

Annual Census returns (Children Looked After and Children in Need) – 31 March 2018

Report of the Head of Children's Social Care (Deputy Chief Officer)

Please note that the following recommendations are subject to consideration and determination by the Cabinet (and confirmation under the provisions of the Council's Constitution) before taking effect.

Recommendation:

Members of the children's scrutiny committee are requested to:

- Receive this report
- Consider the annual census data and draft proposed performance targets for the period 2018-2021

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Local authority children's services are required to submit to the Department for Education (DfE) two principal annual census returns one focussed on Children Looked After and Care Leavers (SSDA903) and the other focussed on Children in Need.
- 1.2 Both annual census returns were submitted by Devon County Council on time and using data taken from CareFirst.

2. Children Looked After census ([Appendix 1](#))

- 2.1 The numbers of children Looked After by Devon County Council remain increased only slightly on the previous year (rising from 682 on 31 March 2017 to 694 on 31 March 2018)
- 2.2 The rate per 10,000 of the local child population at 48.3 remains lower than the regional, statistical neighbour, and England average rates.
- 2.3 Placement stability has improved slightly with the percentage of our Looked After children experiencing three or more placement moves within the year dropping slightly to 12.1% almost equalling the regional average percentage but slightly above both our statistical neighbour and the England average rates. The Children's Scrutiny Committee is already aware of the challenges faced by the service with regard to placement sufficiency and one of the impacts of this is on the placement stability figures (including the data for placement length).
- 2.4 There has been a continuing improvement in respect of review health assessments with 100% of children aged under five years having had a review health assessment and 91.7% of those aged five and over having had a review health assessment within the year. The data does not allow for anything other than did, or did not have an assessment and does not therefore include data on those who were offered but refused, for example.
- 2.5 The percentage of children Looked After recorded as having attended an annual dental check remained steady at about 85% and again the way that the data is reported does not capture those refusing to attend the dentist and includes young infants too.

- 2.6 The data concerning the number of children and young people identified with a substance misuse issue (which might be related to a parent or sibling) and the those being offered and/or receiving a service is confusing and indicates that the way in which we record this data does not aid data collection. More analysis of this data is currently being undertaken.
- 2.7 The apparent rise in the number of 'missing' episodes, coupled with the reduction in the number of 'absent' episodes is in fact largely due to a change in the way that Devon and Cornwall Police now record such instances in line with national Police guidance.
- 2.8 The percentage of children Looked After who ceased to be Looked After having been adopted rose from 14% to 19.5% and together with the similar rise in the numbers of children Looked After ceasing to be Looked After and being the subject of a Special Guardianship Order (SGO) from 9.4% to 11.7% are positive indicators of the impact of effective permanency planning for children and young people.
- 2.9 Reported performance in respect of our Care Leavers cohort was disappointing and has since been the subject of a Peer Review conducted by Cornwall County Council and a considerable amount of attention within the service.
- 2.10 The reported position as at 31 March 2018 was that the service was 'In Touch' with 80.9% of care leavers, fewer than had been the case in the previous year (at 88.7%) and that similarly, fewer care leavers were recorded as being in suitable accommodation or in Education, Employment, or Training (EET) than had been the case in the previous year. As a consequence of the work in progress to address these specific issues, the current position (as at the end of August 2018) is that the service is currently 'In touch' with 82.9% of care leavers and that 93.8% are in suitable accommodation with 53.9% now being known to be in Education, Employment or Training.

