



Report to CYPF Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee 09.03.2015

Report of: Jayne Ludlam Executive Director Children Young People and Families Service

Subject: Looked After Children and Care Leavers Annual Report

Author of Report: Jon Banwell, Assistant Director Children and Families Service.

Summary: Update on the progress of Sheffield's Looked After Children and Care Leavers.

Type of item: The report author should tick the appropriate box

Reviewing of existing policy	
Informing the development of new policy	
Statutory consultation	
Performance / budget monitoring report	
Cabinet request for scrutiny	
Full Council request for scrutiny	
Community Assembly request for scrutiny	
Call-in of Cabinet decision	
Briefing paper for the Scrutiny Committee	x
Other	

The Scrutiny Committee is being asked to:

- Consider the progress of our Looked After Children and Care Leavers.
- Note the progress of the Looked After Adopted Children and Care Leaver Strategy 2014.
- Note the Intention to publish a revised and updated Looked After Adopted Children and Care Leaver Strategy in 2015.

Background Papers:

- Independent Reviewing Service Annual Report
- Annual Looked After Children Health Report
- Report on the Sheffield Youth Justice Plan
- Ofsted Action Plan

Category of Report: OPEN

Report of the Director of CYPF

Update on the progress of Sheffield's Looked After Children and Care Leavers

1. Introduction/Context

- 1.1 There were 529 Children in Care in Sheffield in January 2015.
- 1.2 The proportion of Sheffield's 0 -17 year old population who are in care is currently 46 per 10000. This is below the national average of 60 children in care per 10000 and significantly below the statistical neighbour average of 76 per 10000 (2014 data).
- 1.3 Approximately three out of every five Sheffield Children in Care are male compared with the roughly 50:50 gender profile of the 0-17 year old population as a whole. Similarly, there are differences with the age profile too, 58% being 10 or above compared with 43% for the city as a whole.
- 1.4 The ethnicity profile of the Children in Care population is much more in line with that of the city; 28.5% BME compared with 30% for the 0 - 17 year old population as a whole.
- 1.5 The numbers of Children in Care have continued to reduce as a consequence of placing focus on delivering permanence for children. This has resulted in, the number of children who ceased to be looked after during the year changing from 225 in 2010/11 to 315 in 2012/13, and 264 in 2013/14. Of these, the number of children who have ceased to be looked after due to permanence, either through adoption, Residence Orders or Special Guardianship Orders, has increased from 72 in 2010/11 to 116 in 2012/13 and 83 in 2013/14.

2. Main body of report, matters for consideration, etc

- 2.1 The new 2014/15 Looked After, Adopted Children and Care Leaver Strategy was launched in June 2014. This is a joint statement of intent between Sheffield City Council and our partner agencies to work together to deliver the best outcomes we can for children who come into and leave our care.
- 2.2 Key objectives and actions in this strategy have been determined by local and national priorities, and in consultation with children and young people. They are:
 - Engagement and Influence (involvement) of children and young people who are in care
 - Educational attainment and achievement
 - Health and well-being
 - Permanence
 - Integrated placements and placement stability
 - Safeguarding and vulnerability

- Care leavers
- 2.3 A LAAC Strategy Service Business Plan Success Measures Dashboard has been developed to allow for the key indicators for Children in Care and Care Leavers to be measured and monitored on a regular basis.
- 2.4 The Dashboard is updated and presented to every Corporate Parenting Board.
- 2.5 The indicators are measured against targets to show performance towards target, the trend and benchmarked against national, core city and statistical neighbours.
- 2.6 The latest information (end of January 2015) showed that Sheffield is on or above target with:
- Numbers of children in care
 - Rate of children in care per 10,000
 - % of children in care who have had 3 or more placements in the previous 12 months
 - % of children in care in the same placement for at least 2 years
 - % of children in care with up to date SDQs
 - % of children in care with a permanence outcome
 - % of children in care placed within 20 miles of their home address
 - Average time between children entering care and being placed for adoption
 - Average time between placement order and match to adoptive carers
 - % of care leavers who have a pathway plan
 - % of young offenders who reoffend
 - % of child protection reviews carried out within timescale

