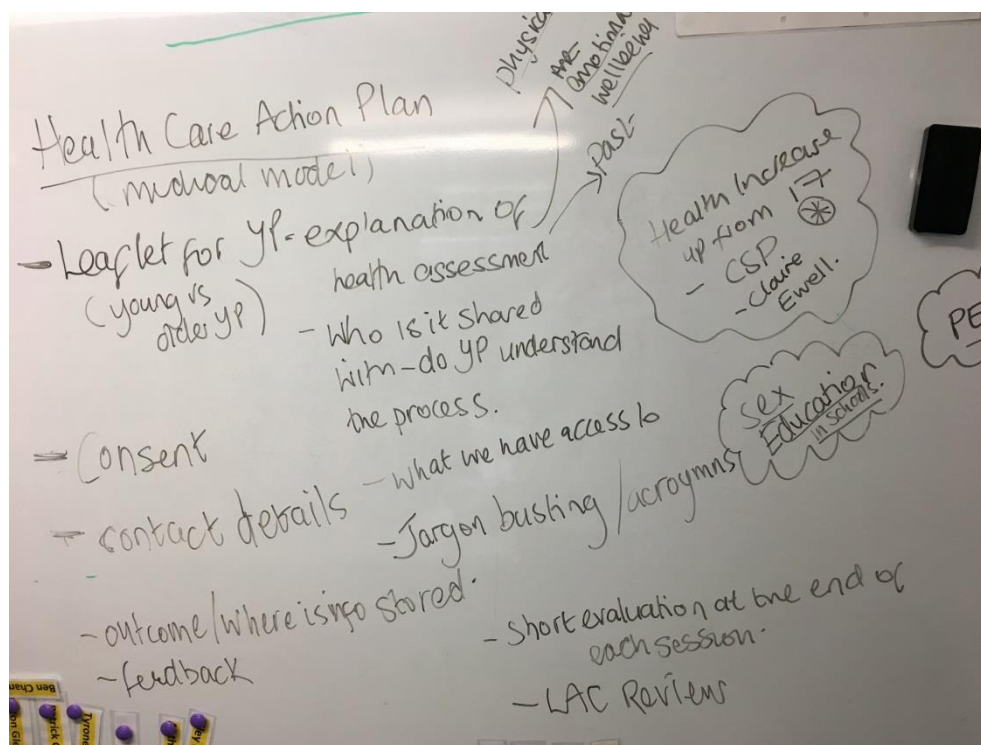
Change council had an away day to Moor House Adventure Centre. The aim of the day was to review the work plan for next year and also have some fun. Loren planned some great activities for the young people to enjoy. The activities included a team challenge (which our Director of Education and Chief Executive also took part in), the cube and crate stacking.

We really appreciated that the Simon and Sue came along to the day and got stuck in!



Although we did have a lot of fun, we also had work to do. For one of our sessions we invited Claire Ewell the CLA Nurse from Health to work with Change Council around improving the service for children and young people.

We came up with an action plan which will be written and followed up.



We also discussed the regional children in care conference and the residential which is the 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> July, Clark and Rhiannon will be attending with Loren and Donna supporting, the residential will consist of activities and planning and working on the topics for this year's conference and workshops.

We also spent time discussing the CLA celebration and Awards Evening which will take place on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December. We really liked the venue last year and also the activities so we would like to plan the event to mirror last year's successes.

## Regional Children in Care Conference.

We have been working hard with our regional partners to plan this year's conference. The conference will take place on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> November at St James Park.

Over the next several months, young people who are part of the NE Regional CiCC will be campaigning for change across every authority on the entitlements and contact. The young people feel passionate about these areas and have developed a number of recommendations on each area they are going to ask every LA to take on board.

Below is a draft table of what young people have discussed and what they would like to see changed.

This will be the focus of the conference in November 2018. Young people appreciate that some areas may also do some of the below suggestions.

Entitlements	Family Visits
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have a pocket money guidance that informs foster carers and young people what they are entitled to.</li> <li>• Make sure all children in care and care leavers know they are entitled to and have access to this easily.</li> <li>• Care Leavers to get help with travel costs, not just for jobs and employment, but family visits, doctors' appointments etc.</li> <li>• Help us prepare better to manage when we are leaving care.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make supervised contact more flexible – later in evenings and weekends.</li> <li>• Cleaner, age appropriate and more venues in each region.</li> <li>• Stop calling it 'CONTACT' – visits to family is better and change paperwork. It doesn't need a label.</li> <li>• Don't include travel time in allocated time to see our family.</li> <li>• Consider visits to friends and wider family who are important to us</li> <li>• Visiting people in prison needs looked at as is not child friendly</li> <li>• Have the same person every time at your contact</li> </ul>

## Local Offer

Our Local Offer is now complete and available in a hard copy or on the TfC website.

<https://www.togetherforchildren.org.uk/children-and-young-people/support-care-leavers>

## Commitments

As you are all aware we now have our agreed commitments for CLA and Leaving Care young people. Change Council have been discussing who they would like the commitments to be monitored. They have each decided they would like to be responsible for a commitment but did not feel as though it worked last time when elected members and senior managers were matched.

They will be discussing their action plan in relation to commitments at the Change Council Meeting in July.





**Looked After Health Team, City Hospitals Sunderland**  
**Report to Corporate Parenting Board**

2<sup>nd</sup> July 2018

**1. Purpose of the report**

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the activity of the Looked After Health team to Sunderland Corporate Parenting Board.

In this quarter there was an average of 607 children looked after. 46 were recorded as being placed outside of the North East.

**2. Compliance data for health assessments Quarter 1**

- 2.1** Local Authorities are responsible for making sure a health assessment of physical, emotional and mental health needs is carried out for every child they look after. Initial Health Assessments (IHAs) must happen within 20 working days of the child becoming looked after. In order for the health team to ensure compliance with statutory timescales it is imperative they are advised of the child becoming looked after and consent for health assessments received in a timely manner.

**Table 1 – Initial Health Assessments**

	Quarter 1
<b>Number</b>	55
<b>Compliance (target 100%)</b>	90.5%

- 2.3** The compliance has improved back to the usual levels following the disruption on the implementation of Liquid Logic at Together for Children. Two children were not brought to their arranged appointment and there were three health assessments required from services out of the North East which have not been performed in a timely manner. There is a pathway in place to address this issue.
- 2.4** The RHA must happen at least every six months before a child's 5th birthday and at least once every 12 months after the child's 5<sup>th</sup> birthday. Table 2 depicts the compliance rate.

**Table 2 – Review Health Assessments**

	Quarter 1
<b>Number</b>	98
<b>Compliance (target 100%)</b>	95%

- 2.5** Non-compliance was due to 6 children not being brought for their arranged appointment. 8 children placed out of the area did not have their health assessments completed on time.

### **3.0 Health Passports**

- 3.1** The pathway for providing Health passports works well, thanks to the continued efforts of Claire Elwell, Named nurse.

**Table 3 – Health Passports Issued**

	<b>Quarter 1</b>
<b>Number</b>	4
<b>Compliance</b>	100%

### **4.0 LAC Health Team**

- 4.1** The Named Nurse LAC has been on long term sick leave since November 2017, contingency plans are in place to cover her absence. The Children and Young People's Nurse is 'acting up' as Named Nurse LAC during the period of sickness.
- 4.2** Dr Kim Barrett, who has undertaken the role of Designated Dr for LAC for a number of years, has stepped down from the role. Dr Sarah Mills has taken over the role and responsibility for the Looked After service as well as sharing the role of Medical Advisor to the Adoption Panel with Dr Sian Firth
- 4.3** Dr Sian Firth has taken up the role as Named Doctor for LAC.
- 4.4** The Designated Nurse LAC post is vacant, and was put out to advert in early June.

### **5.0 Developments**

- 5.1** Dr Mills and Dr Firth met with Jane Wheeler, participation lead to discuss how we can work with the young people by attending the Change Council and accessing other opportunities.
- 5.2** Claire Elwell, Named nurse attended the Change Council away day on 30<sup>th</sup> May to get ideas around a leaflet for young people which will explain the health assessments. She also encouraged them to give feedback on how the health action plan produced at the end of a health assessment could be more young person friendly.
- 5.3** Dr Mills, Dr Firth and Chloe Busby, Safeguarding nurse CCG attended the Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Child meeting in Leeds on 14<sup>th</sup> June 2018 to hear more about working together through collaboration and meeting the needs of this particularly vulnerable and complex group.

- 5.4** Dr Mills and Kelly Haslem, Community CYPS manager met on 18<sup>th</sup> June to begin working together on improving the mental health support for looked after children and young people.
- 5.5** The Looked After Admin team are working hard to ensure there is a feedback loop for the health outcomes collected at each health assessment. The team look forward to presenting this data to Corporate Parenting Board in the near future.

## **6.0 Recommendations**

The Corporate Parenting Board is asked to note the content of the report.

**Signed**



**Dr Sarah Mills**  
**Locum Paediatric Consultant**  
**Designated Doctor for Looked After Children**

**21.06.2018**



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# **Demand and Capacity Looked After Health team June 17 – May 18**

**Dr Sarah Mills**  
Designated Doctor

The team performed **824** health assessments  
between 1<sup>st</sup> June 2017 and 31<sup>st</sup> May 2018

307 initial health assessments

517 review health assessments

- Doctors saw 307 initial and 208 reviews
- Nurses saw 309 reviews, 50 were Home visits for hard to reach etc.

- The workload of the team fluctuates per month

Average (all assessments)	<b>69</b>	range 49 - 91
IHA average	<b>26</b>	range 18 - 38
RHA average	<b>43</b>	range 26 - 53

