## **BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL**

## CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

### WEDNESDAY, 25 JULY 2018 AT 10:00 HOURS IN COMMITTEE ROOM 6, COUNCIL HOUSE, VICTORIA SQUARE, BIRMINGHAM, B1 1BB

## <u>A G E N D A</u>

### 1 NOTICE OF RECORDING/WEBCAST

The Chairman to advise/meeting to note that this meeting will be webcast for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's Internet site (<u>www.civico.net/birmingham</u>) and that members of the press/public may record and take photographs except where there are confidential or exempt items.

### 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Members are reminded that they must declare all relevant pecuniary and non pecuniary interests arising from any business to be discussed at this meeting. If a disclosable pecuniary interest is declared a Member must not speak or take part in that agenda item. Any declarations will be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

#### 3 APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE AND CHAIRMAN

(i) To note the resolution of the City Council appointing the Committee, Chair and Members to serve on the Committee for the period ending with the Annual Meeting of the City Council in 2019:

Labour (5) Councillors Mohammed Aikhlaq (Chairman), Safia Akhtar, Diane Donaldson, Shabrana Hussain, Lucy Seymour-Smith.

<u>Conservative (2)</u> Councillors Charlotte Hodivala and Alex Yip.

<u>Liberal Democrat (1)</u> Councillor Morriam Jan.

(ii) To elect a Deputy Chair for the purposes of substitution for the Chair, if absent, for the period ending with the Annual General Meeting of the City Council in 2019.

## 4 APOLOGIES

To receive any apologies.

### 5 TERMS OF REFERENCE - CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

To fulfil the functions of an Overview and Scrutiny Committee as they relate to any policies, services and activities concerning the Children's Trust, vulnerable children, corporate parenting and other child social care and safeguarding functions of the Council.

### 6 CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S WELLBEING

Cllr Kate Booth, Cabinet Member for Children's Wellbeing in attendance.

## 5 - 60 7 <u>CHILDREN'S TRUST</u>

Andy Couldrick, Chief Executive, Seamus Gaynor, Head of Executive, Children's Trust and Sarah Sinclair, Interim AD, Commissioning in attendance.

# 61 - 66 8 WORK PROGRAMME

For discussion.

#### 9 <u>CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE -</u> <u>DATES OF MEETINGS</u>

(i) The Chairman proposes that the Committee meets on the following Wednesday's at 1000 hours in the Council House:-

#### <u>2018</u>

- 19 September
- 17 October
- 14 November
- 12 December

<u>2019</u>

16 January

- 13 February
- 13 March

17 April

(ii) The Committee is also requested to approve Wednesday's at 1000 hours as a suitable day and time each week for any additional meetings required to consider 'requests for call in' which may be lodged in respect of the Executive decisions.

#### 10 REQUEST(S) FOR CALL IN/COUNCILLOR CALL FOR ACTION/PETITIONS RECEIVED (IF ANY)

To consider any request for call in/councillor call for action/petitions (if received).

## 11 OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

To consider any items of business by reason of special circumstances (to be specified) that in the opinion of the Chairman are matters of urgency.

### 12 AUTHORITY TO CHAIRMAN AND OFFICERS

Chairman to move:-

'In an urgent situation between meetings, the Chairman jointly with the relevant Chief Officer has authority to act on behalf of the Committee'.



# **Birmingham Children's Trust**

# Children's Social Care O&S Committee 25 July 2018

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# **Birmingham Children's Trust**