Is below target but shows an improving trend for:

- % of children in care with up to date health assessments
- % of children in care with up to date dental assessments
- % of children in care with up to date immunisations and vaccinations
- % of children in care with an up to date PEP (January Data now shows further increase to 75.1%)

Needs to improve towards target for:

- % of reviews of children in care carried out within timescale
- % of children in care aged 4 and over who participate in their review
- % of care leavers aged 19-21 in suitable accommodation
- % of care leavers aged 19-21 in EET
- Rate of first time entrants 10-17 into the criminal justice system

3. 2014 Progress Report / 2015 Proposed Actions

Priority 1 – Engagement and Influence of Looked After Children and Young People

What we achieved in 2014

- 3.1 The Sheffield City Council Children's Involvement Team commenced implementing a new Children in Care Council (CiCC) from October 2014.

- 3.2 Since taking over the task in October the Children's Involvement Team have been speaking to other CiCC's in the region for ideas and advice who have all identified recruitment has one of the biggest challenges. Recruitment has therefore been one of the main focuses of the work undertaken in Sheffield to date:
- An Information evening was held in November; five young people attended. The event was advertised by attending team meetings, emailing Social Workers and IROs with new publicity materials, visiting all the residential homes and advertising on the Foster Carer Forum.
 - A workshop was held on Saturday 15th November for interested members to get to know each other and to give the council a kick start.
 - The Children Involvement Team has attended a drop in at the charity organisation SOVA and four young people expressed an interest.
- 3.3 After these events it was decided to carry out a series of home visits to see young people face to face, ensuring they had the reassurance of meeting the Children Involvement Team and be given an opportunity to ask any questions they may have. The Children Information Team has visited eight young people in addition to the young people who attended the information evening.
- 3.4 The first (revised) CiCC meeting was held on Thursday 8th January. Although the numbers still seem small, the Children Involvement Team feels that they are starting to attract a positive interest. They are hoping to achieve 8-10 committed members by Spring 2015. It is encouraging to note that new members are already starting to recruit friends and relatives to the group.
- 3.5 The Children Involvement Team have started working with Service Managers across Children and Families service to set up a rolling recruitment programme. They have discovered that maintaining members and gaining new ones is an ongoing difficulty for all CiCCs, so they have decided to offer home visits to anyone interested throughout the year. As well as this they will hold an annual recruitment event for any young people who have come into care that year or have turned 13.
- 3.6 The Sheffield Pledge to the children and young people in our care <https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/caresupport/childfam/children-in-our-care/sheffield-pledge.html> contains 6 key promises / expectations of us as a local authority.
- 3.7 In consultation with the Children in Care Council a "Children in Care Tell Us What You Think" survey based on the Sheffield Pledge was completed. Two versions of the survey were sent out during the third week in October 2014. The decision was made to send out paper copies following members of the Children in Care Council checking with a range of young people how they would prefer to receive the survey. The overwhelming response was in a paper format.

- 3.8 We sent 250 surveys to the 0 -12 year olds and 260 surveys to the 13 – 17 year old. Total number of responses 0-12 years 78 **out of 250** = 31% and 13-18 years 41 **out of 260** = 16%
- 3.9 All responses were collated and the following partners/services were required to respond, by identifying key areas for their service to address, individually or in partnership; Health, Virtual School, Adoption and Fostering, Independent Reviewing Service, Principal Child and Family Social Worker, Residential, Permanence and ThroughCare service.
- 3.10 The Children in Care Responses and Action Report has been written in plain, accessible language so it can be shared widely with children and young people. It was presented to the Corporate Parenting Board 10th February.
- 3.13 Other Key Developments
- Children in Care and Young Carers continue to be involved in the recruitment process for social work managers and social workers.
 - Kids of Foster Carers 'R' Us Group continues and is well established. The group are consulted with as and when appropriate in regard to service developments or initiatives, and on-going self-evaluation of the group is in place.
 - Consultation with children takes place for children in care as part of the Looked After Children Statutory Review process.

