

Looked after Children – Performance Update

SUMMARY

- 1.1 Overall, at the end of March 2012 the total number of looked after children, 480, has increased by 4% compared to the previous year (2010/11).
- 1.2 The profile of looked after children remains consistent with the position reported to the Board in March 2012; with the largest proportion of children in care being aged 12 years and over, White – British, male and almost half have been looked after for less than two years.
- 1.3 There have been some improvements recorded in the outcomes for looked after children, particularly in relation to care leavers.
- 1.4 The position at the end of quarter one, 2012/13, indicates that the number of looked after children has stabilised, with a position of 476 (89.6 per 10,000 population).

RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To note the current performance information relating to looked after children.

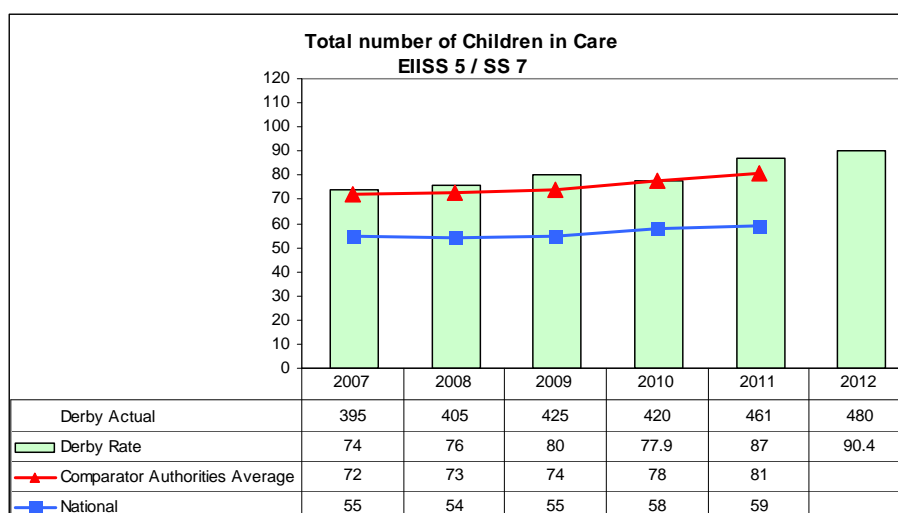
REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 It is essential that Corporate Parenting is aware of current performance data relating to looked after children; including information on outcomes.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

4 Highlights at the end of March 2012

- 4.1 At the end of March 2012 there were 480 looked after children; which is an increase of 4% from the end of March 2011.
- 4.2 The end of year figure for 2011/12 equates to 90.4 children per 10,000 population which remains well above national (59 per 10,000 pop*) and comparator (81 per 10,000 pop*) averages. The graph overleaf illustrates how the total number of looked after children in Derby has changed over recent years, compared to comparators...



4.3 The largest percentage of looked after children at the end of 2011/12 were...

- Male (57%)
- White – British (80%)
- 12 years of age and over (47%)

The tables set out in **Appendix 2** provide further details on the demographic profile of looked after children, including trends over the last three years. It should be noted that the numbers of children in care from certain groups are relatively small but the overall proportion of looked after children from minority groups is slightly under represented compared to the local population.

4.4 The primary reason for the vast majority of looked after children in 2011/12 was 'abuse or neglect' (76.9%), which is a trend mirrored for children in need (71.9%).

4.5 Although there has been a slight decline from March 2011 in the number of 'full care orders' this is still the legal status of the largest proportion of looked after children (43%)...

Number of children looked after at <u>31st March</u> by legal status	2010/11	2011/12
Interim care order (C1)	70	79
Full care order (C2)	207	204
Freeing order granted (D1)	7	4
Placement order granted (E1)	93	100
Single period of accommodation under section 20 (V2)	83	93
Other	1	0

4.6 Over 2011/12, the largest proportion of looked after children were placed with foster carers, with an 8% increase from 2010/11...

Number of children looked after at <u>31st March</u> by placement type	2010/11	2011/12
Placed for Adoption	38	31
Secure unit (K1)	2	2
Children's Homes (K2)	48	45
Placed with own parents or other person with parental responsibility (P1)	22	21
Independent living with or without formal support (P2)	21	23
Foster placement with relative or friend (Q1)	33	37
Placement with other foster carer (Q2)	294	316
Other	3	5

The number of children in foster placements provided by agencies was 140 which accounts for 40% of all foster placements. This compares to 29% last year.

The increase in agency placements is also reflected in the proportion of cases placed outside the city boundary, which across all placement types equates to 45% of children and young people. This compares to 36% in the previous year.

5 Outcomes for Looked after Children in 2011/12

- 5.1 A large proportion of data relating to outcomes for looked after children is updated on an annual basis, with data released at the end of January each year. The data below represents information held locally and comparisons are made against national data from 2010/11. A full breakdown of key performance measures for looked after children are set out in **Appendix 3**.

