

Barnsley Corporate Parenting Panel Annual Report 2016-2017

1. Context

- 1.1 This report sets out an annual update on the corporate parenting arrangements in Barnsley, with progress and outcomes of the panel for the period 1st April 2016 to 31st March 2017. It reminds members of key legislation and guidance, advising on local performance and service improvement, as well as progress made by the corporate parenting panel. The report aims to strengthen the role and responsibilities of corporate parents in improving outcomes for children and young people.

2. Proposals and Reasons: Corporate Parenting – Our Responsibilities Legal Framework

- 2.1 The Children Act 1989 and the Leaving Care Act 2000 place clear statutory duties upon the Council to protect children from suffering significant harm and to provide continued financial and transition support to care leavers aged up to 21 (or 25 if in full time education). Underpinning corporate parenting is a wide range of national policies, guidance, regulations and legislation, which are subject to change by High Court rulings, such as the Southwark ruling in 2009.
- 2.2 The Munro review has significantly impacted on the work we do with children and young people looked after. The Final Report of the Munro Review of Child Protection Services published in May 2011 includes Professor Munro's 15 recommendations which have significant implications for the way that child protection services will be run at a local level. In relation to children looked after, key reforms to be taken forward include building the capacity of social workers and strengthening their professional practice; a reduction in the amount of central prescription; increased evaluation of the effectiveness of the help provided to children and families; and greater recognition that safeguarding is a multi-agency responsibility.
- 2.3 The revised care planning regulations and guidance, including The Children Act 1989 Guidance and Regulations Volume 2: Care Planning, Placement and Case Review Volume 3: Planning Transition to Adulthood for Care Leavers and the Statutory Guidance on Securing Sufficient Accommodation for Looked After Children March 2010, place increased emphasis on effective care planning with a focus on the child, and are designed to improve the quality and consistency of care planning, placement and case review for looked after children. They also aim to improve the care and support provided to care leavers.
- 2.4 The UK Government made significant reforms to the youth remand framework with the implementation of the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders (LASPO) Act in December 2012. The Act implicitly attributes further responsibility to Local Authorities by means of children and young people being remanded to youth detention accommodation, being treated as children looked after and being eligible for leaving care services if they are looked after beyond 13 weeks.

3. Corporate Parenting – The Role and Responsibility of Councillors

3.1 Effective corporate parenting requires knowledge and awareness of the needs of children and young people looked after and the services they receive. This is a shared responsibility by the Council as a whole. The role of the corporate parent is therefore:

- a) To receive and consider accurate and timely management information reports on the numbers, characteristics and needs of looked after children and care leavers.
- b) To receive and consider reports demonstrating how effectively Barnsley is serving it's looked after population through the provision of services and targeted initiatives.
- c) To receive briefings on new national and local initiatives designed to improve children and young people's life chances.
- d) To gain knowledge of services based on direct involvement and opportunities to meet and gain the views of stakeholders, especially listening to the views of children and young people looked after and members of the Care 4 Us Council.
- e) To monitor and review progress on the delivery of Corporate Parenting 'Promise' to children looked after and care leavers.
- f) To ensure that decisive action is taken to address any shortcomings in the services provided to children and young people.

4. The Barnsley Pledge to Children and Young People in Care

4.1 What all children and young people in our care can expect from us:

- We'll look after children in care in a safe and caring home.
- We'll promote, support and respect their identity.
- We'll ensure all children in care receive a good education.
- We'll support children in care to be healthy.
- We'll prepare children in care for the future.
- We'll involve children in care in decision making and making it happen.

5. Corporate Parenting in Barnsley

5.1 Children in Care are those children and young people aged 0-18 years who cannot safely remain with their family and are cared for by the local authority. The local authority has continuing legal and financial responsibilities to many of these children until they are 21 (or 25 if in full time education). This includes all unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC) and children with multiple disabilities. Children in Care and Care Leavers are one of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged groups in our community.