2015 Priorities

We plan to : -

- 3.14 Look at creating appropriate branding for the new Children in Care Council and set up their own website.
- 3.15 Look at the results of the Looked After Children survey (which asked questions based on “The Pledge”) and consider what issues the care council members feel are most important for looked after children and young people. The Children in Care council will to work on 2-3 issues for the year.
- 3.15 Consider holding “Let’s talk about.....” sessions for some of the key projects that they’re working on. This would involve inviting relevant professionals who have a particular interest in the issue to a workshop run by the CiCC. The aim of the session would be come up with a visual action plan to move the issue forward.
- 3.16 Link the Children in Care council and the Corporate Parenting Board

So that there are joint meetings to ensure that there is joint oversight of the pledge and the Children in Care Responses and Action Report

Priority 2 - Educational Achievement and Attainment

What we achieved in 2014

- 3.17 During 2014 the Virtual School for Looked After Children has developed its role to promote the educational achievement of Children in Care and to challenge schools and providers to ensure that Children in Care have the best possible education. Key developments include:
- Access – The Virtual School has monitored closely the number of children placed in schools judged by OFSTED to be good/outstanding. We have challenged any plan to place a child in care at a school judged to be inadequate or requiring improvement. We have worked with social workers to understand better and agree the rationale for placing one of our children in such schools.
 - Pupil Premium for Children in Care – Throughout the year the Virtual School has ensured that all schools of eligible children/ young people have received their Pupil Premium allocation in line with the Sheffield policy. Schools have been advised on best practice in the use of the grant, and have been challenged to make better use of it.
 - Personal Education Plans – Following the establishment of a secure electronic system to write and store plans, there has been a significant improvement in the number of in-date plans, and the number of them that are of good quality. There have been improvements in the use of the plans as working documents that can be amended when appropriate rather than when there is a formal review.
 - Special Educational Needs – The Virtual School has worked in partnership with schools to ensure that good quality plans are in place and delivered to ensure special educational needs are met, and to ensure they receive the funding to manage those needs. Statements of Special Educational Needs, or Education Health Care Plans, are included in the Personal Education Plan.
 - Enrichment Activities – A number of additional activities have been commissioned and delivered to enhance and enrich the educational experience of our children and young people. These include the Y6 Intensive Study Programme delivered by the University of Sheffield; a Y6.
 - Residential visit to Whirlow Farm; a Y7 Basketball Day delivered by Sheffield Sharks; the 'Go Further, Go Higher' programme for Y10/11 held jointly by Sheffield University and Sheffield Hallam University; an introduction to Sheffield College; the Letterbox programme that sent personalised reading materials, games and exercises directly to Y3/5/7 children.
 - Training – The Virtual School has delivered training and conferences to social workers, foster carers, independent reviewing officers, residential homes staff, designated teachers and other groups of teachers including senior leadership teams and support staff. As a result there is a better understanding among partners of the

importance of stable educational placements and the role of the Virtual School.

- 3.18 Staffing in the Virtual School has been strengthened through the appointment of good quality candidates following the departure of three members of staff.

What we plan to do in 2015

- 3.19 In 2015 we are keen to build on the partnerships we have established over the last two years. In particular we are keen to develop links with the Children in Care Council so that their voice is heard in everything we do.
- 3.20 Access – continue to ensure that each Looked After Child is educated within a school that best meets their needs, and seek to increase the number educated in ‘good’ or ‘outstanding’ schools.
- 3.21 Pupil Premium – develop and promote examples of best practice in the use of Pupil Premium for Children in Care.
- 3.22 Attendance and Exclusions – challenge schools and care professionals to improve the engagement of Children in Care in education provision by increasing attendance and reducing exclusions.
- 3.23 Personal Education Plans – revise the template to make the document more child and user friendly.
- 3.24 Free Early Learning – challenge care and education professionals to ensure that all 2, 3 & 4 year old Children in Care have access to Free Early Learning
- 3.25 Not in Education Employment or Training (NEET) – work in partnership with the post-16 services and providers to ensure that each Year 11 Children in Care is able to progress into post-16 learning appropriate to their individual needs and aspirations.
- 3.26 Emotional and Mental Health – improve the knowledge and understanding in schools of attachment and the mental health of Children in Care.

