



HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

16 APRIL 2019

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD ANNUAL REPORT

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Summary

This report provides a briefing to the Health and Wellbeing Board on the role and challenge function of Medway's Corporate Parenting Board, the key focus and achievements over the last 12 months.

1. Budget and Policy Framework

- 1.1 Corporate Parenting continues to be a high priority for government who have regulated the duties of Councils towards the children in its care through legislation and guidance. This has been reinforced through the Children Act 1989, Children Act 2004, the Children and Young Persons Act 2008 and the Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (England) Regulations 2010 and Care Leavers Regulations 2010 and the Social Work Act 2017.
- 1.2 Improving outcomes for Looked after Children features widely within the 'Council Plan'. Within the priority 'Children and young people have the best start in life in Medway', there are a number of key measures of success covering education and employment for care leavers, accommodation for care leavers, progress on adoption and educational outcomes for Looked After Children (LAC).
- 1.3 The Corporate Parenting Board (CPB) does not hold a budget, although it contributes in its scrutiny function towards achieving timely outcomes for children in care, including permanency arrangements, thereby reducing drift, delay and cost in the placements budget.

2. Background

- 2.1 This annual report to the Health and Wellbeing Board provides the opportunity for review and challenge of the performance of CPB in relation to securing good outcomes for LAC.
- 2.2 Medway's CPB is chaired by the Lead Member for Children's Services.
- 2.3 The Terms of Reference of the CPB are being reviewed and the current version was presented to the CPB and agreed on 19 April 2017. Since then the Board agreed on 2 May 2018 to change the frequency of meetings to six weekly.

3. Structure of the Board and how it carries out its work

- 3.1 The CPB meets bi-monthly with two sub-groups reporting into the Board.
- 3.2 The two sub-groups are Health of LAC and 16 Plus and Care Leavers which are multi-agency sub-groups chaired by a senior officer and meet as a minimum once between each CPB. The Chairs of the sub-groups are core members of the Board and have a standing item on progress made against actions.
- 3.3 Representatives from the Medway Children's and Young People's Council (formerly CiCC) attend every CPB meeting to share their news and issues, as well as being supported to offer challenge and contribution to the work of the group.
- 3.4 The Lead Member for Children's Services, Director of Children and Adults, Deputy Director Children and Adults, Head of Provider Services, Head of Safeguarding and Virtual Head Teacher attend the Children in Care Council meetings, which are led and chaired by the young person who is chair of the CIC Council.
- 3.5 The CPB scrutinises a performance dashboard of data at each meeting in addition to the performance reports of each sub-group.

4. Membership

- Lead Member for Children's Services
- Vice Chair, Chair of Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- Chair of Children in Care Council and Young Lives Apprentice
- Director Children and Adults,
- Deputy Director Children and Adults
- Head of Provider Services.
- Head of Safeguarding
- Elected Members as directed by the Cabinet Advisory Group
- LAC Health Lead
- Virtual Head Teacher
- Youth Offending Team representative
- CAMHS representative.

- Two foster carer representatives.
- One adopter representative.
- Other officers to be required to attend as necessary e.g. housing, further education, children’s commissioning.

5. Board Achievements

5.1 The challenge and scrutiny role of the board is predominantly focused on driving the overarching Looked after Children Strategy 2018-2021.

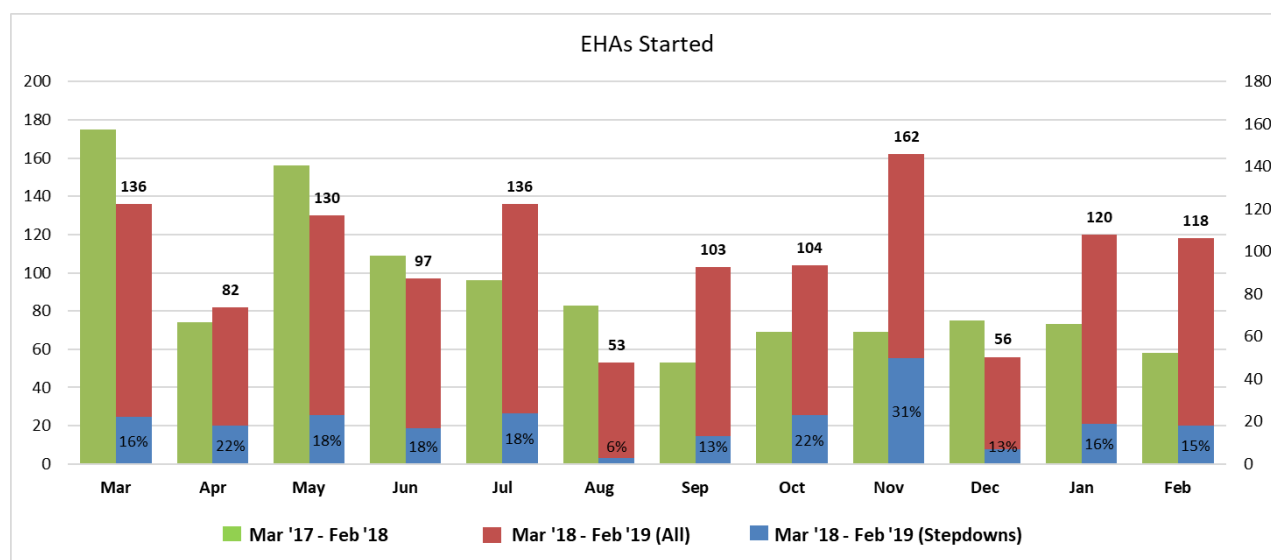
5.2 The LAC Strategy has eight key objectives, which drives the work of the sub groups reporting to the main board.