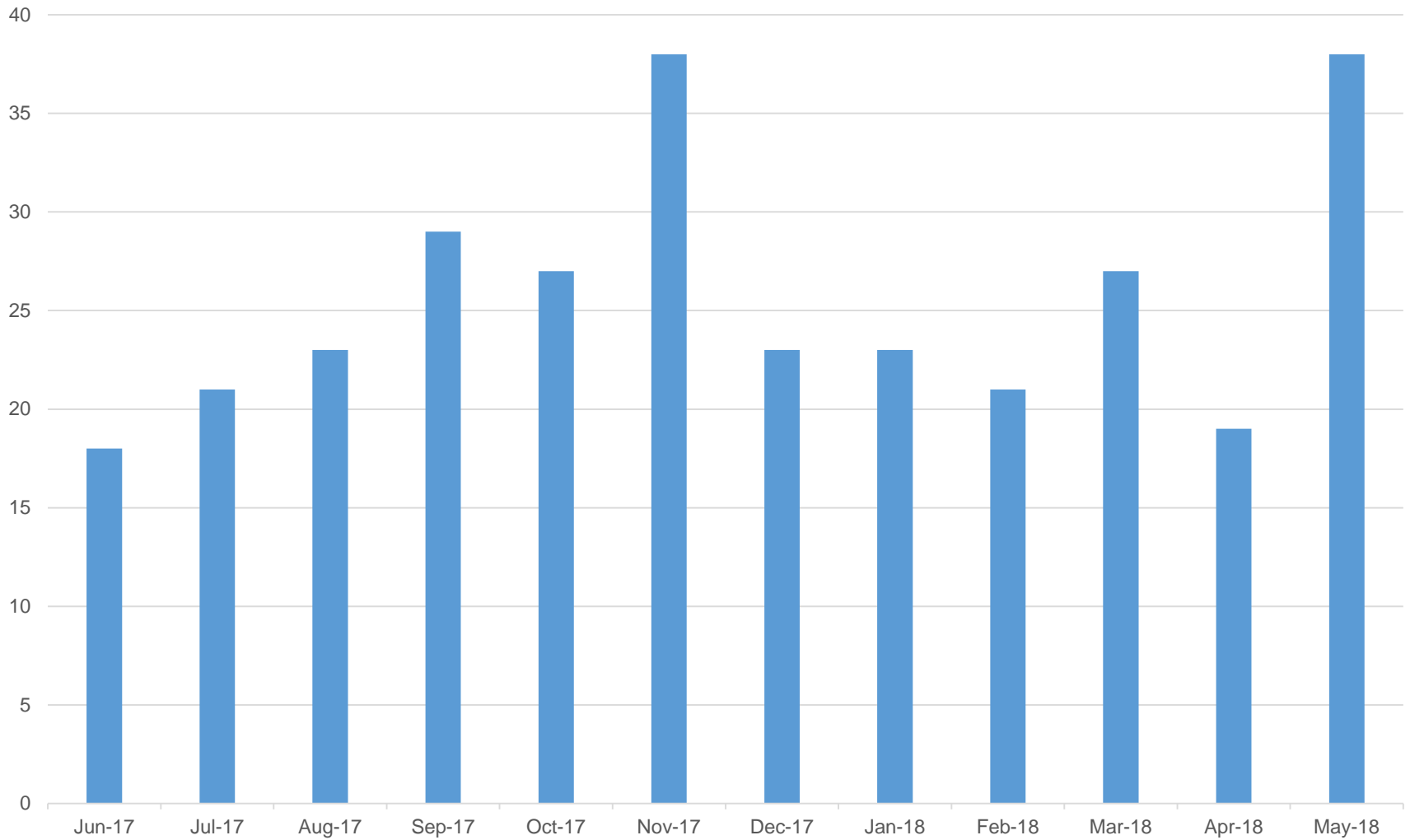


# Monthly total Health Assessments whole team



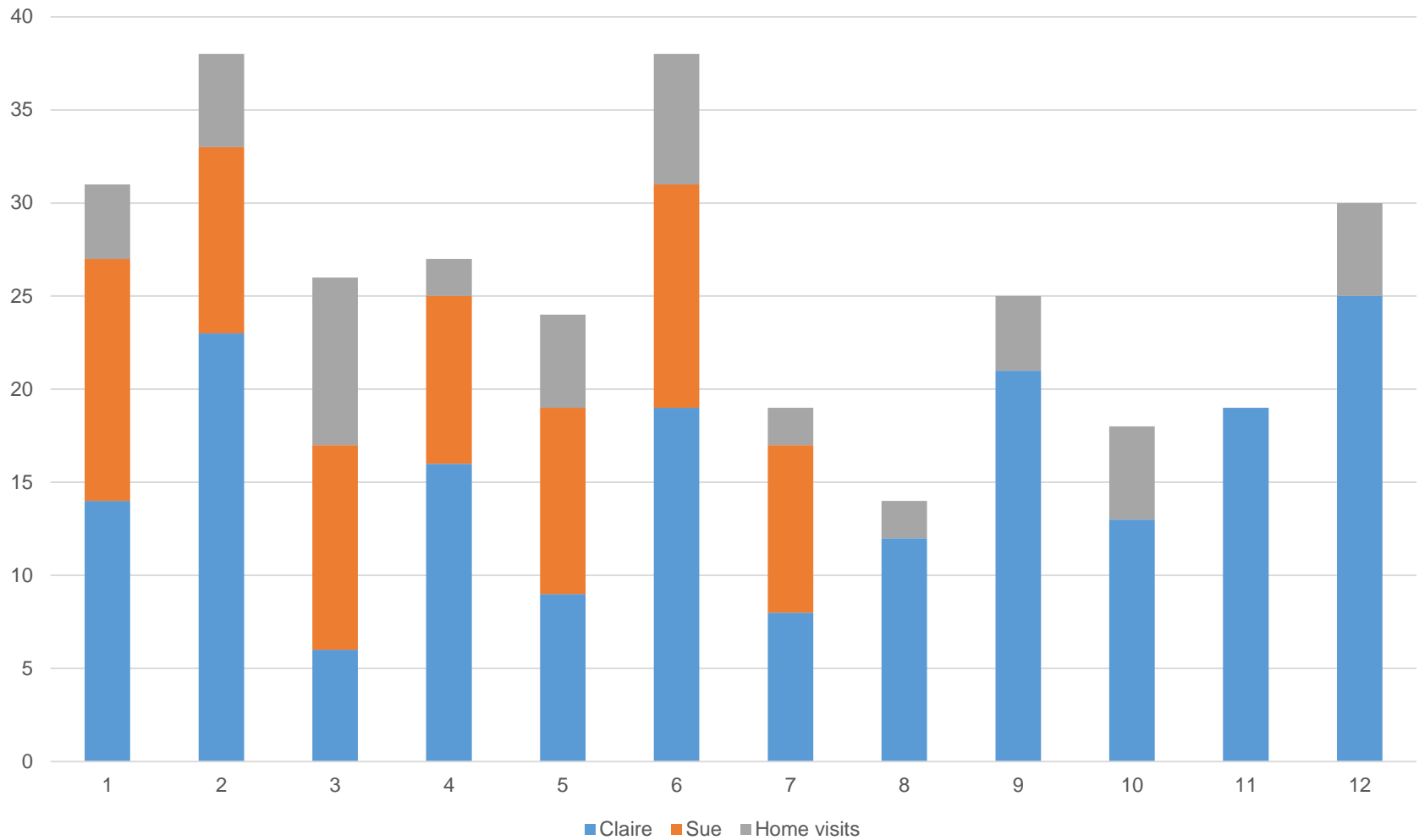
The path to excellence

# IHA workload



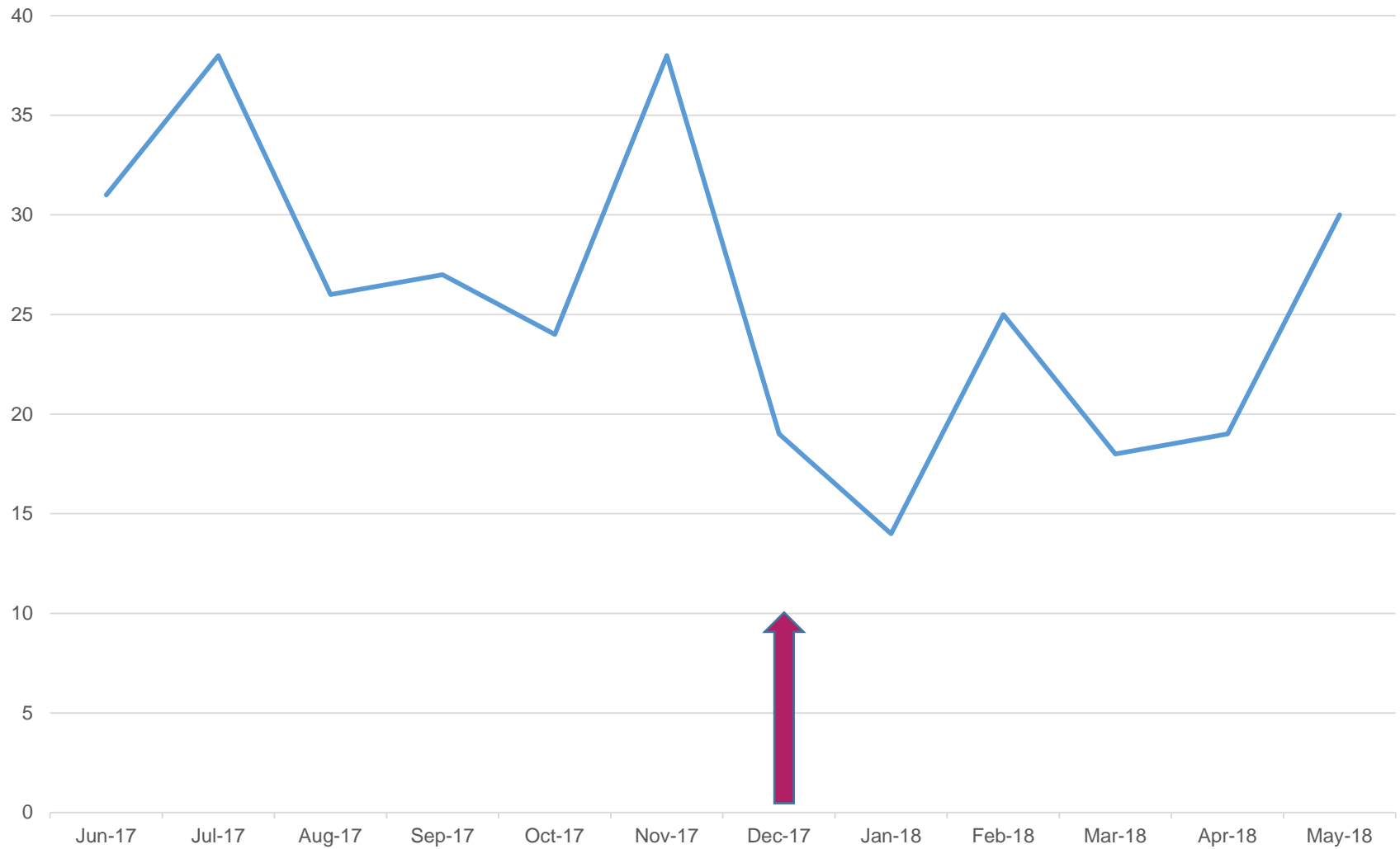
The path to excellence

# Nurses RHA workload



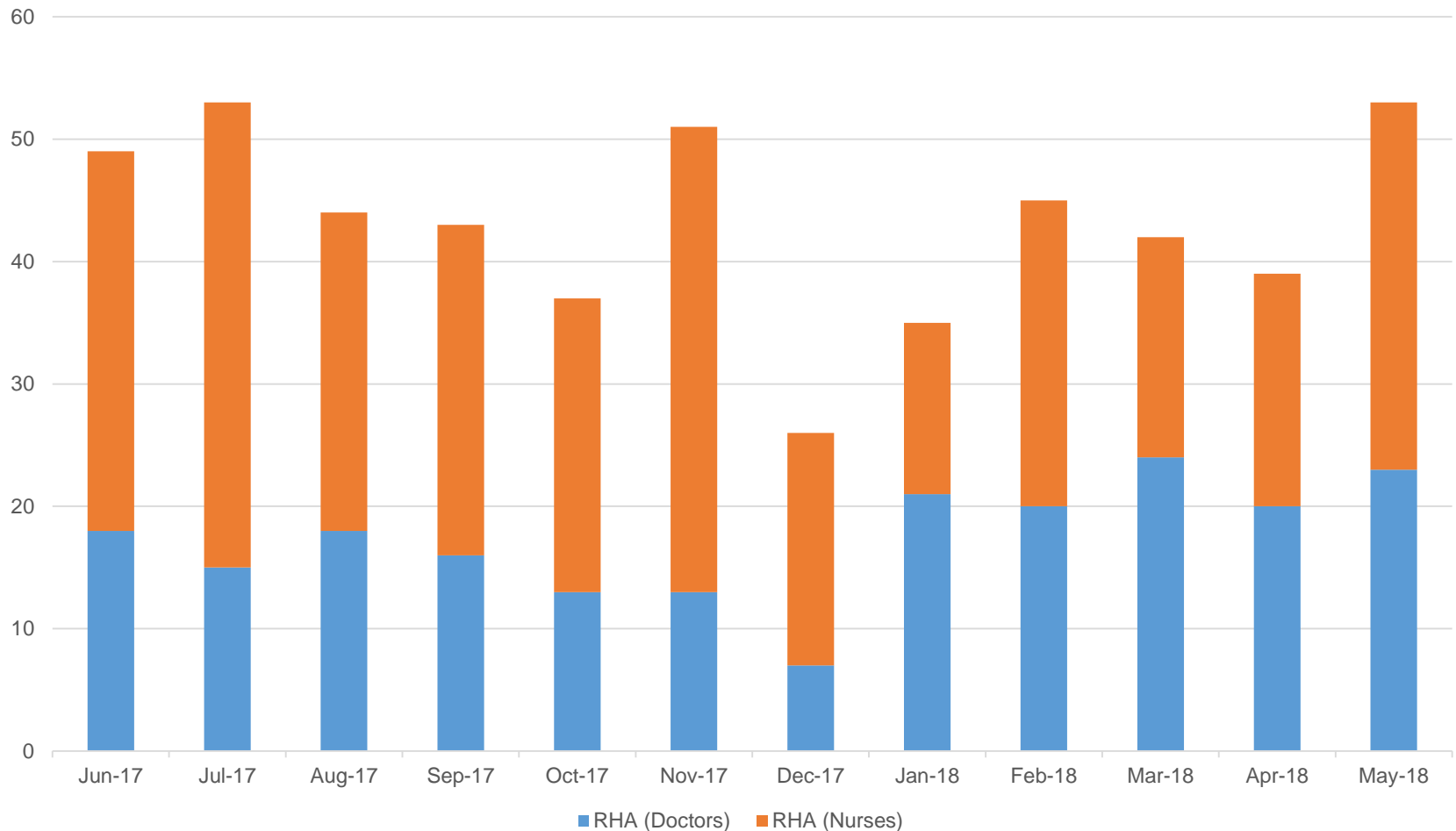
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# RHA (Nurses)



