

Out of Authority Children Placed in Derby – Update Report August 2016

1. Introduction

Derby Children and Young Peoples Department is required to maintain a register of children and young people placed in Derby by other authorities.

Accurate and up-to-date information about children and young people placed in Derby by other authorities is important for planning purposes as well as taking into account any resource implications and safeguarding issues. There is a requirement to share this information with the Virtual School Head and the Designated Nurse for Looked After Children to assist them in their planning, as well as share this information with DSCB so they can be assured these vulnerable children are safe. As part of the SIF Ofsted may request a copy of the OoA register.

2. Legal Requirements

As part of each local authorities duties they are required under the Arrangements for Placement of Children (General) Regulations 1991 (Regulation 10) to maintain a register of Children Looked After placed in its area, including those children who are the responsibility of another local authority.

Regulation 10 provides that the register should include the following information:

- The name, gender and date of birth of the child;
- The name and address of the person with whom the child is placed and, if different, the name and address of the child's parents and all those with Parental Responsibility;
- The name of the placing authority;
- Whether the child has a Child Protection Plan;
- Whether the child is disabled;
- The date on which the placement was made and the date when it terminated including the reason for the termination;
- The child's legal status;
- Where arrangements have been made by the host local children's social care service to undertake the duties of the placing local authority; what those arrangements are and the name of the person within the placing authority with whom they were agreed.

Furthermore The Children's Homes and Looked after Children (Miscellaneous Amendments) (England) Regulations 2013 came into force in January 2014. These Regulations amended the Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (England) Regulations 2010 (the "Care Planning Regulations") The main changes introduce requirements for local authorities to consult and share information before placing children in distant placements and for the Director of Children's Services (DCS) to give approval of these placements. These changes

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reinforce local authorities' responsibilities as corporate parents for looked-after children to provide high quality care and support.

The responsible authority must also make sure that the appropriate persons and services in the area authority are notified [regulation 13]¹

3. Current Systems in Place

There is a process put in place for other authorities to notify Derby when they have placed or are thinking of placing a child or young person in our boundary: this includes:

- A single point of notification. An email inbox has been created to allow all notifications to be sent to a single point of entry. The email box is cicplacementnotification@derby.gcsx.gov.uk.
- An automatic response has been set up on the OoA inbox, this response automatically sends a detailed information letter as well as the notification form for the placing authority to complete if they have not done so
- Placement notifications details have also been posted on the ADCS website in the out of authority placements section. This makes the notification details clear for other authorities.
- Business support monitor the inbox, process any notifications, provide information and follow up where there is a need for additional information
- An Out of Authority Register has now been set up on LCS and can be run off at any time.
- An information letter has been compiled; this provides details of the notification process as well as provides important information about Derby that a placing authority would require. This includes information about and useful contacts for education, including the virtual school head, early years and nursery provision, children's centres, special educational needs and disabled children, health services including details for the lead LAC nurse, youth offending, information about the DSCB as well as information and contacts regarding vulnerable, exploited, missing and trafficked children and the children in care council.

The information letter has been sent to all Directors of Childrens Services via ADCS. It has also been posted on the Derby City Council website in the out of authority placements section and sent to all independent care providers in Derby.

- An East Midlands Out of Authority Protocol is in place with all the authorities in the region. This provides useful information about contacts in each authority and reaffirms the importance of notifications as well as clarifies the notification process.

4. Activity Completed

¹ Refer to The Children Act 1989 Volume 2: Care Planning, Placement and Case Review Guidance; 3.48-3.56.

As the register is dynamic there is an ongoing programme of work to ensure that the register is up to date and accurate. This includes:

- Regular audits. Latest audit undertaken in May 2016. Emailing all the 151 local authorities across the country to let us know if they have children placed in Derby.
- The audit included directly emailing all authorities to confirm a nil response as well as emailing LA's who have children placed in Derby to confirm this is still the case.
- Out of 131 expected nil responses, we received 58 confirmations, 73 LA's did not respond.
- 20 LA's were emailed expecting confirmation response, 12 responded with updated information, 8 still outstanding. We are following these up and responses are still being received.
- Corporate Parenting Lead met with all the directors/senior managers of private children's homes in Derby, namely Rowan House, The Gables, Braidley House and Holly House in June 2016. The importance of these providers informing Derby City Council when a child from out of authority is placed with them was reinforced.
- It has also now been agreed that the Derby first contact team will notify OoA administrator of any child placed in Derby from OoA that they become aware of.

Unfortunately as a continuing theme responses from other authorities continues to remain poor, we have a programme of regularly contacting them and following this up to improve the data that we hold.