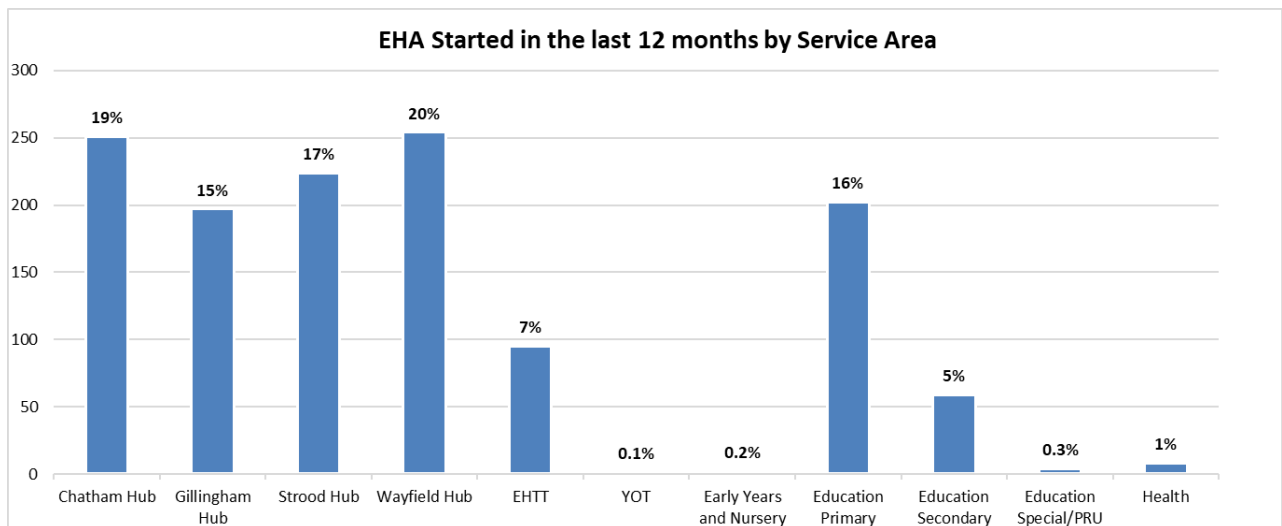
5.3 **Objective 1 - Provide timely and high quality intervention to help children remain with or return to their families, as long as it is safe to do so.**

5.4 Children’s needs are best served in their own families where this can be safely supported. Medway has created four children and family hubs, 9 well-being centres and a number of outreach centres to support Early Help deliver effective interventions in the community.

5.5 The Centres have integrated teams supporting families at the earliest point possible and before needs escalate. These have developed over the last 9 months where partnership arrangements have been strengthened.

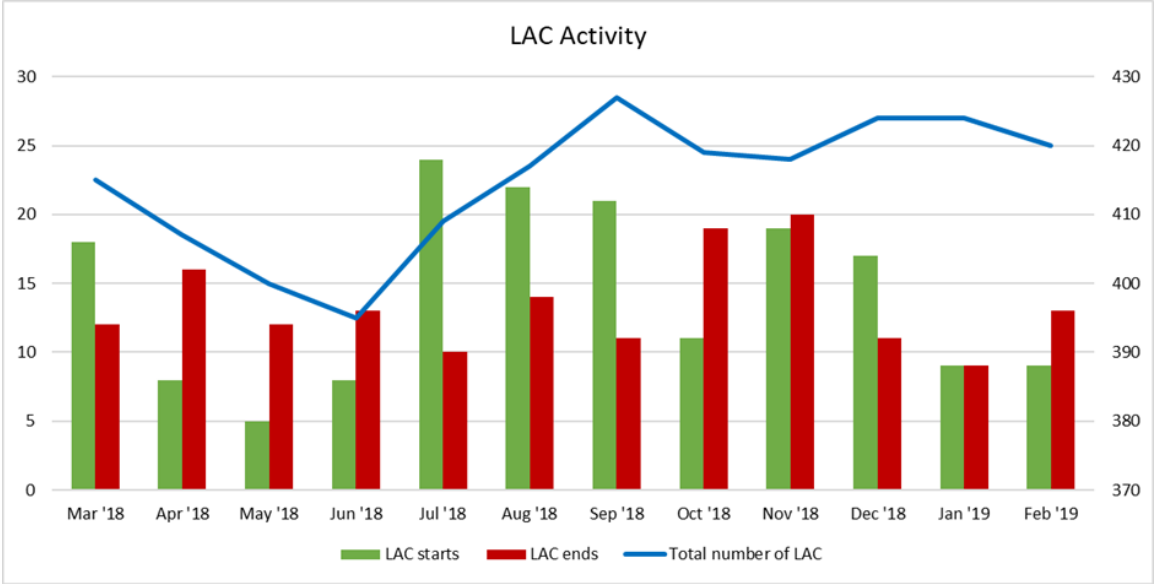
5.6 Success measures in this area include the extent to which Early Help has been mobilised and the volume, scale and quality of intervention undertaken with families. The graph below shows the number of Early Help Assessments (EHAs) carried out. In addition to the Family Support Service, these will also be undertaken by Schools, Health Care Professionals, Voluntary agencies and the wider group of partners.