5.2 The Corporate Parenting Panel is responsible for children in care, children at the edge of care and children and young people who have left care.

6. Corporate Parenting Panel Overview and Membership

6.1 The Corporate Parenting Panel is chaired by the Cabinet Spokesperson for People (Safeguarding).

6.2 The Panel meet every 2 months and there continues to be good attendance at meetings by the full range of members, which include:

- Elected Members, BMBC
- Executive Director, People Directorate, BMBC
- Service Director, Children's Social Care & Safeguarding, BMBC
- Virtual Head Teacher for Children in Care, BMBC
- Representatives for the Care4Us – Children in Care Council
- Head of Safeguarding and Quality Assurance, BMBC
- Foster Carer/s from the Barnsley Foster Carers Association
- Named Nurse for Children in Care, SWYPFT
- Designated Nurse Safeguarding Children/LAC, NHS Barnsley Clinical Commissioning Group
- Designated Doctor, BHNFT
- Head of Service, Children in Care Services, BMBC
- Managers for Children in Care and Care Leavers Teams, BMBC
- Scrutiny Officer, BMBC

7. Corporate Parenting Progress in 2016-17

7.1 At each of its meetings the Corporate Parenting Panel receives the following standard reports for scrutiny and challenge:

- Looked after Children Performance Report; a bespoke performance report which captures data, provides a commentary and performance rating against all key performance indicators of relevance to children in care. Panel members receive a cover report which highlights the areas of concern and invites and encourages member challenge.
- A Children in Care Status Report; a report which sets out numbers, locations and types of placements of Barnsley's children to support members in asking questions about trends and the implications for children's wellbeing.

7.2 Other standard agenda Items:

- Minutes of the Education of Children in Care Steering Group
- Minutes of the Health of Children in Care Steering Group
- Minutes of the Care 4 Us Council

7.3 Progress and improvement for children's outcomes are set out under Section 13 of the report.

7.4 Over the past year the Panel has requested and considered the following thematic reports for discussion and challenge:

| Report Title | Date of Meeting |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Looked After Children Reoffending Rates presentation 2. OFSTED Inspection Outcomes (Private Children's Homes) | Monday 25 April 2016 |
| 1. Draft Annual Report of the Corporate Parenting Panel Annual Report 2015/16 | Monday 06 June 2016 |
| 1. Therapeutic Support to Children in Care/CAMHS | Monday 25 July 2016 |
| 1. Care Leavers in Employment, Education & Training | Monday 12 September 2016 |
| 1. Suitable Accommodation for Care Leavers 2. Adoption: Improving Timeliness | Monday 24 October 2016 |
| 1. Celebration Event 2016: Initial Report 2. Timeliness of Looked After Children Reviews 3. Timeliness of Looked After Children Visits | Monday 05 December 2016 |
| 1. Placement & Sufficiency Governance Arrangements Presentation 2. Bi-annual Audit of Review of Health Assessments for Children in Care | Monday 23 rd January 2017 |

Championing Children in Care and Care Leavers Participation

- 7.5 Promoting young people's increased involvement and participation has been a key focus for the corporate parenting panel during 2016 – 2017. This has been evidenced by Takeover Challenge, which is a national event led by the Children's Commissioner for England, which puts children and young people into decision-making roles.
- 7.6 Barnsley Council's Takeover Challenge in November 2016 achieved a Gold Commendation from the Children's Commissioner for work carried out for the Takeover Challenge which included the following activities:
- Work shadowing opportunities offered from Directorates across the council, involving senior members of staff and external organisations (South Yorkshire Police and NPS Barnsley). Placements were matched based on the requests of the young people.
 - Author Nik Perring ran a session for a group of primary-school children to take over the Experience Barnsley museum.
 - An Open Meeting of the Barnsley Youth Council for other young people interested in standing for election and Barnsley Members of the UK Youth Parliament attended the debate in the House of Commons on 11th November.
 - A group of young people created a film for the joint Trust Executive Group and Barnsley Safeguarding Children Board (TEG/BSCB) annual meeting.
 - A school-to-school visit was arranged so that pupils could share their learning on achieving an Anti-Bullying Charter Mark.