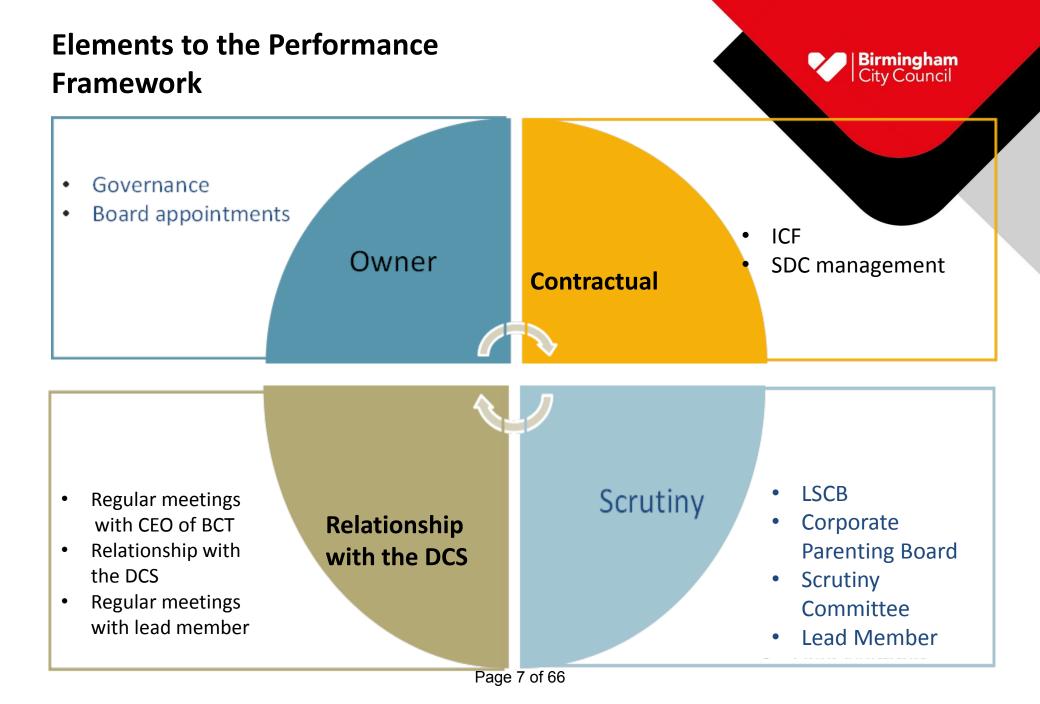
### Birmingham City Council

- A new "not for profit" Trust to become Community Interest Company
- Annual turnover of £196m; 1900 employees
- Enabled and fully owned by the Council, Teckal compliant
- Run independently by a Board
- Provide a wide range of statutory and non-statutory services
- Improve quality "doing the best for children in Birmingham"
- Deal with challenging central government funding reductions
- Meet aspirations of residents for high quality, local services
- Via the Service Delivery Contract
- Intelligent client function
- 100% BCC ownership
- Relationship with the DCS and Cabinet Member
- Scrutiny Function (monitoring and performance reporting)
- Local Safeguarding Children Board
- Corporate Parenting Board
- Clear governance framework

What is it?

# What will it do?

## How will it be held to account?



# **Birmingham Children's Trust** Our journey to here

# Children's Social Care O&S Committee 25 July 2018



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# Birmingham's Size

Birmingham is the largest single tier authority and has largest population of all the English Core Cities – 43% bigger than Leeds



# **Population: 1,124,569** (2016 Mid-Year Estimates)

**Population of Core Cities** 

Birmingham	1,124,569
Leeds	761,481
Sheffield	560,085
Manchester	514,417
Liverpool	470,780
Bristol	437,492
Leicester	333,812
Nottingham	310,837
Newcastle upon Tyne	286,821

A genuinely diverse population in terms of wealth, ethnicity and age. A young city. 50% non-white and 30% Muslim 30% FSM



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# National Context

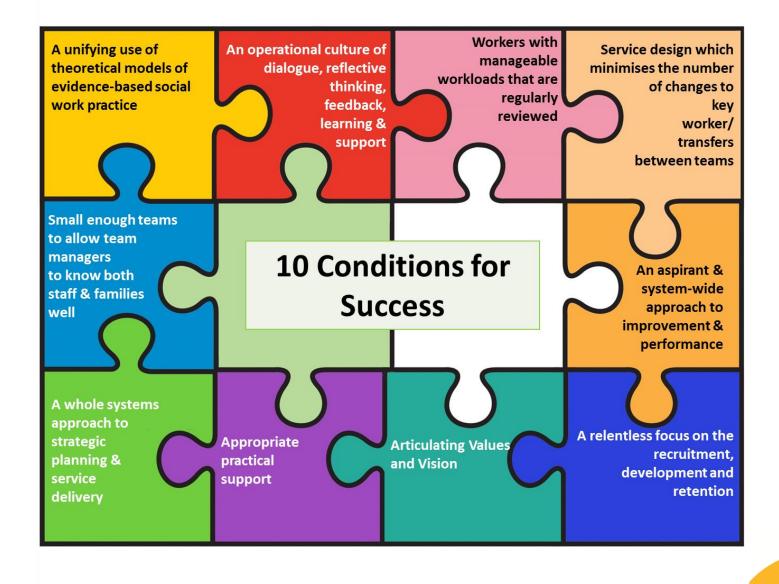
- Putting children first the government's vision for excellent children's social care in England
- Focus on leadership, practice and systems, governance and accountability
- Testing out new delivery models