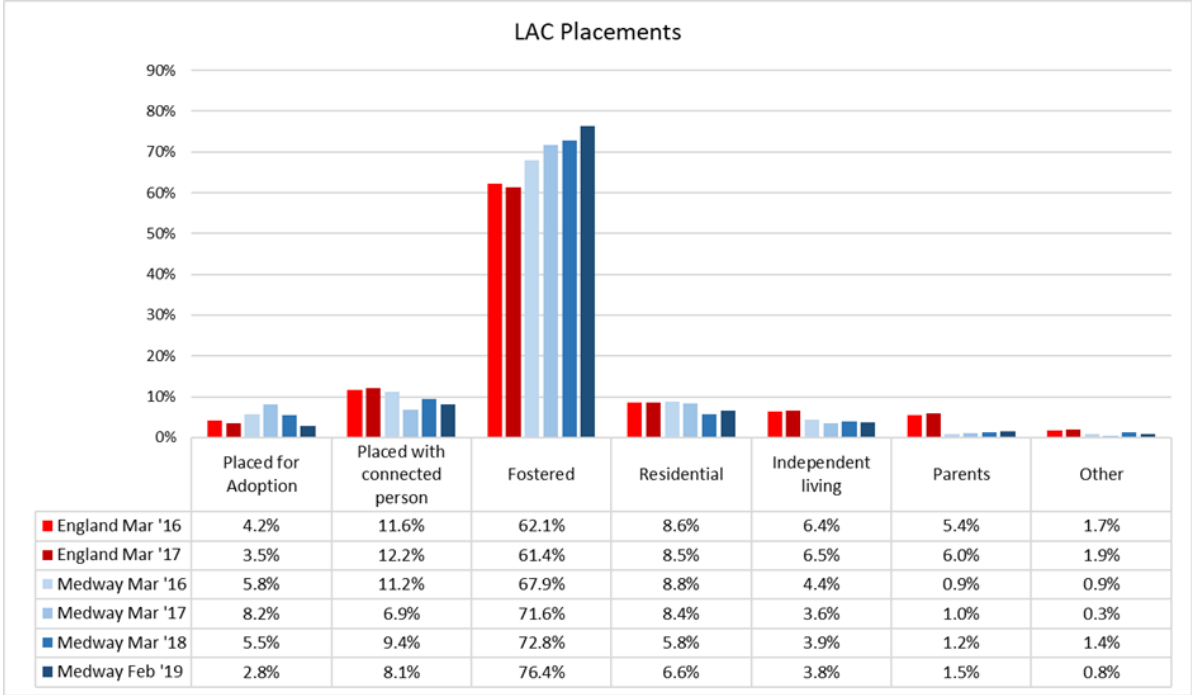
- 5.7 Early Help Audits continue to evidence Early Help and Targeted Services to be judged as a high percentage as 'good'. Positive comments in the recent OFSTED 'focused visit', the 'joint targeted area inspection (JTAI)' and the pilot HMIP inspection of YOT have also been received.
- 5.8 Early Help and Targeted Services have supported a number of children who have been on the 'edge of care'. The service has been responsive to the needs of families and has positively kept children at home. The Board need and want to do more next year in relation to this work and supporting children remain or return home and this is being explored further. This also needs to be within a framework of evaluation and reporting the successes.
- 5.9 The Youth Offending Team (YOT) have developed a 'desistance model' around working with young people and they are developing a 'trauma informed practice' in relation to some of their more complex young people. The Board will be working closely with the YOT to understand this work, the learning and how this can further support children and young people around Adolescent Childhood Experience (ACE).
- 5.10 The Youth Service also have Fostering Mentors supporting looked after children and young people in foster placement. The aim of the mentors is to work with fostering families to support placement stability through a mixture of 1-1 work, group work, open access programmes and identified out of school activities.
- 5.11 Since December 2017, the team have worked with 58 young people in care and one young person on the edge of care. A further six young people have attended the 'In The Know' group work project and two have attended day trips. The team are currently supporting 29 young people.
- 5.12 Young people access support for a variety of reasons. The team report these include: raising self-esteem, improving social interaction, anger management, support going to school, Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), significantly supporting positive changes in behaviour. All these contribute to stabilising and preventing placement breakdown.