5.2 Education

At Key Stage 2 Derby's 2011/12 result for looked after children achieving Level 4 or above including both English and Maths was 27%.

At GCSE, the proportion of looked after children achieving 5 A* to C including English and Maths for the past three years was 10%. This compares to 11% nationally.

Absence levels are fairly good with only 5% of sessions missed during an academic year compared to 6% nationally (2010/11).

The proportion of school age children in care with a personal education plan was 96.9% at the end of March 2012, which compares to 92.9% in March 2011.

5.3 Stability

Overall, despite a slight increase over the past year in the number of placement moves (3 or more) for looked after children (NI 62), the result of 9.6% remains below the national comparison of 11% (2010/11).

The proportion of children living in the same placement for 2 years or more is 66.5% against a 2010/11 national average of 69% (NI63).

5.4 Health and well-being

In 2011/12, 74.5% of looked after children had their statutory health needs met (SS PM02). Linked to this, 74.8% of children had their teeth checked by a dentist within the year (82% nationally) and 92.8% of children had up to date immunisation checks (79% nationally).

The proportion of children in care aged 10 or over who were convicted or cautioned during 2011/12 was 9.9%, which is in line with the result of 9.8% from 2010/11. This compares to 7.3% nationally (2010/11).

During 2011/12, 266 children were required to complete a 'strength and difficulties' questionnaire, which measures emotional well-being for looked after children. A total of 99 questionnaires were completed (37%) and the average score for those was 16.9, which is higher than the national position for the previous year of 13.9.

5.5 Care leavers

At the end of March 2012 there was an increase in the number of care leavers in education, employment and training (EET) compared to March 2011 (62.9% compared to 57.7%); a trend also mirrored in the percentage of care leavers in suitable accommodation (2011/12 result of 91.4% versus a position of 84.6% in 2010/11).

Comparisons against peers are mixed for outcomes for care leavers with the three year average for those in EET slightly below the national position of 67%, whilst the three year average for those in suitable accommodation is in line with the national result of 90%.

6 Position at the end of Quarter 1 2012/13

- 6.1 At the end of June 2012 the total number of looked after children, 476, had fallen marginally from the position recorded at the end of 2011/12 (480).
- 6.2 The profile of the children in care remained comparable to that reported at the end of 2011/12 (paragraph 4.3) with 59% of looked after children being male, 79% are White-British and 45% are aged 12 years and over.
- 6.3 The largest proportion of looked after children remain in foster placements (352, 74%), with 41% of those in private placements and 57% are in foster placements outside of the City boundary (45% of all placement types were outside the City boundary at the end of June 2012).
- 6.4 Initial outcomes data for quarter one of 2012/13 for looked after children remains positive...
 - Although there has been a slight dip in performance from the end of March 2012 (which is seasonal and relates to the academic year) the percentage of looked after children with a personal education plan is above both the target and the comparable result in quarter one of last year (Position of 92.2% versus a target of 90% and a quarter one result of 90.1% in 2011/12).
 - The total number of care leavers in employment, education or training has improved (Quarter one result of 66.7%).
 - The percentage of care leavers in suitable accommodation has increased (Quarter one result of 100%).
- 6.5 It should also be noted that at the end of quarter one, performance against key 'process' measures for looked after children have also shown improvements...
 - The percentage of children participating in their statutory reviews has increased with the position at the end of June 2012 (83.6% compared to 81.9% at the end of 2011/12).
 - Performance in relation to the timeliness of adoptions (NI61) has improved from the position of 30% at the end of 2011/12 to the quarter one result of 50% however this is still adrift of the 2010/11 national average of 74%.

- The percentage of looked after children cases reviewed within target timescales (NI66) has improved from 88.6% at the end of 2011/12 to a result of 99.1% at the end of June 2012.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

7.1 None.

This report has been approved by the following officers:

Legal officer Financial officer Human Resources officer Service Director(s) Other(s)	Mark Barratt - Service Director for Specialist Services Heather Greenan – Head of Performance and Improvement
For more information contact: Background papers: List of appendices:	Sarah Walker – Improvement Officer for Children and Young People 01332 643466 e-mail sarah.walker1@derby.gov.uk None Appendix 1 – Implications Appendix 2 – Demographic Profile Appendix 3 – Performance Summary – Look after Children

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 is set out in paragraph 4.5.

Personnel

- 3.1 None.

Equalities Impact

- 4.1 Information relating to the profile of children in care is set out in paragraphs 4.3, 6.2 and in **Appendix 2**. Overall, it should be noted that the numbers of looked after children from certain groups are relatively small but the overall proportion of children in care from minority groups is slightly under represented compared to the local population.

Health and Safety

- 5.1 None.

Environmental Sustainability

- 6.1 None.