# Trusts

- May 2016 Birmingham Children's Trust announcement
- November 2016 Andrew Christie appointed as Chair; Dave Hill appointed as Commissioner
- January 2017 Cabinet report agrees establishment of Trust
- July 2017 Cabinet agrees services scope, indicative budget and TUPE transfer model
- August 2017 Andy Couldrick takes up post as Chief Executive
- 1 April 2018 new DfE Direction, establishment of the Trust and retention of the Commissioner
- Trust go live 1 April 2018







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# **Organisation Style and Context**

Organisations need to develop a culture and environment that both allows and facilitates good practice to take place

**Building that environment involves:** 

- Leadership
- Support and innovation
- Consistent style
- Managing risk and anxiety
- A partnership approach

**Doing With** 



VS

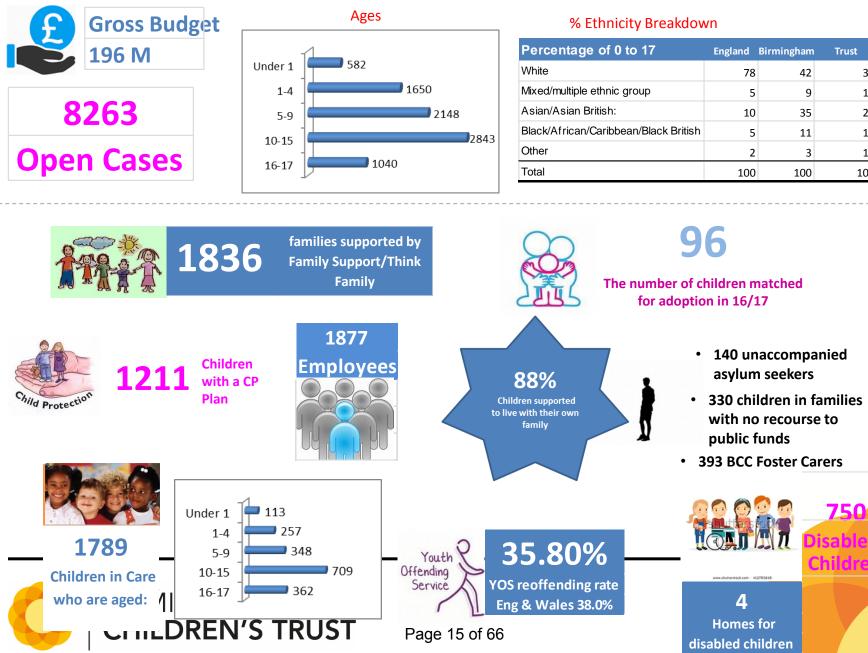


Doing To

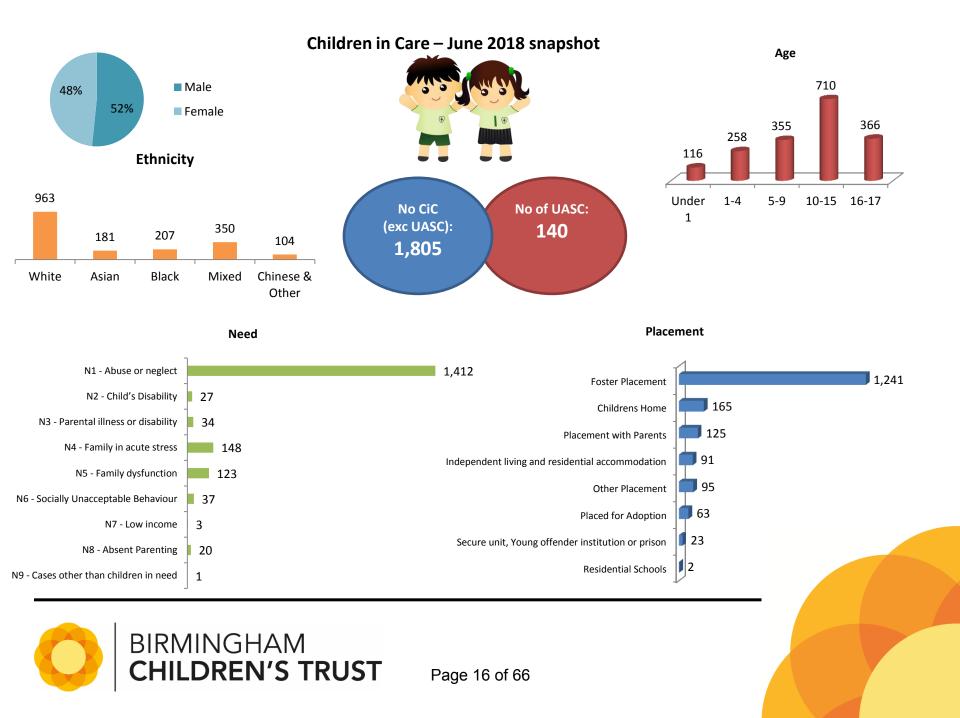


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# Birmingham Children's Trust (April 2018)



