

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

Date: Tuesday 15th February, 2022
Time: 2.00 pm
Venue: Virtual

Please note this is a virtual meeting.

**The meeting will be livestreamed via
the Council's YouTube channel at
[Middlesbrough Council - YouTube](#)**

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence
Apologies for Absence
2. Declarations of Interest
To receive any declarations of interest.
3. Minutes- Corporate Parenting Board- 18 January 2022 5 - 12
4. Covid- 19 update
The Director of Children's Services will provide a verbal update to the Board.
5. Participation of children and Young people in Middlesbrough 13 - 30
Hannah Wiseman, Programme Manager - Specialist and Targeted will provide an update to the Board.
6. Fostering in Middlesbrough- Quarter 3 data 31 - 34
The Head of Residential Services will provide the Board with

information on the quarter 3 fostering data.

7. Nominet digital REACH programme- Update 35 - 44

Ralph Jordinson, Risk and Resilience Coordinator and Louise Jefferson, Digital Policy Apprentice will provide the Board with an update on the Nominet digital REACH programme.

8. Performance against Corporate Parenting Board Strategy 45 - 54

The Director of Children's Care and the Head of Looked after children and Corporate Parenting will present the performance scorecard to the Board.

9. Any other urgent items which in the opinion of the Chair, may be considered.

Any other urgent items which in the opinion of the Chair, may be considered.

10. Exclusion of Press and Public

To consider passing a Resolution Pursuant to Section 100A (4) Part 1 of the Local Government Act 1972 excluding the press and public from the meeting during consideration of the following items on the grounds that if present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information falling within paragraph 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act and the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

11. **Children Missing from Care** 55 - 62

Jeff Watson, Risk and Reduction Manager will provide a presentation to the Board.

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Charlotte Benjamin
Director of Legal and Governance Services

Town Hall
Middlesbrough
Monday 7 February 2022

MEMBERSHIP

Councillors C Hobson (Chair), L Garvey (Vice-Chair), A Hellaoui, T Higgins, Z Uddin, M Saunders, B Cooper, D Davison and J Walker

Assistance in accessing information

Should you have any queries on accessing the Agenda and associated information please contact Susie Blood, 01642 729645, susie_blood@middlesbrough.gov.uk

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CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

A meeting of the Corporate Parenting Board was held on Tuesday 18 January 2022.

PRESENT: Councillors C Hobson (Chair), A Hellaoui, T Higgins, Z Uddin, M Saunders, B Cooper and D Davison

PRESENT BY INVITATION: Councillors

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: CSnowball, D fenny, N Ayres and Dunning (HARROGATE AND DISTRICT NHS FOUNDATION TRUST)

OFFICERS: S Blood, V Banks, S Butcher, T Dunn, R Farnham, P Jemson, T Parkinson, Beevers, C Breheny, G Nicholson , L Jefferson and T James

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillors R Brown, R Scott, L Garvey and J Walker

21/1 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for Absence

21/2 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest received at this point in the meeting.

21/3 **MINUTES- CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD- 30 NOVEMBER 2021**

The minutes of the Corporate Parenting Board held on 30 November 2021 were read and accepted as a true record.

21/4 **COVID -19 UPDATE**

The Director of Children's Services provided a verbal update to the Board. She advised that in the week previously Middlesbrough had had the highest infection rate in the Country, however it has come down.

Social care- not a significant effect on staffing in front line teams, all children who are looked after are having visits, and although we do not have our performance figures for January 2022, there was no concerns that these visits were not taking place. Only area of staffing what was being effected was within the children's' homes, however they are continuing to manage the homes successfully. If staffing.

Vacancy levels are monitored on a 3 weekly basis (internally) and we have to report figures to the Department of Education (DFE) on a fortnightly basis , however if staff absences go above 20% Middlesbrough must be reported directly to the DFE so that they can support Middlesbrough and offer guidance to reduce the risk overall. There has been a suggestion that they may be able to provide financial assistance for Agency workers, however they are difficult to come by.

Schools have been significantly affected by Covid and whilst no school has closed, there has been high levels of staff affected and we would like to commend our teaching staff, as they are ensuring our children are being taught, regardless of staff sickness.

There has been a call for retired teachers to return to support schools, however those schools whom the Director has spoken too, have advised this is not as useful as anticipated as staff are unaware of the running of the school.

Following the update a number of comments/ questions were raised:

Mask wearing of parents on drop off/ pick up- are we able to ask parents to do this? In

response, the Director advised that the local authority can ask parents but we are unable to mandate this. The Head of Access to Education also advised that the LA are trying to encourage this and we discuss covid related procedures with Head Teachers. The Director also advised that there is a system in place that if vulnerable children are not in school, social workers are notified.

From an outbreak and public health perspective, we have been advising schools that they have preventative measures in place, however this is difficult for the schools to enforce, especially when parents are outdoors. It was the schools responsibility to ask why parents are not wearing masks, however the local authority do not have this information. Parents are asked to wear masks indoors, however it is difficult to enforce outside.

In terms of covid numbers in schools, the rates have slightly increased, however historically we have seen an increase in the 19-59 age group (working age) however it is starting to ease and therefore hopefully not having a massive impact on teaching.

The Director advised that she would reiterate the mask wearing with head teachers at a future meeting.

The vaccination take up was further mentioned by a Board member and in particular school staff. In response, public health advised that they do not have these figures but there have been some concerns from certain schools regarding unvaccinated staff, however as advised the local authority are unable to mandate this, only encourage. It was suggested that virtual schools/ social workers could ask young people what the impact has been on their learning and it could be discussed at the children and care council/ care leavers' forum.

AGREED- That the update be noted.

21/5 **CHILDREN IN CARE IN MIDDLESBROUGH- THE ROLE OF THE CCG AND THE DESIGNATED LAC (CHILDREN IN CARE) TEAM**

21/6 **PARTICIPATION OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN MIDDLESBROUGH**

The Chair welcome Hannah Wiseman, Programme Manager, Specialist and Targeted to provide an update on participation of children and young people in Middlesbrough.

The officer firstly provided an overview of who Participation People are; advising that they have been working with Middlesbrough since August 2021 to make services better for young people that live in Middlesbrough.

Participation People have 5# youthvoice work strands:

- Middlesbrough Youth Council
- Middlesbrough in Care Councils
- Middlesbrough Young Champions
- Middlesbrough Young Researchers
- Middlesbrough Young Journalists

Participation people facilitate open, safe, and inclusive spaces with these forums regularly. Each group creates fun and engaging opportunities for their peers and decision- makers to get involved in service improvement activities, campaigns and events. There are 8 officers within the Middlesbrough Team, 2 are Middlesbrough Council officers. Xavier is supporting the in care councils.

In terms of progress from December 2021, the Programme Manager provided information on the following:

- Re-launch of the care experienced #youthvoice forum- relaunch on 18th and 20th January 2022.
- Celebration events
- Youth Champions
- Youth Researchers
- Youth Councils- election will take place in February 2022.

In terms of the Care Experiences #youthvoice , the Board heard that these were relaunching in person on 18th and 20th January 2022. Flyers had been generated and shared, as well as individual contacts with young people. The forums were operating out of the Easterside Hub and the Pathways building and would be facilitated by Xavier Davies and supported by Kathy from Participation People. Further updates would be brought to the February meeting.

The Programme Manager discussed the Care experienced Roadmap, which included for example, a celebration event , social activities, a residential and future training for councilors. The Board were further reassured that the care experience #youthvoice forums, would be undertaken under the current covid-19 guidance, which included pre session covid questionnaires and lateral flows tests. The Board were advised that in the event that national or local guidance prevents from meeting in person, a virtual delivery would be offered to ensure the forums continue.

They have also developed a recognition and reward policy, where we as the young people what they would like from being part of the group, as we want to ensure young people participate but feel valued and continue to work with participation people. All Corporate Parents are invited to attend the session.

Following the presentation, the Chair questioned further there was 1 young person selected from each school elected to attend Middlesbrough Youth Council. In response, the Programme Manager advised numbers were smaller than expected at present, however they were expecting to get a young person from each school and from each ward. In terms of the Member of Youth Parliament for Middlesbrough, where the young person would represent the views of all young people, the election would take place at the end of February and there were currently 8 candidates standing.

AGREED

That the information be noted

21/7

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD STRATEGY ACTION PLAN- REVIEW OF THE PERMANENCY ACTION PLAN

The Head of Looked after children and corporate parenting Board provided the Board with regard to progress made again the Permanence action plan.