- 5.13 Young people value the more informal relationship they have with fostering mentors. They advocate on their behalf by engaging in fun activities with young people. Twenty-four young people achieved certificates for attending the “In the know” project – a fun learning programme on sexual health and substance misuse.
- 5.14 Medway fostering is developing closer partnership links with the fostering mentoring service to develop and extend reach to more young people in foster placement.
- 5.15 Objective 2 - Provide and commission the right mix of placements**
- 5.16 The CPB needs to assure itself that Medway has the right range of placements to meet the assessed needs of our LAC as outlined in our LAC Strategy and Sufficiency Strategy.



- 5.17 The Children’s Commissioning team has been working to embed the first active year of a joint framework for commissioning external fostering placements from Independent Fostering Agencies. The contract is shared with Kent County Council and is based on providers delivering against outcomes for children. Additional work has been done to deliver a Regional Framework across the Local Authorities of the South East for external children’s homes places also an outcome-based contract. Lastly, a more local Framework for Supported and Semi-Independent accommodation including Floating Support is in the final stages of being awarded and also an outcome-based contract.
- 5.18 More of Medway’s young people (an increase of over 4%) are placed with connected carers and these placements are valued as a way of supporting young people to stay within their families and communities. Nationally, 17,250 children and young people have been made the subject of Special Guardianship Orders over the last five years.

5.19 While placements of children within their own families and communities bring benefits for the child, they can also provide additional challenges, which adopters and foster carers do not face, including issues around contact with parents and also lack of preparation to parent children who have suffered trauma. The Connected Carers Team plan to increase the preparation and support to these placements so that they can provide care through to adulthood, which meets the needs of the child.



5.20 Attracting local people to become foster carers remains a key priority. After a slow start to the year with regard to foster carer recruitment, this is now looking much more positive. The work undertaken by a newly appointed Senior Social Worker for recruitment and a Recruitment Officer has seen a recent increase in households in assessment and expressing an interest in fostering. There has also been an increase in carers with Independent Fostering Agencies inquiring about transferring in to Medway and no carers have been lost to IFA's.

5.21 The last year has seen some movement in the number of foster carers resigning. While there are a cohort of carers naturally reaching retirement stage, there has and is an additional cohort being investigated under standards of care. Medway fostering are working to upskill foster carers to manage and support more complex placements. It is anticipated this will continue in 2019, as the service is improving the standard and quality of care for Medway children. Currently, there are 14 families in assessment with a further eight households at preparation stage in March 2019.

5.22 A key priority for this last year was to increase the number of in-house Parent and Child placements. It is pleasing to report that the number of these placements in-house has increased from three to 10 with at least three more in assessment. A further family are seeking change of approval to include Parent and Child. It is anticipated that one of these new approvals will be able

to take two parents and child, which will provide an additional resource. Such placements are very hard to source nationally.

- 5.23 The service are also in the early stages of setting up a short breaks service with the 0-25 team to provide care to children with disabilities in order to give their parents a break.
- 5.24 Placement stability and improved quality of therapeutic parenting in placement has been a focus of the Fostering Team in the last year. Training has been given to all foster carers and this work has been supplemented by the Family Support Worker who supports placements and enables carers to parent more therapeutically. The service is working with NSPCC to deliver a reflective fostering group work programme, of which nine households are currently participating. The aim of the programme is to help carers understand children's disruptive behaviours and support the emotional wellbeing of children placed in their care. Feedback to date has been positive with a view to extending this programme to foster carer's induction.
- 5.25 Fostering mentors provided by the Youth Service have also contributed very positively to placement stability and recent research into the effectiveness of this service shows high levels of satisfaction from carers and young people supported by the service. A new framework for Independent Fostering Agencies has been commissioned. As well as enabling the Council to deliver efficiencies, the framework will improve sufficiency and quality of placements for our Looked After Children. The Council will be working with fewer providers in order to focus on service improvement.

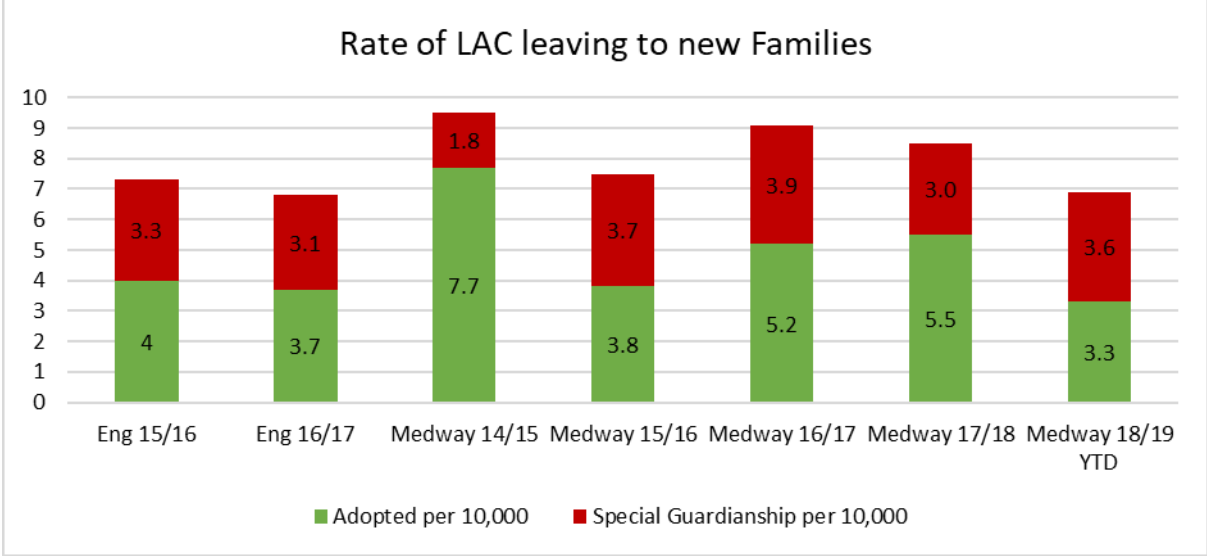
	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Percentage of LAC placed locally (Medway/Kent) at period end, exc Adoption and Connected Carer placements	92%	92%	92%	90%	93%	93%	93%	92%	92%	91%