5. Current Information

The register is dynamic by nature and is expected to change on an on-going basis as children and young people move in and out of Derby.

Through the activity undertaken we now have a more up to date understanding of children and young placed in Derby. As we stand at present (July 2016) the information is as follows:

- There are a total of 62 children placed in Derby up from 59 as at the last update report in December 2015.
- There are 45 (73%) children and young people placed in Derby from other East Midlands authorities. This is up 4 from 41 back in December 2015.
- There are also an additional 17 children and young people placed in Derby from other authorities across the country. This is 1 down from December 2015.

The highest number of children and young people placed in Derby are from Derbyshire with a total of 22 children and young people. This is to be expected as they may have a number of their foster carers who come within the boundaries of Derby. There are 4 children and young people placed from Nottingham and 11 from Nottinghamshire respectively. There is 1 child placed from Birmingham which is down from 2 in December and 4 in July 2015.

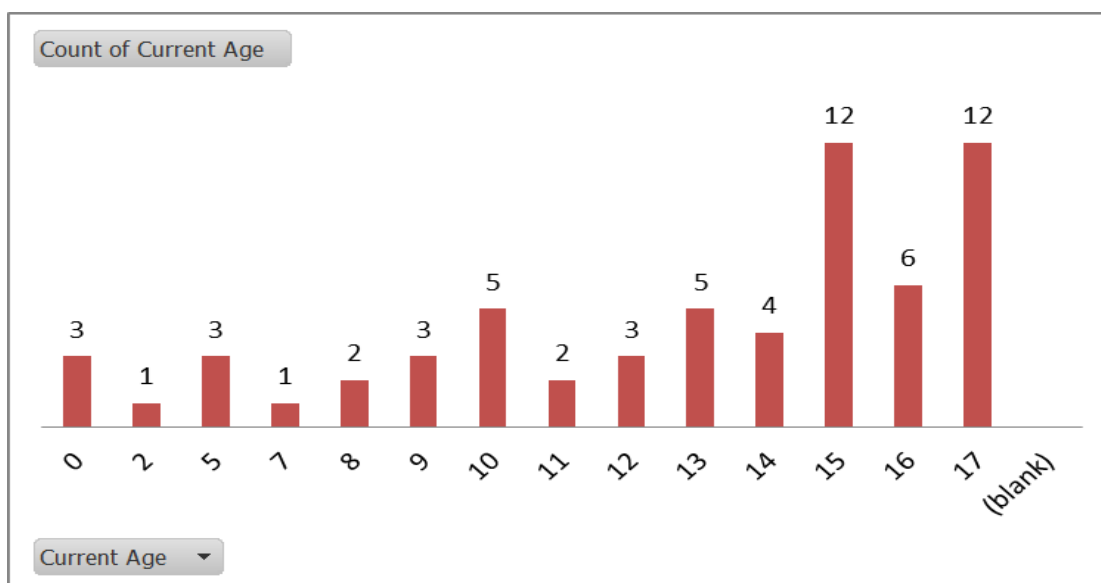
Name of Authority	Number of C&YP
Cambridgeshire CC	1
LB Barnet	1
Coventry	1
Norfolk	1
Doncaster	1
Dudley	2
Rotherham	2
Sheffield	2
Birmingham	1
Warwickshire	1
Staffordshire CC	2
Sunderland	1
Knowsley MBC	1
Total	17 (27%)

Name of Authority	Number of C&YP
Leicester	2
Leicestershire	4
Northamptonshire	2
Nottinghamshire	11
Nottingham	4
Derbyshire	22
Total	45 (73%)

6. The Age and Gender of Children Placed

The large majority of children placed in Derby are older children. Out of the 62, 31 young people are aged 10 to 15 and 18 16+, this makes up for 79% of all the children. There are only 7 children that are 5 and under and there are 6 children from 1 to 4. There are 12 children that are 17. These will children will no longer be in care over the next year.

In relation to the gender of the children and young people 22 (35%) are female and 40 (65%) male.



7. The Ethnicity of children placed in Derby.

Out of the 62 children placed in Derby the large majority, 40 are white, British. There is a significant number of children for whom we do not have any ethnicity details at all, this totals 12, if you include not known and other this totals 14. The table below illustrates the ethnicity of all out of authority children placed in Derby currently.