Priority 3 - Health and Well Being

What we achieved in 2014

- 3.27 During 2014 there has been a focus on ensuring the health assessment information reflects the child and young person’s current circumstances and through partnership working establishing processes that will ensure that health assessments are timely and robust and monitoring is in place to further ensure this.
- 3.28 All children and young people have access to GP and the services of a school nurse, health visitor or a specialist LAC nurse. A dental nurse is

available at Star House for young people and there is a midwife who supports young people as appropriate.

- 3.29 Training for health professionals has further raised the health needs of Children in Care and there has been an improvement in the quality of the health assessments.
- 3.30 The percentages of dental checks have improved.
- 3.31 Immunisation rates are in line with comparator areas.

What we plan to do in 2015

- 3.32 During 2015 there will be further partnership working to ensure that health assessments are timely, robust and meet quality standards Monitoring is in place to further ensure this.
- 3.33 To improve the dental health of Children in Care and Care Leavers and to ensure that all Children in Care and Care Leavers are adequately immunised. Public Health England have supported a time limited project to support the increase in dental and immunisation performance and to recommend long term sustainability of this.
- 3.34 To review the effectiveness and access of prevention and early identification of substance misuse problems amongst Children in Care, adopted children and care leavers.
- 3.35 Ensure that CYPS policy and procedures with regards health are up to date to support staff in their day to day responsibilities.
- 3.36 To review access to CAMHS, MAPS & Forensic CAMHS in order to plan for the future delivery of services. Along with this to undertake an Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaires with all Children in Care aged 4-16 years who have been accommodated for 12 months and incorporate this into the statutory holistic health assessment.
- 3.37 To review referral pathways into sexual health services to ensure they meet the needs of the young person and identify those at risk as the earliest opportunity.
- 3.38 Provide further training to foster carers on the health needs of Children in Care (including sexual health) and health assessments.

Priority 4 Permanence

What we achieved in 2014

- 3.39 During 2014 an audit and review of children subject to a SHOBP (Should be placed for adoption) and/or Placement Order was completed to ensure that their plan remains adoption or to amend SHOBP and discharge the Placement Order as appropriate.

- 3.40 Robust tracking and monitoring systems have been established and in place in regard to children that have an adoption plan or a permanence plan. This includes monthly tracking meetings at each area site, agency prioritisation meetings that include the medical advisors to the local authority and the development of the adoption milestones tracking form.
- 3.41 Recruitment to three additional social work posts within the Adoption Service.
- 3.42 In November 2014 it was announced that new funding would become available, through the Adoption Support Fund, to help adoptive families help their children settle into their new homes. The Adoption Service has undertaken a readiness exercise with the nominated Adoption Support Fund link for Sheffield. Areas of strength and development were identified including the development of systems for direct payments.
- 3.43 The Adoption Service continues to work in partnership with the Yorkshire and Humber Adoption Consortium. This consists of 15 local authorities across the region. The Consortium is using funds, from the Adoption Reform Grant, at a regional and sub-regional level over a 3 year period using the regional adoption consortium contract and network as the framework. The purpose of this is to improve the quality of service for children and adopters through faster delivery, sharing best practice, and improved performance management and data reporting. A regional marketing campaign has been developed and will complement marketing activity within each local authority.
- 3.44 The Adoption Service has 'rebranded' and this new image is used within marketing and recruitment alongside the regional approach.