Trust



# **Core Children's Services**

- 13 Family Support teams
- One Front-door for all early help & social work requests for support (CASS)
- 14 Assessment & short-term intervention teams (ASTI)
- 20 Safeguarding teams (long-term interventions)
- 20 Children in Care teams
- 5 Leaving Care (18+) teams
- Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC), No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF), homeless young people, Edge of Care teams
- 5 Disability teams
- Youth Offending Service
- Fostering and Adoption, Placements
- Child Protection chairs and Independent Reviewing Officers
- Quality Assurance, Complaints, Rights and Participation, Learning and Development, Commissioning, Performance/data



# **Birmingham Children's Trust Vision & Purpose**

Our vision is to build a Trust that provides excellent social work and family support for and with the city's most vulnerable children, young people and families.

## We will do this:

- with compassion and with care.
- through positive relationships, building on strengths.
- in collaboration with children and young people, families and partners.
- by listening, involving and including.
- in ways that are efficient and deliver value for money.

## Outcomes

- healthy, happy, resilient children living in families.
- families able to make positive changes.
- children able to attend, learn and achieve at school.
- young people ready for and contributing to adult life.
- children and young people safe from harm.



# **Social Work Practice**

- Professional curiosity
- Unconditional positive regard
- Listen, empathise, support and challenge
- Open, working in uncertainty, perseverance
- Enabling change and being brave confident practice
- Analysis, hypothesis, authoritative social work
- Strengths-based, motivational interviewing, systemic practice and other evidence-based approaches
- Feedback from children and parents



# 2016 Inspection Findings

# Children's services are inadequate:

- 1. Children who need help and protection inadequate
- 2. Children in Care requires improvement
  - 2.1 Adoption performance requires improvement
  - 2.2 Experiences and progress of care leavers requires improvement
- 3. Leadership, management and governance inadequate
- "Senior leaders and politicians have worked hard, invested considerable resources and reconfigured services to ensure that there is strengthened focus on improvement, and this inspection has found some significant improvements in a range of services as a result."
- "Children and families do not receive the help they need at an early enough stage...partnership working with other services is not well embedded...care planning does not always ensure that all of a child's needs are carefully considered."



# Subsequent Ofsted monitoring visits

- May, September and December 2017; March and May 2018
- Progress since 2016 full inspection
- Basics in place
- Stable workforce that knows its cases
- Focus on compliance needs to shift to quality, outcomes and impact
- System/collaboration/partnerships all need attention
- Management oversight and supervision needs to feature more reflection and analysis



# Ofsted – national picture

Local authorities that focus on creating the conditions for social work to thrive are in the best position to improve the quality of their practice and focus on outcomes for children.

Management oversight and challenge at all levels help to keep this on track

## An environment where social work can flourish means:

- reasonable caseloads.
- technology that makes important tasks easier rather than more burdensome.
- commissioners who have enough understanding of the business of social work to make good decisions.
- supportive but challenging line management that proactively manages the whole system.



# A good 'front door' is one of the cornerstones of good basic social work. Shared characteristics:

- well-supported social workers.
- good information systems.
- clear information-sharing protocols.
- a healthy culture that respects the roles of different kinds of professionals and places the child at the centre.
- astute use of early help.
- an approach to understanding risk that analytically and comprehensively considers a family's strengths.
- active participation of partners with responsibility in children's care, such as the police, health agencies and schools, without whom decisions about children are ill-informed.



# Overall effectiveness of local authorities at their most recent SIF inspection 31 August 2017

- Outstanding 2%
- ✤ Good 32%
- Requires improvement to be good 46 %
- Inadequate 20%

# Improvement features of LAs making progress:

- better use of performance information and quality assurance.
- direct work with children and recording the voice of the child.
- responding quicker to contacts and referrals.
- completing assessments and improving the timeliness of statutory visits and reviews.
- senior management oversight of frontline practice.
- better operational practice in helping and protecting sexually exploited children and those missing from home and care.