- 7.7 For the work shadowing element, we contacted all our Children in Care (from year 9 up) and Care Leavers to encourage their involvement and followed this up by ensuring the young person's social worker or personal advisor followed up the invitation with the young person. We had 28 young people involved during the day and over 100 young people involved in Takeover Challenge activities altogether.
- 7.8 We had held a consultation session with young people who had participated in 2015 in order to implement any ideas, learning and feedback from our previous events. The conclusion of this consultation was that we needed to build on our previous success (where we achieved a Silver commendation) by encouraging more young people; wider participation and following up on any learning and evaluation from the event.
- 7.9 In order to achieve the Gold award, we demonstrated that during 2016:
- We held Takeover activities over two or more months, which included planning meetings to shape the shadowing experience. Young people's expectations were collected, which were shared with the colleagues who were offering the shadowing opportunities.
 - We involved a high profile person in our Takeover activities –Short story writer and author Nik Perring was involved in the Experience Barnsley Museum takeover. In addition, the Mayor of Barnsley, as well as members of the Senior Leadership Team, were shadowed by a young person.
 - We are doing ongoing work to engage children or young people in our work. The Care4Us Council will continue to meet to ensure young people in care and care leavers have their views heard on the decisions that affect their lives. The Pledge will continue to be reviewed annually and is now part of the Continuous Improvement Plan involving children and young people in care being consulted and contributing to the review and services providing evidence of implementing the Pledge.
 - The newly-elected Youth Council has started a new two-year term and will continue to represent the views of young people, supported by the Youth Voice and Participation Team.
 - The joint Trust Executive Group and Barnsley Safeguarding Children Board (TEG/BSCB) annual meeting will now be held to coincide with the Takeover Challenge, to ensure young people can continue to contribute directly into this meeting.

Championing Children in Care and Care Leavers

- 7.10 The Cabinet Spokesperson for People (Safeguarding) and Chair of the Corporate Parenting Panel, as well as members of the Corporate Parenting Panel are prominent participants at all key events for children in care. This includes the:
- Annual Celebration Event of Children in Care's Education and Achievement;
 - Annual Foster Carers Ball;
 - National Takeover Challenge;
 - Children in Care and Adopted Children's celebration events;
 - Fostering and Adoption promotion activities.

Promoting Improved Educational Attainment for Children in Care and Care Leavers

- 7.11 The Corporate Parenting Panel provides dedicated focus on children in care's education through the Virtual School Governance Group which is attended by Officers, the Virtual Head Teacher for LAC, members of Corporate Parenting Panel and partners. The group is chaired by Cabinet Spokesperson for People (Achieving Potential). During 2016-2017 a new Termly Personal Education Plan (TPEP) has been developed and implemented to ensure quality and timely plans for children in care's education.

Respectful Challenge

- 7.12 During 2016/17 the Corporate Parenting Panel has challenged Children's Social Care and called Officers to account, for not meeting our aspirational target of 100% for timely Social Work visits to Children in Care. We believe that regular and timely visits by Social Workers to Children in Care builds and sustains positive and consistent relationships, to enable the child's experience to be understood and their needs and aspirations fully promoted. Performance is still not at 100% but has improved over the year, improving from 91.3% in Q1 2016/17 to 94.7% in Q4 2016/17.