3. Child in Need census ([Appendix 2](#))

- 3.1 The service experienced a 17.4% increase in the number of Child in Need cases open during the year 2017-18, rising from 6,904 to 8,106 open cases. There is evidence too that the nature of some of these cases is becoming increasingly complex placing increased demand on a range of services but the census primarily focusses on numbers.
- 3.2 The number of children in need with one or more disabilities recorded rose by 34.4% in the year to 1,228 children and represents 29.6% of the overall number of children in need cases open to the service at 31 March 2018.
- 3.3 The number of referrals received (and the corresponding rate per 10,000 of the child population) rose in the year and so too did the percentage of re-referrals (referrals within 12 months of a previous referral) and the percentage of referrals that resulted in no further action following an assessment by children's social care teams which together suggest that there is still more to do to work with the wider children's partnership to understand and use more appropriately the thresholds for services and to strengthen the relationship between early help and social care services.
- 3.4 77.3% of single assessments were completed within 45 working days of commencement, compared to 89.5% in the previous year. A number of factors will have contributed to this, including the impact of organisational change and difficulties in recruiting to vacant posts.
- 3.5 The number of Section 47 enquiries started in the year increased considerably (by 41.7%). Similarly, the number of Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPC) also rose in the year (although to a lesser degree) but fewer were held within 15 days of the

Strategy Discussion as is stipulated in Working Together to Safeguard Children (down to 66.5% from 85.4% in the previous year).

- 3.6 The number of children who were the subject of a Child Protection Plan rose during the year with 643 children becoming the subject of a plan during the year and with 483 children being the subject of a plan as at 31 March 2018 (compared to 442 at 31 March 2017).

4. Conclusion

- 4.1 This years' census data indicates clearly an increasing demand on services and some areas of performance that have been impacted negatively.
- 4.2 The Head of Service is currently consulting on a set of realistic but ambitious performance targets for the three years ahead ([Appendix 3](#)) and once agreed will incorporate these into service development plans and report progress to the Children's Scrutiny Committee as required.

Darryl Freeman

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Children's Social Care

Electoral Divisions: All

Cabinet Member for [Children, Schools and Skills](#): Councillor James McInnes
Chief Officer for Children's Services: Jo Olsson

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972: LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

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[Appendix 1](#): Children Looked After Census data

[Appendix 2](#): Children in Need Census data

[Appendix 3](#): Draft proposed performance targets 2018-2021

Table 1 Children Looked After census Period to 31 March 2018

Local & National Measures		County Performance				Historical Data			Benchmarking Data		
		What does 'Good' Look Like	YTD Numerator	YTD Denominator	2017-18 Actual Performance	Year on Year Change	2016-17 Actual Performance	2015-16 Actual	2016-17 SW Regional	2016-17 Stat Neighbours	2016-17 England
ALL LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN AS AT PERIOD END											
LAC 1	Number of Looked After Children at Period End	I	694			↑	682	710	5790	551	72670
LAC 2	Number of Looked After Children per 10,000 Population aged u18	I	694	143555	48.3	↑	48.0	49.8	53.0	54.0	62.0
LAC 3	Stability of Placements of LAC - 3+ Moves	L	84	694	12.1%	↓	12.5%	14.0%	12.0%	11.0%	10.0%
LAC 4	Stability of Placements of LAC - Length of Placement	H	120	200	60.0%	↓	63.7%	58.5%	-	-	-
LAC 5	Long term fostering return rate at 31st March (U1 & U4)	H	339	529	64.1%	↓	72.4%	67.4%	-	-	-
LAC 6	LAC as at 31st Mar Reviewed Within Timescale throughout the year(Former NI 66)	H	542	666	81.4%		-	-	-	-	-
LAC 7	LAC as at 31st Mar that Participated in Their Most Recent Statutory Review. (Former C63)	H	482	586	82.3%		-	53.9%	-	-	-
HEALTH & WELLBEING OF LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN (OC2 COHORT ONLY)											
HLT 1	CLA - Review Health Assess	H	429	468	91.7%	↑	90.2%	85.4%	3440	330	44490