Ethnicity	Total
Asian or Asian British - Other	1
Asian or Asian British - Pakistani	1
Black or Black British - African	1
Dual Heritage - Other	2
Dual Heritage - White and Black Caribbean	3
Not Known	1
Not Recorded	12
Other	1
White - British	40
Grand Total	62

8. Placement Type and Legal Status CYP

Out of the 62 children and young people placed in Derby there are 18 placed in residential settings and 44 in fostering placements. There are 21 children on care orders and 22 voluntary accommodated under s20. There are 18 children for whom we have no information about their legal status (this includes not recorded or OLA other); one young person is on remand. Work is ongoing with a view to ascertaining more detailed information.

9. Impact on Local Services

Youth Offending Services

There are a small number of OoA young people who have been involved with the youth offending service over the last two years. In total out of 138 aged 10 to 17 young people placed out of area, 12 young people have had involvement with YOS for committing 31 offences, 15 of which were committed in 2015/16.

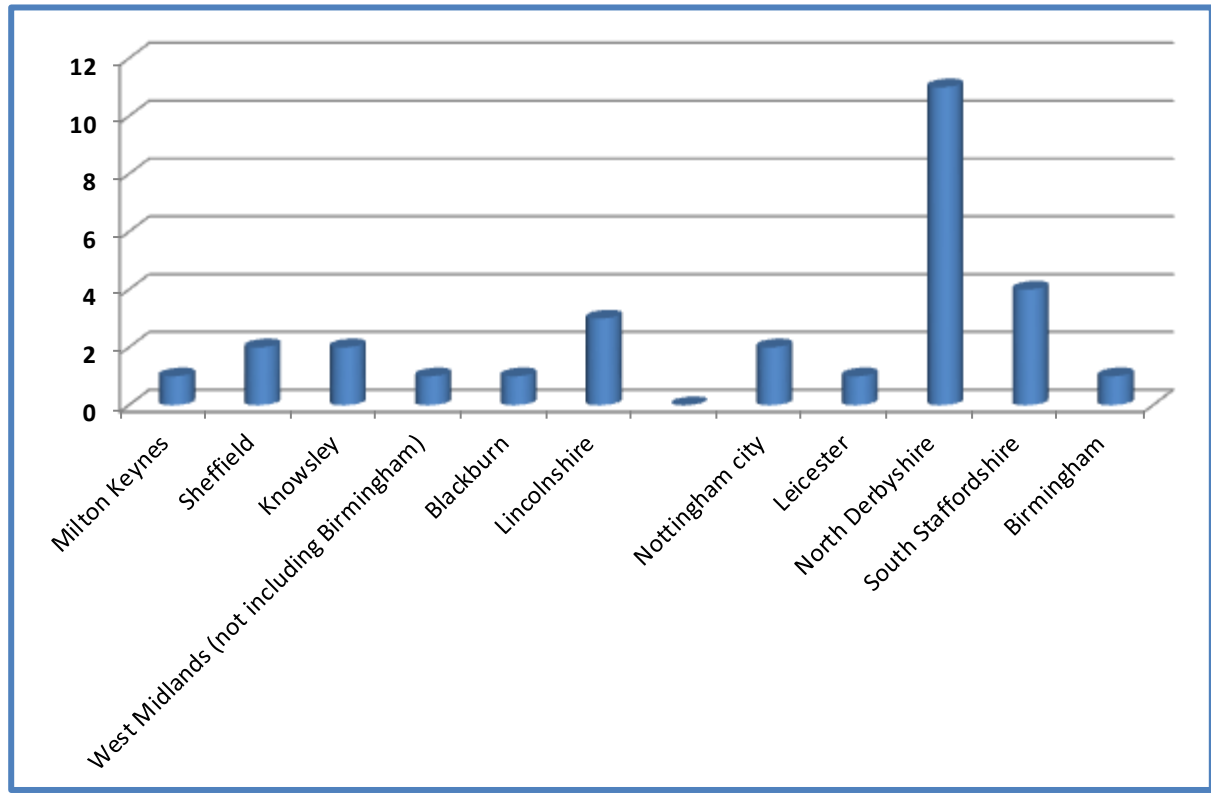
Of these 12 young people 3 committed 23 offences over the two year period. The main offences were criminal damage and common assault for which young people received a range of sentencing options ranging from a Youth Restorative Disposal through to Youth Rehabilitation Orders. Of the 12 young people 1 received a custodial sentence which was due to seriousness of the offence.

Health

Information supplied by Lesley Smales (Lead LAC Nurse).