The Head of service in a previous meeting had highlighted the findings by Ofsted in November 2019. This was included in the report for reference and the report was to highlight any changes/ updates since the Board were updated in October 2021.

The six priorities as previously discussed were as follows:

1. Strengthening Permanency in Our Social Work Practice
2. Growing Our Multi-Agency Partnerships for Permanency
3. Reducing Drift and Delay for Achieving Permanency
4. Improving the Way we capture and Use Our Data for Permanency
5. Supporting Permanency in Education, Employment & Training
6. Supporting Permanency in Education, Employment & Training

The Head of Service went through each of the priorities and identified what has been achieved since the permanency action plan had been to the Board in October 2021. Full details of these were outlined in the report which had been circulated to the Board prior to the meeting.

The Head of Service further went on to state some of the impact/ data and performance in the last 12 months:

- Overall in the lasts 12 months, the looked after populations has reduced from 654 children in November 2020 to 526 in November 2021 (19.5% reduction). There has been a 25% reduction in the overall numbers of looked after children since the height of 702 in September 2020. In the last 12 months 205 children started to be looked after compared to 344 children ceased to be looked after.
- The rate per 10,000 has reduced from 197.4 in November 2021 2020 to 158.8 in November 2021. This is the lowest rate in the last 12 months and has continued

to reduce consistently.

- Since 01 April 2021 19 Adoption Orders have been secured. This includes:
 - 4 children of BAME
 - 4 sibling groups of 2
 - 2 aged 4+
- More children have been adopted in Middlesbrough than all other authorities in Teesside.
- The number of days between a Placement Order being granted and a child being adopted has reduced from 558 in 209/20 to 342 in 2021/22.
- There are currently a further 38 children progressing to adoption with Placement Orders. Of which only 2 children do not have confirmed links.
- There has been a total of 76 children secure permanence through the granting of a Special Guardianship Orders in the last 12 months.
- Connected Carers – There are currently 124 children in connected carers placements. This has reduced from a height of 212 in 2020.
- Placement with Parents – There are currently 47 children placed with parents. This has reduced from 52 children in October 2021 and from a height of 99 children in September 2020 to 58 in August 2021. (52.5% reduction)
- There has been a reduction in the number of children in external residential placements from 74 in June 2021 to 47 in December 2021
- School attendance for looked after children was 91% in November 2021.
- There have been no looked after children permanently excluded from school in the last 5 years.
- Only 3.1% of looked after children are receiving less than 25 hours education (11 children). Of which there is an action plan and oversight from Virtual School of each.

The Head of Service identified two risks:

- The increase in demand across the service and across the tees valley region
- Risks associated with the recruitment of staff in the looked after and care leaving service.

The Board finally heard the next steps in respect to the action plan:

- Data Team to develop a Permanence Dashboard and Score Card – Performance and progress to be reported to Improvement Board and Corporate Parenting Board
- Life Story Work compliance and quality to continue be driven
- The ongoing reduction and tracking of the number of children residing in external residential placements
- Progress the Permanence Action Plan and report to Improvement Board and Corporate Parenting Board
- Practice leads deployed in to the service to improve the quality of care plans for looked after children
- Participation People to develop attendance and provide Corporate Parenting Board with a proposed plan for the Children in Care Council.
- The Audit to Excellence team will carry out a deep dive audit of the looked after and care leavers service in January 2022. Audit findings to be reported back to Corporate Parenting Board.
- Recruitment of permanent staff

After the presentation a number of Board members congratulated the members of staff for their work in this area.

A board member queried whether foster carers were involved in life story training and in response the Director of Children's care advised that at present they had been concentrating on training a cohort of Middlesbrough Council staff to be able to support this work, however the Council were looking at purchasing a life story platform, where foster carers, parents/carers and young people could upload regular photos and updates. Foster carers have not yet been training on this, however they are critical to gaining lifestory work and the staff will support foster carers (train the trainers).

The slides would be made available to all members of the council to show the progress, further to this, the Director of Children's care advised that although reducing the number of

children in care was a key point, the work on the edge of care, and work on developing permanence was paramount. A briefing would also be provided.

The Head of Service was thanked for her presentation.

AGREED- That the action plan be noted.

21/8

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD STRATEGY ACTION PLAN- REVIEW OF THE SUFFICIENCY ACTION PLAN

The Chair welcomed the Specialist Commissioning & Procurement Senior Manager to the meeting to provide an update of the highlight report of the Sufficiency action plan which was devised out the corporate Parenting Board Strategy.

The Sufficiency Action Plan would be reviewed and updated as actions were completed or as new work was identified in the event of any changes to our sufficiency needs over the 3-year cycle of our plan. The Board last received an update in October 2021.

As with the Permanency action plan, the Sufficiency action plan was broken up into 6 themed areas, with a key accountable officer who works closely with the Manager.

The themes were as follows:

Theme 1 - Strengthening Commissioning for Children and Young People

Theme 2 – Increasing Placements Close to where Children and Young People live and learn

Theme 3 – Growing Early Intervention & Prevention

Theme 4 – Improving Placements & Support for Care Leavers

Theme 5 – Enhancing Learning Outcomes for Children & Young People

Theme 6 – Building Our Fostering Capacity and Adoption Outcomes

The Manager went through each of the priorities and identified what has been achieved since the permanency action plan had been to the Board in October 2021. Full details of these were outlined in the report which had been circulated to the Board prior to the meeting.

The Manager outlined the impact/ data and performance; these being:

- Weekly external residential placement monitoring continues and we have seen a big swing in in-house placements following the opening of Rosecroft and Daniel Court. As at 4th January 2022 we had 68 placements of which 23 (34%) were internal, 45 (66%) were in external.
- In-house fostering placements have overtaken external IFA placements and as at 04.01.22 there were 326 fostering placements of which 169 (52%) in house and 157 (48%) external

In terms of risks, the Manager advised that COVID has impacted on staffing levels but this was being monitored and in the event that issues are identified the Council will work closely with providers and the service area to provide as much support and resilience as possible.

The Board finally heard the next steps in respect to the action plan:

- Establish monthly Action Plan Meetings on a monthly basis for 2022
- Continue to ensure tasks are driven forward
- Ensure any change controls are secured where any changes to deadlines are identified.

The Chair thanked the Manager for her presentation.

AGREED- That the action plan be noted.

21/9

PERFORMANCE AGAINST CORPORATE PARENTING STRATEGY

The Head of Looked after Children and Corporate Parenting was in attendance and provided the Board with information relating to the Corporate Parenting Board scorecard.

The Head of Service advised that the scorecard was in place for the Corporate Parenting Board to see how our performance was progressing and have the opportunity to challenge.

At the last meeting, the Board had asked for further information on demographics of our children looked after, which the Board was as follows:

- Gender -54% of the current looked after population are male with 1% of these young boys being Unaccompanied Asylum Seekers. 45% of the looked after population are female.
- Ethnicity - The highest percentage of the children in our care are of a White British ethnicity (81%).
- 8% of children are of mixed ethnicity and 7% are Black or Black British.

The Board were advised that the most common reason for a child to become looked after was due to abuse or neglect. 97 children have become looked after in the last 6 months to protect them from this cause. This was only a slight increase from 2020/2021 however remains significantly higher than our statistical neighbours and the England average.

Further main points to note were as follows:

Demand

- In January 2021 there were 617 children looked after in the authority.
- There has been a rapid reduction over the year demonstrating an increase of 17% over the last 12 months and an overall 27% reduction since the height of 702 children in September 2020. For every 0.6 children entering care, one child exits care. This ratio has been maintained for 6 months

Children supported to become not looked after

Future for Families have supported 50 young people on the edge of care since they went live. Of the 50, 37 (74%) of these did not become looked after.

- 21 were supported on a child in need level (57%)
- 11 remain supported on a child in need level
- 10 (47%) no longer require a child in need plan and are no longer supported by the LA
- 16 were subject to child protection procedures (43%)
- 10 remain supported on a child protection level
- 4 (25%) have stepped down and receive child in need support
- 2 (13%) no longer require any service from Children's Social Care

Demand – Caseloads

- Caseloads have consistently reduced since December 2020 and throughout the improvement journey.
- Whilst the average per service area varies slightly, the average caseloads across Children's social care is currently 16.7. This will support the service to drive improvements in the quality of practice.