What we plan to do in 2015

- 3.45 Continue to develop monitoring and tracking systems in relation to children subject to a SHOBPA and other permanence options, work is currently being undertaken with Field work Service managers to enable oversight of timeliness of the adoption and permanence process and implementation of the adoption milestones tracking form.
- 3.46 Achieve target for 2014/15 of the approval of 45 adopters
- 3.47 Continue to develop and embed the adoption reforms in response to the government's Action Plan for Adoption including implementing the requirements of the roll out of the Adoption Support Fund
- 3.48 Ensure there are sufficient numbers of adoptive parents in the local area that reflect the needs and diversity of local children waiting to be adopted
- 3.49 Continue to develop and embed regional and sub-regional adoption support mechanisms through the Yorkshire and Humber Adoption Consortium partnership, 'Being Family' as well as further develop and implement Sheffield's marketing plan.
- 3.50 Workforce development and training including delivery of child permanence report writing training to fieldwork and adoption service staff

- 3.51 Ongoing involvement in regional and national activity, for example exchange days and activity days

Priority 5 Integrated Placement Strategy

- 3.52 The Fostering Service Business Case was implemented in October 2010. Actions implemented under the Fostering Business Case have increased the choice, range, number of placements available and the number of foster carers. Please see sections 2.9, 2.10 & 2.11 within Fostering Scrutiny report
- 3.53 We continue carry out sufficiency placement mapping exercises to ensure Sheffield is able to provide the appropriate range of placements within Sheffield for our Children in Care and Care Leavers. We are proactive in placing children in or near Sheffield wherever possible and /or appropriate to do so. The figure for January was 85.6% (453) were placed within 20 miles of their address on becoming looked after.
- 3.54 Sheffield is one of 12 Local Authorities who are part of the White Rose Regional Consortium. The consortium collaboratively commission and quality assure a range of children's services with the aim of achieving: quality assurance; robust information sharing protocols; a consistent regional contract management framework; provider markets responsive to demand and need; regional strategic commissioning, and; value for money. A Contract Management and Monitoring Group has been established to undertake the Contract Management for all Frameworks, the group consists of representatives from 12 Local Authorities from the Region.
- Residential - There are approximately 48 Providers and in excess of 300 homes on the current framework
 - Fostering - Sheffield joined this framework in Feb 2013. There are 28 Providers on the IFA Framework.
- 3.55 Children in Care who have many changes of placement fare worse than those who do not in terms of psychological, social and academic outcomes. Placement moves often entail a change of school and can also have an impact on health care due to the time taken to transfer records and set up new appointments. Within Sheffield, Children in Care with 3 or more placements have decreased from 13% in 2014 to 9% at the end of December. Approximately 2% of the annual improvement is likely due to the recording of missing placements for Children in Care being removed from the calculation, however performance at the end of December still represents a good improvement against comparators.
- 3.56 Children in Care remaining in the same placement for 2 years or more was in line with comparators at 69% in 2014, this improved to 74% by the end of October and has since dropped to 73%; this still represents good performance.
- 3.57 The Staying Put policy has been revised and updated. The "Staying Put" initiative is in regard to extending children/young people's transition to adulthood within a family and household supported environment. The

intention is to ensure young people can remain with their former foster carers until they are prepared for adulthood, can experience a transition akin to their peers, avoid social exclusion and be more likely to avert a subsequent housing and tenancy breakdown. We currently have 12 Staying Put placements.

- 3.58 The Youth Justice Service and the Fostering Service remand fostering initiative continues to be successful with 27 placements

What we plan to do in 2015

- 3.59 The 2015 Children in Care and Leaving Care Sufficiency Report is underway with an expected completion date of March 31st
- 3.60 Continue our work with the White Rose Regional Procurement project to procure a range of placements from external providers
- 3.61 Continue to progress the fostering recruitment and retention business case to maximise our range of in house foster placements.
- 3.62 Continue to monitor and support our in house residential children's homes.

Priority 6 Safeguarding and Vulnerability

What we achieved in 2014

Young People who go missing

- 3.63 A clear system has been established jointly with South Yorkshire Police and partners for the reporting and monitoring of children who go missing from care. This includes enhancing the process whereby every child who goes missing is spoken with by the police and relevant care staff to support the efforts to prevent further missing episodes.
- 3.64 A six month update report was presented to the Safeguarding Operational Board in November.
- 3.65 There are structures and processes in place to complete the analysis of the data. 'Absent' and 'missing' will continue to be monitored within each three month period.
- 3.66 Although numbers of reported missing has gone up, this can actually indicate a positive change that risk and vulnerability is being assessed correctly and in a timely manner.
- 3.67 A South Yorkshire plan to commission services supporting the 'missing' agenda is being developed
- 3.68 A multi-agency approach is being developed to tackle the particular issue of unaccompanied asylum seekers going missing and not coming back.