8. Governance Arrangements

- 8.1 The Corporate Parenting Panel is established within the Council's Constitution and has specific Terms of Reference which emphasise the above responsibilities and its overarching responsibility to ensure that the Council, through elected members, officers and partner agencies, fulfils its corporate parenting role. Although the Corporate Parenting Panel does not possess Executive powers, the Panel is able to refer matters to the Council's Cabinet to consider any actions which the Panel recommends. The Council's Scrutiny Committees may, in turn, receive any of those issues which are referred to Cabinet and which the Cabinet feels would benefit from an in depth investigation in open session. It is proposed that the Corporate Parenting Panel annual report is considered by both the Cabinet and the Full Council meeting.
- 8.2 The Corporate Parenting Panel has links with the following groups:
- Children in Care Health Improvement Group – the Chair sits on the Corporate Parenting Panel and formally reports back at each meeting. It was agreed to further strengthen this by having one of the Corporate Parenting Panel Councillors also sitting on the group. Minutes of meetings of this group are considered by the Corporate Parenting Panel
 - The Virtual School Governance Group
- 8.3 Any areas of concern may be referred to Cabinet which may refer for Scrutiny Committee consideration.
- 8.4 Corporate parenting panel members have been encouraged to attend and receive training in understanding and making use of performance reports to support member challenge.

8.5 Member training is provided on the role, responsibilities and expectations of corporate parents. Members of the corporate parenting panel have agreed that their role is to act as 'pushy parents' for children in care on the edge of care and care leavers. The litmus test being "Would this be good enough for my child or me if I was a child?"

9. Children in Care Council

9.1 The Children in Care – Care4Us Council directly supports the Corporate Parenting Panel to measure and monitor the effectiveness and quality of 'Corporate Parenting' to children and young people; according to the views and experiences of the children who are in care. The panel remains fully committed to listening to the voice of service users and the active involvement of children and young people within the decision-making processes.

9.2 The Cabinet Spokesperson for People (Safeguarding) with the Director of Children's Services (DCS) and Service Director meets regularly with representatives from this group. This is to ensure that there is strong and direct feedback from children and young people; to be assured that they feel well cared for, safe, are happy, having their needs met and promoted, as well as to hear and respond to any other issues raised by them.

9.3 A key recommendation of the 2014 Ofsted inspection report is to widen the council to include the voice of younger children and more children in care as well as the existing care leavers.

9.4 A service review was undertaken in 2015 and a full time dedicated post was developed and implemented from the 1st April 2016. The aim of the post was to improve young people's participation, ensuring that their voices and experiences are heard and influence all aspects of service delivery, as well as strengthening the Care4Us Council. Despite creating the dedicated post to support and promote LAC participation and the Care4Us Council, due to absence this has not progressed to the desired level and needs to be a priority for 2017/18.

10. Continuous Service Improvement Framework

10.1 A Continuous Service Improvement Plan continues to be in place following the Ofsted inspection in June 2014 which judged Barnsley as 'requires improvement'. The plan consists of the work which is being monitored as part of the continuous service improvement journey and is mapped against the OFSTED recommendations and local improvements. The plan is overseen by the multi-agency Officer Group. Barnsley Safeguarding Children's Board (BSCB) monitors the actions which indicate whether sufficient progress is being made, i.e. the right amount of progress in the right direction at the right pace.

10.2 All of the areas for improvement from the Ofsted inspection have been addressed within the Continuous Service Improvement Plan.

11. Priorities for the Corporate Parenting Panel for 2017- 2018

11.1 Hearing children in care's voices and promoting their active participation, giving influence to their views and showing the difference that has been made as a

result. *BARNSELY PLEDGE - We'll promote, support and respect their identity. We'll involve children in care in decision making and making it happen.*

11.2 Supporting all children in care in attending a 'good' school; driving forward improved educational attendance, progress and attainment for all children in care. *BARNSELY PLEDGE - We'll ensure all children in care receive a good education.*

11.3 Improving Care Leavers engagement in volunteering, education, employment and training. *BARNSELY PLEDGE - We'll prepare children in care for the future.*

11.4 Improving the emotional health and wellbeing of children in care and care leavers with access to timely help and intervention. *BARNSELY PLEDGE - We'll support children in care to be healthy.*

11.5 Learning from return to care interviews to help avoid children going missing. *BARNSELY PLEDGE - We'll look after children in care in a safe and caring home.*