# **Improvement Priorities**

- Placements, Choice and Sufficiency
- Quality and Performance
- Workforce Development
- Young People at Risk
- System & process efficiency



# And Something about Money...

Sum of Unit Cost								
						Childrens social		
						care:		
						Safeguarding		
			Childrens social	Childrens social	Childrens social	children and	Childrens social	
			care - Children	care - Family	care - Youth	young people's	care: Services for	TOTAL CHILDREN
			Looked After (RO)	Support Services	Justice (RO)	services (RO)	young people (RO)	SOCIAL CARE (RO)
ТҮРЕ	Authority	Unit	£/aged 0-17	(RO) £/aged 0-17	£/aged 0-17	£/aged 0-17	£/aged 0-17	£/aged 0-17
BIRMINGHAM	BIRMINGHAM	286,096	331.97	65.37	19.86	192.60	14.67	652.12
AVERAGE *	AVERAGE ALL	-	406.78	78.22	16.06	210.18	25.35	801.38
	AVERAGE CORE CITIES	-	421.64	75.79	20.15	227.37	31.36	850.49
	AVERAGE REGIONAL	-	402.86	79.88	14.60	191.85	22.01	770.40
	AVERAGE TRUST**	-	454.49	89.90	18.76	283.35	19.17	921.34

Grant Thornton Insights (2016/17)



# **Final Thoughts**

- Making and building upon sustainable changes in structure, practice and culture takes time and persistence – it doesn't happen overnight
- Needs a whole systems and whole organisation (and partnership) approach and commitment and lots of honest dialogue
- Birmingham and the Trust a huge challenge in which size (1900 staff and £196m budget), consistency, partnership and driving change are key factors
- But also an opportunity to sustain and accelerate improvement and become a beacon of best practice



# **Report to OCG**

# **Contract Key Performance Indicators of Birmingham Children's Trust**

# May 1st - 31st 2018



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No.	Indicator
KPI 1	% of all referrals with a decision within 24 hours
NPI 1	
KPI 2	% of re-referrals to children's social care within 12 months
KPI 3	% assessments completed within 45 working days
KPI 4	Child in Need cases open for more than 2 years
KPI 5	% Initial CP Conferences (ICPCs) held within 15 working days
KPI 6	% of children who become the subject of a CP plan for a second or subsequent time within the last 2 years
KPI 7	% of children (under 16 years) who have been looked after for 2.5 years or more, and in the same placement (or placed for adoption) continuously for 2 years or more
KPI8	% of looked after reviews held on time
КРІ9	% of care leavers who are in Education, Employment, and Training (EET)
KPI 10	Average time between the LA receiving court authority to place a child and deciding on a match (A2)
KPI 11	% of young offenders that re-offend
KPI 12	% of agency social workers (including team managers)
KPI 13	% child protection plans ending within 3 months or less
KPI 14	Average caseload of qualified social workers
KPI 15	% of social workers who have had supervision (in month)
Bi- mthly	Practice Quality: Audit and Evaluation Report, setting out what PE/Audit/Review work has been done in the period, and the outcomes/impact

#### 1. Purpose of the Report

1.1 To provide contractual performance information .

#### 2. Background

2.1 The contractual and performance of Birmingham Children's Trust is monitored monthly through the Operational Commissioning Group.

2.2 BCT went live on April 1<sup>st</sup> 2018.

2.3 Information contained within this report will include all 15 of the Key Performance Indicators judged against target, tolerance, trend chart and narrative from operational staff.

2.5 The performance information relates to the period  $1^{st}$  to  $31^{st}$  May 2018.

2.6 Exception report for KPI1



Rate per 10000	May-18	Latest published statistics Birmingham Mar-17	SN Mar-17	National Mar-17	May 18 - Tottal number of:
Referrals	555 (Rolling 12M)	609	844	548	1,725
Assessments completed	518 (Rolling 12M)	543	641	515	1,255
Children subject to S47 enquiries	155 (Rolling 12 M)	126	201	142	408
Children subject of an ICPC	73 (Rolling 12 M)	60	82	64	210
Children in Need	309	294	390	330	8133
Children with a CP Plan	44	34	50	43	1,268
Children in Care	68	64	74	62	1,797



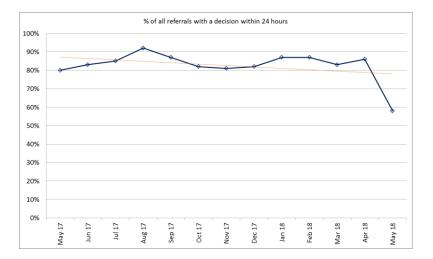
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Performance	% of referrals with a decision within 24 hours	Target 18/19	Tolerance
Indicator 1	Good = High/Increasing	85%	75% - 95%

	Prev. 12 months	Prev. 12 months	
	cumulative	May-18	
Referrals with a decision within 24 hours	11,932	1,029	
Total Referrals Authorised	14,153	1,785	
% of all referrals with a decision within 24 hours	84%	58%	