Young People Placed in Sheffield from other areas

- 3.69 To ensure compliance with the Amendments to the Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (England) Regulations 2010 (the "Care Planning Regulations") which created new requirements for local authorities making distant placements to consult with children's services in the area of placement, and for the Director of Children's Services (DCS) of the responsible authority to approve these placements a document in the form of a letter has been written by the Priority 6 group on behalf of the Director of Children's Services outlining the procedure for notification by local authorities wanting to place children in Sheffield and also information about relevant contacts and services for LAAC.
- 3.70 A Single Point of Contact has been identified to co-ordinate requests for information, ensure placements are recorded appropriately and ensure all receiving services have appropriate information to ensure all needs, including safeguarding needs are met.

Children's Homes Location Assessment

- 3.71 In response to the changes in legislation namely *The Children's Homes and Looked after Children (Miscellaneous Amendments) (England) Regulations 2013* introduced the following changes to the *Children's Homes Regulations 2001* and the *Registration Regulations* and the Children's Homes regulations amendments 2014 which put new duties on providers to:
- carry out a risk assessment of the area before the opening of the home and at regular intervals for existing provisions,
 - put in place appropriate safeguards where risks had been identified before a home opens or where new risks appear over time
 - collaborate with the police and the Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB) at all stages of this process, not just in putting the safeguards in place but also in trying to identify the risks in the first place.
- 3.72 A Location Assessment has been completed on all existing children's homes.
- 3.73 The assessment report considered information provided by various agencies on local crime statistics, deprivation issues, safeguarding issues, CSE, public protection issues, education provision, health services, leisure, sports and local voluntary provisions.
- 3.74 Where analysis identifies concerns about the location, the manager of an existing home will have developed strategies for supporting children in their care to manage any safeguarding concerns and,

Restorative Justice Training

- 3.75 Restorative Justice Training was provided to all staff in the Youth Justice Service, Children's mainstream Residential Service and to several foster carers.
- 3.76 The training was delivered in a mixed multi-agency format with representatives from each of the three services receiving the training together.

- 3.77 This has enabled all who attended to learn the key principles of restorative justice techniques and the skills required to develop and embed a restorative approach within children's homes and foster homes to prevent young people entering the criminal justice system whilst supporting staff to intervene confidently. South Yorkshire police have also identified link officers from those based within the community youth teams, who regularly visit children's homes to build positive relationships with staff and young people.

Child Sexual Exploitation

- 3.78 The Children's Sexual Exploitation Service has reduced vulnerability and increased safeguarding against the risk of sexual exploitation of children by enhancing staff awareness and training the children's workforce on risks and indicators. The multi-agency sexual exploitation service have provided training throughout children's services and now provide a link person to each Children's home to offer advice and support to children young people and staff.
- 3.79 The Children's Sexual Exploitation Service has received positive feedback from a number of homes regarding the link workers and the work they have done with staff and residents, recent requests have been made for further training which will be provided.
- 3.80 In response to the Jay Report into Children's Sexual Exploitation an internal review of the service against the 15 recommendations of the report has been completed and disseminated.
- 3.81 Sheffield City Council has also completed an internal review of Children's Sexual Exploitation services across the city which was published in December.
- 3.82 The Children's Sexual Exploitation Service is a partner in a social care innovation bid with the aim of providing wrap around Children's Sexual Exploitation and CAMHS support for young people at risk of Child Sexual Exploitation.

Reducing Re-Offending

- 3.83 Both nationally and locally, the success of prevention and diversion programmes has produced a large decrease in the numbers of young people entering the youth justice system at any level. This means that the smaller cohorts who do are necessarily more troubled and more entrenched in anti-social or criminal environments.
- 3.84 The Youth Justice Service recognises the importance of understanding the changing characteristics of the reoffending cohort and to target our resources most effectively to deal with both increased risk and increased vulnerability and has completed an analysis of re-offending patterns.
- 3.85 The Youth Justice Service has become a member of the Youth Justice Board's reducing reoffending project, which has given them access to a number of analytical tools and useful prompts on what to consider when looking at the results.