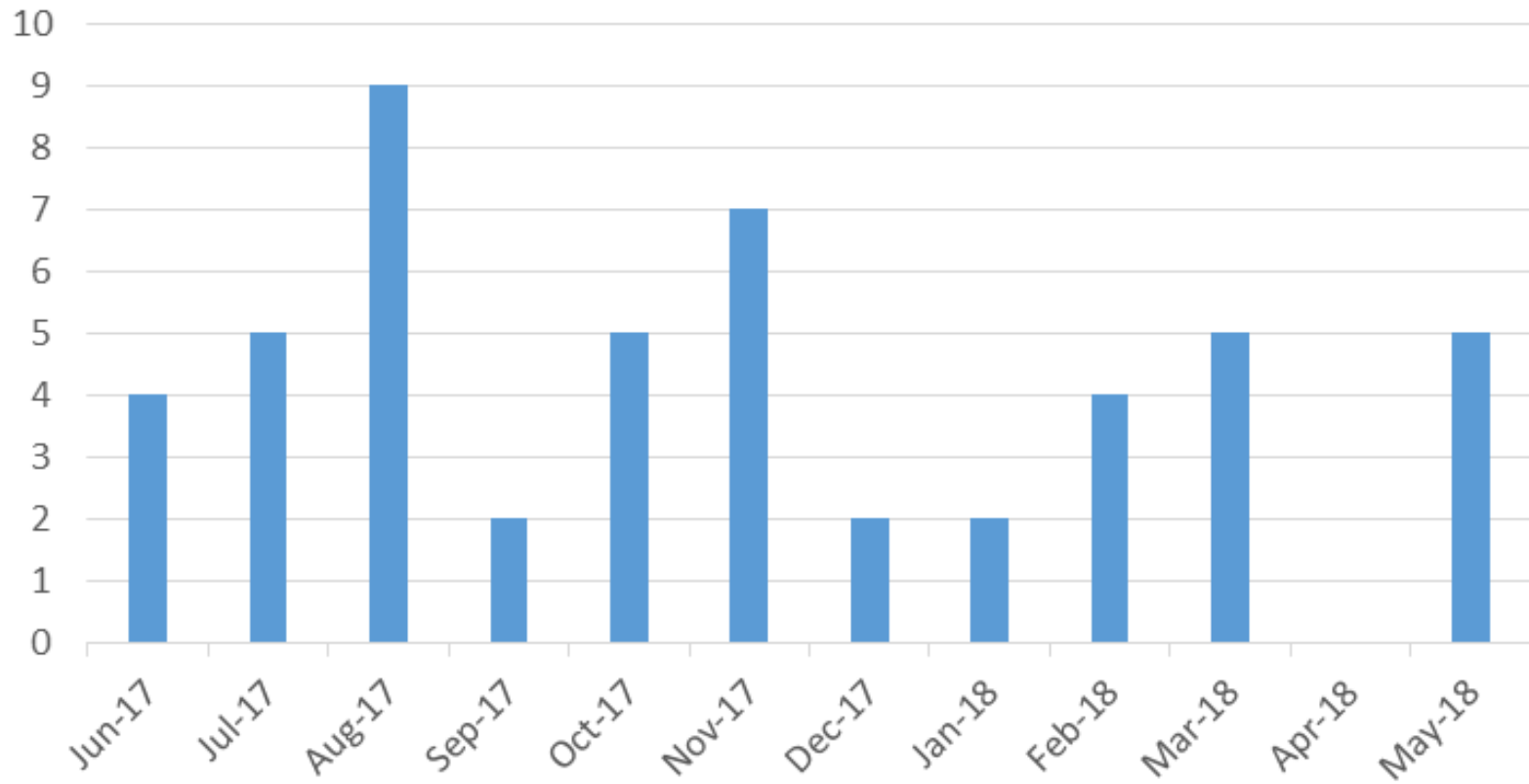
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# Monthly total RHA whole team



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## RHA Home visits



The path to **excellence**

# Northumberland Tyne & Wear NHS Trust Sunderland Children Looked After Report

May 2018



# Sunderland Children Looked After Report – March - May 2018

## 1. Referrals

Referrals	Mar-18	Apr-18	May-18
Referrals Received	8	10	12
Referrals Accepted	6	9	10
Referrals Not Accepted	2	1	2
% Accepted	75%	90%	83%

Reasons why Referral Not Accepted:

### March

Child A - Declined due to lack of complex mental health concerns identified within the referral information. Following further information received referral accepted May 2018.

Child B - Referral declined following review by clinical leads and psychology team due to not enough information being available in referral with regards to child's mental health, the team advised further referral to CYPS when social care receive a report from placement psychologist.

### April

Child C - A referral for a Gateshead child who was placed with a Sunderland foster family was declined as it was evident from the information within the referral that the child had experienced a setback in their emotional state due to the disruption caused by biological parents during contact. No role for the CYPS team at this present time.

*The service specification is under review to agree what could be provided in the interim until such time as the children are ready to undertake a treatment programme.*

### May

Child D - Referral identified no mental health concerns and the CYPS team felt the family may benefit from further support by Early Help and Education Psychology due to possible learning difficulties.

Child E - Referral declined due to child being transferred back to care of mum. Clinical leads and psychology felt this was not an appropriate time for the child/ family to access therapy as the child would need time to adjust to transition and presentation could change during this period. The family have support in place from NSPCC and social care. A further referral to be made following transition process and work with NSPCC is completed.



## 2. Urgent Referral Source

All cases referred to CYPs either by phone, fax, and email or in written format are reviewed on a daily basis by a member of the clinical team. The purpose of this initial review is in order to signpost any cases that have been inappropriately referred and to ensure any cases that require an urgent or priority response are highlighted and actioned immediately.

All cases into the service are categorised into either Urgent, Priority or Routine. Detail of the urgent referral criteria can be found at Appendix 1. An Urgent referral will be seen within 72 hours by Intensive Community Treatment Service (ICTS).

	Mar-18	Apr-18	May -18
Adult Mental Health Services	0	0	0
Children's Mental Health Services	0	0	0
Education	0	0	0
Family Member	0	0	1
Parent/Carer	0	0	0
Self-Referral	0	0	0
Social Services	0	0	1
Voluntary / Independent Sector	0	0	0
Total	0	0	2

## 3. Routine Referral Source

	Mar-18	Apr-18	May -18
Accident & Emergency	0	0	0
Child Health	2	0	2
Children's Mental Health Services	0	0	0
Crisis Team	0	0	0
Education	3	0	3
Family Member	0	1	0
GP	0	1	0
Health Visitor	0	1	0
Internal Referral	0	0	0
Learning Disability Service	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0
Paediatrician	0	1	0
Parent/Carer	0	0	0
Primary Health Care	0	0	0
School Health Visitor	0	0	0
Single Point of Access	0	0	1
Social Services	3	6	4
Youth Offending Team	0	0	0
Total	8	10	10

Work is currently underway to enable the Trust to report on routine and priority referrals. The Trust is currently assessing the implications of allocating a priority allocation to all children looked after. If agreed with the CCG the service specification will be amended accordingly.

#### 4. Discharges (*accepted referrals*)

Discharges	Mar-18	Apr-18	May-18
Accepted Discharged Unseen	0	2	0
Discharged after assessment	1	0	1
Discharged following treatment	4	7	5
Total	5	9	6

##### Referrals Discharged Unseen:

##### April

Child F – Child and family declined assessment as they wished to access support via Washington Mind rather than CPYS.

Child G – Telephone call with allocated social worker. Social worker agreed to speak with child/ foster carer to offer assessment. Consensus from all is that child is doing really well, current placement is long term and a significant protective factor, service no longer required.

##### Referrals Discharged after Assessment:

##### March

Child H – Face to face appointment with child and carer, full mental health assessment carried out, progress had been made since referral was made and clinicians agreed with carers that CYPS service was no longer required.

##### May

Child I - Consultation offered with lead child psychotherapist due child being under 5. Child had experienced complex early history and this remained at time of consultation, ongoing court case linked to contact plan and social worker is planning on completing Life Story Work. It was agreed to close the case to CYPS and allow court case to conclude and to consider if child's symptomatology is situational before CYPS consider a more integral mental health difficulty.

## 5. Waiting List

PMF Reporting Waiting Bands	March	April	May
Number of CYPS Incomplete spells waiting 0 - 4 weeks from Referral to Treatment	6	8	8
Number of CYPS Incomplete spells waiting 4 - 6 weeks from Referral to Treatment	2	3	2
Number of CYPS Incomplete spells waiting 6 - 8 weeks from Referral to Treatment	5	3	4
Number of CYPS Incomplete spells waiting 8 - 10 weeks from Referral to Treatment	3	2	1
Number of CYPS Incomplete spells waiting 10 - 12 weeks from Referral to Treatment	3	4	3
Number of CYPS Incomplete spells waiting between 12 - 18 weeks from Referral to Treatment	7	6	6
Number of CYPS Incomplete spells waiting between 18 - 30 weeks from Referral to Treatment	8	10	9
Number of CYPS Incomplete spells waiting more than 30 weeks from Referral to Treatment	9	5	4
Total	43	41	37

The Trust is currently undertaking a range of initiatives to increase clinical capacity to support the reduction of waiting times within community services. In addition a specific review of the CYPS service is underway to assess the efficiency and effectiveness of the current service model and the associated workforce linked to the individual service pathways.

## 7. Current Caseload

Age Group Breakdown	Mar -18	Apr - 18	May - 18
CYPS (AMS) Users Aged 5 and Under	9	9	6
CYPS (AMS) Users Aged 6-13 yrs	77	69	69
CYPS (AMS) Users Aged 14 – 17yrs	41	43	41
CYPS (AMS) Users Aged 19 and Over	0	0	1
TOTAL	127	121	117

	Mar -18	Apr - 18	May - 18
Total Children Looked After	127	121	117
Total CYPS Caseload	2156	2168	2216
Total % Children Looked After	5.9%	5.6%	5.3%



Type of case	Clinical criteria	Timescale	Who	Comments
Urgent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Risk to self or others but contained/ safe currently</li> <li>• Rapid weight loss with physical symptoms- low BP/ pulse, blue extremities, dizziness.</li> <li>• Severe depression</li> <li>• Acute or emerging psychosis</li> <li>• Episode of self harm requiring medical admission</li> <li>• Immediate risk to self or others with evidence of planning and/ or preparation</li> </ul>	<p>Within 72 hours by Intensive Community Treatment Service.</p> <p>If child presents at Sunderland Royal Psychiatric Liaison Team will assess and handover to ICTS CYPS</p>	<p>Intensive Community Treatment Service.</p> <p>Young people 0-18 yrs that are referred to NTW CYPS in a crisis and require an emergency appointment will be assessed by ICTS 8.00am-9..30pm Monday Friday, Saturday</p> <p>Young People 16-18 yrs who present in a mental health crisis after 9.30pm will be assessed by the adult crisis services for that area.</p> <p>If child presents at Sunderland Royal Psychiatric Liaison Team will assess and handover to ICTS CYPS</p>	<p>In cases of clear psychosis referral is made immediately to EIP Pathway, Senior CYPS colleagues and ICTS must be consulted if there are concerns that a case requires an urgent response.</p>



**CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD**

**2 July 2018**

**HOUSING OFFER**

**Report of the Senior Housing Manager, People Services**

**1. Strategic Context**

The Council has recently approved a Housing Strategy for Sunderland 2017 – 2022 <https://www.sunderland.gov.uk/article/12805/Housing-Strategy-for-Sunderland-2017-2022>. One of the main priorities of the Strategy is supporting vulnerable people to access and maintain housing. Within this priority, there is a key action to “develop a joint protocol between Together for Children and Housing Services to ensure that homeless young people and those leaving care are supported to find suitable accommodation”.

The Council is now embarking on developing its Homelessness Strategy, which will feed into the Housing Strategy, with the prevention of homelessness and provision of accommodation for young people and care leavers being a key part of this.

**2. Introduction**

The duties to provide accommodation to young people fall under the Children Act 1989 (section 20) and the Housing Act 1996 (Part 7). Whilst the Children Act 1989 duty takes precedence, it is essential that Together for Children and Housing Services work closely together to plan and provide services that are centred on young people and care leavers. Joint working between the two services is the most effective way of meeting the needs of our young people.

The introduction of the Homelessness Reduction Act 2018 (HRA) introduces a new duty to prevent homelessness and this will be incorporated into the new joint protocol referred to above. The Council’s Housing Allocation Scheme which deals with the allocation of social housing to those in priority need (including care leavers) is also being updated to reflect the HRA.

**3. Current Picture**

There is a range of accommodation available to young people and care leavers in the City and this has been the subject of a previous report to the Corporate Parenting Board in January 2018. This accommodation and support is provided by Together for Children.

Young people leaving care who are within 56 days for their eighteenth birthday, will be referred to Housing Services by Together for Children, in line with the new Homelessness Reduction Act 2018. A Personalised Housing Plan (PHP) will be

drawn up with the young person which will outline their housing needs and any support they require. Housing Services will work with landlords and partners to meet the needs of young people agreed in their PHP.

The Government's Homeless Advice Service Team (HAST) is visiting the Council in July 2018 to meet with officers from Housing and Together for Children and young people. The purpose of the visit is to give advice and make recommendations in the context of the Homelessness Reduction Act, current practice and any OFSTED recommendations.

#### **4. Next Steps**

1. Robust data is gathered on the future housing and support needs of young people and care leavers by March 2019.
2. Recommendations made by HAST are considered and implemented. The timescale will be guided by the recommendations of the HAST report.
3. Recommendations made by OFSTED in relation to the housing needs of homeless young people and care leavers are considered and implemented. The timescale will be determined/guided by the OFSTED report.
4. Together for Children and Housing Services draw up a written joint protocol which sets clear and practical arrangements to prevent youth homelessness and to ensure 16 or 17 year olds have accommodation which meets their needs. This will be based on the recommendations above and in the light of Government guidance with a target date for completion being March 2019.
5. A Homelessness Strategy is developed which addresses the needs of homeless young people and care leavers by September 2019.
6. The Council's Housing Allocation Scheme is revised in the light of the HRA and the needs of care leavers are reflected in the revised Scheme which has a target date for publication of January 2019.