HLT 2	CLA - Review Health Assess (u5)	H	13	13	100.0%	↑	91.9%	58.5%	-	-	-
HLT 3	CLA - Dental Checks	H	400	468	85.5%	↑	85.0%	74.9%	3220	308	41490
HLT 4	CLA - SDQ's	L	339	4,969	14.7	↓	15.2	16.7	15.4%	14.5%	14.1%
HLT 5	CLA - Immunisations Up to Date	H	400	468	85.5%	↓	90.0%	48.2%	-	-	-
HLT 6	CLA - Identified with Substance Misuse Issue	L	59	468	12.6%	↓	12.9%	6.1%	5.0%	3.9%	4.0%
HLT 7	CLA - Received Intervention for Substance Misuse	H	28	59	47.5%	↓	64.5%	40.7%	-	-	-
HLT 8	CLA - Offered Intervention for Substance Misuse	H	27	31	87.1%	↓	95.5%	43.8%	-	-	-
HLT 9	CLA - Convicted During the Year	L	22	373	5.9%	↓	9.4%	2.6%	6.0%	4.5%	4.0%
OTHER MEASURES FOR LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN											
LAC 20	The % of CLA whom had a missing incident during the year	L	150	986	15.2%	↑	13.4%	85	10.0%	7.9%	10.0%
LAC 21	The % of CLA whom had an absent incident during the year	L	3	986	0.3%	↓	6.7%	19	3.0%	1.8%	5.0%
LAC 22	Number of Missing Episodes through out the year	I	1204			↑	939	263	-	-	-
LAC 23	Number of Absent Episodes through out the year	I	3			↓	186	35	-	-	-
LAC 24	Number Children Missing as at 31 March	L	1	694	0.1%	↓	0.6%	0.1%	-	-	-
LAC 25	Number of Unaccompanied Asylum Seekers in the year	L	35	694	5.0%	↑	3.7%	0.7%	220	23	4560
LAC 26	Number of Children Adopted from Care in Year	H	60	307	19.5%	↑	14.0%	10.8%	-	-	-
LAC 27	Number of Children with Special Guardianship Order from Care	H	36	307	11.7%	↑	9.4%	13.1%	-	-	-

CARE LEAVERS											
CL 1	ALL Care Leavers - DCC in Touch	H	380	470	80.9%	↓	88.7%	86.2%	94.0%	94.0%	92.0%
CL 2	ALL Care Leavers in Suitable Accommodation	H	351	470	74.7%	↓	79.9%	78.0%	86.0%	83.9%	84.0%
CL 3	ALL Care Leavers in Education, Employment or Training	H	184	470	39.1%	↓	45.3%	47.9%	49.0%	49.7%	50.0%
CL 4	ALL Care Leavers Not in Education, Employment or Training	L	196	470	41.7%	↓	42.9%	44.0%	43.0%	41.2%	40.0%

Appendix 2

Table 2 Child in Need census Period to 31 March 2018

Local & National Measures		2017-18 Year End Performance					Historical Data		Benchmarking Data			
		What does 'Good' Look Like	YTD Numerator	YTD Denominator	YTD Actual Performance	Year on Year Change	% Increase or Decrease	2016-17 Actual	2015-16 Actual	2016-17 SW Regional	2016-17 Stat Neighbours Ave	2016-17 England
NUMBERS OF CHILDREN IN NEED												
CIN 1	No of Children In Need throughout the Year		8,106			↑	17.4%	6,904	8,340	61,510	5,814	777,850
CIN 1.1	No of Children In Need per 10,000 Population aged u18		8,106	143,600	564.5	↑	17.4%	480.9	584.9	564.0	556.3	660.0
CIN 2	No of Children in need as at 31 March		3,983			↑	3.7%	3,842	4,668	33,360	2,862	389,430
CIN 2.1	Rate of children in need at 31 March per 10,000 children		3,983	143,600	277.4	↑	3.7%	267.6	327.4	305.9	273.8	330.4
CIN 3	No of children In Need (excluding CPP & CIC) as at 31 March		2,804			↑	3.9%	2,699	3,244			
CIN 3.1	Rate of children in need at 31 March per 10,000 children (excl CPP & CIC)		2,804	143,600	195.3	↑	3.9%	188.0	227.5			
CIN 4	No of Children starting an episode of need in the Year		4,848			↑	84.6%	2,626	3,861	31,300	2,780	374,640
CIN 4.1	Rate of children starting an episode of need in the Year per 10,000 children		4,848	143,600	337.6	↑	84.6%	182.9	270.8	287.0	259.9	317.9