#### Commentary

Exception report refers





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Performance Indicator 2	% of re-referrals to children's social care within 12 months Good = Low/Decreasing	Target 18/19 21%	Tolerance 17-24%	
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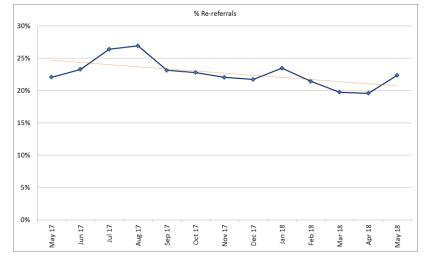
	Prev. 12 months	
	cumulative	May-18
No. re-referrals	3,198	386
Total Referrals Initiated	14,153	1,725
Re-referrals %	23%	22%

#### Commentary

Performance remains within agreed tolerances and has increased to slightly over target. We are aligned with the National Average and Statistical Neighbours.

The greatest percentage of re-referrals are from the Police as a result of Domestic Violence notifications.

A new domestic violence strategy is being implemented with West Midlands Police. We will continue to monitor the trend.



National average22%Statistical Neighbours average22%



Performance	% of assessments completed within 45 working days	Target 18/19	Tolerance
Indicator 3		85%	80-90%
	Good = High/Increasing		

	Prev. 12 months average	May-18
No. inside	1,140	1,143
No. outside	133	112
Total	1,273	12,55
% Inside	90%	91%

100% 95%

#### Commentary

We are maintaining good performance in this area particularly in the ASTI teams where most assessment activity takes place. We are still performing above the national average and statistical neighbours. A high figure is better and therefore being above tolerance is very good performance.

90% 85% 80% 75% 70% 65% 60% 55% 50% May-17 May-18 lun-17 Jul-17 Aug-17 Sep-17 Oct-17 Nov-17 Dec-17 lan-18 Feb-18 Mar-18 Apr-18 National Average 83%

% within timescale

Statistical Neighbours Average

87%

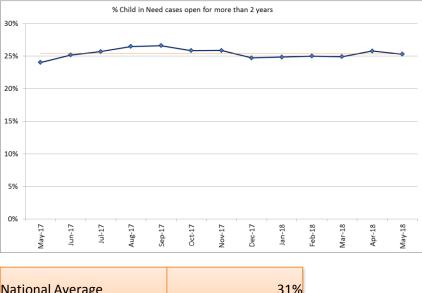


Performance Indicator 4	Child in need cases open for more than 2 years Good = Low/Stable	Target 18/19 30%	Toleran 24-36%	
		Prev	v. 12 months	
			cumulative	May-18
Total of CIN cases of	pen for more than 2 years	2,146 2,240		2,240
Total Number of CIN	I Cases	8,450 8,852		8,852

#### Commentary

Performance is stable and remains within tolerance. We are always likely to have a lower than national average of open CiN cases, because we have a strong Family Support service working with some 1850 families below the CiN threshold, and effective stepdown processes that mean social work teams can close some cases earlier.

% of Child in Need cases open for more than 2 years



25%

25%

National Average	51%
Statistical Neighbours Average	29%



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Performance Indicator 5	% Initial CP Conferences (ICPCs) held within 15 working days Good = High/Increasing	Target 18/19 80%	Toleran 75-85%	
At least one visit in a month		Prev. 12 months average		May-18
Number of ICPC's held within 15 working days			113	189
Number of ICPC's			156	210

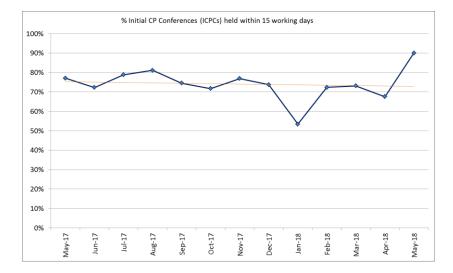
### Commentary

% of ICPC's held within 15 working days

A group has been convened to look at all aspects of the ICPC process. Discussions identified that there was some variation in the recording of strategy discussions which trigger the 15 working day count.

Managers have been advised accordingly and improved recording has resulted in a more accurate representation of the timeliness of ICPCs.

A high figure is better and therefore being above tolerance is very good performance. We had high performance in May, but it is the rolling 12 month figure we need to continue to improve.