#### **5. Recommendations**

The Corporate Parenting Board is recommended to:

- i) Accept this report as an update on the Housing Offer for young people and the new duty of prevention through the HRA.
- ii) Agree to receive a further report by March 2019 on the joint written protocol and the Homelessness Strategy in relation to young people.





# Together for Children Adoption Sunderland NMS 25 Report 2017/18

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# **1 INTRODUCTION**

Together for Children Adoption Sunderland has now been in operation for one year (since 31st March 2017) and provides Adoption services on behalf of Sunderland City Council.

Together for Children Adoption Sunderland (on behalf of Sunderland City Council) is currently in the process of jointly negotiating to become part of a larger Regional Adoption Agency, with Cumbria County Council, Durham County Council and a number of VAA's. It is currently anticipated that the new Regional Adoption Agency will 'go live' in Quarter 3 of 2019/20.

The main priorities of Together for Children Adoption Sunderland are:

- To achieve the placement of children in care for whom adoption is the Care Plan, with appropriate approved adopters, matched according to the children's specific needs and circumstances and within appropriate timescales.
- To recruit, prepare and assess adoptive applicants who are likely to be able to meet the placement needs of the children waiting for families both locally and nationally.
- To provide post placement and post Order support to adoptive families.
- Birth Record Counselling for adopted adults
- Birth Family Support for families whose children are adopted

The needs of the children requiring placement are the agency's paramount consideration.

# **2 LEGISLATION, REGULATIONS AND GUIDANCE**

There is a range of Legislation, Regulations and Guidance, which influence the working of Adoption Agencies. These include:

- The Children Acts of 1989 and 2004 and supporting statutory guidance and regulations;
- The Care Standards Act 2000;
- The Adoption Act 2002;

- The Adoption Agency Regulations 2005 (amended 2011);
- The Children and Adoption Act 2006;
- The Care Planning, Placement and Case Review Regulations 2010 and accompanying statutory guidance;
- The National Minimum Standards for Adoption (2011);
- Adoption Statutory Guidance 2011;
- The Children and Families Act 2014.

### **3 KEY REQUIREMENTS OF LOCAL AUTHORITY ADOPTION SERVICES**

The key requirements of all Local Authority Adoption Services have not changed significantly since the formation of Together for Children Adoption Sunderland. These are that:

- The focus is firmly on the needs of the child, whose needs will be paramount in all decisions relating to adoption;
- Highly skilled professionals lead a quality service delivered to National Minimum Standards;
- A permanency plan is identified for all children in care within four months of them coming into Local Authority care. (This may be a return home, or any of a range of different placement options, one of which is adoption);
- Focused effort goes into finding permanent families for all children in care waiting to be adopted;
- A range of potential adopters are welcomed and assessed efficiently in an open and fair way;
- Children and their adoptive families have easy access to adoption support services.

## 4 ADOPTION SUPPORT SERVICES

Support to the prospective adopters recruited by Together for Children Adoption Sunderland is provided by social workers within the service from the point of placement and up to three years post Order. Following the making of an Adoption Order responsibility for post Order support lies with the Local Authority area within which the adopters live, for many this may remain as Together for Children Adoption Sunderland.

Birth families are provided with support services from ARC Adoption, this ensures independent support is available and is offered via a service level agreement between Together for Children Adoption Sunderland and ARC Adoption.

Access to their records for adopted adults and counselling support is provided by social workers within the service. In the year 2017/18 this service has been provided for 15 clients. Intermediary services have been provided to 3 people for the same period.

In addition social workers within the team provide therapy for children pre and post placement, in the year 2017/18 therapy has been provided to 22 children. Alongside this, training in therapy techniques is provided for foster carers, prospective adopters and adopters.

We operate our Postbox Service and currently there are 690 active post-box files. All team members are involved in proof reading post-box correspondence and responding to enquiries. One team member takes overall responsibility for overseeing and developing the post-box Service. There is dedicated admin support for the post-box service.

<b>Post Adoption Assessments</b>	<b>No completed</b>	<b>Within 6 weeks</b>	<b>Over 6 weeks</b>	<b>% completed in timescales</b>
15-16	54	37	17	69%
16-17	33	18	15	55%
17-18	66	42	24	64%

NB this 6 week timescale is set by TFC and not DfE led

## 5 The National Minimum Standards – Adoption

The Adoption National Minimum Standards came into force in April 2003 and were updated in April 2011. Local Authority adoption agencies are expected to fully comply with the Minimum Standards which cover all areas of an agency's responsibilities and function.

Together for Children Adoption Sunderland's Statement of Purpose and procedures are fully compliant with both the Adoption and Children Act 2002 (revised February 2011) and the Adoption National Minimum Standards.

## **6 Organisation**

The ongoing work of the Service is monitored by a sub-committee of Together for Children's Board.

The sub-committee was established in 2017 and meets regularly and reports to the Together for Children Board. The sub-committee has agreed Terms of Reference.

The Service has all of the necessary key documents in place including:

- Statement of Purpose (2017),
- Policy and Plan on the Recruitment of Prospective Adopters (2017),
- The Service has comprehensive written procedures.

## **7 STAFFING**

Current staffing levels

The current team consists of:

- Responsible Individual and ADM – Director of Social Care – Full time
- Registered Manager and Adoption Support Services Advisor (ASSA) - Lead manager for fostering and adoption – Full time
- Panel Adviser (0.5 post)
- Marketing and Recruitment Officer (0.5 post)
- Assistant Team Managers (2 posts) (F/T)
- Adoption Social Workers (5 posts)(F/T)
- Adoption Social Workers (2 posts) (.8 post)
- Adoption Social Workers (1 post) (.6 post)
- Adoption Support Worker (1 post) (F/T hours)
- Administrator (Letterbox) (1 post) (2 x .5 posts)
- Social Care Assistant (1 posts) (F/T hours)
- Senior Panel Administrator (1 posts) (.5 post)
- Team Administrator (1 post) (.5 post)

Team administrators and Panel administrators are centrally managed as part of the Together for Children Sunderland business support.

The Lead Manager for Fostering and Adoption is currently a temporary one year position, running until September 2018, one of the Assistant Team Manager's within the team is seconded on a temporary one year basis to the fostering team (running until October 2018) with a Social Worker within the adoption team 'acting up' to the position of Assistant Team Manager, also on a temporary one year basis. This post has been backfilled with a social worker on a secondment basis from a team within Together for Children.

The admin services are provided to Together for Children Adoption Sunderland from the admin team within Together for Children.

## **8 THE CURRENT GOVERNMENT REVIEW OF ADOPTION / REGIONALISATION AGENDA**

As detailed above Together for Children Adoption Sunderland (on behalf of Sunderland City Council) is moving forward with plans to become part of a Regional Adoption Agency – Coast to Coast. At the current time it is likely that the launch date for the new service will be in Q3 2019/20. The other participating local authorities will be:

- Cumbria County Council
- Durham County Council

Together for Children Adoption Sunderland are undertaking the project work entailed with the regionalisation programme and are keeping Sunderland City Council abreast of all developments via the involvement of the Director of Children's Services and regular reporting to Sunderland City Council Cabinet Meetings.

The Department of Education paper published in June 2015 and titled 'Regionalising Adoption', first proposed the creation of Regional Adoption Agencies across the UK and anticipated that the creation of larger agencies, which included the participation of Voluntary Adoption Agencies, should serve to:

- Speed up matching of children with adopters;
- Improve adopter recruitment to make sure that it is more effective and linked to the needs of children waiting;
- Ensure that high quality adoption support services are available nationally;
- Reduce costs;
- Encourage specialisation;

- Broaden strategic planning;
- Encourage innovation and investment.

## **9 STATEMENT OF PURPOSE AND RECRUITMENT PLAN**

Together for Children Adoption Sunderland has a Statement of Purpose and a written plan relating to the recruitment of adoptive parents both of which are compliant with all current legislation, regulations, standards and best practice guidance.

The Statement of Purpose has been reviewed (August 2017) in light of the formation of Together for Children Adoption Sunderland as a Voluntary Adoption Agency.

The Statement of Purpose and Recruitment Plan are reviewed annually.

## **10 ADOPTION TIMELINESS DATA ANALYSIS**

Together for Children Adoption Sunderland monitor the child's journey from the child becoming Looked After to being adopted in line with the DfE threshold.

- The number of days from a child becoming Looked After to the Decision to Place for Adoption was 291 in 2017 and dropped to 238 days in 2018. This figure has improved over 3 years and for the last 2 years has been below the National average.
- There were 80 days in 2017 and 76 days in 2018 from the date of Decision to Place to Placement Order date.
- The number of days from Placement Order date to Date of Matching was 172 for 2017 and fell to 162 days for 2018. This figure has been improving over 3 year averages and was below the England average in the previous year.
- The figures for Date of Matching to date Placed for Adoption are currently unavailable.
- The date of a child starting to be Looked After to the date of placement for Adoption was 534 days in 2017 and fell to 518 days in 2018.

NB The above data is to the end of Q3 for both 2017 and 2018 as the data for Q4 in 2018 is not yet available.



### **Adoptive family approvals:**

During the period 2017/18 a total of 26 prospective adopters were approved, this consisted of 5 single adopters and 21 couples.

### **Timeliness of adopters' assessments:**

Of the above 26 approved prospective adopters, 19 Stage One Assessments were completed within timescales, the 7 completed outside of timescales were as a result of delays with statutory checks.

Of the above 26 approved prospective adopters, 24 Stage Two Assessments were completed within timescale. Of the two Stage 2 assessments which were out of timescale, one was delayed as a result of procedural issues and the other was as a result of a request for further information by the Panel Advisor.

## **11 ACHIEVEMENTS 2017/18**

### **Children and Adopters**

Together for Children Adoption Sunderland achieved the placement of 52 children with prospective adopters in the period April 2017 / March 2018. Of these 52 children, 42% were 'hard to place.'

Together for Children Adoption Sunderland achieved 12 early permanence placements in 2017/18, a marked increase to the 5 achieved in 2016/17 and considerably more than the 1 in 2015/16.

Together for Children Adoption Sunderland has an enhanced support offer;

- Post adoption support within Sunderland has been described by National Adoption Advisor Al Coates as 'very positive and proactive'.
- An adoptive parent was quoted as saying "When you get the right help it's like a precious jewel."
- Joint working with Sunderland University
- £150,000 has been claimed from the ASF following 61 successful applications (2017/18)
- Enhanced support offer, including; Child psychologist available for consultation sessions with both families and staff and an independent counsellor who provides a talking therapy, using a humanist and integrative approach (for adults).
- Reduction in disruptions – 14/15 – 5, 15/16 – 3, 16/17 – 2, 17/18 – 2

## Engagement with Adopters

Together for Children Adoption Sunderland is mindful of the benefits of engaging with prospective and approved adopters around Service Development at all levels and seeks to do this through:

- Discussions around development issues at the bi-monthly Support Group for approved adopters and quarterly waiting adopters group (offered alongside others within the North East consortium;
- Seeking written feedback about their experiences of working with Together for Children Adoption Sunderland from adoptive applicants, approved and waiting adopters and legal adopters, at key stages of the adoption process (additional quality assurance has now been developed mid-way through the assessment process and a quality assurance visit is undertaken by an assistant team manager following completion of the assessment and prior to Panel).
- Child Appreciation Days are routinely considered for all children aged three years and over who are placed for adoption as well as for younger children if they have experienced changes of foster-carer. Child Appreciation Days are all run by the Together for Children Adoption Sunderland Service.
- The Together for Children Adoption Sunderland bi-monthly Adopters' Support Group is well established, providing an additional avenue of support for approved and waiting adopters. On occasion, as appropriate, this group is opened up to invite prospective adopters within the assessment process.
- We continue to distribute our newsletter quarterly, highlighting relevant adoption news and research both on a regional and national level. We also use this as a way to engage adopters with our locally ran events.
- We continue to offer Crafty Kidz – a craft based activity for adopters and their children, this group has grown from strength to strength with attendance increasing with up to approximately 18 adults attending each session.
- We continue to offer our Summer and Christmas Parties, with our 'new look' Christmas Party held in December 2017, this event was well attended and feedback was positive. These parties not only provide an opportunity for adopters and their children to come together but for some children this provides an opportunity for direct contact with siblings adopted within separate families.

## **Engagement with Children**

- The therapeutic consultative group engages adoptive children, who have been involved in a therapeutic intervention, to feedback and contribute to how our further services for children are going to be developed. To date they have named the group and have continued to engage in theraplay based activities. They are in the process of developing their own logo for the group.
- Crafty Kidz is an informal support group offering craft based activities to children and their families from placement. We now regularly have a large number of children and their families attend on a regular basis and this has enabled siblings to have contact and for friendships to develop, which is positive for everyone. It is a friendly and welcoming event, where at least 16 children regularly attend with their families.

## **12 OUTSOURCED SERVICES**

### **Inter-country Adoption**

Together for Children Adoption Sunderland has established a contract with The Inter-country Adoption Centre (<http://www.icacentre.org.uk/>) to provide Inter-country Adoption Services to residents living within the Sunderland area who want to adopt from abroad.