- 3.86 With regard to young people who are in care who enter the criminal justice system, whilst the number of individual children is on target to not rise, our analysis has shown that the percentage of looked after children who reoffend once entering the system is disproportionately high.
- 3.87 At the time of reporting the youth justice service is setting out a reducing reoffending action plan which will have a section dedicated to work focused on reducing the number of children and young people who are, or who have been looked after from Reoffending.
- 3.88 This is recognised as a priority area of work for the youth justice service and will be incorporated within the priority 6 groups plan.
- 3.89 A new Independent Reviewing Officer has been appointed to specifically review the Assessment, Planning and Interventions for young people whom become looked after as a result of being remanded and will be working alongside the Youth Justice Service and custodial establishments to develop this area of work. This will also provide an opportunity for data collection and analysis.

What we plan to do in 2015

- 3.90 Continue to develop the CSE offer to children who are looked after and care leavers. This will include a continuation of support through maintaining the link worker in children's homes, delivering training and multi-agency awareness-raising in all who work with children and young people, including foster carers etc.
- 3.91 Progress the development of the joint working protocol for Sheffield, to enhance and deliver early intervention and diversion from the criminal justice system, will be complemented by an across county protocol to further reduce the prosecution of looked after children across South Yorkshire.
- 3.92 Revise and develop our multi agency Tackling Offending protocol to ensure compliance with all new legislation and guidance.
- 3.93 To minimise the numbers of children and young people who are, or who have been, looked after from entering the criminal justice system and providing swift and effective holistic interventions to ensure that those who do enter the criminal justice system are supported and achieve positive outcomes.

Priority 7 Care Leavers

What we achieved in 2014

- 3.94 The CLIC event in November was a success and was developed after listening to the feedback from young people who were asking for a different event for older Children in Care and Care Leavers. This will be an annual event.

- 3.95 Regular meetings have taken place to examine the young people who are Not In Education or training (NEET). This has examined the training needs of the workforce i.e. motivational interviewing. Examining whether There should posts that can develop young people's English skills, support for dyslexia and speech and language support. In the next month we will have clear profiles of the young people that fit into this category.
- 3.96 It is recognised that due to the unique needs of care experienced young people they may require additional support when beginning to think about their own tenancies. In order that we can ensure this group of young people have the best possible start in this area we are currently looking at a Tenancy Ready course. In Sheffield there are some of these course already on offer and we need to examine which one best fits with the needs of this group. It is felt that the housing will not be in specific areas. It is hoped that this will be up and running in 6 months.