11.8 Work Programme for 2017

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|---|-------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report on the Foster Carers Ball Celebration Event • Proposed Review of the Pledge | 24 April 2017 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breakdown of Children Missing from Care Presentation • Q4 Performance Report • Barnsley Corporate Parenting Panel Annual Report 2016-17 • Review of the Pledge <i>BARNSELY PLEDGE - We'll involve children in care in decision making and making it happen.</i> • Virtual Head Teachers Report <i>BARNSELY PLEDGE - We'll ensure all children in care receive a good education.</i> | 12 June 2017 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exception Report of EET for Care Leavers <i>BARNSELY PLEDGE - We'll prepare children in care for the future.</i> • Exception Report on Missing Children in Care - <i>BARNSELY PLEDGE - We'll look after children in care in a safe and caring home.</i> | 24 July 2017 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Independent Reviewing Officers (IRO) Annual Report <i>BARNSELY PLEDGE - We'll promote, support and respect their identity. We'll involve children in care in decision making and making it happen.</i> • LAC Examination Results <i>BARNSELY PLEDGE - We'll ensure all children in care receive a good education.</i> | 11 September 2017 |

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|--|----------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline Programme for National Takeover Day • Exception Report of CIC Health including SDQs and Access to CAMHS <i>BARNESLEY PLEDGE - We'll support children in care to be healthy.</i> | 23 October 2017 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline Programme Presentation for the Children in Care Awards Event <i>BARNESLEY PLEDGE - We'll ensure all children in care receive a good education</i> • Progress Report on Life Story Work <i>BARNESLEY PLEDGE - We'll promote, support and respect their identity.</i> | 4 December 2017 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exception Report on the Sufficiency of Care Leavers Accommodation <i>BARNESLEY PLEDGE - We'll prepare children in care for the future</i> | 22 January 2018 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate Parenting Panel - A Review of 2017/2018 <i>BARNESLEY PLEDGE - We'll involve children in care in decision making and making it happen.</i> | 5 th March 2018 |

12. Conclusion

- 12.1 Corporate Parenting Panel is where the responsibility and accountability for the wellbeing and future prospects for Barnsley children in care ultimately rest.
- 12.2 A good corporate parent must offer everything that a good parent would, including stability. It must address both the difficulties which children who are looked after experience and the challenges of parenting within a complex system of different services.
- 12.3 The 2014 Ofsted report outlined a number of different areas where the Corporate Parenting Panel needs to challenge and support the development of services to ensure that Barnsley's children in care have good outcomes.
- 12.4 Significant improvements for children in care and care leavers have been achieved, as evidenced within the Service Improvement Plan and as measured against key performance indicators; **See Section 13.**
- 12.5 The challenge remains for everyone to raise their aspirations for the children of Barnsley and to remain a 'PUSHY PARENT' to ensure that all children at the edge of care, in care or who have left care are given opportunity to reach the best possible outcomes they can.

13. Performance Information - Looked after Children (LAC) data for the period 1 April 2014-31 March 2017

| | 2016/ 17 Q1 | 2016/ 17 Q2 | 2016/ 17 Q3 | 2016/ 17 Q4 | Commentary |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---|
| Numbers of LAC | 300 | 299 | 294 | 288 | <p>The number of LAC at the end of March 2017 had increased slightly to 288 from 285 in March 2016. More children were admitted to care in the first half of the year (74), compared with the second half (54). This was expected due to the corresponding rise in children with CP Plans. The number of children leaving care in 2016/17 was broadly comparable to 2015/16, with 125 in 2016/17 and 129 in 2015/16. Barnsley's rate of looked after children (59.3 per 10,000 under 18 year olds) is above the 2015/16 average (56), but still well below 2015/16 statistical neighbour average rates (82.2), and just below the 2015/16 national average of 60. Barnsley has stable communities and family units who are willing to care for children within the extended family network. Our Intensive Adolescent Team helps prevent young homelessness. There is strong permanency planning, with good performance for numbers of children adopted. Plans are in place to closely monitor CP Plans, in particular CP Plans for the 2nd time to ensure that there is no drift in timely decisions making. LAC figures are monitored at weekly performance meetings.</p> <p>At the end of March 2017, 164 looked after children were placed in Barnsley by other local authorities; a slight decrease from the 171 recorded at the end of March 2016.</p> |
| LAC Health Assessments | 100% | 100% | 100% | 96.4% | <p>Our performance on LAC health assessments has remained stable in recent years, the last quarter of 2016/17 did however see a slight decline from previous years. Health Assessments are being held and recorded in accordance with statutory guidance. There is an ongoing action to maintain progress on health assessments, with any decline escalated to the Service Improvement Plan Officers Group and subject to interrogation by key managers. Interrogation is given to all children without a health assessment and dental check. An Exception Report was presented to a recent Corporate Parenting Panel. Assurances were given that the decline in performance had been a recording issue, which has now been addressed.</p> |

