



CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE 19 February 2019

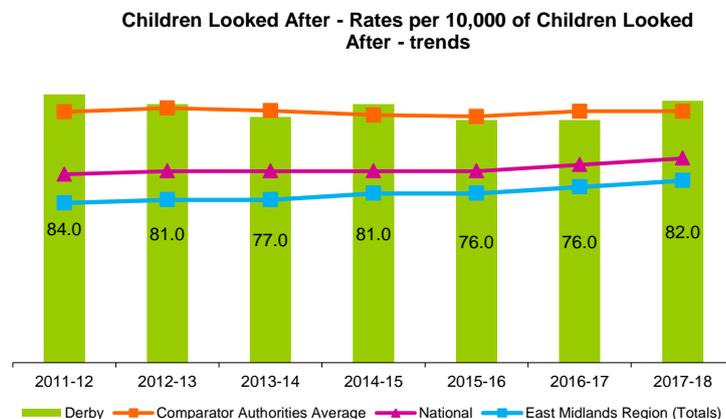
ITEM 9

Report sponsor: Andy Smith – Strategic Director of People Services
Report author: Sarah Walker – Policy and Improvement Manager

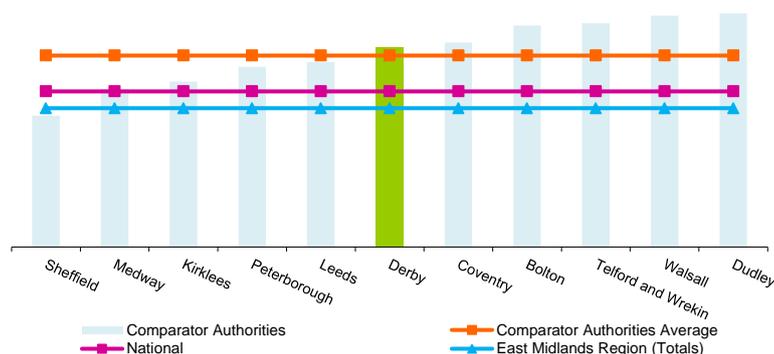
Annual Performance Update – Children in Care

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 inform local understanding on profile, demand and performance in relation to key children in care performance indicators.
- 1.2 The 2017/18 children in care statutory data release was published in November 2018. The purpose of this report is to provide the Corporate Parenting Committee with an update on Derby's children in care performance, compared to national intelligence.
- 1.3 Based on national data, at the end of March 2018, Derby City reported a final position of 491 children in care; which was an increase of 43 children (10%) compared to March 2017. Nationally, over the same period, the total number of children in care increased by 4%, with a 5% rise within the East Midlands and a 2% average rise in our comparator group. This confirms that Derby has experienced a higher rate of demand than the average:



Children Looked After - Rates per 10,000 of Children Looked After at end of 2017-18



- 1.4 At the end of December 2018, the total number of children in care in Derby City has continued to rise, with an unprecedented position of 539 looked after children and young people (90.3 per 100,000 children and young people (CYP) under 18 years). Based on the 2017/18 national data, this would place us fifth highest in our comparator group behind Bolton, Telford and Wrekin, Walsall and Dudley.
- 1.5 Over the duration of the period April 2017 to March 2018, Derby looked after a total of 710 children and young people, with 268 starting care in the year, and 225 ceasing. The total number of children ceasing care is the highest absolute number Derby has recorded over the last five years, evidencing continued, effective exiting of children and young people, despite the increased demand.
- 1.6 Further information on Derby's performance against the national data is set out in paragraph's 4.1 to 4.8. It should be noted that national comparisons on education outcomes will not be published until March 2019. Any areas for 'further consideration' have been highlighted in 'red' and any positive performance results have been highlighted in 'green'.