5.26 Objective 3 - Promote timely permanence planning for all children to ensure they have the opportunity of a stable, permanent home and long-term relationships in a placement appropriate to their needs.

- 5.27 Increased scrutiny is in place to ensure permanence planning is considered when any child is accommodated and through proceedings. Weekly tracking meetings are attended by Area Manager and Adoption and Fostering Area Manager and all children in Pre-Proceedings, in Court Proceedings, and those who are s20 so that the plan for each child is considered at least monthly until the child returns home or an order is made. Post order, permanence is monitored through LAC reviews and supervision to ensure plans are progressed in a timely way.
- 5.28 The rate of children leaving care to adoption or special guardianship is marginally higher than the national average. In 2018/19 to date (Apr 18 to Feb 19) 21 children were adopted and 23 went to special guardians to achieve a combined rate of 6.9 per 10,000 children against a national rate of 6.8 per 10,000.

- 5.29 The national picture for adoption is challenging with about three times as many children needing placement as there are available adopters. Most of our young and relatively straightforward children are placed quickly with Medway's own adopters. Older children, those who are part of sibling groups and those with complex developmental needs are waiting longer and a number of these children who we would have previously been able to place for adoption are remaining in long-term foster care.
- 5.30 In October 2016, the Cabinet agreed in principle, to enter into formal dialogue with a view to the establishment of the Regional Adoption Agency with the local authority partners, London Borough of Bexley and Kent County Council subject to formal agreement from the Cabinet on the findings (decision no. 124/2016 refers). An update report was presented to the Cabinet in November 2017.
- 5.31 In February 2018, the DfE confirmed that the Minister had agreed to provide set up funds for the RAA project. The DfE commented that successful progression of RAA projects have been where agencies have worked closely together previously.
- 5.32 The current position is that Kent County Council have agreed to host the new Regionalised Adoption Agency on behalf of Medway and Bexley. A Project Manager with industry experience has been successfully appointed. The aim of the project manager is to design, manage and implement the RAA on behalf of the 3 LA's to meet the DfE deadline of April 2020. Currently, detailed work is being undertaken on the financial model which will determine funding for the RAA and work streams on practice, HR, IT, Business Support, Legal etc. will follow in due course. A DfE Coach is assigned to support the RAA implementation right through to go live in April 2020.
- 5.33 In February 2019, correspondence from the Secretary of State for Children & Families, Nadhim Zahawi, sent a letter to all Local Authorities confirming the good progress that is being made towards the Governments expectation that all Local Authorities become part of an RAA by 2020. For Medway, the proposal means that it will form part of the RAA with Kent hosting the RAA as a single entity on behalf of Medway Council and Bexley. The RAA will be responsible for delivering the core adoption functions - recruitment, matching and support, underpinned with a pooled budget, with a clear single line of accountability to enable prompt decision-making.
- 5.34 Based on a three-year average of placement orders granted across all three local authorities, it is estimated that approximately 135-150 children annually will be placed by the RAA.
- 5.35 Medway approved 11 adoptive households, six of whom have had a child placed with them and one further family is linked to a child. The number of approvals has decreased from the previous year and this reflects the national picture of adopter recruitment, which is currently challenging. It is pleasing to report that there are currently eight families in Stage 2 assessment and a further seven families in Stage 1. In addition, there are five initial visits being undertaken in the next couple of weeks.

5.36 There has been a total of 22 Medway Looked After Children adopted in 2018/19, some from traditionally 'hard to place' groups including five sibling groups of two. 11 of the children placed had complex needs as a result of being part of a sibling group, their age and also issues such as neo-natal abstinence syndrome.



5.37 The service remains highly ambitious to continue to address overall timescales for adoption and performance and is now in line with local authorities in the South East.

5.38 Medway approved 15 adoptive households, 13 of whom have had a child placed with them. This includes one fostering household who adopted a child with complex medical and developmental needs. The number of approvals has decreased from the previous year and this reflects the national picture of adopter recruitment, which is currently challenging.

5.39 A total of 40 Medway LAC were adopted in 2017, some from traditionally 'hard to place' groups including a sibling group of four, a sibling group of 3 and 12 over the age of five when they were placed. The average time between a child entering care and moving in with their prospective adoptive family has decreased from 610 days to 503 days, which is lower than the national average; and the average time between the Court giving authority to place and moving in with their family has reduced to 200 days, again lower than the national average.