Permanency

- Children Placed with Parents - The number of children placed with a parent and subject to a Care Order has reduced significantly since January 2021. There are currently 47 children placed with a parent. This is a 52% overall reduction since the height on 99 children in September 2020.
- Connected Carers – There are currently 114 children looked after and placed with a Connected Carer. This has reduced from a height of 212 in 2020 (46%).
- Adoption - The average number of days from entering care to being placed in an adoptive placement has reduced from a height of 558 days in 2019/20 to 382 days in October 2021. (Adoption Score Care data for Q2)

Placement Stability

- Less than 5% of the looked after population have experienced a placement breakdown in the last 12 months.
- In January 2021, 123 looked after children had experienced three or more placements over the last twelve months. This amounted to 20% of the looked after population.
- This has reduced to 36 children in December 2021. This equates to 7% of the current looked after population. We are currently below all external benchmarks, and are also below our outturn for 2020/21.

Finally the Head of Service outlined some of the quality and impacts:

Visits

94% of looked after children have been seen within the last 6 weeks. This was a 5% decrease from last month. This has been consistently high at over 90% since May.

Supervision/Management Oversight

94% of looked after children have had a supervision within the month of December 2021. This is a 5% decrease from last month. This has been consistently high at over 90% since May 2021.

Personal Education Plans

Performance in relation to PEPs remains high at 99% of children having a recorded PEP within the last 6 months. This performance has remained consistently high and has not dropped below 93% for the last 12 months.

Health Assessments

90.8% of health checks have been conducted and recorded within the last 12 months. This does not take in to account those older children who have refused a medical assessment. Performance has been consistently high at over 90% for the last 12 months.

Dental checks – 66.1% of children have had a dental check in the last 12 months.

The Head of Service was thanked for her presentation.

AGREED

- That the information be noted

21/10

ANY OTHER URGENT ITEMS WHICH IN THE OPINION OF THE CHAIR, MAY BE CONSIDERED.

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Middlesbrough Participation

#YouthVoice Update

February 2022

Participation People have recently relaunched the following groups for care experienced young people to come together, have a voice and be able to influence key decision makers when developing their services.



Middlesbrough Mini Children in Care Council - a group for care experienced young people between the ages of 7-12 years



Middlesbrough Children in Care Council - a group for care experienced young people between the ages of 13-17 years



Middlesbrough Care Leavers Forum - a group for care experienced young adults between the ages of 18 -25 years

Participation People facilitate open, safe, and inclusive spaces with these #YouthVoice Forums regularly. Each group co-creates fun and engaging opportunities for their peers and decision-makers (like you!) to get involved in service improvement activities, campaigns and events.

January 2022 - February 2022

#YouthVoice Snapshot



MINI CICC

The re-launch took place on the 18th January. We invited young people to come to Eastside Community Hub 4 -5.30pm. Two sessions took place but no-one came.

We are going to run a fun activity session with this age group on the 24th February. We will ask them and send out a survey to other looked after young people, to tell us, if they want to have fun and have a voice, what would they like to do. We will use their feedback to create activities they would like.



CICC

The re-launch took place on the 18th January. Inviting young people to come to the Easterside Community Hub 6 -7.30pm.

Three young people expressed an interest to join, with one young person attending the group. So far he has helped design a draft survey that will be sent to all looked after young people and care leavers, wrote a piece about himself which has been shared in an email to all key managers and identified two areas he would like to work on.



CARE LEAVERS FORUM

The relaunch took place on the 20th January. inviting them to come to the Pathways buiding.

We have seven young adults who have joined the group. Some attending virtually. They have helped design a draft survey that will be sent to all looked after young people and care leavers, identified key issues they would like to work on, created a Terms of Reference and Group agreement.

Care Experienced Youth Voice Forums - 2022's relaunch

We have been very busy telling the teams and care leavers about the relaunch of the groups by:

- Messaging 135 care leavers
- Emailing Designated Teachers to inform their young people
- Emailing the flyers (see below) to all the relevant Managers
- Speaking directly to Managers
- Attending Team meetings
- Emailing Managers the message written by a young person
- Posting information about the groups on the fostering Facebook page

Want to have Fun, meet other Young People and have a Voice?



- Are you 'Looked After'?
- Between 7-12 Years?
- Full of ideas?
- Want to be heard?

Then come and join Middlesbrough's Mini Children In Care Council

18th, 25th January and 8th February
4 - 5.30pm

For more information contact
Xavier_davies@middlesbrough.gov.uk
or Text **I'm In**, with your name and age
to Kathy on **07926580007**

Want to have Fun, meet other Young People and have a Voice?



- Are you Care Experienced?
- Between 13 - 17 Years?
- Full of ideas?
- Want to be heard?

Then come and join Middlesbrough's Children In Care Council

We meet every Tuesday 5.30-7pm
Easterside Community Hub TS4 3PZ

For more information contact
Xavier_davies@middlesbrough.gov.uk
or Text **I'm In**, with your name and age
to Kathy on **07926580007**

Want to have Fun, meet other Young Adults and have a Voice?



- Are you Care Experienced?
- Between 18 - 25 Years?
- Full of ideas?
- Want to be heard?

Then come and join Middlesbrough's Care Leavers Forum

Every Thursday 5.30-7pm
Pathways building - TS1 3LF.
Join us **Vitually** if you can't physically make.

For more information contact
Xavier_davies@middlesbrough.gov.uk
or Text **I'm In**, with your name and age
to Kathy on **07926580007**

The CiCC and Care Leavers Forum have had three great meetings so far and have decided what key issues they would like to prioritise. Please read their Feedback cards

Keep an eye out for invitations from them to you; as they would love for you to join them. This will help you listen to young people's voices who are care experienced to inform your role as a corporate parent.

Our 2022 Plan

Below is a brief snapshot of everything we have planned for your care experienced youth voice forums 2022...



Middlesbrough Care Experienced #YouthVoice Road Map



JAN
2022

FEB
2022

MAR
2022

APR
2022

- **Re-launch** of in person sessions for CLF, CICC and Mini CICC.
- **In Care Council** develop teamwork, confidence, and communication skills.
- **PULSE poll** sent to care experienced children and young people on social activities they want to take part in.
- **Begin working on Satisfaction Survey** for Children in Care in Middlesbrough and build this into Audit practices.

- **New Year, New Promises workshop for Corporate Parents**, facilitated by Care Leaver Forum.
- **Emotional Flashlight creative workshops** for care experienced young people and Care Leavers.
- **Celebration planning** with children who are care experienced and professionals.

- **BRANDING** workshop for In Care Forums for new #YouthVoice SWAG!
- **Social activities** for Care Leavers, care experienced young people, and Corporate Parents.
- **#YouthVoice Champions Training Residential** including Care Leavers and young people who are care experienced.
- **Celebration & Awards events**; co-facilitated by Care Leaver Forum and in Care Council.

- **Reverse Mentoring** for #YouthVoice Champions and Service Leads starts!
- **Co-produce review of Middlesbrough Promise.**
- **Social activities for Care Leavers**, care experienced young people, and Corporate Parents.



Middlesbrough's Care Experienced #YouthVoice Road Map



MAY
2022

JUNE
2022

JULY
2022

- **Youth-Led Inspection** of Social Care service by care experienced young people.
- **#YouthProof to Future Proof MBC's formal governance processes** and policies with professionals, led by Care Leaver Forum.

- **Reverse Take-Over Challenge** Corporate Parents "take over" from a Care Leaver for the week.
- **What's it like to be a child in care training**, facilitated by Middlesbrough's Care Leaver Forum for professionals and foster carers.

- **Social activities** for Care Leavers, care experienced young people, and Corporate Parents.
- **Co-production iLabs**, led by Care Leavers for decision makers to unpack data from satisfaction survey, training and events.
- **Care Experienced Participation Action Plan** co-produced with Corporate Parents and In Care Councils.

Our 2022 Plan

Dates for your Diary



Celebration and Co-Production Sessions

Thursday 24th February

10.00- 11.30am - 7-12 year olds

1.00 - 2.30pm - 13-17 years olds



Easter Holidays Fun Day and Co-Production Sessions

Thursday 14th April

10- 11.30am - 7-12 year olds

1.00- 2.30pm - 13-17 years olds

3.30-5pm - 18- 25 year olds



Summer Picnic and Youth Voice Workshops

Thursday 2nd June

10- 11.30am - 7-12 year olds

1.- 2.30pm - 13-17 years olds

3.30-5pm - 18- 25 year olds



Your Middlesbrough #YouthVoice Team

We have an amazing team of professionals who facilitate these groups and ensure young people are having FUN!

Participation People- Who are we?