72%

90%

National Average	77%	
Statistical Neighbours Average	84%	

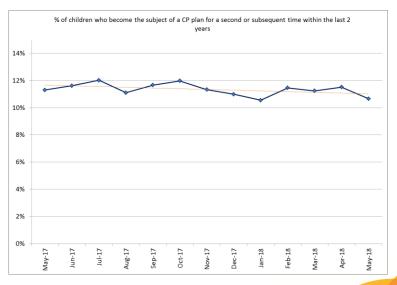


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Performance Indicator 6	% of children who become the subject of a CP plan for a second or subsequent time within the last 2 years	Target 18/19 12%	Tolerance 9-14%
	Good = Low/Decreasing		

	Prev. 12 months	
	average	May-18
Number of children on a CP Plan	1,637	1,764
Number of children who become the subject of a CP plan for a second or subsequent time within the last 2 years	187	188
% of children who become the subject of a CP plan for a second or subsequent time within the last 2 years	11%	11%

Performance on this indicator is within tolerance and remains stable. We will monitor this closely to ensure it doesn't increase any further. It is hoped that the positive progress on KPI 13 will over time lead to improved performance on this indicator.



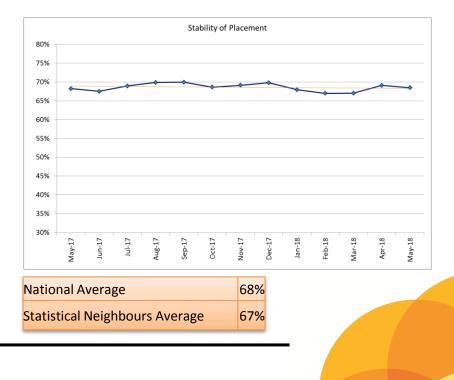


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Performance Indicator 7	% of children (under 16 years) who have been looked after for 2.5 years or more, and in the same placement (or placed for adoption) continuously for 2 years or more Good = High/Increasing	Target 18/19 65%	Tolerance 62-69%	

	Prev. 12 months average	May-18
Looked after > 2.5 years, same placement > 2 yrs, or placed for adoption	471	480
Total Children	687	701
%	69%	68%

This is a long-term indicator that should not vary greatly month by month. These figures are within tolerance and above target and we are aligned with the national average and are slightly above the statistical neighbours average.



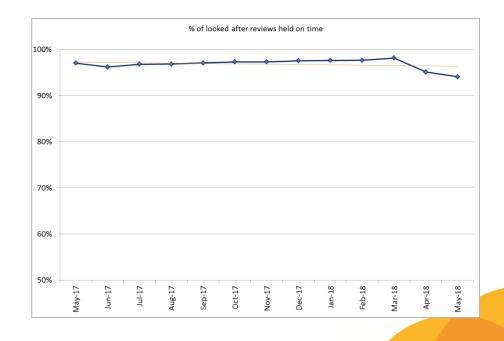


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Performance	% of looked after reviews held on time	Target 18/19	Tolerance
Indicator 8	Good = High/Increasing	96%	86-100%

	Prev. YTD	
		May-18
In Time (YTD)	312	824
Total LAC Reviews (YTD)	328	864
%	95%	95%

Performance in this area is stable and remains with tolerances. There has been an increase of children coming into care, but despite this the service continues to perform well and is at the higher end of tolerance. There is ongoing work to ensure both the timeliness of reviews and recording.



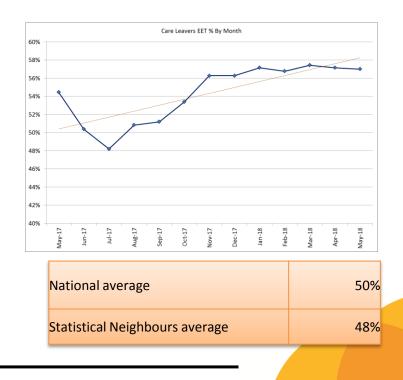


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Performance Indicator 9	% of care leavers who are in Education, Employment and Training (EET) Good = High/Increasing	Target 18/19 55%	Tolerance 50-80%
		YTD	
			May-18
Care leavers in EET (	YTD)	28	53
Total care leavers (Y	TD)	49	93
EET %		57%	57%

Care leavers aged 19 to 21 who are EET. Performance is stable, within tolerance and above target.

There is ongoing work to maintain performance and ensure that Care Leavers have the best possible opportunity to access education, employment and training.





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Performance Indicator 10	Average time between LA receiving court authority to place a child & deciding on a match (A2) Good = Low/Decreasing	Target 18/19 240 days	Tolerance 220-260 days

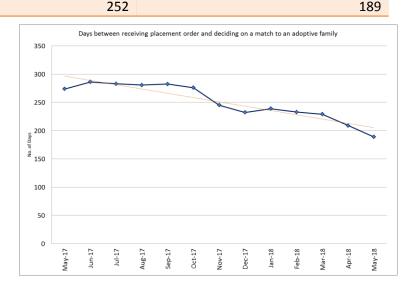
**3** Years Average

Average no. of days taken to match decision

#### Commentary

Performance on the three year target is within tolerance whilst the rolling 12 month figure is considerably better than target. Our 3 year average is now equal to our statistical neighbours and over time this should improve further through maintaining the improvements indicated by the twelve month figure.