Recommendations

- 2.1 To note the increasing numbers of children in care in Derby City.
- 2.2 To note the latest comparator information on performance, where, despite an increase in demand, Derby has maintained or improved results (please refer to the areas highlighted in 'green' in paragraphs 4.1 to 4.8).
- 2.3 To request updates as required from lead officers; based on the national trends, where Derby has been identified as an outlier (please refer to the areas highlighted in 'red' in paragraphs 4.1 to 4.8).

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

4 Profile of children in care

4.1 Presented below, is a summary of Derby's looked after children and young people, as at 31 March 2018; compared to March 2017 and the national position in both years:

Profile themes	2016/17		2017/18	
	Derby	National average	Derby	National average
Gender	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 57% were male 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 56% were male 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 58% were male 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 56% were male
Age	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under 1 (5%) 1 to 4 (16%) 5 to 9 (22%) 10 to 15 (38%) 16 and over (20%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under 1 (5%) 1 to 4 (13%) 5 to 9 (19%) 10 to 15 (39%) 16 and over (23%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under 1 (6%) 1 to 4 (13%) 5 to 9 (23%) 10 to 15 (40%) 16 and over (18%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under 1 (6%) 1 to 4 (13%) 5 to 9 (19%) 10 to 15 (39%) 16 and over (23%)
Ethnicity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> White (77%) Mixed (13%) Asian or Asian British (4%) Black or Black British (4%) Other Ethnic Groups (<i>supressed</i>) Other (<i>supressed</i>) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> White (75%) Mixed (9%) Asian or Asian British (5%) Black or Black British (7%) Other Ethnic Groups (3%) Other (1%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> White (73%) Mixed (14%) Asian or Asian British (8%) Black or Black British (3%) Other Ethnic Groups (2%) Other (0%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> White (75%) Mixed (10%) Asian or Asian British (5%) Black or Black British (7%) Other Ethnic Groups (3%) Other (1%)

4.2 Key trends, at the end of March 2018, to note include:

- Derby had a **higher proportion of boys looked after**, which was the highest percentage of males versus females seen across our comparator authorities.
- Derby had a **higher proportion of children from a 'mixed' ethnic origin (14%) and from an 'Asian/Asian British' ethnic origin. (8%)**. This compares to 10% and 5% seen nationally for the same ethnic groups.
- Derby had a **lower proportion of children from a 'White' ethnic origin (73%)** compared to 77% in the East Midlands; echoing the profile of the city and illustrating a growing diversity in our children in care population, compared to 2016/17.
- Derby had a **larger proportion of children aged 10-15 years old** who were in care (40%). This was however very similar to the national figure of 39% and remains consistent with historical trends.
- Derby had a **slightly lower proportion of children aged 16-17 years old** who were in care (18%), compare to 23% nationally and 22% in the East Midlands average.

Placements types and providers

4.3 Key trends, at the end of March 2018, to note include:

- 71% of Derby's children in care were in foster placements**, which was slightly lower than both the national (73%) and comparator (76%) positions.

- Derby had **4% of looked after children placed for adoption**, which was above both the comparator (3%) and the national (3%) averages; illustrating positive, permanent outcomes for our children eligible for adoption. Timeliness in this area also continues to improve in 2018/19.
- The national percentage for using 'LA own provision' was 53%. In comparison **Derby had the lowest percentage for the use of our own provision (26%) in our comparator authority group, and we were ranked the fifth lowest in the country.** In line with this, **private provision usage in Derby is 56%**, which was higher than both the national (34%) and comparator percentages (31%).
- Derby also utilised voluntary and third sector placements at a higher rate with 7%, compared to 5% nationally, 5% in our comparator group and 4% in the East Midlands region.

Distance and location of placements

4.4 Key trends to note (at the end of March 2018) include:

- Of the 491 placements for children looked after by Derby during 2017/18, **64% were placed within 20 miles of their home address**, which was below both the national average (74%) and the comparator authorities' average (78%).
- **The percentage of all looked after children and young people placed within the local authority boundary, who were looked after by Derby was 70%.** This compared to a national average 60% of looked after children within a local authority being 'internal' to that local authority, and the comparator authorities' average of 64%. This is most likely reflective of our small geographical area, and where possible effective use of local provision for our children.