The Looked after children's nursing team complete out of area assessments when requested by the originating authority. In April 2013 a mandatory tariff was introduced. The current tariff is £264 and has a checklist which sets out the components of the assessments, a reference for the competencies required for the staff carrying out the assessments and quality standards. The tariff does vary between regions as some authorities are adding a Market Forces Factor (MFF), this is a cost percentage that is added to the national tariff based upon variations in the provision of healthcare costs relating to the local area e.g. land values, staffing costs and private healthcare providers prices. Responsibility for ensuring that the health assessments comply with the standards will rest with the designated doctor or nurse for LAC within the commissioning CCG.

The table below confirms the number of out of area review health assessment undertaken by Derby City Looked after Children's Nursing team:



Each assessment on average takes 3 hours of nursing time. Furthermore they also take on average one hour of administration time. Due to the unpredictable number of requests and the period of notice given it is becoming increasingly challenging to complete these assessments within timescales. There is no national system regarding requests for out of area health assessments; each originating authority has their own policy and or procedure. The Department of Health and Department of Education 2015 state that 'CCGs and NHS England have a duty to cooperate with requests from local authorities to undertake health assessments and help them ensure support and services for looked after children are provided without due delay.'

Not all review health assessments requested by other authorities for children and young people placed in Derby city are completed within timescales. Although as a team we endeavour to complete them in a timely manner this is not always possible due to capacity.

CAMHS

Work has been completed with CAMHS to ascertain if there has been a significant impact of OoA children on their service. This information is not routinely collected by CAMHS but initial data suggests that there are at least 8 young people that are currently having a service from Derby CAMHS. From analysing the data the majority of these are placed in private residential homes within the city. It is the expectation that this service will be financially resourced by the home authority CCG.

Education

The information that we receive from placing authorities is on the whole poor. For many children and young people we have received no information about what school they attend and hence have had to undertake enquiries to ascertain what their educational provision arrangements are.

Work has been undertaken with the Virtual School Head Service, The Schools Admissions Team and the Performance and Business Intelligence Team to identify educational provision to OoA children in Derby.

17 children and young are attending mainstream education either primary or secondary and 2 are attending college in Derby.

There are 4 children attending the PRU

There are 8 young people who are attending schools out of Derby

There are 6 children that are under 5 and most likely not attending school provision.

Therefor there are 25 children and young people that we do not have a school allocated for on the system, work is on-going to identify what their educational provision is. One of the issues that make it more difficult to identify educational provision arrangements is that some children continue to attend school in their home authority so it becomes difficult for our educational services to identify a school as they are not recorded on any Derby City systems. This is particularly the case for neighbouring authorities like Derbyshire who place a large number of children in Derby but their children for consistency reasons continue to attend schools in Derbyshire.

Missing

Children and young people who are placed in Derby from out of authority and who are reported as missing by their placement provider will come to the attention of the Derby Runaways Workers via the Police Compact report.

The child's local authority and placement provider must comply with the joint (Derby City Council/Derbyshire County Council and Derbyshire Constabulary) Runaway and Missing from Home or Care protocol (RMFHC) and they are required to carry out an independent return interview with the young person within 72 hours of their return.

The percentage of young people in the City from OoA who have had a missing episode in 2015/16 is fairly significant. In 2015/16 8.5% of the total 589 missing episodes were attributable to young people from OoA. There were 19 individuals, with a total of 50 episodes.

Out of a total of 196 young people that went missing across Derby, there were 19 that were children placed in Derby from another authority; this makes almost 10% of children that went missing. 8 of the 20 young people that went missing are placed in residential homes in Derby, with one young person alone going missing 11 times.

Child Sexual Exploitation

There have been a very small number of young people who have been identified as at risk from CSE from other authorities placed in Derby over 2015/16.

There was a CSE strategy meeting held for two cases that were CLA from another authority, neither are reported to have entered care as a result of CSE. One of the cases was closed, at medium risk, as she returned to her original authority. Following 6 months on the strategy, she moved from high risk to medium risk in this timeframe. The second case continued to be open at the end of 15/16, but has since been closed following reduction of risk from medium to low.

9. Maintaining the Register

There is now an established process in place to ensure that we continue to maintain an up to date out of authority register. We now have the live register information on LCS and a report can be run off at any time.

There are still some information gaps for the children and young people that we have placed in Derby. Work is ongoing to acquire this information from placing authorities, many of whom are still not informing Derby City Council in a timely way. Due to the dynamic nature of the register this is a continuing task.

A meeting with senior managers of private residential homes in Derby took place in June. It is hoped that these organisations will improve in providing information of young people from OoA placed in their accommodation.

Sharing of information and liaison will continue with Virtual School Head Service, Health, Missing Lead, Youth Offending Service, CAMHS and Safeguarding Services.

Pervez Akhtar
Corporate Parenting Lead
August 2016