



## CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE 25 July 2023

# ITEM 10

Report sponsor: Director Early Help and  
Children's Social Care  
Report author: People's Improvement and  
Quality Assurance Manager

## Annual performance update – children in care and care leavers (2022/23)

### Purpose

- 1.1 Each year all local authorities submit information on the children and young people that they look after to the Department for Education (DfE). This information is collated centrally and published annually, to aid both the national and local understanding of the profile, demand and performance in relation to priority children in care performance indicators.
- 1.2 National performance information is a key source of insight that shapes national policy, alongside local service developments, and used by Ofsted as part of their inspection of local authorities services for children in need of help and protection, children in care and care leavers (ILACS).
- 1.3 The purpose of this report is to present the Committee with the latest provisional performance highlights, in the context of the national information (**Appendix 1**).

### Recommendations

- 2.1 To note the latest performance information relating to our children in care and care leavers (**Appendix 1**).
- 2.2 To note how Derby compares to national and comparator benchmarks.

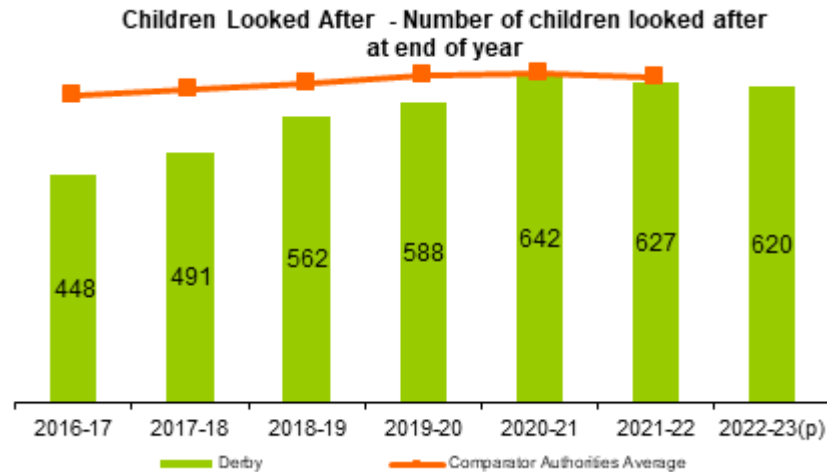
### Reason

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

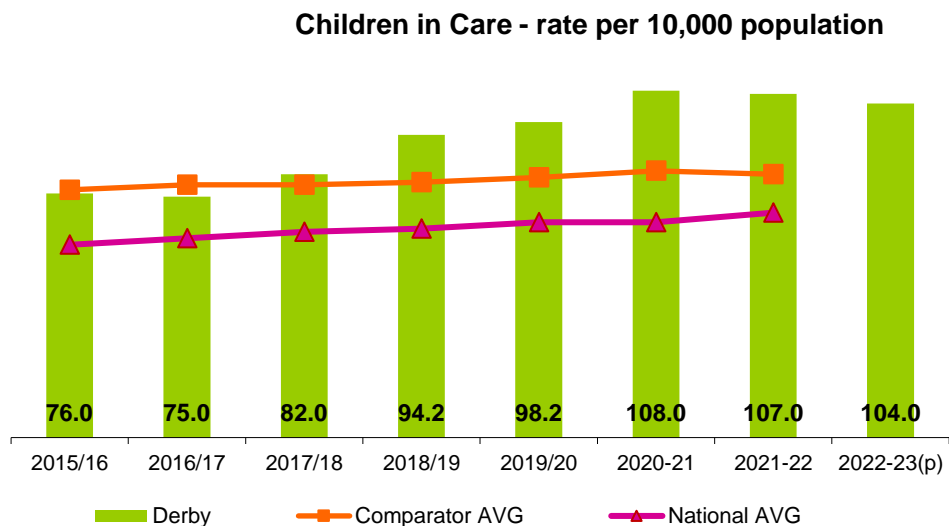
## Supporting information

### Children in Care Overview

- 4.1 At the end of March 2023, Derby had 620 children in care. This was a small decrease from the 627 children recorded at the end of March 2022, a reduction of seven children equating to 1.1%. This is the second decline in the total number of children in care seen over the past five financial years, as illustrated below:

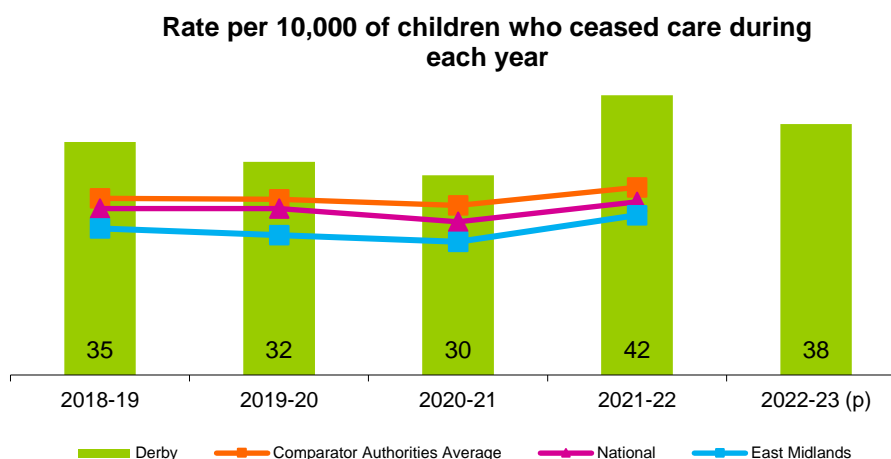


- 4.2 Derby's March 2023 rate of children in care was 104 per 10,000, 0 to 18-year olds, which despite reductions remains above the national average (70 per 10,000), our comparator average (82 per 10,000) and also the East Midlands rate of 65 per 10,000.