5.40 Objective 4 - Ensure that looked after children and young people achieve their full potential and can access suitable education, employment or training.

- 5.41 The Information Advice and Guidance (IAG) service has been brought in house and now forms part of Early Help and Targeted Services. They have 3 focused areas:
1. Those in the Youth Offending Team (YOT)
 2. Those with Education, health and Care Plans (EHCP) and
 3. LAC
- 5.42 The programme this year has been very successful seeing only one young person currently Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET) (aged 16-17) who is LAC. There is a specific advisor from the IAG team ensuring LAC aged 16-17 have an advisor.
- 5.43 The IAG team have also created a virtual platform through social media to enable young people to access support. This development has been noted by the Department Of Education as a 'very exciting piece of work'.
- 5.44 A new skills and employability plan has been developed ensuring LAC is a focused area of work and a working group has been established to ensure there is a corporate response to ensure this is a priority for the local authority. This is reported to the officer's board and further onto members.
- 5.45 The Virtual School Head reports regularly to Corporate Parenting Board on educational progress made by children in care across their current key stage. A Virtual Head took up post at the end of January 2018 and the post is now managed within Provider Services.
- 5.46 A development was drawn up to extend the remit of the Virtual School to include a Deputy Head to meet the needs of our LAC and most complex children in need from pre-school up to the age of 25 years.
- 5.47 Pupils did not make as much progress in KS1 and KS2 maths as they did in the other subject areas, however with a cohort of 31, the confidence range for the Medway Looked After Children progress figures is significantly wider than that of national e.g. Medway + 2.35 in reading compared to + 0.2 nationally. Maths remains behind other subjects. Provisional results for academic year 2018 indicate an improvement in progress for reading and maths.
- 5.48 The percentage of pupils achieving at least the expected standard in English and Maths GCSE was redacted in the published data. Provisional data suggests that with the threshold changing to a strong pass, this was not achieved by our LAC pupils. Provisional results indicate an improvement in this measure in 2018. We now have six Care Leavers studying at university.

5.49 As well as analysing the progress of year groups and key stages, the progress of individual children is tracked through the Virtual School and work of the sub-group and additional support is provided for individual children as required to promote continued progress. This is achieved by:

- Regular briefings and training for school staff have been established in order to upskill professionals working with children and young people that are looked after.
- Links with teams across the Council have been strengthened to minimise any delay in securing a school place and supporting pupils to stay in school.
- In year data captures for all year groups are more robust and are used to inform pupil premium, plus spending against identified areas of need.
- A review process has been established to ensure that pupil premium spend is matched to provision that is evidenced based and targeted towards closing the gap in attainment.
- Pupil progress at KS2 was poorer than the previous year. Maths remains behind other subjects. Provisional results for academic year 2018 indicate an improvement in progress for reading and maths.
- The percentage of pupils achieving at least the expected standard in English and Maths GCSE was redacted in the published data. Provisional data suggests that with the threshold changing to a strong pass, this was not achieved by our LAC pupils. Provisional results indicate an improvement in this measure in 2018.
- Improved working with schools ensures that pupil premium plus has a much clearer focus on closing the gap in attainment.
- Expansion of the capacity of the virtual school has meant that direct support for social workers, schools and foster carers has increased.
- All apprenticeships are advertised and promoted via the Leaving Care Facebook page. In February 2019, a care leaver commenced an apprenticeship within Medway Council.
- Two work experience opportunities have been secured for two care leavers studying law within Medway Legal services this summer.
- Medway Council in conjunction with Young Lives Foundation have established a Mentoring Service as an additional support for care leavers who are seeking education training and employment which was launched in October 2018.
- Medway Council Youth Service and the Job Centre Plus have collaborated to develop a programme to support young people accessing education and training called Be Yourself which was launched in November 2018.
- The Princes Trust also launched a mentoring service for young people aged 18 who are currently not in education training and employment, which careleavers can directly access.
- Implementation of universal credit joint working with JCP to support care leavers accessing benefits. Joint protocol in place working well. There is a lead person within the Job Centre Plus who leads on supporting care leavers.
- Support with driving lessons for care leavers has been established and details are contained in the Local offer.
- There are 15 care leavers accessing higher education.

5.50 Objective 5 - Improve the health and emotional well-being of looked after children and young people and care leavers

5.51 April 2018, 126 children have become looked after by Medway Council and required an initial health assessment (excluding periods of care of less than 20 days). In June 2018, the contract for the LAC health nursing provision changed to a new provider and there were noticeable delays in the performance of initial health assessments. The backlog of cases took some months to clear but this has now been completed and as of February 2019, there is no backlog and performance is back up to high levels approaching the national average. Of the looked after children at the end of February 2019, 85% have had their latest review health assessment completed in time, whilst 96% have had their latest dental check completed in timescale.