The Inter-country Adoption centre (IAC) provides counselling and information to applicants enquiring about adoption from abroad. The IAC also undertakes the preparation and home study assessments of applicants who decide to pursue a formal inter-country adoption application and on completion applicants are considered by the IAC's Adoption Panel.

### **Birth Family Support**

We have commissioned the provision of Birth Family Support to ARC Adoption, an Voluntary Adoption Agency in Sunderland. This has been ongoing for two years and a recent agreement has been reached taking us through to April 2021. This intervention covers support with post-box arrangements, facilitating the contribution of birth family members in life-story work, supporting birth family members in terms of their engagement at all stages of the adoption process, provide support to birth mothers who have relinquished their children for adoption, support birth family members meeting adoptive parents and there is a support group for birth family members for them to gain peer support. Between 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017 and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018, 25 birth family members were referred to this service. Feedback has been collated by the use of questionnaires, although this is currently being reviewed as it has been identified that there is a low response rate.

## **13 NON-AGENCY ADOPTION**

Together for Children Adoption Sunderland continues to receive a steady flow of interest from step-parents in respect of in-family adoptions.

In-family applications that relate to children who are within their birth families and not in local authority care are allocated for completion of the necessary enquiries and Court Report/s when notification is received from the Court. It is usual for contact to be made prior to the applicant registering their application with the Court and support/advice is given as appropriate. The decision not to allocate until formal request from the Court is made is in line with the number of applicants that expressed an interest and then did not pursue via the Court.

Within 2017/18 Together for Children Adoption Sunderland has completed the necessary Court reports for 8 in-family adoptions.

## **14 THE INSPECTION OF LOCAL AUTHORITY ADOPTION AGENCIES**

Adoption Services are inspected as part of OFSTED's Single Inspection Framework for Child Protection and Looked After Children which was introduced in September 2013 and which also includes inspection of local authorities' fostering and adoption functions. Adoption Agency work is given a separate judgment within the wider inspection framework.

Sunderland City Council was inspected in 2015 and Adoption Services received a judgement of 'inadequate.'

Together for Children is currently due an OFSTED inspection.

In addition, As Together for Children Adoption Sunderland is registered as a Voluntary Adoption Agency it will receive an OFSTED inspection relating solely to the adoption services that it is registered to provide. The first inspection is due within a year of registration. Registration was received on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017 and as such an OFSTED inspection is currently due.

## **15 COMPLAINTS AND COMPLIMENTS**

In the period 1st April 2017 – 31st March 2018 one complaint was received relating to Together for Children Adoption Sunderland. The complainant was concerned that she had stopped receiving letters from her birth child who was adopted some time ago and she questioned the agency's response that this was the child's decision. This complaint was not upheld.

During the same period 8 compliments were received relating to Together for Children Adoption Sunderland, these compliments covered both pre and post Adoption Order work.

## **16 CHALLENGES AND PRIORITIES FOR THE YEAR AHEAD**

To continue to support the development of a Regional Adoption Agency (in line with government expectations) ensuring that Together for Children Adoption Sunderland takes a key role in contributing to the design of the new service and the development of future practice in all areas.

To support Together for Children with their forthcoming OFSTED Inspection with the intention of achieving a rating of 'Good' for the company's adoption services.

To continue to improve the excellent record of the service regarding timeliness.

To continue to seek feedback from the adopters with whom we work regarding all aspects of the service and to establish a 'survey monkey' to enable adopters to anonymously provide their views.

To establish a 'survey monkey' for children who have been adopted and to use the information received to help to shape our service.

To embed the feedback process from birth family members who use services from ARC Adoption, where they are spoken to directly and their verbal feedback is recorded and used to shape future provision.

To continue to enhance our therapeutic work that is provided to children pre and post adoption order and to continue to develop the engagement group recently established.

## **17 CONCLUSIONS**

The landscape of adoption continues to change both nationally and locally as the Governments Regionalisation of Adoption agenda is driven forward.

Together for Children Adoption Sunderland continues to strive to be at the forefront of good adoption practice. The Agency has achieved significant success in achieving timely placements for children requiring adoption and placing children within early Permanence Placements when appropriate to the needs and circumstances of individual children.

Positive working relationships are well established between the Adoption Service and the locality teams within Together for Children and shared planning can be

clearly evidenced. This has meant that children in need of placement have been identified at an early stage and many children with complex needs have been securely placed for adoption.

The feedback received from adopters engaged with Together for Children Adoption Sunderland is generally very positive.

The coming year will be a period of further significant changes for Together for Children Adoption Sunderland as we continue to develop the proposals to become part of a larger Regional Adoption Agency – Coast to Coast. However, these are interesting times as evidence to date continues to support that shared adoption services, with a focussed approach and a culture of continuous improvement and innovation, can be a highly successful form of service delivery.

Kathryn McCabe

Lead Manager Fostering and Adoption

April 2018

**Fostering Service Monitoring Report Form (England) for NMS 2  
and Regulation 35 reports**

**Item No. 9**

**1. Introduction**

Name of fostering service	Together for Children Fostering Sunderland
Period covered by the report	1 <sup>st</sup> April 2017 – 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2018
Name of person completing the form	Kathryn McCabe
Position in the fostering service	Registered Manager
Date form was completed	22 <sup>nd</sup> April 2018

Date of last Ofsted inspection	Awaiting first inspection as an IFA
Overall judgement	N/A
Statutory requirements for improvement (with dates)	
N/A	
Action undertaken to meet those requirements	
N/A	
Recommendations for improvement (with dates)	
N/A	
Action undertaken to meet those recommendations	
N/A	

## 2. Summary data

Foster carers	
Expressions of interest	21
Assessments completed	There have been a total of 44 assessments completed within the reporting period.
Assessments ongoing	5
Approvals	Temporary Foster Carers (Reg 24) – 146 Connected Carers – 33 Temporary Carers – 6 Permanent Carers – 1
Reviews completed	There have been 214 foster carer reviews completed within the reporting period.
Foster carer training	First Aid – 70 attendees Virtual school – 36 attendees Youth Voice – 15 attendees Substance Misuse – 15 attendees Theraplay – 18 attendees Managing Allegations – 53 attendees Sexual Health – 19 attendees Moving Children onto Permanence – 12 attendees Life Story Work - 13 attendees Impact of Abuse – 17 attendees Emergency Duty Team & CSE – 31 attendees
Foster carer support groups	Upon my commencement in post in September 2017 there were no support groups being facilitated by the agency. Our first support group ran this month (April 2018) and a programme is being delivered for a monthly support group. Two informal support events have been held for carers and children in February and April 2018.
Terminations of approval	We have had 27 foster carers resign over the reporting period, 5 of these resignations were as a result of the agency raising standards of care concerns, the other 22 were for a range of personal reason.  We have had 27 foster carers temporarily approved under regulation 24 whose approval has ceased within the 16 week period.
Number of foster carers	86 Connected Carers 170 Mainstream 11 Short Breaks Carers 267 in total
Comment, analysis, and any action taken	



In line with the national picture recruitment of mainstream foster carers continues to be difficult. During this period significant work has taken place with the recruitment strategy and more specifically reviewing the current fee structure. The fees currently offered by Together for Children Fostering Sunderland are not in line with statistical neighbouring Local Authorities and fall well below those offered by IFA's. Together for Children Fostering Sunderland are currently working with Sunderland City Council to establish agreement with moving forward with a new fee structure. It has been agreed by senior management that whilst the fee offer remains uncompetitive a measured approach needs to be taken with the expenditure on recruitment campaigns.

That said, during the reporting period advertising has taken place via the internet and a campaign on local buses, metros and bill boards was ran throughout November and December 2017.

A marketing and recruitment intern (part time) has been appointed and the website is currently being further developed and the recruitment strategy will be updated.

### Children and young people

Referrals	
New placements	
Placements ended	
Unplanned endings	
Number of children	

Comment, analysis, and any action taken

Prior to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017 we were operating as a Local Authority and as such we did not record this level of data. We have now begun to record this and will be able to provide data within the NMS 25 report which will be submitted in early July 2018.

### 3. Detailed data

#### Compliance with care plan

Upon my commencement in post in September 2017 an audit was undertaken of all mainstream foster carers, this helped us to identify trends for areas of development. Within this piece of work we were able to identify those carers who did not have a copy of the Care Plan for the child(ren) they were providing a home. The FSW that liaised with the CSW to rectify this, if appropriate this was escalated for managerial

support.

In addition the Foster Carer Supervision template has been updated to allow reflection between FSW and FC that the FC is clear about the care plan for each child, and that the child is aware, subject to their age/understanding? It also considers if the FC is supporting each child to contribute their views, and know their plan as well as identifying if the FC contributes to the care planning process via attendance at meeting's etc.

The Fostering Service works closely with the IRO service to ensure compliance with care plans, the IRO manager and Fostering Registered Manager are in regular contact and any issues/concerns are raised and addressed.

The Fostering Service currently does not collate data on unplanned endings, however, this information is monitored via Foster Carer Reviews with a report by the FSW having managerial oversight and signature before the review is held.

Within this period we have developed a policy and procedure in relation to disruption meeting's and these are now considered for any child/young person within a permanent placement who has an unplanned ending and also for any child/young person who has experienced multiple unplanned endings. This helps us to identify areas for improvement.

During the reporting period 10 young people have moved on to access 'staying put' arrangements and 55 children have moved on to be placed with prospective adopters.

We are rolling out new and updated portfolios for foster carers which identifies and lists all documentation a foster carer should have for each child in their care – each child will have their own individual portfolio where this information can be stored.

### **Accidents, injuries and illnesses**

Evidence of notification under schedule 7 regarding death of a child, serious illness or accident, or outbreak of infectious disease

Upon my commencement in post in September 2017 I identified a high number of inappropriate schedule 7 notifications had been submitted to Ofsted. Since September 2017 I have ensured I have oversight of all notifications that are made and for the purposes of this report will report on notifications that I have been responsible for as Registered Manager.

There has been one schedule 7 notification regarding a serious illness or accident within the reporting period.

Comment and any action undertaken to improve care provided

Upon my commencement in post in September 2017 there was no reporting and limited monitoring mechanism in place for this.

We have since established monthly supervision for all staff, including case supervision, on a monthly basis, this allows for management oversight and review. Monthly management meeting's (between assistant team managers, team manager and business manager) allow for this to be monitored.

Notification's under schedule 7 have been brought into line with expectation and policies and procedures are being reviewed and updated.

The Foster Care Agreement has been updated and is specific in outlining to FC's their responsibility to keep the FSW informed about the child's progress and to notify the Fostering Service without undue delay, but within 1 working day of matters relating to schedule 7 of the Fostering Regulations (detailed within FCA).

Policies and procedures are being updated and as sign off is given these are made available to FC's, we are also working on an online portal which will improve accessibility to all carers to updated documents. This is progressing in line with an enhanced training programme and with engagement with carers via the consultative group.

A pro forma has been developed and shared with FSW who in turn have been asked to share with FC, this allows an effective mechanism to record details of any accidents, injuries, illnesses, incidences and any missing episodes – this pro forma includes prompts for action by the FC and guidance on how to record. This has recently been introduced and as it becomes embedded into practice we will monitor within our monthly manager meeting's. This pro forma is included in the portfolio provided to all carers which are currently being distributed.

### **Medication, medical treatment and first aid administered**

#### **Comment and any action undertaken to improve care provided**

Upon my commencement in post in September 2017 there was no reporting and limited monitoring mechanism in place for this.

The Foster Carer Supervision template has been updated and includes prompts for discussion around medication, medical treatment and first aid.

Policies and procedures are being updated and as sign off is given these are made available to FC's, we are also working on an online portal which will improve accessibility to all carers to updated documents. This is progressing in line with an enhanced training programme and with engagement with carers via the consultative group.

Together For Children have recently developed a relationship with Learning Curve (training provider), we are exploring how this opportunity can be accessed for FC.

This training programme includes a Level 2 Certificate in Understanding the Safe Handling of Medication.

Information is currently held within the foster carer's handbook.

Mandatory first Aid training is held and repeated every three years.

### Measures of control, restraint or discipline

Comment and any action undertaken to improve care provided

Upon my commencement in post in September 2017 there was no reporting and limited monitoring mechanism in place for this.

The Foster Carer Supervision template has been updated and includes prompts for discussion around this area.

Policies and procedures are being updated and as sign off is given these are made available to FC's, we are also working on an online portal which will improve accessibility to all carers to updated documents. This is progressing in line with an enhanced training programme and with engagement with carers via the consultative group.

The training opportunities being offered by 'Learning Curve' are also being explored in relation to their Level 2 Certificate in Behaviour that Challenges.

We have recently agreed to four members of staff being trained to deliver the Solihull Parenting Programme and they will access this training in July 2018.

### Complaints in relation to children/about foster carers, and their outcomes

Summary

There have been five schedule 7 notifications regarding a serious complaint about a foster carer.

Within the reporting period there has been one complaint submitted to Together for Children's Compliment and Complaint department, this complaint remains on-going.

