

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD
8th Nov 2007

**CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER
STATISTICAL UPDATE**

**BRENDA THOMPSON – EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR CHILDREN,
FAMILIES & LEARNING**

**JAN DOUGLAS - EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND
LEARNING**

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To provide the Corporate Parenting Board with statistical information regarding Children Looked After by Middlesbrough Council.

BACKGROUND

2. The provision of services to children looked after is a core statutory function and corporate responsibility. Since the introduction of the Quality Protects initiative in 1998, the Government has maintained a clear focus on improving services for this group of young people. This is reflected in the range of local government targets and performance indicators relating to children looked after.
3. Government guidance for elected Members on corporate parenting identifies the need for Members to receive regular statistical updates on the numbers of children being looked after by the authority.

NUMBERS OF CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER

4. At 31 March 2007, there were 242 children looked after by Middlesbrough Council. This compares with 240 children looked after at 31 March 2006, representing a 0.8% increase. The following tables identify placements of children at March 2006 and placements at March 2007.

As at March 2006

with foster carers	188(78%)
placed for adoption	10(4%)
in Middlesbrough Children's Homes	10(6%)
placed home on trial, or with extended family members	16(7%)
in specialist residential placements outside of the area	15(6%)
independent living / lodgings/other	1(0.4%)

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5. The number of children looked after as a proportion of the population is still above the national average of 54/10,000 0-17 year olds, Middlesbrough is 74/10,000

OPTION APPRAISAL/RISK ASSESSMENT

6. The prevalence of parental drug misuse, mental health difficulties and domestic violence continues to present a challenge to all services providing services to children and their families. Numbers of children looked after are unlikely to fall significantly in the short term.

FINANCIAL, LEGAL AND WARD IMPLICATIONS

7. There are no immediate financial or legal implications arising from this report. The report will be of interest to all Members.

RECOMMENDATION

8. The Corporate Parenting Board is asked to advise the Executive to note the statistical information relating to children looked after.

REASON

9. To ensure that elected Members are aware of current statistical information regarding children looked after by the local authority.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Middlesbrough Council, 2007, *Annual Performance Assessment (APA)*, Middlesbrough Council.

Middlesbrough Council, 2007, *CLA 903 DfES Return*, Middlesbrough Council.

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