Our Middlesbrough Team



Antonia - CEO



Hannah- Programme Manager



Laurie
Youth Council and Young Champions Lead Support Youth Council (Contractor)



Fred



Xavier- In Care Councils



Kathy- In Care Councils



Ed- Young Researcher Lead



Alice- Young Researcher Lead

CONTACT

Contact HannahW@participationpeople.com ...for more information on Middlesbrough's #YouthVoice activities, campaigns, projects, and events. We would LOVE to hear from you!



@ParticipationPP



@ParticipationPeople

Appendices

CARE LEAVERS FORUM - FEEDBACK CARD

We are.....

Care experienced young people between 18-25 years. Who want to have a voice and be heard by key decision makers, who will act on what we say and positively change services to meet our needs.

Our first meeting was held on Thursday 20th January 2022.

We had four young adults attend -Hailey, Reben, Jasmin and Bethany

The group is supported by

- **Xavier Davies** a Middlesbrough Apprentice and Care leaver
- **Kathy Peacock** - from Participation people

We.....

- Got to know each other a little by telling each other about ourselves.
- Heard Kathy talk about what the group is for.
- Were asked if we could change anything about our support what would it be

We said

- We need to have ID -
- Information about how we can access to our care records
- More preparation to live independently
- Young mums need more support
- We need to understand what makes a positive/negative relationship
- We want a trusting relationship with our PA

For more information:

Xavier_davies@middlesbrough.gov.uk

Kathy.peacock@participationpeople.com

07926580007



CARE LEAVERS FORUM FEEDBACK CARD

We are.....

Care experienced young people between 18-25 years. Who want to have a voice and be heard by key decision makers, who will act on what we say and positively change services to meet our needs.

We meet every Thursday
17:30-19:00pm

We had five young adults attend -Hailey, Reben, Jasmin, Keane and AJ

The group is supported by

- **Xavier Davies** a Middlesbrough Apprentice and Care leaver
- **Kathy Peacock** - from Participation people

We.....

- Got to know each other a little by telling each other - Rose (what has gone well) Thorn (what has not gone so well)
- Heard what we talked about last time and asked to prioritise our key issues
- We were told about a survey being designed for all looked after young people, care leavers, shown the work undertaken at the CiCC group and asked to give our views.

For more information:

Xavier_davies@middlesbrough.gov.uk

Kathy.peacock@participationpeople.com

07926580007



CARE LEAVERS FORUM - FEEDBACK CARD

We.....

Prioritised our issues

1/ Life skills - including cooking, self care, budgeting, entitlements, ID, Birth certificate etc
2/ Relationships - including with PA's, family, partners. Looking at safe relationships, DV impact, being a young parent.

Agreed to explore these areas over the next few weeks and were asked if we knew any professional/s to invite to our meeting to help us explore these areas,

Also, we talked about the survey which will be sent to all looked up and care leavers. We gave some ideas of things to be included.



For more information:

Xavier_davies@middlesbrough.gov.uk
Kathy.peacock@participationpeople.com
07926580007



CARE LEAVERS FORUM FEEDBACK CARD

We are.....

Care experienced young people between 18-25 years. Who want to have a voice and be heard by key decision makers, who will act on what we say and positively change services to meet our needs and others.

We meet every Thursday
 17:30-19:00pm

We had two young adults attend -Hailey and Jasmin (who came with her little boy)
 Keane and AJ sent their apologies



We.....

- Played 2 truths and a lie and found out that Xavier has met the queen
- We were shown the draft survey questions and made some amends.
- Created a group agreement
- Created a Terms of Reference for the group

Group Agreements:

- Not judgemental
- Appropriately challenge (if needed)
- Everyone included
- Be mindful of everyone
- Everyone have a say
- Confidential (stays in room)
- No question is a silly question
- Always be kind
- Respectful of everyone's opinion

- the group will meet weekly at 5.30pm-7.00pm
- we will meet at pathways
- the group age range is 18-25
- 1 weeks notice for professionals who wish to attend the meeting and why? how and where will our information be used?
- professionals will be invited back for us to get feedback.

The group is supported by
 Xavier_davies@middlesbrough.gov.uk
 Kathy.peacock@participationpeople.com
 07926580007



CICC - FEEDBACK CARD

We are.....

Care experienced young people between 13-17 years. Who want to have a voice and be heard by key decision makers and professionals, who will act on what we say and positively change services to meet our needs.

Our first meeting was held on Tuesday 18th January 2022.

We had one young person attend - Leon (16 Years).

The group is supported by

- **Xavier Davies** a Middlesbrough Apprentice and Care leaver
- **Kelly Hammond** - an IRO
- **Kathy Peacock** - from Participation people

We.....

- Got to know each other a little by telling the group what had gone well/not so well in our week
- Listened to Leon tell us he had been part of the old CiCC before and had really enjoyed it but he was the only one at that group also.
- Heard about his studies at school and his future plans

We said

Leon was asked if he had to come up with his key priorities at the moment, what would they be.

He said

- Being able to trust the people who support you
- False promises should not be made

For more information:

Xavier_davies@middlesbrough.gov.uk

Kathy.peacock@participationpeople.com

07926580007



Participation
People

CICC - FEEDBACK CARD 1

We are.....

Care experienced young people between 13-17 years. Who want to have a voice and be heard by key decision makers, who will act on what we say and positively change services to meet our needs.

We meet every Tuesday
17:30- 19:00pm

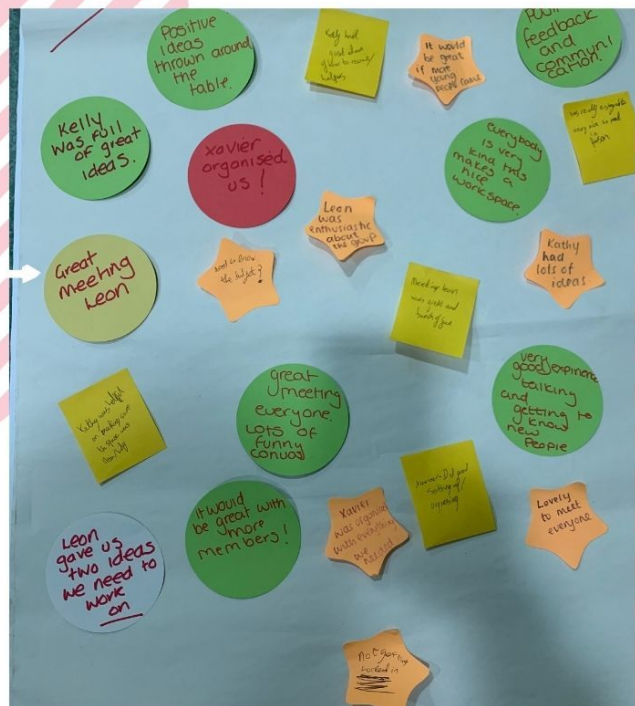
Leon (16 Years)
attended

The group is supported by

- **Xavier Davies** a Middlesbrough Apprentice and Care leaver
- **Kelly Hammond** - an IRO
- **Kathy Peacock** - from Participation people

We.....

- Had some snacks and chatted about each others day.
- We all gave our thoughts about how we felt the last meeting went
- Talked about designing a survey to be sent to all Looked after young people and care leavers.
- Talked to Leon about a residential in March



For more information:

Xavier_davies@middlesbrough.gov.uk

Kathy.peacock@participationpeople.com

07926580007



Participation
People

CICC - FEEDBACK CARD 2

We Said

Survey

- Change Designated teacher to School, as young people might understand this better.
- Add Pathways team after Personal Advisor.
- Add Foster Carer, Guardian/Care Giver/PEP advisor and Keyworker in support.
- Need a catchy name for the survey and include the incentive in the email/survey to encourage young people to complete.
- Should we be asking young people to give their name/DOB? We need their email/contact number if in the prize draw

CiCC Event - 24th Feb

- Looking at running a session 10 - 11:30am for the mini CICC and repeating it at 1-2:30pm for the CiCC. Kelly cab help in the afternoon
- Xavier and Kathy checked out the Lane7 Bowling Alley but it is not suitable.
- Xavier and Kathy to check out Rock Antics and Ice Skating
- Xavier will enquire at Middlebrough Football club.

What We Said Will.....

- Survey shared with the Care Leavers Forum, for them to add their ideas.
- Ideas included within the survey and checked back with us.
- Update on suitable venues shared with us.

For more information about this group.