During the reporting period there have been 7 compliments submitted to Together for Children's Compliments and Complaints Department.

Evidence of notification under schedule 7 regarding any serious complaint about a foster carer, or information being provided to the Disclosure and Barring Service

Within the current reporting period we have not provided information to the DBS service regarding any foster carer.

### **Allegations or suspicions of abuse or neglect, and investigation outcomes**

#### **Evidence**

There have been 37 foster carers referred to the Designated Officer within the reporting period.

- 8 of these cases remain open
- From 29 closed cases the outcomes have been found to be : 4 False / 1 Cancelled / 13 Unsubstantiated / 10 Substantiated / 1 Malicious

#### **Evidence of notification under schedule 7 regarding instigation and outcome of any child protection inquiry, or suspicion/involvement of child in "prostitution"**

There have been 3 schedule 7 notifications submitted due to 'instigation and outcome of any child protection enquiry.'

#### **Comment and any action undertaken to improve care provided**

As a service we are developing relationships with the Designated Officer and are introducing bi-monthly monitoring and information sharing meetings. This will allow us to monitor trends and develop an appropriate action plan.

Alongside this we continue to significantly improve the training and support that is available to our foster carers and we will monitor the impact that this has upon the referral rate.

### **Children missing without permission**

#### **Evidence of notification under schedule 7 regarding a child missing from placement**

Upon my commencement in post in September 2017 there was over reporting regarding missing episodes. We were able to bring this in line with guidance and appropriate notifications have been submitted since this time.

#### **Comment and any action undertaken to improve care provided**

Our monitoring capabilities were limited and unreliable, we have introduced a new social care system as of the end of January 2018 which will enable us to more effectively monitor and ultimately report on this date.

We are currently working with our colleagues across Together for Children to

implement a strategy and plan to ensure effective monitoring, reporting and consistency. This will enable us, within Together for Children Fostering Sunderland to identify trends and themes.

A pro forma has been developed and shared with FSW who in turn have been asked to share with FC, this allows an effective mechanism to record details of any accidents, injuries, illnesses, incidences and any missing episodes – this pro forma includes prompts for action by the FC and guidance on how to record. This has recently been introduced and as it becomes embedded into practice we will monitor within our monthly manager meeting's. This pro forma is included in the portfolio provided to all carers which are currently being distributed.

#### **Allegations that a child has committed a serious offence**

Evidence of notification under schedule 7 regarding allegations that a child has committed a serious offence

There have been no incidences within the reporting year whereby a child has committed a serious offence and as such no notifications of this regard have been made to Ofsted.

#### **Serious incident necessitating police being called to the foster carer's home**

Evidence of notification under schedule 7 regarding a serious incident necessitating police being called to the foster carer's home

Contact was made with the service by the neighbour of a FC on a number of occasions, the neighbours had a difficult relationship and the FC felt that the manner and approach of the neighbour towards them and their family necessitated contact with the police.

There was one notification under schedule 7 submitted to this regard.

## **4. Staffing**

#### **Summary of staffing position**

Registered Manager – Full time  
Assistant Team Managers – 3 FT  
Fostering Social Workers – 10.5 FTE  
Fostering Support Worker – 1 FT  
Panel Advisor – 1 0.5 FTE  
Marketing and Recruitment Officer – 1 0.5 FTE

There are currently three members of staff absent from work due to long term sickness, this sickness is currently reviewed, in line with HR processes within formal

sickness reviews.

Two of these positions are currently filled using agency social workers and one position is covered via a social worker employed by Together for Children within the Out of Hours service. This worker provides support to carers in line with her days off arising from her shift pattern.

During the reporting period there has been a change in Registered Manager, the RM in post at the registration of Together for Children Fostering Sunderland resigned from their position and left at the end of August 2017. A replacement was identified prior to their leaving and was able to commence in September 2017, appropriate notifications were made the RM interview has taken place and appointment agreed.

Significant changes have taken place across the staff team within the reporting period, this is being closely monitored and vacancies are quickly filled using external advertising.

#### Recruitment of new staff

Recruitment of new staff is undertaken with the support and guidance of the Human Resources Department within Together for Children. HR ensures that appropriate checks are in place and saved on file prior to appointment.

#### Staff supervision

All staff, including the 5 independent practitioners have a named supervisor and receive monthly personal and case supervision. SW supervision is undertaken by an Assistant Team Manager and the TM supervises the ATM's. The TM undertakes ad hoc dip sampling of the supervision records for all staff. The monthly management meeting has a standing agenda item of 'staffing' and key points relating to individual staff members are explored within this.

#### Staff training

The training programme for foster carers has been significantly enhanced and all staff have been asked to link with their supervisor and attend this training as is appropriate. It is important that staff have an awareness of the training that is on offer to carers and it is also an opportunity for them to enhance their own knowledge base.

The team plan was developed in January 2018 and reviewed in March 2018, it incorporates a section on staff training and allows team members to influence training that is identified. Given the number of recent changes across the team in terms of expectations it is been agreed (within the team plan) that formal training will be kept to a minimum whilst staff familiarise themselves with the new policy, procedures and pro forma's they are working within.

Cognitive Behavioural Therapy training is currently being sourced for staff within together for Children Adoption Sunderland and it is likely that some places will be available for staff from the Fostering Service.

Four places have been reserved on the Solihull Parenting Programme (to skill staff in the delivery of this course) and attendance will be agreed in line with appraisals.

#### Staff appraisals

Upon commencement in my post in September 2017 I identified that most staff had not had an appraisal within the recommended timeframe of one year. As most staff members had been appointed a new supervisor I advised staff that no appraisals would be completed until 2018 to allow relationships to be built and make the process more meaningful.

In January 2018 I was advised that Together for Children would be releasing 'new' appraisal guidance and as such these were put on hold until April 2018, this process has now commenced and it is expected that all staff will have a current appraisal within a 6 month period.

#### Staff meetings

Team meetings are held on a monthly basis, they are chaired by the TM or an ATM in her absence and minutes are taken on a rota basis by members of the team.

Within the reporting period a team day to complete a team plan and a team day to review the team plan have been held (January and March 2018).

#### Comment and any action undertaken to improve care provided

See above.

### 5. Fostering panel

#### Summary of panel

We have two fostering panel each month which are ran via an extensive central list of panel member.

The main activity of the fostering panel is the consideration of approval of Connected Carers.

If a Regulation 25 extension is requested for a Temporary Foster Carer (Reg 24) this is also considered by panel.

We have a dedicated panel advisor (18 .5 hours) who has previous experience as a team manager in the fostering service.

#### Panel meetings

There has been 24 Fostering Panels held during the reporting period.

#### Cases considered and recommendations



Connected Carers – 37 Cases Considered, recommendation to approve 36 cases and not approve 1

Temporary Foster Carers – 6 , recommendation to approve all 6 carers

Permanent Foster Carers – 1, recommendation to approve

Regulation 25's – 12, recommendation to approve 11 and 1 not to continue

First Reviews – 15, recommendation on-going approval for all 15 cases

De-Registrations – 27 (including regulation 24 temporary approval)

Resignations – 27

#### Panel feedback

Applicants found the questions to be very helpful. Some people found the thought of going to fostering panel to be very nervous. However feedback from the applicants advised that supervising social workers and panel members made them feel very at ease

We have recently commenced collating feedback from SW on their attendance at fostering panel and to date this has been largely positive.

#### Training and appraisals

All panel members have had an appraisal within 2017 –these were completed with The panel chair and panel advisor.

There have been two training events within the reporting year, training presented by an IRO around Foster Carer Reviews and Attachment. There were several Social Workers as well as panel members attending, and this was a great opportunity for discussions with an IRO and the sitting panel members to discuss the reviews that are presented at panel.

The second training event informed panel members on training offered to foster carers, the CORAM/BAAF forms for connected carers, viabilities for connected carers and information sharing on the new training hub that is being developed for workers and foster carers.

#### Comment and any action undertaken to improve care provided

At each Connected Carer assessment that is presented to panel applicants are asked if they have all the necessary paperwork, as lack of paperwork pertaining to the child has previously been raised as a concern. It is pleasing to note that this is improving and it is noticeable that it is very rare for carers not to have this.

Any concerns about safeguarding have been reported to senior managers and ADM.

A question is asked from the young people from the Children in Care Change Council to applicants and it is hoped this this could be further developed.

## 6. Consultation with children and young people

Evidence	<p>An online survey using 'survey monkey' was rolled out in February 2018, the feedback is being used to inform decisions relating to service development.</p> <p>Two separate children and young people groups have been developed in April 2018, one for children who live with foster carers and the other for children who foster.</p> <p>Two informal support events have been held, one in February 2018 and the other in April 2018, these were for foster carers and children and included a range of activities for the children and the opportunity for foster carers to meet with the staff team.</p>
Comment and any action undertaken to improve care provided	
<p>Upon my commencement in post in September 2017 there was little evidence of consultation with children and young people. Through the development of our team plan we have identified specific areas in which we would like to enhance this area, this has led to the development of the groups identified above. Whilst these remain in the early stages the staff team show commitment and enthusiasm in continuing to improve this area of their work.</p> <p>Over the coming year we expect to build upon the groups we have established and continue to develop our involvement with the Children in Care Council (CiCC) and the Lead for Participation and Engagement within Together for Children.</p>	

## 7. Consultation with foster carers

Evidence	<p>An online survey using 'survey monkey' was rolled out in February 2018, the feedback is being used to inform decisions relating to service development.</p>
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	<p>Whilst there have been a number of foster carer ran informal support groups in place for a number of years there has been a gap in social worker ran support groups which reaches out to all carers. There is an established SW supported group held within a FC's home within Whitley Bay.</p> <p>In April 2018 we held out first social worker ran support group within the City, the first group held was an opportunity for those in attendance to outline what they wished for this to look like. In line with the feedback we are considering timing of the group and venue and will be sourcing guest speakers on a range of subjects. This group will be offered on a monthly basis and dates are planned.</p> <p>Two informal support events have been held, one in February 2018 and the other in April 2018, these were for foster carers and children and included a range of activities for the children and the opportunity for foster carers to meet with the staff team.</p> <p>Two foster carers are long standing members of the corporate parenting board.</p> <p>Foster carers are regularly involved in the delivery of training and the new training lead is linking with carers who have expressed an interest to develop this further.</p> <p>A carers consultative group is held on a bi-monthly basis, with the RM attending, terms of reference have recently been written by the group and new members are being recruited.</p> <p>A number of foster carers were nominated for awards within the 'Together for Children Spotlight Awards.'</p> <p>The Fostering Service has links with a local charity, 'more than grandparents' who provides support to family members caring for the children of their relatives.</p>
<p>Comment and any action undertaken to improve care provided</p>	
<p>Upon my commencement in post in September 2017 there was limited evidence of meaningful consultation with foster carers. Through the development of our team plan we have identified specific areas in which we would like to enhance this area, this has led to the development of the work outlined above.</p> <p>As the Registered Manager for the service I have written to all carers on two occasions. I have also met with a number of foster carers, both formally and informally within group settings. I have also had email, phone and face to face contact with a number of individual carers.</p> <p>Over the coming year we will review the support group offer and identify if a separate support group is appropriate for connected carers.</p>	

We expect our online survey to be an annual survey and hope that engagement will continue to improve.

We are currently planning an event for all foster carers for June 2018 to celebrate the work that they do.

## 8. Financial information

Comment
Please see attached finance report below.

Signed	
Name	Kathryn McCabe
Position	Lead Manager for Fostering and Adoption
Date	25.04.18

<b>TOGETHER FOR CHILDREN</b>	
DATE:	<b>27 April 2018</b>
REPORT AUTHOR:	<b>Deborah Orr –Finance Manager</b>
SUBJECT:	<b>Independent Fostering Agency Finance Report</b>
PURPOSE:	To report on the financial position of Together for Children Independent Fostering Agency.

## 1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report provides the financial information and assurance for Together for Children Sunderland Limited registered as an Independent Fostering Agency.
- 1.2 The financial information contained in the report is based on the latest information available for the 2017/18 financial year and is subject to audit verification.

## 2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 As reported to the Board in November 2017, Together for Children Sunderland Limited (TfC) was formal establishment as a Council controlled company from April 2017 to deliver children's services functions as part of a new holistic and long term service delivery model. The contract for services from Sunderland City Council includes:

Services for safeguarding and vulnerable groups to include:

- a. Children in need and safeguarding
- b. Independent Reviewing Officers
- c. Services for looked after children including fostering and Adoption
- d. Services for care leavers
- e. Services for children with special education needs and disabilities
- f. Youth Offending

Early Help services to include:

- g. Family support
- h. Youth Offer
- i. Early years and childcare

Education and Schools support services to include:

- j. schools finance
- k. Support to school governing bodies
- l. Education leadership and support for school improvement
- m. Inclusive education and vulnerable learners

- 2.2 As part of the set-up, Together for Children Fostering Sunderland was established as an Independent Fostering Agency (IFA). This permits the

statutory agency decision maker functions in respect of fostering to be performed and discharged by TfC on the Council's behalf.