What we plan to do in 2015

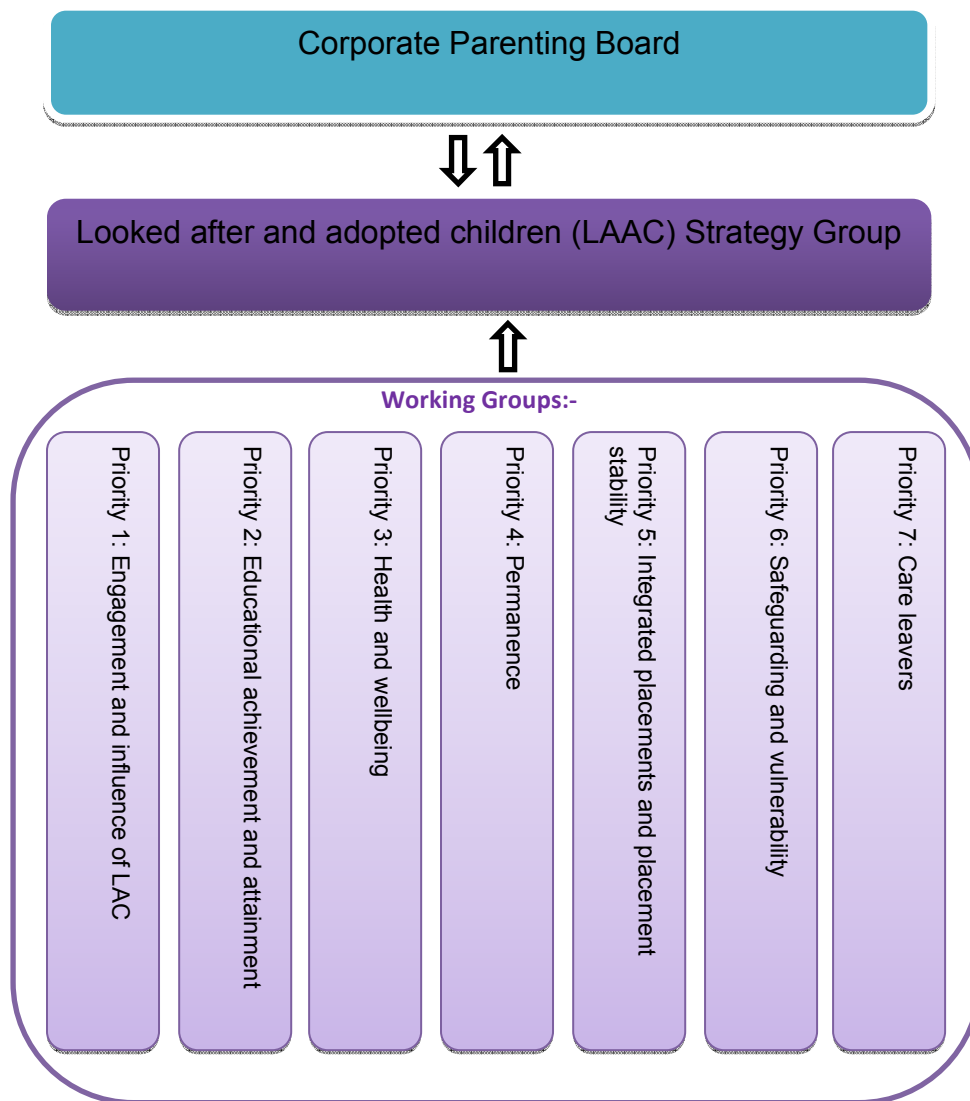
- 3.97 In 2015 there will be work developed around the area of transitions. For some young people it is clear that they will require additional support when they become independent. These young people will begin to be identified at the age of 14 plus and the needs will be part of the pathway plan. Once they reach 16 an Adult Questionnaire will be completed by the Social Worker in PTC team along with a worker from the Children's Disability Team (CDT). This will then be presented to the TM in CDT and PTC to ensure that the needs of the young person will be met on transition to adulthood. The Team Manager in CDT will ensure that she supports people in this area.
- 3.98 In 2015 we will be working more closely with the bench marking forum to examine what is working well in other authorities to establish positive working models in Sheffield. The revised staying put policy will be launched and will include briefings to all social workers and foster carers across the city.

4. Corporate Parenting Oversight

Corporate Parenting responsibilities are identified at three levels

- Universal Responsibility (Level 1) - All Elected Members and Managers
- Targeted Responsibility (Level 2) - Councillors undertaking visits to Children's homes members of Fostering and Adoption panel, other Looked After and Adopted Children and Care Leavers reference groups
- Specialist Responsibility (Level 3) - Lead Member for Children's Services, Director of Children's Services and Chairs of Corporate Parenting Groups / Boards.

Within Sheffield the Looked After, Adopted Children and Care Leaver Strategy Governance structure is as described below



The Corporate Parenting Board meets on a bi-monthly basis. Each meeting receives specific reports

- Performance Management (Ofsted Inspection Action Plan)
- Regulation 33 Reports (Placement Reports)
- Specific Priority Updates / Reports.

A new revised and updated Looked After, Adopted Children and Care Leaver Strategy will be published in June 2015.

5. Recommendation

5.1 The Committee are being asked to note the report and its contents.

6. Appendices



Fostering Scrutiny
Report - Feb 2015 v2