CIN 5	No of Children ending an episode of need in the Year		3,991			↑	20.1%	3,322	3,672	31,460	2,797	367,430
<i>CIN 5.1</i>	<i>Rate of children ending an episode of need in the Year per 10,000 children</i>		3,991	143,600	277.9	↑	20.1%	231.4	257.5	288.5	269.1	311.8
CIN 6	Number of episodes closed in the year		4,159			↑	23.2%	3,377	6,294	33,250	2,952	282.5
CIN 7	No of Children in need at 31 March with one or more disabilities recorded		1,228			→	34.4%	914	1,035	4,870	420	50,360
<i>CIN 7.1</i>	<i>% of children who have a disability recorded</i>		1,228	3,983	30.8%	↑	29.6%	23.8%	22.2%	14.6%	14.7%	12.9%
REFERRALS AND ASSESSMENTS												
RA 1	No of Referral in the year		5,341			↑	5.5%	5,061	6,919	51,500	4,506	646,120
<i>RA 1.1</i>	<i>Rate of Referrals per 10,000 of children aged under 18 years</i>	L	5,341	143,600	371.9	↑	5.5%	352.5	485.2	472.2	418.1	548.2
RA 2	% of Referrals within 12 months of a previous referral	L	1,270	5,341	23.8%	↑	14.9%	20.7%	20.6%	23.2%	21.4%	21.9%
RA 3	% of Referrals that resulted in no further action	L	728	5,341	13.6%	↑	113.0%	6.4%	6.3%	7.4%	3.9%	10.2%
RA 4	% of Referrals that resulted in an assessment and the child was assessed not to be in need	L	2,012	5,341	37.7%	↓	-7.0%	40.5%	37.9%	27.3%	30.3%	27.8%
RA 5	Number of Continuous Assessments Started in the Year		5,282			↓	-3.9%	5,496	7,553			
RA 6	Number of Continuous Assessments Authorised		4,916			↓	-12.6%	5,625	7,552	53,140	4,776	571,640
RA 7	Percentage Authorised in 45 working days	H	3,799	4,916	77.3%	↓	-13.6%	89.5%	90.6%	83.5%	81.7%	82.9%

RA 8	Number of unique children who were subject to section 47 enquiries which started in the year		1,797			↑	34.5%	1,336	1,979			
RA 9	No of section 47 enquiries which started in the year		2,058			↑	41.7%	1,452	2061	15,220	1,284	185,450
RA 9.1	Rate of section 47 enquiries per 10,000 of children aged under 18 years		2,058	143,600	143.3	↑	41.8%	101.1	144.5	139.5	115.3	157.4
RA 10	Number of Initial Child Protection Conferences (excl 'Transfer In' conferences)		720			↑	13.4%	635	1,226	6,660	605	76,930
RA 11	Initial Conferences within 15 working days of Section 47 Start Date	H	479	720	66.5%	↓	-22.1%	85.4%	80.4%	78.5%	72.6%	76.7%
RA 12	Transfer In Conferences within 15 working days of Referral date	H	24	36	66.7%	↓	-18.5%	81.8%	66.7%			
CHILD PROTECTION PLANS												
CPP 1	No of Children who were the subject of a CPP during the Year		1,511			↑	24.7%	1,212	1,495	10,240	894	115,210
CPP 1.1	Rate of children who were the subject of a CPP during the Year per 10,000 children		1,511	143,600	105.2	↑	24.7%	84.4	104.9	93.9	89.2	97.8
CPP 2	No of Children who were the subject of a CPP as at 31 March		483			↑	9.3%	442	442	4,430	391	51,080
CPP 2.1	Rate of children who were the subject of a CPP at 31 March per 10,000 children		483	143,600	33.6	↑	9.2%	30.8	50.1	40.6	38.1	43.3
CPP 3	No of Children who became the subject of a plan during the Year		643			↑	24.6%	516	1,014	5,730	519	66,180