2.3 As part of the Fostering Service National Minimum Standards, there is a requirement to report to the Board on the financial viability and changes affecting business continuity of the Fostering Agency.

### 3. FINANCE

3.1 Together for Children has a service contract with Sunderland City Council. The contract value paid in 2017/18 was £59m. Agreed reduction plans will decrease the contract sum by 2019/20. However, included in the contract is the requirement for an annual review and appropriate RPI increases.

3.2 The table below provides the draft summary financial information relating to the Fostering Service for 2017/18. These figures are included in the monthly report to the TfC Board.

Table 1: Fostering Service Expenditure: April 2017 to March 2018.

<b>Category</b>	<b>Actual £</b>	<b>Budget £</b>	<b>Variance £</b>
Employees (inc Agency)	873,935	717,313	(156,622)
Premises (Room Hire)	2,277	2,500	223
Car Mileage (Employee)	40,987	40,892	(95)
DBS / Medical Reports	89,667	82,809	(6,858)
Equipment (Foster Carers)	46,701	46,546	(155)
Publicity	20,005	10,000	(10,005)
Other Running Expenses	3,939	4,000	61
Foster Care Payments	5,171,706	5,346,454	174,748
IFAs	2,990,719	3,000,000	9,281
	<b>9,239,936</b>	<b>9,250,514</b>	<b>10,578</b>

3.3 It should be noted that, in the wider context of children looked after, the budget for the Fostering and Adoption service is not fixed and is responsive to increases in demand.

3.4 The key priority for the agency is to recruit more foster carers with a focus on recruiting carers who will care for older children and teenagers, or children with complex needs, or large sibling groups and target younger carers who will provide longer term stability for younger children coming into care.

3.5 To facilitate the recruitment of additional foster carers a review is underway, in relation to the foster payment framework, to bring it in line with regional neighbours and make TfC competitive in terms of recruitment and stable in terms of retention.

### 4. CONTACT

FOSTERING SERVICE MONITORING REPORT FORM  
(ENGLAND)



Deborah Orr  
Finance Manager  
[deborah.orr@togetherforchildren.org.uk](mailto:deborah.orr@togetherforchildren.org.uk)  
0191 5611412







TOGETHER FOR CHILDREN	
REPORT AUTHOR:	Glynis Horner. Foster Carer Reviewing Officer/Regulation 44 Officer Gavin Taylor. Independent Reviewing Officer Manager
SUBJECT:	Regulation 44 report summarising visits from December 2017 to April 2018.
PURPOSE:	To provide the members of the Corporate Parenting Board with an update on the findings in relation to the Regulation.44 visits.

## Purpose

To provide the members of the Corporate Parenting Board with an update on the findings in relation to monthly unannounced visits undertaken between December 2017 and April 2018 to each of the Together For Children Sunderland Children's Homes in accordance with Regulation 44 of The Children's Homes Regulations 2015

The report provides an overview of service performance reflecting on key areas of strength and highlighting any emerging issues to the Management Team.

## Background

Regulation 44 of the Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015 clearly states that the registered provider shall appoint, at the registered provider's expense, an independent person to visit and report on the children's home in accordance with this regulation. This is to ensure objective critical analysis with a view to improve safeguarding and service delivery.

The Regulation 44 Visitor must be able to evidence demonstrable independence and have the skills necessary to relate to children and young people, assess all relevant information and form a rigorous and impartial assessment of the home's arrangements for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of the children in the home's care.

Independence is defined in the DfE Guidance as a person outside of the line management of the home, including the involvement in the care planning or financial arrangements of the home, visit and report. They may be an employee or be commissioned but must have, 'a clear separation between those with a direct interest in the home performing well'. (2.12DfE Guidance)

There are two full time Foster Carer Reviewing Officer /Regulation 44 Officer posts situated in the Children's Independent Review Team within the Performance and Quality Assurance Directorate. Since the last report one of the FCR/Reg.44 Officers has left the service. A replacement has been appointed who will join Together for Children Sunderland on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2018. Both officers are qualified social workers who have relevant skills, knowledge and experience.

## Role of the Independent Visitor

Regulation 44 states that the independent person, when carrying out a visit, must interview children and young people accommodated in the home, their parents or relatives, staff from the home and relevant professionals. They are also required to inspect the premises and records (including children's case records where the child and their placing authority consents) of the children's home. The independent visitor produces a report about each visit (referred to in the Regulations as "the independent person's report") which sets out in particular, the independent person's opinion as to whether—

- (a) children are effectively safeguarded; and
- (b) the conduct of the home promotes children's well-being.

The independent person's report may recommend actions that the registered person may take in relation to the home and timescales within which the registered person must consider whether or not to take those actions.

A copy of the report is sent each month to Ofsted, the Responsible Individual, the Strategic Service Manager for Accommodation and the Homes Manager.

## Performance Overview

The following table provides the dates within the reporting period that Regulation 44 visits have been undertaken and the date of most recent Ofsted visit:

Home	Recent Ofsted	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
Colombo Road	7/2/18	13/12/17	9/1/18	8/2/18	14/3/18	10/4/18
Monument View	24/1/18	8/12/17	10/1/18	7/2/18	8/3/18	19/4/18
Sea View Road West	13/3/17	4/12/17	8/1/18	6/2/17	12/3/18	11/4/18
Grasswell House	15/1/18	11/12/17	12/1/18	15/2/18	9/3/18	20/4/18
Revelstoke Road	12/3/18	5/12/17	9/1/18	13/2/18	15/3/18	16/4/18

## Administration

On average, five hours each month are spent at each of the five homes to undertake the Regulation 44 visit. Evidence is gathered and triangulated to inform the report which is then written and distributed by the Regulation 44 visitor within the required timescale.

## Colombo Road

Colombo Road Children's Home is approved for up to six young people of either gender up to the age of eighteen years. It is situated on a large housing estate in the Hylton Castle area of Sunderland. Within this reporting period there have been no changes to the management structure.

The following table shows the Ofsted Judgements for the 2017 and 2018 Ofsted inspections of Colombo Road. The overall experiences and progress of children and young people and the effectiveness of leaders and managers were judged to be Outstanding at the Full Inspection undertaken in September 2017. This was an improvement from the previous year. How well children and young people are helped and protected sustained a rating of Good. At the interim inspection carried out on February 7th 2018 the home was judged to have Sustained Effectiveness.

Verbal feedback given by the Ofsted inspector was positive. Most notable was the homes' robust safeguarding culture and the quality of staff supervision. Positive comments were made regarding how knowledgeable the link worker interviewed was about the young person she is responsible for and her understanding of behaviours and the young person's underlying needs.

The inspector described the home as feeling like a family home and she was impressed with the standard of the outside space.

One recommendation was made with regard to evidence of the child's wishes and feelings being evidenced throughout one to one sessions. Action has been taken to address this issue.

Ofsted Rating	5&6/9/17 Judgement	7/2/18 Judgement
Overall experiences and progress of children and young people	Outstanding	Sustained Effectiveness
How well children and young people are helped and protected	Good	
The effectiveness of leaders and managers	Outstanding	

Within the reporting period Colombo Road has provided care for the following numbers of young people:

Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
6	6	5	6	6

Unannounced Regulation 44 visits have been undertaken each month during this reporting period. A consistently good standard of practice is evident and it is clear young people are well cared for. Positive behaviour is rewarded and the use of sanctions is avoided. In this reporting period there have been no sanctions, restraint has been used on three occasions, there have been sixteen critical incidents and two notifications to Ofsted have been made.

Young people engage with education and every young person is at school, has an education provision or attends training with education placement. Attendance and attainment levels are consistently good.

No of admissions in reporting period	No of discharges in reporting period	No of missing incidents	No of missing incidents over 24hrs	No of rec's in the reporting period
1	1	11	0	1

Colombo Road is maintained to a particularly good standard and provides a safe, homely environment for young people. The communal areas are well furnished contemporary and comfortable. In this reporting period, new floorcovering has been laid and new sofas purchased. A capital bid to refurbish the kitchen and replace the boilers has been agreed and estimates for the work to be carried out are being progressed.

Young people living at Colombo Road know the Reg. 44 visitor and understand why she visits the home. At least one young person is consulted during each visit and topics discussed include experience of living here, how young people are enabled to have choice, how they are supported in education and training, support for hobbies and individual interests and food provision.

Young person S is making good progress here. He said *"I like living here and I am supported. I like my education and training placement in horticulture. I think it will lead to an apprenticeship when I leave school"*

Young Person E has lived in the home for ten months and has settled well here after the breakdown of her placement with foster carers. She said, *"Christmas was great here and we have lots of plans for things do in the next few weeks"*.

Wherever possible the parent or primary carer of a different young person is consulted. When this is not achievable a young person's Independent Reviewing Officer or their social worker is contacted to elicit their views.

The parent of young person D was spoken to following the visit undertaken in March. She told the Regulation 44 Visitor she is happy with the standard of care provided for her son. She was pleased that staff from the home had helped him to buy a present and card to give her on Mother's Day and said she appreciated this.

Following the visit undertaken in April the mother of young person S was contacted. She told me she is very happy with the care provided for her son. The young person's mother talked about his good progress within his work and education placement. She is proud of his achievements and his excellent level of attendance.

The young person's mother told me her son always looks well cared for when she sees him. He wears good quality clothes and he is clean and healthy.

In conclusion the young person's mother described the staff as, 'brilliant' and said they keep her right up to date with information regarding her son.

The number of young people going missing has reduced significantly in this reporting period. Young people living here are settled. They engage with education/training and take full advantage of the activities and opportunities available to them.

Within this reporting period one recommendation has been made. This is an increase of one and was with regard to a young person's case file being updated following an incident of bullying.

## Monument View

Monument View provides residential care for up to six young people of either gender. It is geographically situated within Shinnery Row area of Sunderland. There have been no changes to the management structure in this reporting period.

The following table shows the judgements for the 2017 and 2018 Ofsted inspections of Monument View. The overall experiences and progress of children and young people, the effectiveness of leaders and managers and how children are helped and protected were judged to be Outstanding at the Full Inspection undertaken in September 2017. This was an improvement from the previous year. At the interim inspection carried out on January 24<sup>th</sup> 2018 the home was judged to have Sustained Effectiveness.

At the Full Inspection the Ofsted inspector found that strong relationship building is a key element in the home's success. She commented on the robust link worker system which gives the young people significant adults in their lives with whom they can form positive relationships.

Two requirements and three recommendations were made following the interim inspection. The requirements were with regard to when notifications should be made to Ofsted and the frequency of formal supervision for sessional staff. Immediate action was taken and the issues identified addressed.

The recommendations were with regard to the inclusion of young people's views and comments being recorded within key-worker sessions and safeguarding being a stand-alone agenda item in supervision and team meetings.

Ofsted Rating	12&13/9/17 Judgement	24/01/18 Judgement
Overall experiences and progress of children and young people	Outstanding	Sustained Effectiveness
How well children and young people are helped and protected	Outstanding	
The effectiveness of leaders and managers	Outstanding	

Within the reporting period Monument View has provided care for the following numbers of young people:

Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
5	5	6	6	6

Monument View has had an unannounced Regulation 44 visit each month. In March 2018 Councillor Louise Farthing visited the home with the Reg. 44 Officer. Monument View provides a consistently good standard of care for the young people living there. Sanctions have not been issued and the use of restraint has not been required. Two critical incidents have been recorded neither of which needed to be notified to Ofsted.

Each young person has education and/or training provision. Where young people struggle to engage with education or training provision the manager and staff team work diligently in supporting them to re-engage. There is demonstrable evidence of how staff work in partnership with young people and education professionals to help young people to be the best that they can be.

Between December 2017 and April 2018 the following was recorded:

No of admissions in reporting period	No of discharges in reporting period	No of missing incidents	No of missing incidents over 24hrs	No of rec's in the reporting period
2	1	17	2	0

Monument View is maintained to a consistently high standard. The homes location, garden and outbuildings provide a therapeutic environment. The home, as a community have built a yurt in the garden and a sensory room is under construction. Young people are supported to grow their own produce and look after the hens and ducks.

The views of young people living at Monument View are sought during each Reg. 44 visit. They know the Reg.44 visitor and are happy to talk to her during visits. Young person K was consulted during the visit in March. She explained how she is moving to a semi independent living setting soon and said, *"I know staff will still support me and I will always be welcome here"*. It is good to report that K is settled in her new accommodation and is continuing her education and training. She is a regular visitor at the home.

Young people's parents or primary carers are contacted wherever possible. If this is not achieved then their social worker or Independent Reviewing Officer is consulted. In January the mother of young person N was spoken to. She is happy with the care provided for her daughter by staff at the home and believes she has made good progress since she went to live there. The young person's mother said how proud she is that her daughter has been chosen to take part in a Tall Ships Voyage this summer.

Following the visit in February the mother of young person K was contacted. Her son has recently moved to this home from one of the organisations other children's homes. She felt K had, 'calmed down' since moving to this home. K's mother was sure this was a good move for him. She said the staff team suit K's personality and temperament and he responds appropriately to the way they parent him. She acknowledged that there has been, 'hiccups' since he moved but on the whole his behaviour has improved and has been less challenging. The young person's mother said K looks well cared for when she sees him and added she has established a good relationship with staff and feels able to contact them if she has any concerns.