- 4.3 During 2022/23, Derby had 225 children who started to become looked after, a decrease of four children (1.7%) compared to the previous financial year. Despite the rate of children per 10,000 who started to be looked after declining from 39 per 10,000 in 2021/22 to **35** per 10,000 in 2022/23, we continue to remain higher than the national average rate of 26 per 10,000.

- 4.4 It should also be noted that the total number of Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC) increased in Derby during 2022/23. At the end of March 2023, Derby had 37 UASC children in care, which compared to 31 young people at the end of March 2022, a 19% increase. However, whilst a rise was observed, this was at a slower rate than the previous financial year, which saw a 45% increase in UASC children in care.
- 4.5 Between April 2022 and March 2023, Derby had 232 children who ceased to be looked after. The rate of children per 10,000 decreased from 42 per 10,000 in 2021/22 to 38 per 10,000 in 2022/23, which remains higher than both the national and comparator averages.



- 4.6 16% of those young people that exited care during 2022/23, were adopted, an increase from 13.8% in the previous financial year. This is above the 2021/22 national average (9.8%), the comparator authority average (12%) and the East Midlands average (13%).
- 4.7 The highest percentage of our children in care are placed within a foster care placement (71.1%). Over the last 12-months, the total number of Derby City mainstream foster carers has remained at 110. This, alongside a more creative use of the places that we have available has resulted in a further decline in Independent Fostering Agency placements from a high of 76.2% in June 2020 to the position of 65% at the end of March 2023.
- 4.8 There has however been a significant decline in the number of young people in Derby benefitting from stable placements. 61.8% of children in care for two and a half years or more, under the age of 16, have lived in the same placement for 2 years or more, a reduction from the previous financial year, when 73.1% of young people benefited from stable placements. Derby is now below both comparator and national averages of 71% within this area. It should be noted, that following the 2022/23 Quarter Four Performance Monitoring Report it was agreed by Cabinet that a Performance Surgery would be scheduled for 2023/24 to further understand this area. Members of the Corporate Parenting Committee will be invited to attend once a date has been agreed.

## Key performance outcomes

4.9 Presented below is a summary of key outcomes for 2022/23, based on 2021/22 national comparisons, with a full overview presented in **Appendix 1**.

Areas of strength	Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A higher percentage of Derby city children who are looked after, are cared for by <b>Foster Carers</b>, than the national average.</li> <li>• Based on provisional data for 2022/23 <b>health outcomes</b> are good for our children in care, with children and young people benefitting from up to date health assessments, timely immunisations and up to date dental checks; all of which are consistently higher than national averages.</li> <li>• <b>Outcomes for our care leavers</b> are strong, with many in suitable accommodation and engaged in employment, education or training; aided by regular contact with Personal Advisers (PAs).</li> <li>• <b>The number of young people convicted or subject to a final warning or reprimand during the year</b>, has remained at 12, following an increase in the previous year. Whilst this is still higher than the national average, this shows stabilisation.</li> <li>• <b>Missing incidents or young people being away from their placement without authorisation</b> are in line with the national average. 10.5% of all the children in care had one or more missing occurrences. This compares to the 2021/22 national average of 11% and the comparator authority average of 10%.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Stability of placements</b> has significantly declined, with fewer children and young people benefitting from stability of placement for more than 2.5-years, and a larger number having multiple placement moves.</li> <li>• <b>Sufficiency challenges remain on-going for placements</b>, compounded by the small geographical boundary of the city meaning fewer young people are placed within the city, or within a 20-mile radius.</li> <li>• The <b>average score</b> (15.3) for young people eligible for completing a <b>strength and difficulties questionnaire</b> remains above national and comparator averages.</li> </ul>

## Public/stakeholder engagement

5.1 The purpose of this report is to brief key stakeholders through the Corporate Parenting Committee on key performance data and issues.

## Other options

6.1 None

## Financial and value for money issues

- 7.1 Any financial implications of the total number of children in care, their individual needs or placement locations will be reported, as appropriate, separately to the Corporate Parenting Committee by the Strategic Director of People Services or the Service Director for Early Help and Children's Social Care.

## Legal implications

- 8.1 The contents of this report only cover children and young people legally looked after by the local authority.

## Climate implications

- 9.1 Not applicable to this report.

## Socio-Economic implications

- 10.1 Not applicable to this report.

## Other significant implications

- 11.1 Not applicable to this report.

This report has been approved by the following people:

Role	Name	Date of sign-off
<b>Legal Finance Service Director(s)</b>	Suanne Lim, Director of Early Help and Children's Social Care	4 July 2023
<b>Report sponsor Other(s)</b>	Sarah Walker, Head of Strategy, Performance and Partnerships	28 June 2023

<b>Background papers:</b> <b>List of appendices:</b>	Appendix 1 – 2022/23 Annual Performance Update – Children in Care
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