Please contact

Xavier_davies@middlesbrough.gov.uk

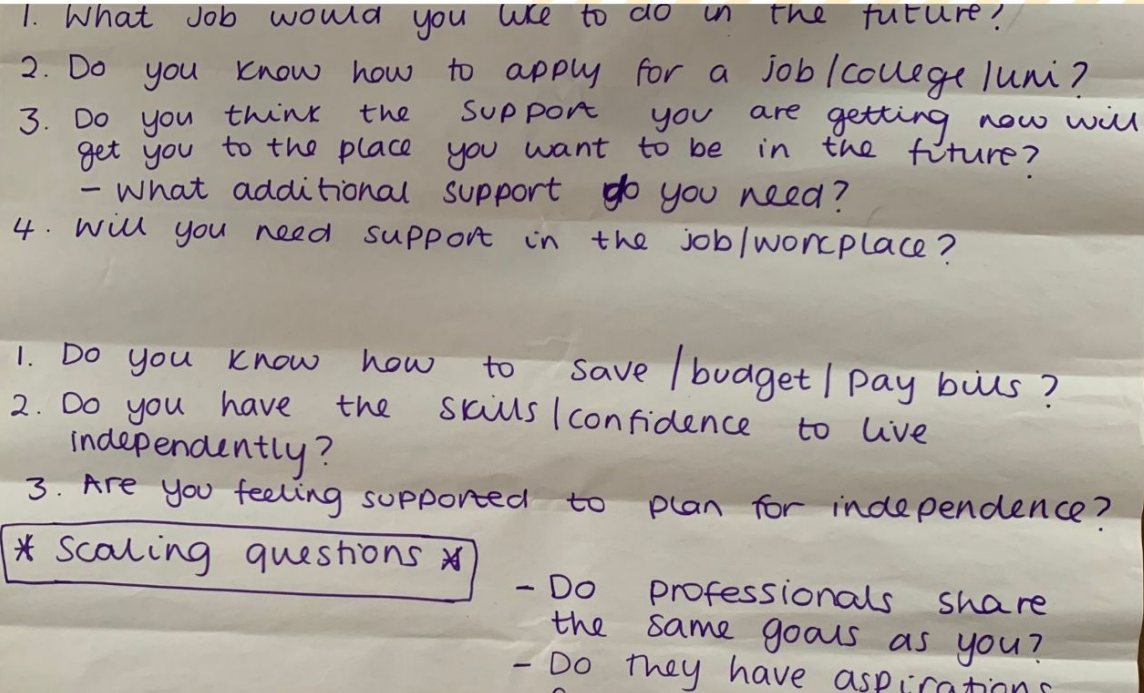
**Kathy.peacock@participationpeople.co
m 07926580007**



CICC - FEEDBACK CARD 2

We Said

Leon gave us some great ideas of the kind of questions we could ask other young people.....

- 
1. What job would you like to do in the future?
 2. Do you know how to apply for a job/college/uni?
 3. Do you think the support you are getting now will get you to the place you want to be in the future?
- What additional support do you need?
 4. Will you need support in the job/workplace?
-
1. Do you know how to save/budget/pay bills?
 2. Do you have the skills/confidence to live independently?
 3. Are you feeling supported to plan for independence?
- * Scaling questions *
- Do professionals share the same goals as you?
 - Do they have aspirations?

What We Said Will.....

- Be shared with the Care Leavers Forum, for them to add their ideas.
- Be included within the survey and checked with us.

For more information about this group.
Please contact
Xavier_davies@middlesbrough.gov.uk
Kathy.peacock@participationpeople.co
m 07926580007



CICC - FEEDBACK CARD

1

We are.....

Care experienced young people between 13-17 years. Who want to have a voice and be heard by key decision makers, who will act on what we say and positively change services to meet our needs.

We meet every Tuesday
17:30- 19:00pm

Leon (16 Years)
attended

The group is supported by

- **Xavier Davies** a Middlesborough Apprentice and Care leaver
- **Kelly Hammond** - an IRO
- **Kathy Peacock** - from Participation people

We.....

- Did a quick Ice Breaker - say something about your week - Rose (positive, Thorn (Not so good)
- We looked at the draft survey. Leon liked it and gave some ideas on what to add.
- We talked about the CiCC fun event on the 24th Feb.
- We talked about adding some information about ourselves to a new flyer to be sent to young people
- Were told Leon can't make the residential but he is happy to be a helper at the CiCC fun event.

For more information:

Xavier_davies@middlesbrough.gov.uk

Kathy.peacock@participationpeople.com

07926580007



Participation
People

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Corporate Parenting Board

Quarterly Report

21/22

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Agenda Item 6



MIDDLESBROUGH
CHILDREN
MATTER



**Our mission is to show
Middlesbrough children
that they matter.**

Fostering Service 2021 – 2022 Quarterly Report, October – December 2021

Data collated as of the 31.12.21



	Quarter 2	Quarter 3
Number of Enquiries	14	10
Number of Initial Visits	3	1
Number of fostering families	130	122
Number of children placed with Middleborough Carers	176	169
Foster placements available for children that are not occupied	50	15
De - registrations (households)		
Mainstream	4 (7 children)	5 (5 children)
Connected	1 (2 children)	7 (7 children)
Foster to adopt		2 (2 children)
Panel activity (households)		
Reviews	4	9
Newly approved;		
Mainstream fostering families	1 (1 child 2 if sibs respite only)	1 (1 child)
Connected fostering families	4 (8 children)	6 (6 children)
Matches for children and their long term fostering families	7 (10 children)	1 (child)
Supported Lodgings	0	1 (1 young person)

What is working well

- Social workers and Supported Lodgings worker are receiving monthly reflective supervision
- Workers continue to scale themselves on average 7/8 out of 10 in respect to work satisfaction
- Increased levels of compliance and Management Oversight evidenced within fostering family records
- New policies have been introduced to staff and fostering families
- We have devised a 12 month training program which includes face to face training from BAAF and The Training Hub – all specific to the training needs identified within the team.
- Supported Lodgings Providers are now enjoying monthly formal supervision and the opportunity to attend support groups
- Our first cohort of Fostering Academy carers are being nurtured within our service and are on target to complete their TSD Standards within 12 months of approval.
- A large scale marketing campaign has been developed in close consultation between the fostering service and the marketing team
- Pathways through Fostering training is underway and has been well received by carers.
- A Recruitment Strategy has been devised to sit alongside the wider marketing strategy for the LA
- Social Worker caseloads continue to remain stable and are conducive to improving quality of practice in addition to compliance
- Development of ICT systems to streamline working and provide greater clarity for performance, quality and understanding fostering families journey
- Introduction of peer supervision
- Embedding of early permanence planning meetings and midway reviews for children in connected carer arrangements, supporting permanency being achieved at the right time, this is further supported by close liaison with the court manager. This to develop further to include Family Group Conference service.
- The implementation of the Mockingbird is at formative stages with a scheme of work planned in January 2022

What are we worried about

- Impact of COVID-19 on recruitment of foster carers – lack of enquiries and difficulty in undertaking home visits.
- We do not have enough MBC approved foster carers to place all of our children in internal provision
- Recruitment of fostering families remains a challenge however this is not unique to MBC, there is a national shortage of fostering families

Corporate Parenting Board

Date: 15th February 2022

Title of report: Progress report – ‘Elevating young peoples’ voices in digital resilience’ – ‘Digiwise’

Purpose of report: The purpose of this paper is to provide a progress report to members of the Board in relation to the ‘Digiwise’ project which covers ‘digital parenting’ in respect of Children Looked After and Care Leavers.

Key Decisions - To note the progress
To continue support for the project
To agree to consider the final policy document, once developed.

Date signed off by the Director of Children’s Services:

DMT Date: Thursday: 03 February 2022

Cabinet Member Portfolio Lead: Cllr Mieka Smiles.

1. Summary report

In March 2021, Middlesbrough Council were successful in a funding application for £36,220 which is to research, consult and produce a policy/practice document for digital parenting for Children Looked After and Children Leaving Care.

Funding by Parentzone and Nominet has been allocated to 9 interlinked projects under 3 key areas of which Middlesbrough’s sits within Design Challenge 3, that is:

*Elevating young peoples’ voice to influence the services that **impact on their digital safety and opportunity**.*

*Care experienced young people have invaluable insight which is currently **unde used in relation to digital and online safety policy development**.*

More specifically the project is to ensure care experienced young people can influence the service policies, process and practice that impact on their digital lives, we need to extend participation; and diversify and improve channels of communication and feedback.

This is based on significant risks posed to Children Looked After (CLA) being at risk of online grooming and exploitation, exposure pornography, peer pressure to send youth produced sexual imagery and access to drug sales and other harmful products.