| | 2016/ 17 Q1 | 2016/ 17 Q2 | 2016/ 17 Q3 | 2016/ 17 Q4 | Commentary |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--|
| LAC Dental Checks | 100% | 97.6% | 99.5% | 96.9% | Considerable effort has been made to address data inputting problems at child level that previously resulted in reporting inaccuracies in dental checks. As a result, performance against this indicator remained above 95% for the whole of 2015/16. |
| LAC Education - Completed PEPs | 100% | 99.5% | 97.4% | 92.5% | Overall compliance for PEPs has been very good but dipped as was expected in Q3 and Q4. This was attributed to a Termly PEP being developed and implemented to improve quality and timely, termly planning. The implementation, which is now embedded, accounted for some expected decline in performance. The Education Steering Group has been established, chaired by a lead member, to drive forward improved attendance, progress and attainment. A Virtual School Leadership Team has also now been established. |
| Exam results (LAC) | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | | |
| KS2 Reading, Writing, Maths – Level 4+ | - | 30% | 66.7% | | There were 6 children who had been looked after continuously for 12 months or more in the SFR cohort in Key Stage 2 in reading, writing and maths as at 31 March 2016. Five took the KS2 exams and four achieved the expected standards placing Barnsley's LAC achievement at 66.7%. |
| KS4 GCSE 5 A*-Cs including English and Maths | - | 11.1% | 16.6% | | There were 18 children in Year 11 who had been looked after continuously for 12 months or more. Of these 18, 2 achieved 5 A*-C GCSE including English and maths in line with the expected targets for this year. However, 1 looked after child narrowly missed this measure by achieving 4 A*-C GCSE. The school successfully requested a regrading of the English paper and the overall performance increase to 16.6% as a result, exceeding the target. |
| Proportion of all school absences linked to LAC | 4.0% | 3.8% | 4.1% | | Absence for children in the care of BMBC in 2015-2016 was below all non-looked after children nationally (4.6%). However, it was above the national figures for children looked after (3.9%), the Yorkshire and Humber average (3.5%) and our statistical neighbour average (3.2%). Performance locally has been below our statistical neighbour average for the last 3 years. |

| | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | Commentary |
|--|------|-------|-------|--|
| Unauthorised absences for LAC | 0.7% | 0.8% | 2.1% | 2016 saw a significant increase in the proportion of LAC with unauthorised absences. Regionally and nationally, performance is much more stable and unchanged for the last 4 years at 1% for both. The 2015/16 figure for LAC is just above the figure for the whole school population in Barnsley (1.9%), but both are above the national average for all pupils of 1.1%, and the statistical neighbour average of 1.5%. |
| Persistent absences for LAC | - | 8.5% | 6.7% | Figures for 2016 showed a marked decrease in the levels of persistent absence amongst LAC. This compares favourably against the regional / statistical average (8.4%) for 2016, as well as the national average for the same period (9.1%). |
| Proportion of LAC receiving at least one Fixed Term Exclusion | - | 12.9% | 11.6% | 2016 saw a reduction in the proportion of LAC with at least one fixed term exclusion. However, performance locally has been worse than the regional and national averages for the last two years, with a regional and national average of 10.4% in 2016. |
| Emotional and behavioural health of looked after children | 14.3 | 13.5 | 13.6 | This measures the rate of emotional and behavioural health of children aged 4 to 16 who are looked after continuously for 12 months. The lower the rate the better the emotional and behavioural health of the cohort of children measured. A score of under 14 is considered normal; 14-16 is borderline with cause for concern; 17+ is a cause for concern. An improvement in the emotional and behavioural health of looked after children in Barnsley can be seen in 2015, which has been sustained in 2016. Barnsley performs on a par with statistical neighbours at 13.6, but better than the national figure of 14 and regional at 14.2. |
| Foster Carers | 96 | 104 | 115 | A more proactive recruitment strategy undertaken in 2015/16 continued in 2016/17; this was successful in increasing the number of foster carers from 96 in 2015 to 115 at the end of March 2017. 11 new foster carer households and 16 new foster placements were registered as at 31 March 2017. However, the YTD of LAC cared for by Barnsley foster carers was 52.3% below the target of 62%. Increasing the numbers of foster carers is a priority for the Business Unit. |
| Commissioned Placements | 65 | 81 | 84 | As at 31 March 2017, we had 84 children in IFA placements, a slight increase from 81 in March 2016. The increase in IFA placements between 2014/15 and 2015/16 reflected the increase in numbers of LAC. |

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| Adoption (% adopted during the year ending 31 March) | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | Commentary Barnsley's adoption rate has increased from the previous year, and is now above the 2015/16 figures for regional (21%), statistical neighbours (21%) and above national (15%) performance. Our performance has been above the national average for several years. We have exceeded the statistical neighbour and national averages for the last 3 years. In the last 12 months, 35 children have been adopted, and a further 61 children were placed with family members subject to Special Guardianship Orders and, therefore, ceased to be looked after. Placements which cannot be provided in house can be purchased from other authorities or voluntary adoption agencies at a cost of £27,000 per child. In 2016/17 we continued to make a number of out of authority placements due to the increasing number of children requiring placements. Of the out of authority placements we have made, we have been reimbursed for some by the national inter-agency adoption grant for children categorised as hard to place. This funding ended in April 2017. |
| | 32% | 26% | 28.5% | |
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|--|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---|
| Percentage of looked after children who are placed less than 20 miles from their home address | 2016/17 Q1 | 2016/17 Q2 | 2016/17 Q3 | 2016/17 Q4 | Commentary We consider that the closer to home we can place looked after children the better it is for them. This is so that they can keep in contact with birth family where appropriate and maintain links with their home communities. Sometimes children are placed further away for adoption placements where it is not in their interests to keep in contact with birth families and where more specialised placements are needed e.g. for sibling groups. The 2016/17 corporate target for looked after children being placed less than 20 miles from their home of 92% was not achieved this year. At the end of March, 85.9% of looked after children were placed less than 20 miles from their home address |
| | 90.3% | 88.4% | 84.9% | 85.9% | |
| Placement stability - children with three or more placement moves | 3.7% | 3.7% | 3.4% | 3.4% | Performance on track, with strong and improved performance for this indicator, as well as excellent performance compared to statistical neighbours and national benchmarks. At the end of March 2017, there were 10 looked after young people who had three or more placement moves since entering care. Good performance has been achieved by carefully matching children with the right carers and providing support to both children and their carers. |