The number of young people reported missing has significantly decreased during this reporting period. When young people do go missing staff take immediate action to elicit their safe and quick return, working with partner agencies and where appropriate young people's family and friends to achieve this. The number of recommendations has reduced from three to none made in this reporting period.

## Grasswell House

Grasswell House provides residential care for up to six young people of either gender. There have been no changes to the management structure in this period.

The following table shows the Ofsted Judgements for the 2017 and 2018 Ofsted inspections. At the full inspection undertaken in November 2017 the overall judgement was Inadequate for the following reasons;

- The manager's monitoring of the home lacks rigour and thorough analysis.
- Risk assessments do not contain effective strategies to inform practice or mitigate risk. When strategies are set out they have not been followed by staff.
- Not all serious incidents are shared with the regulator or reported through internal systems.
- The care plans do not detail sufficiently the needs of young people.
- Records of restraint demonstrate disproportionate responses.
- The young people are not helped sufficiently in terms of skills for living independently.

Strengths with regard to how well the home works with other professionals were identified and it was acknowledged by the inspector that the home has introduced the services of a psychologist to



support learning and development. Eight requirements and four recommendations were made. Immediate action was taken to address them prior to a second full inspection being undertaken in January 2018. The overall experiences and progress of children and young people was judged to be good. How well children are helped and protected and the effectiveness of leaders and managers required improvement to be good. The inspector recognised the hard work of the management and staff to address the issues raised at the last inspection and commented positively with regard to the reduction in missing episodes and the impact of structured activities and outings for young people. Five requirements and four recommendations were made.

Ofsted Rating	22&23/11/17 Judgement	15/16/1/18 Judgement
Overall experiences and progress of children and young people	Inadequate	good
How well children and young people are helped and protected	Inadequate	requires improvement to be good
The effectiveness of leaders and managers	Inadequate	requires improvement to be good

Within the reporting period the home has been residence to the following number of young people:

Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
6	6	6	5	4

Grasswell House has had an unannounced visit each month throughout the reporting period. In March Councillor Victoria O'Neil accompanied the Reg.44 visitor. Throughout the reporting period the manager of the home and her staff team have worked diligently to meet the requirements and recommendations resulting from the inspections. Episodes of young people being reported missing reduced significantly, sanctions were given on two occasions and a young person needed to be restrained for their safety on one occasion

No of admissions in reporting period	No of discharges in reporting period	No of missing incidents	No of missing incidents over 24hrs	No of rec's in the reporting period
0	2	7	1	8

Young people are consulted during all Reg. 44 visits to Grasswell House. At the visit carried out in February young person R was consulted. She was happy to show the Reg. 44 visitor her room and said how much she likes living here. R was aware of the outcome of the Ofsted inspection undertaken in November. She said she was cross about it because she believes this is a good children's home and the staff here really care about her.

Young person C was consulted during the visit undertaken January. C has lived at Grasswell for fourteen months and he feels settled here. He described his relationship with his link worker as good and is confident if he was worried about anything she would help him. C said, *"I can talk to her about anything without feeling I am being judged"*. C is on a work based training course. He told the Reg. 44 visitor, *"staff support me to get to and from work on time and I keep all of the allowance I earn. I get money to buy lunch and pocket money. I'm pleased and have enough money to buy whatever I need"*

During the reporting period, 9 recommendations were made following the Reg. 44 visits. The recommendations were with regard to the update of risk assessments, individual crisis management plans and case files, and consultation with young people.

## Revelstoke Road

Revelstoke Road children's home provides residential care for up to six young people of either gender. It is situated on a housing estate within Sunderland North. There have been no changes to the management structure in this period.

The following table shows the judgements for the 2017 and 2018 Ofsted inspections. At the full inspection undertaken in November 2017 The overall experience and progress of children and young people was good. How children and young people are helped and protected and the effectiveness of leaders and managers required improvement to be good. Revelstoke was judged to be good because recording was improved in all records since the last inspection, members of staff demonstrated good knowledge of the young people and their individual needs, there was evidence and engagement of young people and of progress made and feedback from other professionals and family members highlighted the home communicates well with others. Four requirements and four recommendations were made. Immediate action was taken to address the issues raised and this resulted in Revelstoke Road achieving improved effectiveness at the interim inspection in March 2018. One requirement was made regarding staff supervision and one recommendation regarding young people who are not participating in education.

Ofsted Rating	8&9/11/2017 Judgement	12/03/2018 Judgement
Overall experiences and progress of children and young people	Good	Improved Effectiveness
How well children and young people are helped and protected	requires Improvement to be good	
The effectiveness of leaders and managers	requires Improvement to be good	

Within the reporting period the Revelstoke Road has been residence to the following number of young people:

Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
6	6	5	5	5

Within the reporting period Revelstoke Road has had a Regulation 44 visits each month. A consistently good standard of care is demonstrated. Young people are well supported by a stable and cohesive staff team. Episodes of young people being reported missing has significantly reduced, six sanctions were issued and young people needed to be restrained on three occasions.

No of admissions in reporting period	No of discharges in reporting period	No of missing incidents	No of missing incidents over 24hrs	No of rec's in the reporting period
1	1	21	24	5

Revelstoke Road provides a warm, comfortable and contemporary environment for young people. The house is spacious and decorated and furnished to a high standard. The home is in consultation with the landlord to access a green area at the back of the home. This will provide a space where young people can socialise together.



Young people and their parents/carers are consulted during each visit. In March the grandmother of young person L was asked to share her views with regard to the care provided at the home. She said, *'I have seen a big difference in L since he moved to the home. I was scared for his life when he lived with me. His associates, drug misuse, not going to school and being missing were a huge worry. I cannot thank the staff enough for the support they have provided for L. I am delighted he isn't going missing anymore, he looks much better because he isn't using drugs and he has started to go to school again. The staff team are lovely people who are doing everything in their power to help L.'*

In March three young people were spoken to together in a group. They all get along together okay though acknowledge that it is hard living with others.

We chatted about bedroom space and one young person told the Reg. 44 visitor he would very much like to move into the vacant bigger bedroom. This request was taken forward with the manager and the young person moved. We talked about becoming independent and the young people explained about the things they are able to do for themselves and how staff support them and help them to learn.

One young person said he doesn't go to school very often. He said the manager and staff at the home work with him on his attendance

All of the young people confirmed that they are consulted about activities and they choose what they would like to do. One spoke about a trip last year to Keilder and hopes they can go again this summer.

## Sea View Road

Sea View Road is a short break residential care home; it is geographically situated within the Grangetown area of Sunderland. It offers short break care for up to 6 young people range with an age range from 8 to 18 years of age. The home accommodates young people of both genders, with a range of individual needs. There have been no changes to the management structure in this period.

A full Ofsted inspection was undertaken on 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> December 2017. The overall experiences and progress of children and young people was found to be good. How children and young people are helped and protected required improvement to be good and the effectiveness of leaders and managers also required improvement to be good. Three requirements were made and six recommendations. Action was taken to ensure the requirements and recommendations made were achieved.

An interim Ofsted inspection was undertaken on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2018. The outcome of the inspection was judged to be good with improved effectiveness. No requirements or recommendations were made and the inspector was satisfied that requirements and recommendations made at the last inspection were achieved.

Ofsted Rating	19/20/12/17 Judgement	13/3/18 Judgement
Overall experiences and progress of children and young people	Good	Good with improved effectiveness
How well children and young people are helped and protected	Requires improvement to be good	
The effectiveness of leaders and managers	Requires improvement to be good	

During the times of Reg 44 visit the occupancy level has been:-

Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
3	4	4	4	4

No of admissions in reporting period	No of discharges in reporting period	No of missing incidents	No of missing incidents over 24hrs	No of rec's in the reporting period
0	1	0	0	9

Recommendations made pertain to keeping the environment a safe place, case file information and training. They have been acted upon.

The fabric of the home is good and repairs are reported timely to ensure that the home is maintained to good standard for all children and young people. There have been no reported missing episodes and sanctions are not used. There have been four critical incidents and one notification to Ofsted.

Young people and children are consulted at every Reg. 44 visit. Without exception it is clearly evident they enjoy having short breaks. A group of older young people were spoken to recently. They love having their short breaks together and shared their experience of the great time they had when they went seal watching together. This group of young people have become firm friends and there have been demonstrable benefits from this. One young person in particular was reluctant to spend time away from his mother and now looks forward to his short breaks.

The parent or primary carer of a child or young person is always contacted. In this reporting period and in the time this Reg. 44 visitor has undertaken the visits to the home all consulted have been highly satisfied with the standard of care provided at Sea View Road. It is clear this service is valued by children, young people and their primary carers.

In April the mother of BG was contacted following the visit undertaken in April. She described the care her son receives at the home as, 'brilliant' and she has no worries at all when he is having short breaks. BG's mother told the visitor her brother also accessed the service when he was young and he was really well looked after too. BG's mother is grateful for the additional support the home has provided since her second son was born last year. She told the visitor the manager and staff have arranged additional short breaks at short notice when the baby has needed to go into hospital. This is greatly appreciated by her and her husband.

The child's mother said BG is kept safe here. She said how he has recently started to try to climb out of bed and staff arranged an OT assessment straight away resulting in a new bed and safety equipment being installed for him ready for his next short break

BG's mother said she knows her son really enjoys his short break care and he gets very excited when he is going.

## Analysis

In this reporting period each children's home has had a visit undertaken in accordance with Regulation 44 of the Children's Homes Regulations 2015. The reports have been written and distributed to Ofsted, the Responsible Individual, Strategic Manager and Home Manager within the given timescale. On two occasions Elected Members have accompanied the Reg.44 visitor.

Recommendations made have mainly been achieved and it is evident that managers and their staff teams strive to provide a standard of care which supports children and young people to achieve their true potential.

Learning from recommendations is important, both within individual home and across all five homes.

It is important to acknowledge that there are a number of variables with regards to children's homes that can have an impact upon their Ofsted rating and Reg 44 visits. Since the last Reg 44

report to CPB work has started in seeking to make recommendations and the Reg 44 report smarter, it was anticipated that this work would be achieved by March 2018 however competing service priorities has impacted upon this being achieved. These priorities will be alleviated upon the appointment of a new Reg 44 Officer. It is important to highlight the achievements that are noted with regards to the individual homes whilst acknowledging that there are areas for development.

Consideration will also be given, as to how shared learning can be progressed across the residential management team.

### **Service development**

- To consolidate and use the skill and experiences of the new Foster Carer Review / Regulation 44 Officers.
- To undertake a schedule of themed audits in order to enhance the rigour of the independent visit.
- To launch the new Reg 44 report format and use SMART recommendations that evidences the impact of the Reg 44 visit by September 2018.
- To support all five homes to their journey to achieve a good to outstanding rating from Ofsted.
- To undertake joint learning with residential home managers in meeting and exceeding the implementation of Ofsted and Reg 44 recommendations.
- To develop a new corporate parenting / elective member visits to children's homes.
- To update and re-launch Reg 44 procedures in order to standardise practice by September 2018.

Glynis Horner  
Foster Carer Reviewing and Reg 44 Officer



Gavin Taylor  
IRO Manager

Date 18.06.18



**CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD**

**2 July 2018**

**WORK PROGRAMME 2018/2019**

**Report of the Head of Law and Governance**

**1. Purpose of the Report**

To inform the Corporate Parenting Board of the proposed work programme for the forthcoming municipal year.

**2. Work Programme**

<b>Meeting Date</b>	<b>Agenda Items</b>	<b>Officer Responsible</b>
2 July 2018  <b>Deadline 21 June 2018</b>	Change Council Update Health of Looked After Children CYPS Data Dashboard Annual Fostering Report Annual Adoption Report Housing Offer Reg 44 Visits Corporate Parenting Board Training	Jane Wheeler Sarah Mills Margaret Clouston Sheila Lough/Kathryn McCabe Sheila Lough/Kathryn McCabe Liz McEvoy Gavin Taylor Gavin Taylor
8 October 2018  <b>Deadline 27 September 2018</b>	Change Council Update Health of Looked After Children CYPS Data Dashboard IRO Annual Report Regionalisation of Adoption Access to Information Entitlement to money for Young People in foster care and children's homes Mental health issues	Jane Wheeler Sarah Mills Margaret Clouston Stacy Hodgkinson Kathryn McCabe/Sheila Lough
21 January 2019  <b>Deadline 10 January 2019</b>	Change Council Update Health of Looked After Children CYPS Data Dashboard Reg 44 Visits	Jane Wheeler Sarah Mills Margaret Clouston Gavin Taylor
1 April 2019  <b>Deadline 21 March 2019</b>	Change Council Update Health of Looked After Children CYPS Data Dashboard	Jane Wheeler Sarah Mills Margaret Clouston

### **3. Recommendations**

The Board is asked to note the work programme and suggest any additional topics which may be discussed at a future meeting.