Since its inception, the project has:

- a) Employed an apprentice who has care experience
- b) Utilising the wider national project the Middlesbrough project lead and the apprentice have been trained in ‘The Theory of Change’
- c) Consulted with young people and established the name ‘Digiwise’
- d) Formed a Steer Group to advise on key issues
- e) Developed an action plan which drives the project
- f) Hosted a care leavers football match and consultation event at Middlesbrough Football Community Foundation
- g) Designed and implemented a consultation survey for young people with care experience
- h) Designed a consultation survey for Foster Carers, Residential Workers and Social Workers.
- i) Is in the process of undertaking all consultation in g) and h) above

The project has seen delays in recruitment of our care experienced young person caused by the COVID back log on DBS checks. However the apprentice has now started and has a clear passion for engagement with working young people.

As a result, the target set to complete the young person consultation by the end of January 2022 has been delayed until the 28th February 2022 due to issues in recruitment. This should not impact on the final completion date of the whole project which is January 2023.

Early indications from the young peoples' survey shows:

- 100% are accessing the internet
- 93% access 1 or more social media account as their main activity
- 60% of the young people surveyed are going online for more than 8 hours per week,
- 87% are using their smartphone as the main device to access the internet, but choosing their own data plans over the residential home internet connection, this is because they have unlimited access data plans (this potentially poses a risk if there are no filters or controls enabled)
- 60% of young people surveyed reported that they had seen the sale of drugs on their social media
- 33% had requests to send youth produced sexual imagery (Indecent images)
- 73% had seen fake news reports

One outcome of the project so far has been the introduction of Foster Carers to introduce the UK Council for Internet Safety (UKCIS) Digital Passport (government backed), provides structure and safer conversations, for both the child and the carer. It allows children to express their feelings, hopes and interests and to talk about all digital focused issues why these are important.

The project will continue with a survey for Foster Carers, Social Workers and Residential Workers. This survey is with our consultation portal and expected to be live by end of January 2022, which will also inform the final policy which will be expected to be finalised and rolled out for mid-October 2022.

The next update for this board will be in June/July 2022.

2. Background Papers and History of Decisions (where applicable)

To support the recommendation for use and adoption of the Digital Passport for Children Looked After (CLA) [UKCIS Digital Passport - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ukc-is-digital-passport)

To request all professionals working with children in our care to complete the Digiwise survey with our young people [MCM Toolkit - Middlesbrough Children Matter](#)

3. Contact officer: **Ralph Jordinson, Risk and Resilience Coordinator**

4. Director responsible: **Sue Butcher, Executive Director, Children's Services**

Nominet REACH – Digiwise

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Ralph Jordinson – Risk and resilience coordinator
Louisa Jefferson - Digital policy apprentice

- ***Elevating young peoples' voice to influence the services affecting their digital access.***
- ***Purpose of the report is to develop a policy / best practice document for children looked after and children leaving care online access.***
- ***Care experienced young people have invaluable insight which is currently under-used in relation to digital and online safety policy development.***

Progress so far

- a) Employed an apprentice who has care experience
- b) Project lead and the apprentice have been trained in **Impact Measurement and Management** and developed a 'Theory of Change' and young person **blog**.
- c) Consulted with young people and established the survey name: '**Digiwise**'
- d) Formed a Steering Group to advise on key issues
- e) Developed an action plan which drives the project
- f) Hosted a care leavers football match and consultation event at Middlesbrough Football Community Foundation
- g) Designed and implemented a consultation survey for young people with care experience
- h) Designed a consultation survey for Foster Carers, Residential Workers and Social Workers.
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Survey early findings

Early indications from the young peoples' survey shows:

- 100% are accessing the internet
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- 60% of young people surveyed reported that they had seen the sale of drugs on their social media
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- 73% had seen fake news reports



Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) backed tool, UKCIS Digital Passport is a new innovative communication tool to help children and young people with care experience to explore their online lives and help keep them safe in online spaces (risks outside of the home).

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It has three parts which should all be used together:

- Digital Passport: An introduction
- Digital Passport: For adults and carers
- Digital Passport: For children and young people

Talking regularly about their digital lives with a trusted adult is a key way to help keep children and young people safe online. The Passport provides structure and resources to support professionals in having those conversations.

Foster carers survey

- The project will continue with a survey for Foster Carers, Social Workers and Residential Workers.
- This will identify key skills gaps in their knowledge and their experiences of young people accessing online spaces in their care.
- This professionals survey is with our consultation portal and expected to be live by end of January 2022, the findings will also inform the final policy.
- The next update for this board will be in June/July 2022.

Considerations: To support promotion of UKCIS Digital Passport

Page 4

- One outcome of the project so far has been the introduction of Foster Carers to introduce the UK Council for Internet Safety (UKCIS) Digital Passport (government backed)
- Provides structure and safer conversations, for both the child and the carer. It allows children to express their feelings, hopes and interests and to talk about all digital focused issues why these are important.

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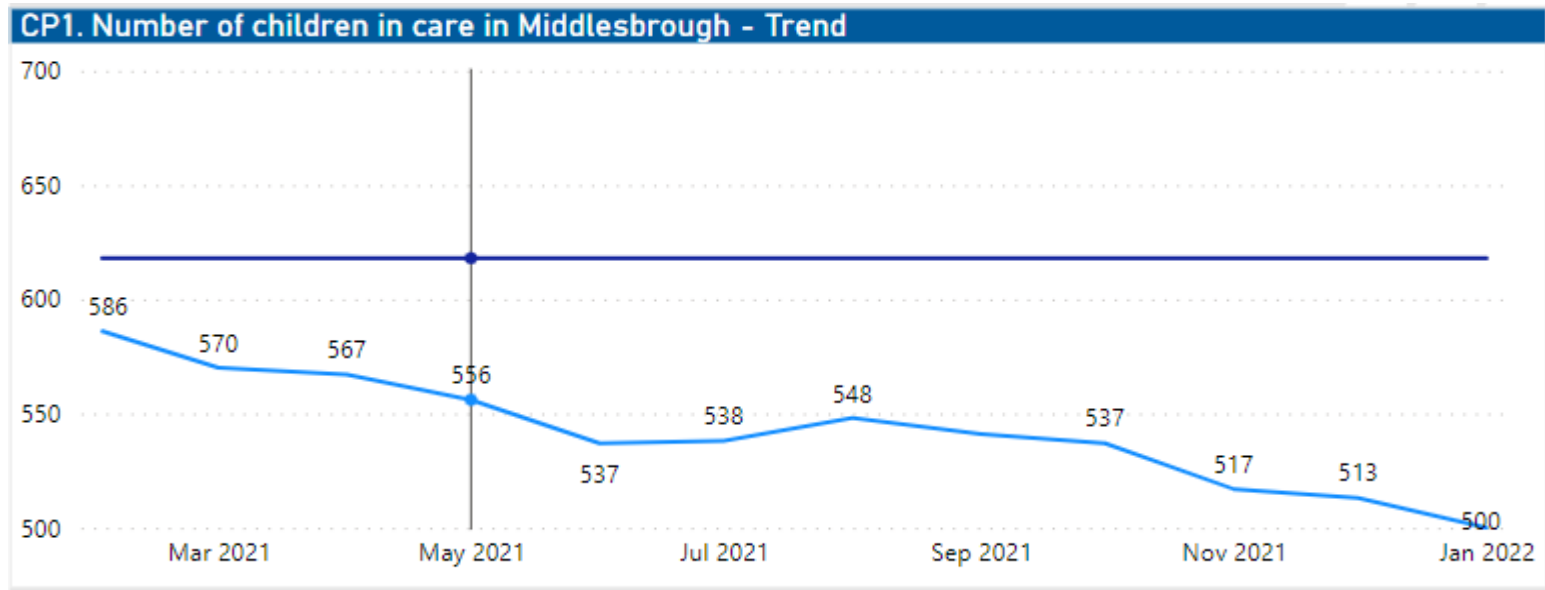
Corporate Parenting Scorecard Highlights

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Corporate Parenting Board
14 February 2022