Asset Management

- 7.1 None.

Risk Management

- 8.1 None.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 9.1 Three of the Council's outcomes relate to looked after children and have specific actions under them to protect vulnerable children from harm, narrow the gaps and achieve better mental health and well-being...
- Achieving their learning potential.
 - Good health and well-being.
 - Being safe and feeling safe.

Demographic Profile – Looked after Children

Gender

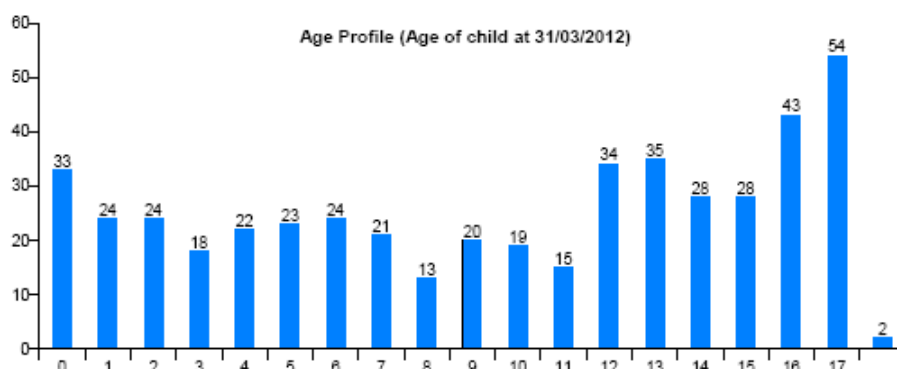
The table below illustrates how the split between male and female children looked after in Derby has progressed over the last three years, including the most recent position at the end of June 2012.

Year *	Total	Male		Female	
		Number	Percentage (%)	Number	%
2009/10	420	231	55%	189	45%
2010/11	461	249	54%	212	46%
2011/12	480	274	57%	206	43%
Q1 2012/13	475	278	59%	197	41%

* Unless otherwise stated the reporting period is the position as at the end of the year (i.e. 31 March)

Age

As illustrated by the graph below the largest proportion of looked after children fall within the age bracket of 12 years of age and over (47%). This is a trend which is reflected in the data at the end of quarter 1 of 2012/13 when 45% of looked after children were aged 12 years and over. This is a trend which is not unusual but may be considered slightly more evident in Derby than other authorities.



Ethnicity

The table below illustrates the ethnicity of looked after children in Derby over the past three years.

Year *	Total	Asian or Asian British		Black or Black British		Dual Heritage		Other		White British	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
2009/10	420	14	3%	11	3%	54	13%	5	1%	336	80%
2010/11	461	15	3%	15	3%	56	12%	9	2%	366	79%
2011/12	480	16	3%	14	3%	54	11%	12	3%	384	80%
Q1 2012/13	475	13	3%	13	3%	53	11%	12	3%	384	81%

Performance Summary – Looked after Children

Performance Measures	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	3 year rolling average	Comparator authorities average*	National*
Local Rate of children in care per 1000 population	77.9	86.8	90.4	85.0	81.0	59.0
NI 61 Timeliness of adoption placements for children in care	59.5%	75.9%	30%	55.1%	76%	74%
Local Percentage of children in care adopted	12.4%	11.6%	13%	12.3%	N/A	N/A
NI 62 Stability of placements - number of moves	7.9%	6.7%	9.6%	8.1%	10%	11%
NI 63 Stability of placements - length of placement	62.1%	69%	66.5%	65.9%	70%	69%
NI 66 CIC reviews completed within timescale	94.8%	92.5%	88.6%	92.0%	N/A	N/A
Local Percentage of children in care with Personal Education Plans	77.3%	92.9%	96.9%	89.0%	N/A	N/A
NI 99 Children in Care reaching level 4 in English at KS2	50%	69.2%	33%	51%	N/A	N/A
NI 100 Children in Care reaching level 4 in Maths at KS2	60%	61.5%	47%	56%	N/A	N/A
Children in Care reaching level 4 in combined English and maths	N/A	25%	27%	N/A	N/A	40%
NI 101 Children in Care achieving 5 A* to C at KS4 incl. Eng & Maths	6.5%	6.7%	16.7%	10%	13% (3-year average 10.3%)	13% (3-year average 11%)
NI 147 Care leavers in suitable accommodation	94.1%	84.6%	91.4%	90.0%	87.2% (3-year average 89.5%)	90% (3-year average 90%)
NI 148 Care leavers in education, employment or training	61.8%	57.7%	62.9%	60.8%	64.5% (3-year average 61.9%)	67% (3-year average 68%)

NOTES

* The most recent national comparisons relate to 2010/11.

It should be noted that for a large proportion of the measures above due to the small numbers, which calculations are based upon the three year rolling average position provides a more accurate picture of performance.