5.52 The Medway Young People's Wellbeing Service assesses all referrals of looked after children within 5 days. If placed on a treatment pathway, they are regularly reviewed and contacted by NELFT. The service comprises four clinical pathways: Mood and Anxiety; Behaviour and Conduct; Substance Misuse; and Sexual Trauma/Complex needs. A fifth pathway is available to Medway children and young people – Neurodevelopmental – that is delivered across Kent and Medway. The Medway manager is working with managers in children's social care to ensure issues and queries are resolved quickly; and Medway are looking at providing additional support to foster carers around supporting children with mental health and/or behavioural issues.

5.53 Objective 6 - Aim to keep looked after young people and care leavers safe through the provision of trained, supported and motivated staff who understand and are alert to the potential for exploitation and abuse of young people and who take the right action at the right time.

5.54 In 2016, the Children's Service and Safeguarding moved to an area based model delivered through social work pods i.e. small teams. Four areas have been established with a balanced level of demand. Aligning the social work pods to areas has enabled better joint working with partners responsible for the safeguarding of Medway's children. The changes in service structure are intended to provide consistency of social work throughout the intervention with the family. The changes have increased the numbers of first line managers (Practice Managers) and decreased the ratio of manager to practitioner in order to improve the quality of practice with children. The service has also commenced an ambitious training plan with the Centre for Systemic Social Work Practice to support quality interventions with families and retain valuable staff. The pod system is now well established and overall is working well. Workers cover for each other and are familiar with each other's cases. Managers are more available as they have a smaller number of direct reports. Social Workers have a mixed caseload of cases that helps in their development and is part of our retention package. There are pressures, however, when workers leave or are on leave/sick, as there are fewer people to cover this work. This has been addressed by other social workers helping within the Area but they are less likely to know the young person.

5.55 The restructuring of 'front door' to Children's Services is complete and is functioning well. The OFSTED focused visit in February 2019 noted a marked

improvement since the JTAI in the summer of 2018, which had noted the need for improvement. There is better multi-agency attendance in the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub, including colleagues from Education, Health, the Police, Early Help, with other colleagues available remotely e.g. YOT

- 5.56 Four Practice Managers have now successfully completed their Firstline Leadership development programme supported by the DfE. This venture aims to enable the most promising managers of frontline social work to develop their leadership of practice abilities thereby improving outcomes for children. One of the successful candidates has already achieved a promotion within Medway to and Area Manager
- 5.57 The Medway Safeguarding Children Board (MSCB) previously managed a network of CSE champions across Medway with representation throughout Children's Safeguarding Services. In March 2019, the MSCB will be relaunching their champion network under the revised title of Exploitation Champions. Due to the crossover of vulnerabilities of children to exploitation, these champions will focus on CSE as well as gangs, criminal exploitation, online safeguarding, youth violence and missing children. Their role will entail regular attendance at meetings where examples of good practice and local learning is shared. They will support the dissemination of learning and take part in learning activities. Champions ensure that Exploitation awareness enables workers in children's services to recognise the risk indicators of different forms of harm to children and young people "including sexual, physical and emotional abuse and neglect". Their role is to motivate services to be alert and responsive to risk.
- 5.58 The MSCB runs regular multi-agency CSE training; it ensures that the champions' training needs are prioritised to ensure Reflective Supervision and case direction. Further training will be developed to support the champions as need is identified.
- 5.59 Multi Agency CSE meetings are chaired by the Head of Safeguarding and Quality Assurance, the meetings run monthly. The social worker, their line manager, and the Area manager (if applicable) attend the meeting with the completed specialist CSE risk assessment tool and the child's care plan. The panel considers the risk to the young person and ensures that there is multi-agency shared intelligence on the young person and an effective safeguarding plan. The panel regularly reviews the cases brought to panel and ensures that previous recommendations are followed through. The purpose of the meeting is to ensure that the profile of those young people and care leavers in Medway who are most vulnerable to exploitation have a 'shared risk' safety plan of intervention.
- 5.60 Objective 7 - Prepare young people for a successful transition to adulthood**
- 5.61 The 16 Plus and Care leavers Sub Group have developed a multi-agency action plan to address the needs of Medway's Care leavers.
- 5.62 Medway's second Leaving Care Conference took place in October 2018 and the focus of the conference was on the importance of the trusted relationship.

At the conference the new Mentoring service provided by Young Lives Foundation was launched as well as the Medway Leaving Local Offer

5.63 Work streams of the sub group have included: - the development and publishing of the Care Leavers Offer, which involved consultation with young people and partners and was launched in October 2018, ongoing work with Commissioning around supported accommodation and the needs of care leavers: provision of accommodation and the second conference.

5.64 Ensuring care leavers have access to opportunities for employment and education remains challenging and whilst Medway was below the national average in 17/18, figures have increased so far this year to date.

Care Leavers in employment, education or training on 19th, 20th or 21st birthday	National 16/17	National 17/18	Medway 15/16	Medway 16/17	Medway 17/18	Medway 18/19 (YTD)
	50%	51%	49%	48%	45%	49%

5.65 Following the recommissioning of the LAC Health service the Leaving Care Nurse position is no longer available up to the age of 21. There is a transitions pathway that works specifically with young people leaving care up to the age of nineteen and makes sure they can readily access their health history and support them with ongoing health needs. The new contract moves from one nurse for all care leavers to six nurses to support all children past 18 years.