Agenda Item 8

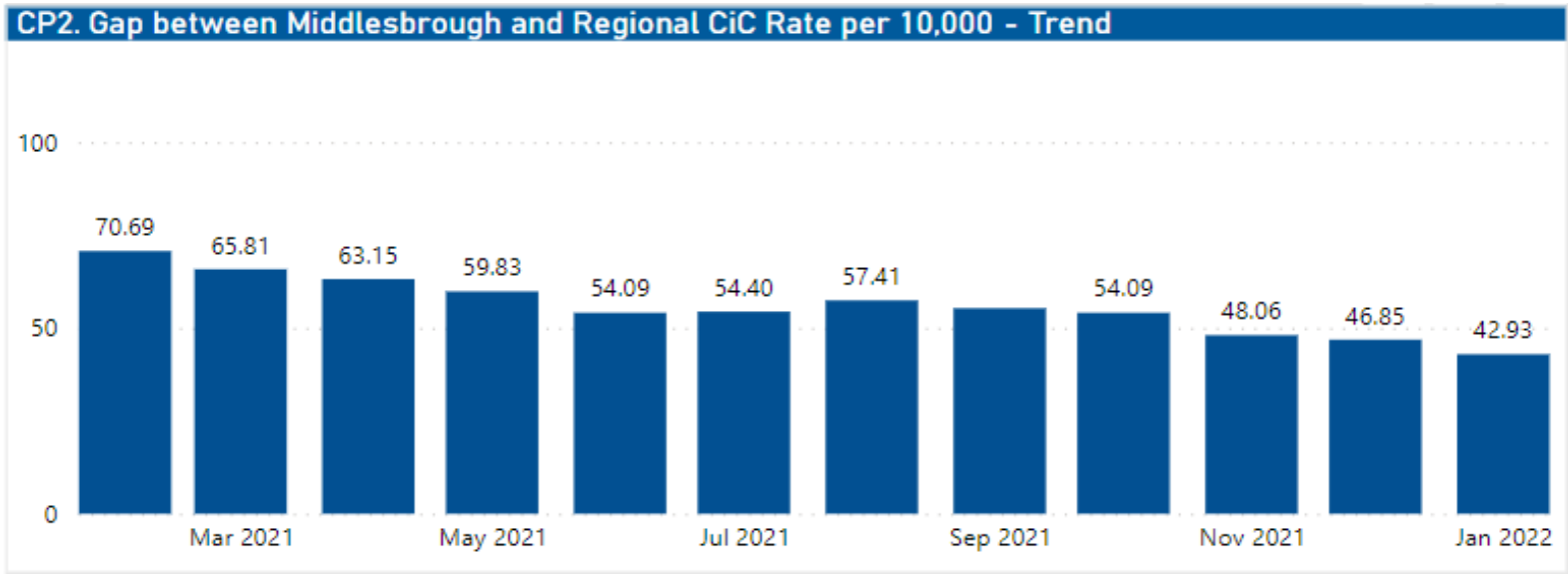
Demand



In February 2021 there were 586 children looked after in the authority. This has reduced to 500 at the end of January 2022.

There has been a rapid reduction over the year demonstrating a decrease of 14.6% over the last 12 months and an overall 28.7% reduction since the height of 702 children in September 2020. For every 0.6 children entering care, one child exits care. This ratio has been maintained for 7 months.

Demand



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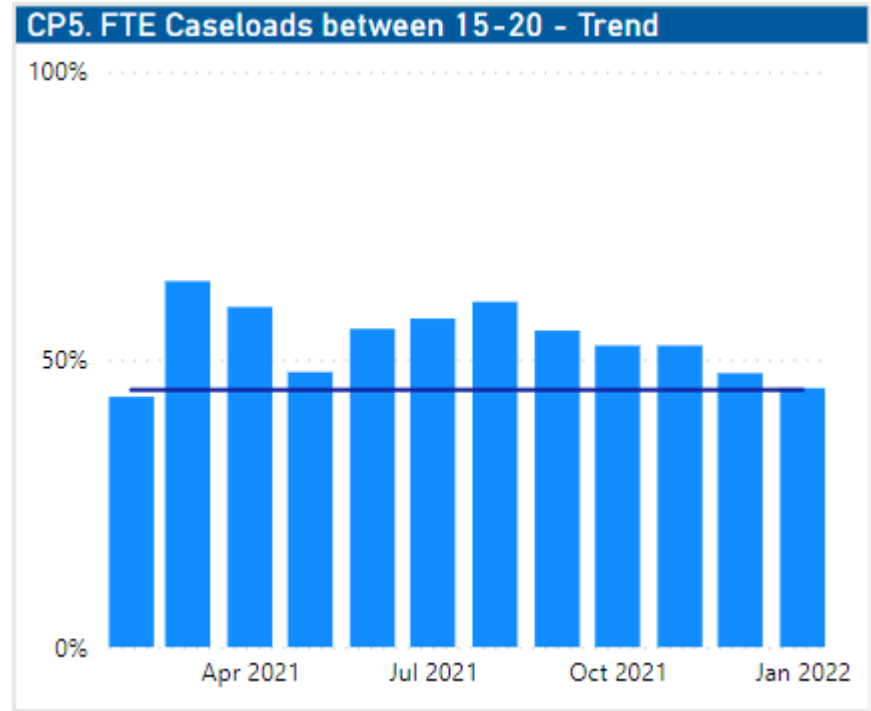
In February 2021 the gap between Middlesbrough's rate of looked after children per 10,000 of the children population and that of the region was 70.69. This has consistently reduced over the last 12 months and is currently 42.93.

As of today Middlesbrough's rate per 10,000 is 149. Our statistical neighbor rate is that of 134.

Demand - Caseloads

Caseloads have consistently reduced since August 2021 and throughout the improvement journey.

Whilst the average per service area varies slightly, the average caseloads across Children's social care is currently 16.7. This will support the service to drive improvements in the quality of practice.



Permanency

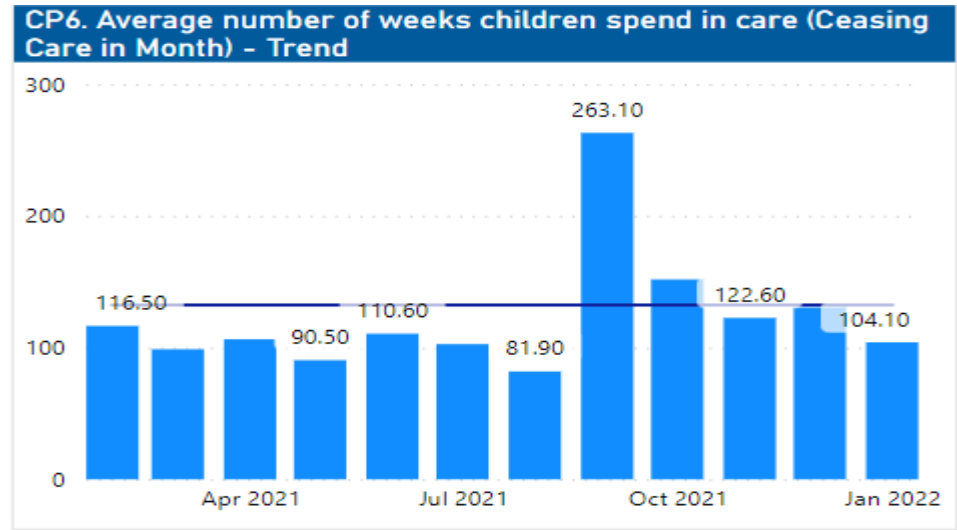
22 children ceased to be looked after in January 2022 (CHAT 07.02.22).

Of the children that ceased to become looked after they had spent an average of 104 weeks in care.

This is a reduction from December 2021 where it took those children who had secured permanence longer.

