



Derby City Council

**Corporate Parenting Sub Committee
22 September 2015**

ITEM 10

Report of the Acting Strategic Director of
Children and Young People's Services

Looked After Children Placed Outside of Derby City – Annual update 2014/15

SUMMARY

- 1.1 At the end of March 2015 there were a total of 470 looked after children within Derby City, which equates to a rate of 81.3 per 10,000 children and young people under 18 years of age.
- 1.2 Of the 470 looked after children, 54% of these were living in placements outside of the City boundary.
- 1.3 In July 2013 Derby City was selected by Ofsted, as one of nine authorities, to participate in a thematic assessment of our looked after children who were placed outside of the City as it was identified that we had higher than average number.
- 1.4 Following the publication of the Ofsted Report, 'At a Distance' and changes in Care Planning regulations in 2014 Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Board requested a Performance Surgery to review the impact of our looked after children being placed outside of the City. The Performance Surgery took place in August 2014 and key findings, based on analysis at the end of March 2014, included:
 - there had been a steady increase, over the last 3-years, in the percentage of Derby's looked after children (LAC) placed outside of the city boundary
 - the profile of children placed out of area (OOA) was parallel to that of the total looked after population however emerging trends visible in the total population of looked after children were more pronounced for those placed out of area (i.e. the rise in the percentage of 5 to 9 year olds)
 - the largest percentage of children placed outside of Derby City boundary were placed more than 20 miles away from their home address
 - for those children placed outside of Derby the largest percentage were placed within authorities in the East Midlands
 - at the end of March 2014 the total spend on placements with Independent Fostering Agencies (private provision) exceeded the allocated budget and was identified as a significant budget pressure
 - children placed out of area were less likely to receive the statutory minimum health checks (two per year for those children under 5 years of age and one for

those over 5 years) than those placed within the City boundary

- children placed out of area at the end of March 2014 and March 2011 had a higher completion rates of Strength and Difficulties Questionnaires (compared to all of Derby's looked after children) and alongside this their average scores were lower indicating better emotional health and wellbeing
- there was little variance in the completion rates of Personal Education Plans for all looked after children and children placed outside of Derby City and little variance in expected educational outcomes.

- 1.5 The findings discussed at the Performance Surgery were also presented to Derby Safeguarding Children Board in 2014.
- 1.6 Sarah Walker, Policy and Improvement Manager will attend the meeting to give an updated presentation on the 2014/15 profile of Derby City's looked after children that are placed outside of the City.

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. This should specifically include looked after children that are not placed within Derby City.

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)	Andy Smith – Acting Strategic Director for Children and Young People's Services Hazel Lymbery – Service Director for Specialist Services Maureen Darbon – Acting Service Director for Early Intervention and Integrated Safeguarding
Other(s)	Heather Greenan – Head of Performance and Intelligence

For more information contact: Background papers: List of appendices:	Sarah Walker – Policy and Improvement Manager 01332 643466 sarah.walker1@derby.gov.uk None Appendix 1 – Implications
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IMPLICATIONS

Financial and Value for Money

- 1.1 Financial implications relating to looked after children, including any budget pressures from placements 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 and 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 and supporting presentation underpins the priority commitment of 'safeguarding vulnerable children and young people and adults' under the Council pledge of 'safe'.

The pledge 'safe' incorporates our statutory safeguarding duties and the content of this report provides members with an update on all children that are under the 'legal responsibility' of the local authority.