Missing or away from placement without authorisation

4.5 Key trends to note (at the end of March 2018) include:

- **7% of Derby's children in care cohort had been missing at some point during the year** (53 CYP), which was lower than the national average (11%) and the comparator authority average (11%). Derby's figure of 7% was also the lowest in our comparator group.
- **6% of our children in care cohort had been away from their placement without authorisation, at some point during the year** (43 CYP), which was higher than both the national average (4%) and the comparator authority average (4%).

NB - It should be noted that these figures are still experimental and some local authorities have difficulties with reporting missing and away from placement. Therefore please use the figures with caution.

Health outcomes for children in care

4.6 Key trends to note (at the end of March 2018) include:

- **Derby's completion rate of annual health assessments increased** from 91% in 2016/17 to 93% in 2017/18, which is the highest position that has been achieved, for Derby, over the past seven years. This places Derby higher than the national, comparator authority and the East Midlands averages, and we ranked fifth in our comparator group.
- **Derby's completion rate of development assessments increased** to our highest performance over the past seven years with a position of 88%. Derby is now ranked sixth in our comparator group and is above the national (85%) and comparator authority average (86.2%) for the first time in seven years.
- **Derby's completion rate of dental checks (88%) increased** for the third year running. The 2017/18 percentage ranks us fourth in our comparator group.
- **Derby's completion rate of immunisations decreased** for the third year running from 98% in 2016/17 to 94% in 2017/18. Despite this decline, Derby's performance remains above the comparator (90%) and national averages (85%), for the seventh year running.
- **The percentage of children looked after with a completed SDQ in Derby increased** to the highest performance over the past seven years, with a figure of 94%. Derby is now above the national average (78%), the East Midlands average (80%) and the comparator authority average (78%). **The average SDQ score still however remained too high at 15.9, which places us second highest in our comparator group and twelfth highest nationally.**

(Strengths and difficulties questionnaires, SDQs, assess the emotional health and wellbeing of our looked after children and young people)

Youth Offending

4.7 Key trends to note (at the end of March 2018) include:

- **7% of looked after children aged 10 years and older were convicted or subject to a youth caution or youth conditional caution** (this equates to 15 young people), **which is an increase** on the position of 3% reported at the end of March 2017. Derby is now above both the national average (4%) and the comparator authority average (5%), and is ranked second highest in our comparator group, behind Kirklees.

Care leavers

4.8 Key trends to note (at the end of March 2018) include:

- **Derby had 61% of its care leavers aged 19, 20 or 21 as at 31st March in education, employment or training.** This was above both the comparator authorities' average (50%), and the national average (51%).
- **Derby's performance for care leavers in EET improved year-on-year, over the past three years;** rising from 47% in 2016, 54% in 2017 and then 61% in 2018.

- **86% of our care leavers aged 19, 20 or 21 were in suitable accommodation.** This compares to 83% for the comparator authorities' average and 84% nationally.
- **A large proportion of Derby's care leavers remained with their former foster carers (41%), which was higher than the national position** of 26%, the comparator average of 33% and the East Midlands average of 24%. Although this is a positive outcome for our care leavers, it should be noted that it is likely to have impacted on our placement sufficiency and choice of placements for our newly looked after children and young people, over the period and into 2019/20 and beyond.

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 Children's Integrated Services.

Legal implications

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

Other significant implications

9.1 None.

This report has been approved by the following people:

Role	Name	Date of sign-off
Legal		
Finance		
Service Director(s)	Suanne Lim	23 January 2019
Report sponsor	Andy Smith	23 January 2019
Other(s)		

Background papers:	
List of appendices:	Appendix 1 Budget Pressures