



Looked after Children – Annual Benchmark Report 2014/15 and provisional 2015/16 update.

SUMMARY

- 1.1 At the end of March 2016 there was a provisional total of 459 looked after children within Derby City, which equates to a rate of 79.4 per 10,000 children and young people under 18 years of age.
- 1.2 This represents a slight reduction of 2% from the previous year when there was a total of 470 looked after children (rate of 81.3 per 10,000).
- 1.3 Overall, despite fluctuations, there has been a decline in Derby's looked after population since 2012 when a rate of 90.4 per 10,000 was recorded.
- 1.4 To supplement local analysis on trends pertaining to our looked after children Derby City compares results to national averages when the statutory releases are published by the Department for Education (DfE) each year.
- 1.5 The latest release was made available at the end of 2015. The 2014/15 benchmarking data shows that Derby had the 4th highest rate of looked after children within our comparator group at the end of March 2015, with the comparator average declining overall. It should however be noted that the national average increased over the comparable time period illustrating that Derby was not out of line with wider trends and since this the number of LAC has dipped slightly locally (as identified in paragraph 1.2).
- 1.6 Based on the 2014/15 DfE data the largest percentage of Derby City's looked after children were :
 - male (60%): comparator average 55%, Derby's figure is highest in the group.
 - aged 10 – 15 years (35%): comparator average 37%
 - White British (67%): Derby remains in line with comparator averages
 - have been in care for less than one year (23.4%)
 - have the legal status of 'full care order' (48.0%): lower than comparator but in line with national average.
- 1.7 Performance outcomes for our looked after children at the end of March 2015 were mixed when compared to peers...

Health outcomes

- Dental checks increased to 93.8% and are now significantly above both national and comparator group averages.

- Annual health assessments decreased to 75% remaining below both national and comparator group averages, which has been the trend observed for a number of years.
- Immunisations remained static at 98.4%, which was above both national and comparator group averages.
- Developmental checks, for those aged 4 years and under, increased significantly to 72.7% however this remained below both the national and comparator averages, which as with annual health assessments has been a consistent trend. It should be noted that six authorities within our comparator group achieved 100% for this measure, which contributes to Derby being an outlier.

Education outcomes

- 68.3% of Derby's looked after cohort had special education needs, with 32.6% having a statement / education health care plan. This decreased from 70.4% in 2013/14 but is still above both national and comparator averages.
- Eligible children:
 - performed better in KS1 results (achieve level 2+) for both reading and writing than national and comparator groups. KS1 maths results are now in line with national but below comparator averages
 - performed better in KS2 English results (achieve level 4) than both the national and comparator averages, which places us 2nd in our comparator group.
- There has also been a significant improvement in KS2 Maths (level 4) that resulted in Derby moving from 9th place to 2nd in our comparator group.

Wellbeing outcomes

- Completion rates of Strength and difficulties questionnaire (SDQ), a tool used to assess emotional health and wellbeing, decreased to 61.0%, which is significantly below both national and comparator group averages. The average score of 16.8 is however above both national and comparator groups averages, perhaps suggesting a higher level of need.
- The percentage of looked after children and young people convicted or subject to a final warning or reprimand fell from 4.4% to 3.0%. This is now well below the national (5.0%) and comparator (5.3%) averages and has been an area where year on year improvements have been recorded.

- 1.8 To provide a full update a member of the Policy and Improvement Team will attend the meeting to deliver a high-level presentation that summarises the 2014/15 benchmarking information. In addition to this, Members of the Board will also be informed of the most recent trends (provisional 2015/16 where available) relating to the outcomes for our looked after children, highlighting any areas for further consideration.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 To note the report.

- 2.2 To receive the presentation at the meeting.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is essential that Corporate Parenting are aware of performance information relating to looked after children and the outcomes achieved for them, providing them with the opportunity to challenge services as appropriate.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 4.1 None.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 None.

This report has been approved by the following officers:

Legal officer Financial officer Human Resources officer Estates/Property officer Service Director(s) Other(s)	Andy Smith – Director of People Maureen Darbon – Service Director for Early Help and Children's Safeguarding Hazel Lymbery – Service Director for Specialist Services Sarah Walker – Policy and Improvement Manager
For more information contact: Background papers: List of appendices:	Vicky Thornber – Improvement Officer 01332 643459 vicky.thornber@derby.gov.uk None Appendix 1 – Implications

IMPLICATIONS

Financial and Value for Money

- 1.1 Financial implications relating to looked after children are monitored and managed by Service Directors within Children and Young People and will be reported to the Board separately.

Legal

- 2.1 Information relating to the legal status of children in care will be included within the presentation.

Personnel

- 3.1 None arising from this report.

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- 4.1 None arising from this report.

Equalities Impact

- 5.1 Members of the Board will be briefed at the meeting on the demographic of Derby's looked after population. It should however be noted that overall we have a lower proportion of the BME population represented, which is subject to regular scrutiny through target performance measures. A review in 2014/15 identified that this was due to historical practices.

Health and Safety

- 6.1 None arising from this report.

Environmental Sustainability

- 7.1 None arising from this report.

Property and Asset Management

- 8.1 None arising from this report.

Risk Management

9.1 None arising from this report.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

10.1 The content of this report supports the City's priorities of 'safe, strong and ambitious' alongside the Council aim 'to be a modern, flexible and resilient Council'.