

EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL 29 MARCH 2017

Performance Information

1. As of March 2017:-

Current Children Looked After (LAC) figures are: 438 (137.0 per 10,000)

Current Child Protection (CP) figures are: 285 (89.2 per 10,000)

Current Children in Need (CIN) figures are: 1269 (397.0 per 10,000)

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

MSCB and RAD unit

2. Middlesbrough's Local Safeguarding Children Board was nominated and shortlisted in the Public Sector Award Category for the Tees Valley BME Achievement Awards 2017. The Awards 2017 champion Minority Ethnic talent from across the sub-region and bring together individuals, communities and businesses from a wide array of fields.
3. The contributions made by Minority Ethnic Communities are invaluable to the economic, social and cultural development of the North East. The Tees Valley Achievement Awards are designed to recognise and celebrate these significant contributions. This prestigious awards ceremony offers a platform to showcase, highlight and reward organisations and individuals who have made an outstanding contribution in their respective fields.
4. These awards are unique as they also take cognisance of the many facets that contribute to the social fabric of our sub-region recognising and celebrating the valuable work carried out in the areas of youth and community and its impact on achieving social and cultural cohesion
5. In 2016/2017 the MSCB Learning and Improving Practice sub group considered a number of serious incidents and concluded that none of this incidents met the criteria for a Serious Case Review this was supported by the National Serious Case Review Panel reflecting that agencies are working together to safeguard children young people in sometimes difficult circumstances.

- 6 We have piloted innovative ways of multi-agency group supervision with staff from the Independent reviewing unit which is having positive outcomes for multi-agency working and working with our most vulnerable and complex families

Learning and Development

- 7 We continue to support our local University by offering social work learning placements for students to experience work based practice across the safeguarding service. This is of dual benefit as we not only develop our existing social workers but also develop those of the future. We have currently supported 10 of our most experienced practitioners to undertake a higher level of practice educator qualification. All this helps us move towards developing a highly skilled workforce and prepares us the national assessment and accreditation of children's social workers which will be implemented over the next 18 months.

South Tees Youth Offending Service

- 8 As part of our continued commitment to improving partnership working STYOS has been delivering briefing sessions to neighbourhood Police teams to increase the knowledge of our Police colleagues in relation to YOS processes, the different disposals young people can be made subject to, types of intervention delivered, the makeup of our teams, and the range of assessments completed. Eight sessions of a similar nature are also planned for the response teams throughout March. In addition to increasing knowledge, the purpose of these sessions is to enable officers to pass on information to parents/carers and increase engagement with the YOS.

Assessment and Care Planning

- 9 The Assessment and Care Planning Teams are extremely busy at present due to covering a number of vacancies, maternity and sickness – the impact of this has been higher caseloads than normal – the service has been supported by agency social workers to manage this. An advert has recently been placed and social work interviews are set for the end of March 2017.

Fostering & Adoption

- 10 Gleneagles interim inspection retained it as 'Outstanding' with 'Improved effectiveness' Holly Lodge retained its 'Good' and also 'Improved effectiveness'
Inspectors were particularly impressed with the feedback they had from parents and young people and the way in which services used that to ensure continuous improvement.
- 11 In terms of dependency upon external provision for Looked After Children – the last quarter is showing a reduction in use of both IFAs and Residential and this is being monitored closely to ensure that the trend is sustained.
- 12 The CiCC apprentice Sarah Ahmed is demonstrating an increasing confidence and competence in her role – to summarise Sarah has;
 - Grown the CiCC group to 12 young people
 - Is part of the regional CiCC arrangements and sharing (and bringing back) good ideas and plans for LAC young people from that
 - Is looking at a residential for herself and 3 young people in April to build confidence/self-esteem and make plans for CiCC
 - Assisted in the interview process for Exec Director of Children's services

Councillor Michael Carr
Executive Member, Children's Social Care