

EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL 15 FEBRUARY 2017

Performance Information

1. As of 16 January 2017:-

Current Children Looked After (LAC) figures are: 427 (133.6 per 10,000)

Current Child Protection (CP) figures are: 289 (90.4 per 10,000)

Current Children in Need (CIN) figures are: 1258 (393.6 per 10,000)

The rate per 10,000 is now being calculated using the mid 2015 population estimate of 31,964.

Children with Disabilities

2. The additional capacity for OTs will help in reducing waiting times for children with complex needs and their families to have an assessment completed and suitable support identified and delivered. It is anticipated that this could lead to some savings as less timely interventions can often mean more cost to the LA in the long run.

The team is also ensuring the criteria for accessing services is current and clear to all those who enquire.

Fostering & Adoption

3. The Regional Adoption Agency work is progressing with work streams having been set up to commence the detailed work on a business plan to 'go live' by Autumn 2017. There is a meeting with Chief Executives of the 5 LAs (28th February 2017) to ensure that progress is known and next steps agreed across the piece.

South Tees Youth Offending Service

4. In September 2015 the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) announced a review of the youth justice system, to be led by Charlie Taylor. The Rt Hon Michael Gove MP stated the purpose of the review was to 'examine our approach to tackling youth offending' and 'consider whether the current system, which was created in 2000, 'remains able to meet the challenges we face in 2015'. An interim report was published in February

2016, and indicated there would be significant changes to the youth justice system in England and Wales.

- 5 The full report along with a government response was published on 5th December 2016. Charlie Taylor's report is broken down in to six chapters focusing upon; a more devolved youth justice system, coming in to contact with the youth justice system, children in court, secure schools, the role of central government and a new youth justice system. The report set out numerous recommendations, broken down in to the aforementioned chapters and at this early stage Youth Offending Services nationally are considering any potential impact this has upon them.
- 6 South Tees Youth Offending Service have successfully secured funding from the Police and Crime commissioner to continue with Triage for a further year. This was a collective Tees bid with Stockton and Hartlepool Youth Offending Services who also run the Triage programme.

Learning and Development

- 7 We recognise the importance of giving our social workers the best learning environment; having students in our social work teams develops our staff and creates a positive learning environment. Social work is challenging but rewarding work and we need to ensure students receive the right support and experiences. We have experienced practice educators who mentor and support their students. Many of these students go on to apply to work with the Council and its often the experiences they have that leads to this.
- 8 Middlesbrough Council's Children's safeguarding teams support social work degree student from Teesside University and the Step up to Social Work programme (for more experienced staff across the Region with a first degree in another discipline). At Teesside University there are currently there are 11 x 2nd year and 9 x 3rd year students in placements across the Area Child Protections and Specialist teams. 23 students on the first year of their degree either have or are about to spend 2 days shadowing in these teams.
- 9 We have 4 Step up students who will soon be finishing their placements with the ACP Teams having also completed placements with Middlesbrough Council's Adults Safeguarding Services.

Councillor Michael Carr
Executive Member, Children's Social Care