CPP 3.1	Rate of children who became the subject of a CPP during the Year per 10,000 children		643	143,600	44.8	↑	24.7%	35.9	71.1	52.6	50.1	56.2
CPP 4	% who became the subject of a plan for a second or subsequent time (Ever)	L	170	643	26.4%	↑	7.0%	24.7%	22.4%	22.4%	21.3%	18.7%
CPP 5	% who became the subject of a plan for a second or subsequent time (Last 2yrs)	L	80	643	12.4%	↓	-13.0%	14.3%	10.2%			
CPP 6	Children who ceased to be the subject of a CPP during the Year		602			↓	-23.8%	790	781	5,940	515	65,420
CPP 6.1	Rate of children who ceased to be the subject of a CPP during the Year per 10,000 children		602	143,600	41.9	↓	-23.8%	55.0	54.8	54.5	52.2	55.5
CPP 7	% who ceased to be the subject of a CPP during the Year (after 2 or more years) (NI 64)	L	31	602	5.1%	↑	100.0%	0.0%	2.9%	2.7%	3.1%	3.4%
CPP 8	Child protection cases which were reviewed within required timescales	H	278	322	86.3%	↓	-9.5%	95.4%	93.7%	86.8%	88.8%	92.2%

Table 3: Draft proposed performance targets 2018/19 to 2020/21 (subject to further consultation)

Ref	Measures	2017-18 Actual	2018-19 Target	2019-20 Target	2020-21 Target
LAC 3	Stability of Placements of LAC - 3+ Moves	12.1%	11%	9%	8%
LAC 4	Stability of Placements of LAC - Length of Placement	60%	65%	70%	75%
LAC 5	Long term fostering return rate at 31st March (U1 & U4)				
LAC 6	LAC as at 31st Mar Reviewed Within Timescale throughout the year (Former NI 66)	81.4%	85%	90%	90%
LAC 7	LAC as at 31st Mar that Participated in Their Most Recent Statutory Review. (Former C63)	82.3%	85%	90%	90%
HLT 1	CLA - Review Health Assess	91.7%	93%	94%	95%
HLT 2	CLA - Review Health Assess (u5)	100%	100%	100%	100%
HLT 3	CLA - Dental Checks	85.5%	85%	90%	90%
HLT 4	CLA - SDQ's	14.7	14	13	12
HLT 5	CLA - Immunisations Up to Date	85.5%	90%	90%	90%
CL 1	ALL Care Leavers - DCC in Touch	80.9%	85%	90%	95%
CL 2	ALL Care Leavers in Suitable Accommodation	74.7%	80%	85%	87%
CL 3	ALL Care Leavers in Education, Employment or Training	39.1%	50%	60%	70%
CL 4	ALL Care Leavers Not in Education, Employment or Training	41.7%			
RA 7	Percentage Authorised in 45 working days (Single Assessments)	77.3%	75%	80%	85%
RA 11	Initial Conferences within 15 working days of Section 47 Start Date	66.5%	70%	75%	80%
RA 12	Transfer In Conferences within 15 working days of Referral date	66.7%	70%	75%	80%
CPP 4	% who became the subject of a plan for a second or subsequent time (Ever)	26.4%	25%	20%	15%
CPP 5	% who became the subject of a plan for a second or subsequent time (Last 2yrs)	12.4%	10%	8%	6%
CPP 7	% who ceased to be the subject of a CPP during the Year (after 2 or more years) (NI 64)	5.1%	3.5%	2%	1%
CPP 8	Child protection cases which were reviewed within required timescales	86.3%	90%	95%	100%
	Recruitment of foster carers – net increase in fostering households in the year		30	35	40
	Average number of cases per child and family social worker	19.3	18	17	16
	Agency social worker rate (%) at 30 September	13.7%	12%	8%	4%
	Children's social worker: Turnover rate (%) during year	18.8%	15%	8%	5%
Service Priority	Every child has an up-to-date plan (created or updated within the past 12 months)		85%	100%	100%
Service Priority	Every child has an up-to-date assessment (authorised or updated within the past 12 months)		85%	100%	100%