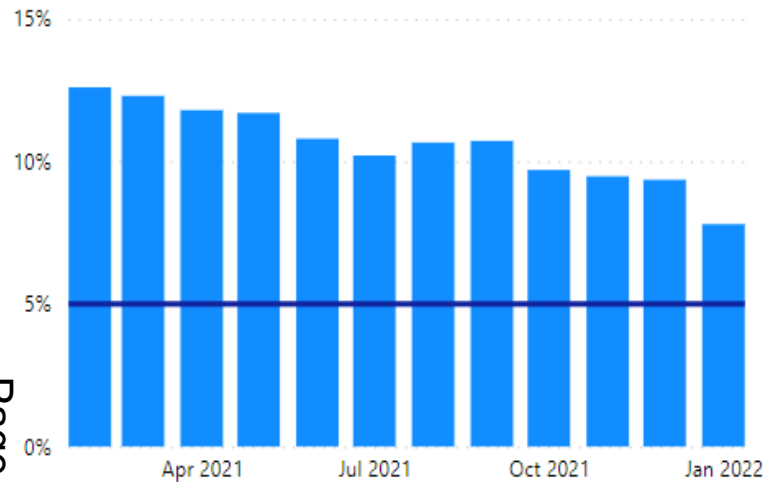
Of the 22 children that ceased to be looked after:

- 4 were adopted
- 6 SGO/Residence Orders
- 8 turned 18 years of age
- 3 returned to family
- 1 other

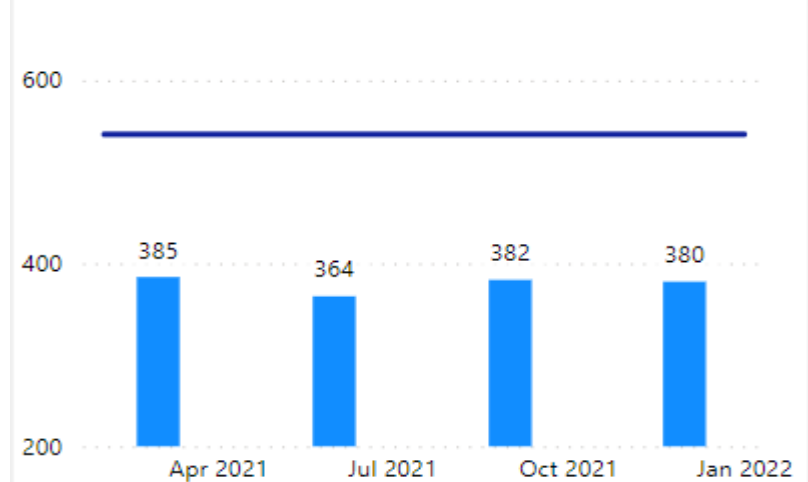


Permanency

CP9. % of CiC placed with parents on care orders at home - Trend



CP11. Average time in days between entering care and placed in adoptive placement - Trend



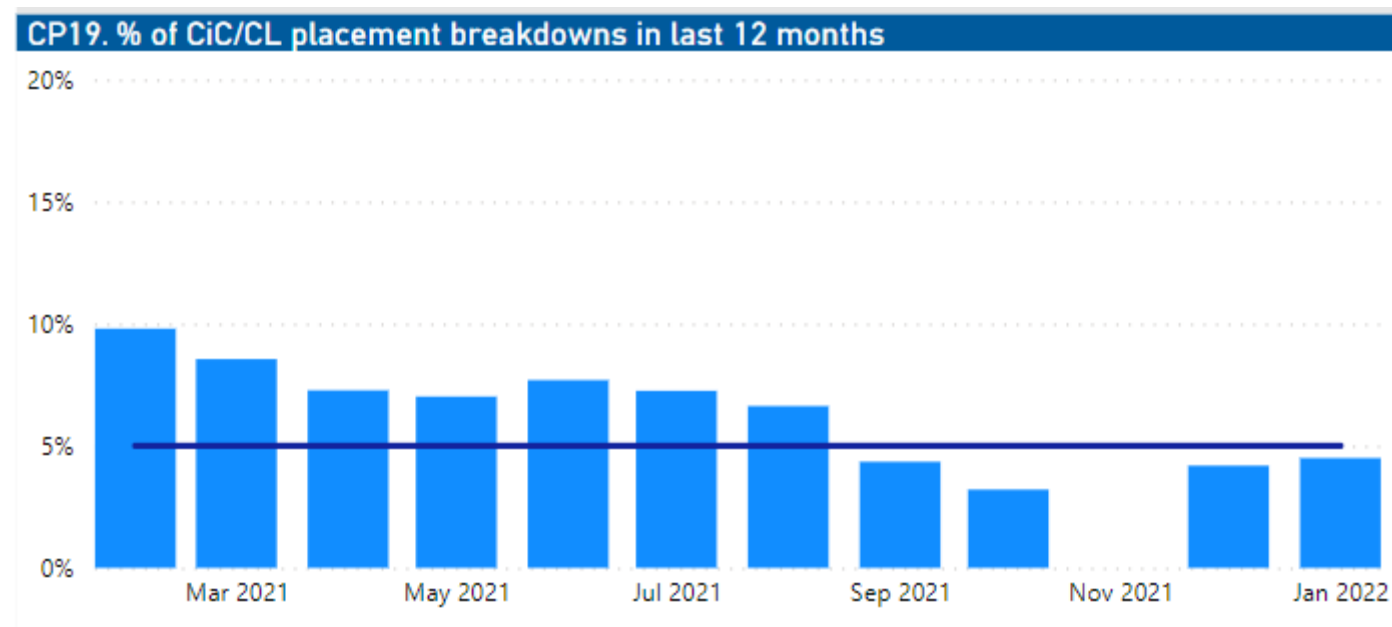
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Children Placed with Parents - The number of children placed with a parent and subject to a Care Order has reduced significantly since February 2021. There are currently 39 children placed with a parent. This is a 60% overall reduction since the height on 99 children in September 2020.

Connected Carers – Connected Carers – There are currently 105 children in connected carers placements. The overall numbers have reduced from 108 in December 2021. This has reduced from a height of 212 in 2020 (50.4%).

Adoption - The average number of days from entering care to being placed in an adoptive placement is 380. This has reduced from a height of 558 days in 2019/20 to 382 days in October 2021. (Adoption Score Care data for Q2)

Placement Stability



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Less than 5% of the looked after population have experienced a placement breakdown in the last 12 months.

In January 2021, 9.8% of looked after children had experienced a placement break down in the last 12 months.

At the end of January 2022 – 37 children looked after by Middlesbrough had experience 3 or move placement moves in the last 12 months. (7.4% of the cla population). This has been reduced from 127 in January 2021.

Quality and Impact

Visits

What does the performance tell us this month?

94% of children were visited within January 2022 (2% decrease from last month) and 94% of children were seen by their social worker in January 2022 (2% decrease from last month). 83% of looked after children have been seen alone.

Supervision/Management Oversight

What does the performance tell us this month?

94% of looked after children have had a supervision within the month of January 2022.

How does it compare to last month?

This is a 2% decrease from last month. This has been consistently high at over 90% for the last 12 months.

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Personal Education Plans

What does the performance tell us this month?

Performance in relation to PEPs remains high at 98.9%. This is a 0.7% increase from last month when 98.2% of children had a recorded PEP within the last 6 months. This performance has remained consistently high for the last 12 months.

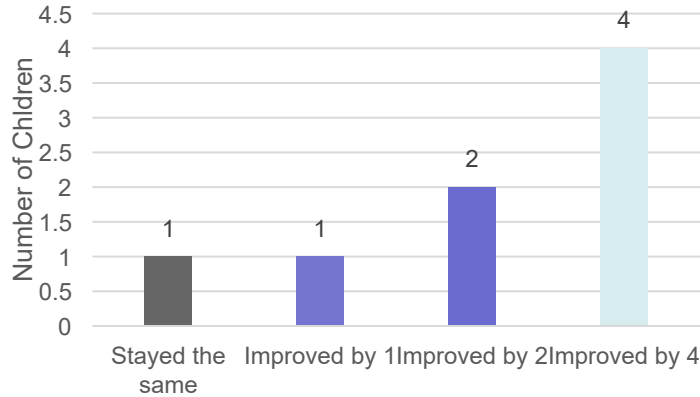
Health Assessments

What does the performance tell us this month?

92.4% of health checks have been conducted and recorded within the last 12 months. This is an increase from 93.1% in December 2021. Performance has been consistently high at over 90% for the last 12 months

Dental checks – 66.8% of children overall have had a dental check in the last 12 months. This has been a 1.5% decrease since last month.

What our Children Tell Us



Since having a Social Worker:

- 50% of children reported that things had improved for them by 4
- 25% of children reported that things had improved for them by 2
- 12.5% of children reported that things had improved for them by 1
- 12.5% of children reported that things had stayed the same

Children said that they felt listened to by their social worker, with one child stating *'They take into account my thoughts and feelings'*.

Children reported having good relationships with their social workers, with one child reporting ***'You do what you say you are going to do. Get things done quickly, I'm not waiting about for things to happen'***. Another child reported ***'There's not been no false promises. So I feel good'***.

When asked what difference their Social Worker had made to their lives, children reported:

'We are getting on better as a family, my social worker has helped me a lot'.

'I have received the help and support I need'

'My Social Worker helped me to move from residential care to a foster home which was my wish'

'Well I now live in care, I am glad that social workers are involved. I feel happier and safer now that I do not live with Mum. I remember when I lived with Mum social workers or support workers had to come to the house every morning to make sure I was dressed for school'.

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By virtue of paragraph(s) 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

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