| | 2016/ 17 Q1 | 2016/ 17 Q2 | 2016/ 17 Q3 | 2016/ 17 Q4 | Commentary |
|---|--|---|--|---|--|
| Placement stability - children who have been in the same placement for 2+ years or placed for adoption | 76.7% | 83.1% | 83.3% | 85.5% | The percentage of looked after children in the same placements for 2 years or more improved in 2016/17, with the year-end figure of 85.5% exceeding 2015/16 performance (75%). Barnsley's performance remains well above national (68%) and statistical neighbour (66.8%) benchmarks. |
| Looked after children cases reviewed within timescales | 93.9% | 98.4% | 97.2% | 97.2% | All cases of looked after children should have a review within 4 weeks of either becoming looked after or their last review. The same standard applies to visits. Performance has remained largely stable for both indicators, with visits remaining below our target of 100%, whereas review performance remained above our 95% target throughout 2016/17. Continued scrutiny is in place to ensure all looked after children receive improved timely visits. |
| Looked after children visits in timescales | 91.3% | 89.7% | 92.1% | 94.3% | |
| Care leavers in suitable accommodation | 18-100% 19-100% 20-100% 21-100% | 18-N/A 19-100% 20-100% 21-100% | 18-94% 19-100% 20-96% 21-100% | 18-100% 19-100% 20-93% 21-100% | We aim to place 100% of care leavers in suitable accommodation. However, due to the nature of the client group we work with, this is not always achievable. At the end of 2016/17, one of 15 20-year olds was not in suitable accommodation. Statutory reporting for 18 year olds only began in 2016/17. |
| Care leavers in employment, education and training (EET) | 18-50% 19-44% 20-46% 21-40% | 18-38% 19-60% 20-44% 21-43% | 18-44% 19-59% 20-48% 21-28% | 18-22% 19-37% 20-60% 21-42% | At the end of 2016/17, the care leaver cohort (all ages) consisted of 64 young people; 25 (39%) of whom were engaged in employment, education or training (EET). Young people can disengage from EET for a number of different reasons, including pregnancy, illness or disability. We are continuing to improve our work within the Future Directions team, which offers support to children leaving care. We have improved communications between our Targeted Information Advice and Guidance team, social care, and EET providers by holding monthly panel meetings. This is delivering positive outcomes and we are seeking to improve and develop this further during 2017. This should lead to an increase in the number of care leavers actively engaged in EET. |

| | 2016/ 17 Q1 | 2016/ 17 Q2 | 2016/ 17 Q3 | 2016/ 17 Q4 | Commentary |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--|
| Children Missing from Care or Home Incidents | 54 | 92 | 67 | 54 | <p>Figures for 2016/17 show a significant increase in the number of children looked after missing from care or home incidents in Q2 compared to previous quarters. Work being undertaken with the police and partners to ensure that children are correctly classified as missing or absent resulted in the reduction in the number of missing LAC in succeeding quarters.</p> <p>The majority of cases where children are in our care and reported as missing, their whereabouts are actually known and we are often in frequent contact with them. The service director is alerted immediately about any missing Barnsley LAC and informed when they return. Ofsted commented positively about this in their last report. Improvement work is currently being undertaken around understanding the impact of and issues relating to LAC children placed within the Barnsley borough.</p> |
| Young people offending (Looked after Children receiving conviction) | 3 <5% | 3 <5% | 2 <5% | 3 <5% | <p>The number of LAC receiving conviction remained stable at an average of 3. Re-offending of LAC cared for by Barnsley Council show a positive trajectory and better performance than for our non-looked after children. We also see a relatively low number of Looked After Children entering the criminal justice system for the first time. We are confident that they enter the criminal justice system for offences that mainly take place within the community, and that being dealt with for offending behaviour is not as a result of living within a children's home.</p> <p>Staff from the Youth Offending Team (YOT) work closely with the Children in Care Team and with the leaving care team, Future Directions. Staff from both teams attend case planning meetings and YOT staff attend and contribute to LAC reviews as well as providing work and support to enable them to fully achieve their potential. Within the YOT we retain high expectations for our young people and this is reflected in the effort and support we provide to enable young people to attend school and attain as well as they are able to.</p> |

OFSTED Ratings for Children's Residential Establishments (no commentary available)

| | 2013/14 | 2014/15 | 2015/16 | 2016/17 |
|----------------|----------------|--------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Spring Lane | Outstanding | Good with outstanding features | Good | Good |
| Newsome Avenue | Adequate | Good | Good | Good |