

Corporate Parenting Committee Report

Date of Meeting: 18 September 2018

Report Title: Corporate Parenting Performance Scorecard – Qtr 4, 2017-18

Portfolio Holder: Cllr Jos Saunders, Portfolio Holder for Children and Families

Senior Officer: Nigel Moorhouse, Director of Children's Social Care

1. Report Summary

- 1.1. This report and the attached performance scorecard provide an overview of performance across corporate parenting services for quarter 4 of 2017-18.

2. Recommendation/s

- 2.1. Committee is recommended to:
- a. Note the contents of the report and scorecard; and
 - b. Scrutinise areas where expected levels of performance are not being met.

3. Reasons for Recommendation/s

- 3.1. One of the key areas of focus for the Corporate Parenting Committee is to highlight areas of poor performance and to scrutinise the effectiveness of plans in place to improve services. The Committee has an important role to play in the performance management systems of the local authority. The corporate parenting performance scorecard provides essential data, along with qualitative information, to measure the effectiveness of services that are supporting cared for children and care leavers. This report and scorecard is provided to Committee on a quarterly basis to enable it to maintain an overview of performance across the Service.

4. Other Options Considered

- 4.1. Committee may want to consider the performance of the Service more or less frequently.

5. Background

5.1. This quarterly report provides the Committee with an overview of performance across corporate parenting services. This report and scorecard relates to quarter 4 of 2017-18 (1st January – 31st March 2018).

5.2. The performance scorecard details the following:

- Measure – details of each performance measure
- Polarity – whether it is good to have the measure high or low
- Statistical neighbour average – gives a comparator against local authorities with similar characteristics to Cheshire East. Cheshire East's statistical neighbours in rank order are:
 - Cheshire West and Chester
 - Warwickshire
 - Central Bedfordshire
 - Warrington
 - Hampshire
 - North Yorkshire
 - East Riding of Yorkshire
 - Solihull
 - North Somerset
 - West Berkshire
- National average – gives a national comparator figure
- Target – this is either a national target, eg, adoption timeliness, or a local one set by the service to provide a 'good/outstanding' service
- Year end 2016-17 – enables Members to compare existing performance to that in the previous year
- Quarterly performance – enables Members to compare performance from quarter to quarter
- RAG – this is a rating of red, amber, green based on current performance against the expected level of performance
- Direction of travel – this provides the direction of travel this quarter and whether this is positively or negatively in an upward/downward trajectory or static
- Comments – this provides a general commentary on the information presented
- C&YP Plan Priority – links the measure to the relevant priority within the Children and Young People's Plan
- Corporate Priority – links the measure to the relevant priority within the Council's Corporate Plan

6. Performance Overview

6.1. The performance scorecard at Appendix 1 includes 43 separate measures covering all areas of the service. Some of these measures are non-performance related, eg those that relate to population cohorts. In total, 34

of these measures relate to performance and have been RAG rated. A breakdown summary is set out follows (it is not possible to compare to the previous quarter due to the change in measures:

Performance Measures	Red	Amber	Green	n/a	Total
This quarter	2	12	20	9	43

7. Red RAG rated performance

- 7.1. There continues to be some areas of performance that are RAG rated as red. Activity is underway in all these areas to address under-performance.
- 7.2. The percentage of children ceased to be looked after due to adoption. The year to date figure at 10% in quarter 4 is below our target of 20%. There are, however, a high number on a plan for adoption, including some placed with adopters. Becoming a Regional Adoption Agency (RAA) has impacted on our adoption performance due to the complexity of the move, alongside an increasing number of children requiring adoption and a decrease in available adopters. However, we are optimistic about the longer term outcomes that these arrangements will bring.
- 7.3. We had a primary exclusion in quarter 4. This relates to a child who had been excluded from school in Lancashire. A challenge was made to this decision, but it was not overturned despite a letter from our Director of Children's Services to the Chair of Governors for the school. The appeal was not successful. This child is now accessing education in a different provision however it is to be recognised that the journey for this child was a challenging one and one in which the Local Authority gave rigorous challenge to another local authority about their decision to permanently exclude.

8. Performance Direction of Travel

- 8.1. Whilst it is important to look at the current performance around particular measures, it is equally important to look at the direction of travel and to RAG rate this in relation to performance, ie, whether this is improving (green), staying broadly the same (amber) or getting worse (red). A summary of the direction of travel of performance across the service is detailed overleaf:

Direction of Travel	Red	Amber	Green	n/a	Total
This quarter	2	15	18	8	43

9. Implications of the Recommendations

9.1. Legal Implications

9.1.1. There are a no direct legal implications.

9.2. Finance Implications

9.2.1. Although there are no direct financial implications related to this report, performance measures may be used as an indicator of where more or less funding is needed at a service level.

9.3. Equality Implications

9.3.1. Members may want to use the performance scorecard to ensure that services are targeted at more vulnerable children and young people.

9.4. Human Resources Implications

9.4.1. None.

9.5. Risk Management Implications

9.5.1. There are risks associated with some performance measures, eg increases in demand and timeliness of services.

9.6. Rural Communities Implications

9.6.1. There are no direct implications for rural communities.

9.7. Implications for Children & Young People

9.7.1. This performance scorecard sets out a range of measures that impact on services for children and young people and their families.

9.8. Public Health Implications

9.8.1. There are no direct implications for public health.

10. Ward Members Affected

10.1. The performance measures relate to all ward areas.

11. Consultation & Engagement

11.1. Not applicable.

12. Access to Information

12.1. The scorecard is attached is attached at Appendix 1.

13. Contact Information

13.1. Any questions relating to this report should be directed to the following officer:

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