5.66 Leaving Care continue to work closely with Jobcentreplus to track and support young care leavers seeking work and those who are currently unable to seek work due to health related matters.

5.67 In respect of Care Leavers accessing suitable accommodation, Medway continues to maintain performance significantly above the national average.

Care Leavers in suitable accommodation on 19th, 20th or 21st birthday	National 16/17	National 17/18	Medway 15/16	Medway 16/17	Medway 17/18	Medway 18/19 (YTD)
	84%	84%	90%	88%	94%	92%

5.68 There are currently nine young people aged 16-21 who are in custody either on remand or serving sentences of whom two are under eighteen. There is a protocol in place with Kent and Medway Probation whereby all parties work together to support care leavers on leaving custody. Leaving care currently working with local adult prison to develop a protocol to identify and support Medway care leavers in prison.

5.69 An increasingly high number of young people who are deemed sick/disabled are being offered support tailored to their individual needs via the Job Centre Plus, to work towards EET opportunities.

5.70 Objective 8 - Ensure that looked after children and care leavers' views and experiences inform current and future service delivery

5.71 Mind of My Own is an app, which young people can access to share their wishes and feelings. Workers are also able to use the app to more easily evidence the views, wishes and feelings of their young people.

5.72 The experience of using this app gives young people more confidence to speak up, attend meetings and articulate problems. Once they have signed up, they can use it on their own anytime, 24/7. The app helps young people prepare for any upcoming meetings they have, report problems, share good news etc.

5.73 Since Mind of My Own app was launched in Medway in July 2017, 374 contacts have been received. 36 have been received in the last quarter and a breakdown of the reasons why young people got in touch is shown below.

MOMO's received between 4 th December 2018 and 8 th March 2019	Preparation	Worker Visit	Problem	Share Good News	Foster Carer Review
	44%	14%	17%	22%	3%

5.74 Each CPB meeting receives an update on the wide range of activities and work undertaken by the Medway Children and Young People's Council and support from the Young Lives Foundation ensures that the young people contribute actively throughout, including decisions made.

5.75 MCYPC monitor how successful the Pledge is at every CPB and MCYPC meeting, with the local authority being responsive to suggestions and actions.

5.76 Medway Youth Council (MYC) is part of Medway Youth Service and is currently applying the Hear By Right standards from the National Youth Agency. This is a quality assurance scheme for youth voice aimed at organisations working with young people that aims to ensure that young people are actively involved in decision making at all levels of the organisation.

5.77 The Hear By Right (HBR) framework was submitted for inspection on 18 March 2019. The Youth Service has looked at all of the areas where participation currently is included and has identified a number of ways in which it can be improved, developed or introduced as a new way of working. The Youth service has aimed for the Flagship HBR rating; this covers all areas of youth work. MYC is working in partnership with the youth service to support and implement many areas of the framework; additional changes will be introduced at youth centres and projects across Medway. The HBR Framework also looks at management and finance of the youth service and how it works with other youth forums and groups. The National Youth Agency will grade and share its findings on the submission on 25 March. We will then know if we have the flagship grade.

5.78 MYC are involved in decisions about service delivery in two main ways. Firstly, through attendance at various Medway Council and partner events and consultations (including Kent Police and NHS) where they are regularly represented. This is a two way process as speakers from other departments and partner organisations regularly present at MYC meetings and engage with members to gain their opinions. MYC are also strategically represented at Medway Council's Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee, commenting on plans put forward that effect young people and giving a youth perspective on more general plans for the area. MYC representatives seek to represent the views of young people from their schools and youth centres and are encouraged to speak beyond their views, making sure they also consider the views of those they represent. MYC is working with the community safety partnership and MSCB on ways to share and inform young people the findings from the conference.

5.79 Each year the Youth Council runs the UK Youth Parliament 'Make Your Mark' campaign, which aims to set local and national agendas informed by the voice of young people. Last year, MYC captured the views of 5071 young people from Medway, beating the UKYP target for Medway. This year (2018) with the support of the youth, service MYC were able to collect 10197 votes. MYC are currently training three young people to be Democracy Ambassadors, where they will share information with their peers and other youth groups to help inform young people about democracy

5.80 In April 2018, as part of the implementation of the Children and Social Work Act 2017, Medway has worked with its care leavers to develop its first Local Offer for care leavers. This involved consultation with care leavers to ascertain their views by means of a survey and consultation groups which was published in October 2018.

5.81 The Children's Commissioning team introduced innovative practice this year by actively involving Care Leavers in the evaluation of the tenders submitted for supported and semi-independent accommodation.

6. Risk management

6.1 The key issue facing CPB in its oversight and challenge function is the capacity and financial pressures posed by the increase in LAC population on all service areas supporting looked after children, and ensuring that as effective corporate parents, this does not hinder the care, support, aspirations or continued improvement in outcomes for our children in care.

7. Financial implications

7.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

8. Legal Implications

8.1 There are no legal implications arising directly from this report.

9. Recommendations

- 9.1 The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to consider and comment on the annual report and the effectiveness of the Corporate Parenting Board.

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Appendices

None

Background Papers

None