A low figure is better and therefore being below tolerance is very good performance for children concerned.



May-18 (Rolling 12

Mon)

National Average	220	
Statistical Neighbours Average	252	



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Performance Indicator 11	% young offenders that re-offend within 1 year Good = Low/Decreasing	Target 18/19 45%	Tole 30-6	rance 60%
				Jul 2015 – Jun
		Year to	Mar 2016	16
Re-Offenders			396	395
Offenders			1,058	1,082
%			37.4%	36.5%

Data comes from the MoJ, reported in February 2018. Performance is reported every 3 months and aggregated for a 12 month cohort. The cohort consists of all young people who received a pre-court or court disposal or were released from custody in a 12 month period. This indicator is reported after a big time lag nationally to determine how many offenders go on to reoffend in subsequent year.

Our rate is below the National Average and equal to the WM average.

Performance is in the top quartile of all YOTs

National Average	42.1%
WM average	37.4%
YOT family	44.7%

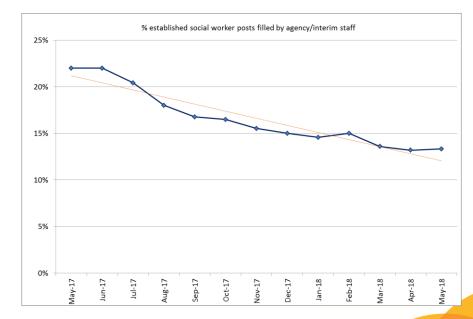


Performance Indicator 12	% established social worker posts (including team managers) filled by agency / interim staff Good = Low/Decreasing	Target 18/19 13%	Tolerance 10-15%

	Prev. 12 months	
	average	May-18
% agency social workers	17%	13%
% agency team managers	9%	5%
% agency total (Social Workers & TM's)	16%	12%

The percentage of agency social workers is stable and remains better than target.

At end of may there were 102 agency staff in QSW posts.



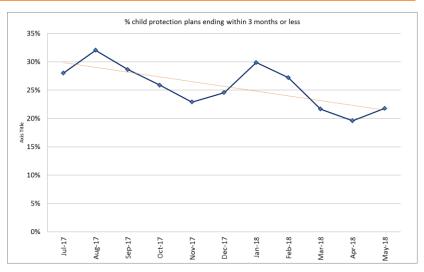


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Performance Indicator 13	% child protection plans ending within 3 months or less Good = Low/Decreasing	Target 18/19 25%	Tolerance 20-30%
		Prev. 12 months	
		average	May-18
child protection plans ending within 3 months or less		105	81
Total CP Plans de-listed during 3 months to reporting month end		384	372
%		27%	22%

There has been a small increase on last month, however performance remains better than the target.

We are performing better than statistical neighbours, although slightly below the national average.



National Average

Statistical Neighbours Average

20 26



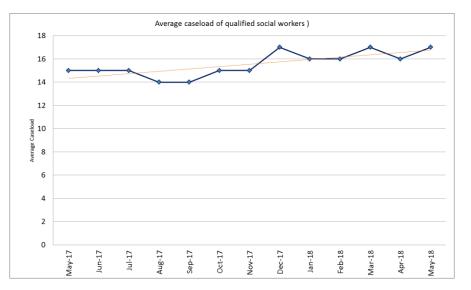
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Performance	Average caseload of qualified social workers	Target 18/19	Tolerance	
Indicator 14	Good = Low/Decreasing	15	12-20	

	Prev. 12 months	
	average	May-18
Average Caseload - City	15	17

The higher caseload recorded this month is indicative of an increasing number of CP and CiC. This is a concern that we are actively addressing in discussion with heads of service.

Caseload average in BCT remains better than the national average and statistical neighbours.



National Average*	18
Statistical Neighbours Average	18
*Experimental statistics	

BIRMINGHAM CHILDREN'S TRUST

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Performance Indicator 15	% of social workers who have had supervision (in month) Good = High/Increasing	Target 18/19 86%	Tolerance 80-90%
	Pre	v. rolling 12 months	
		average	May-18
Supervisions		441	474
Total No. of social w	orkers	504	511
% supervised		88%	93%

Performance has improved in May (above tolerance) but the rolling year average is the key one as figure is affected by holiday periods.

Social workers are being supervised to the required level and we would expect to see social workers supervised at least 10 times per year.

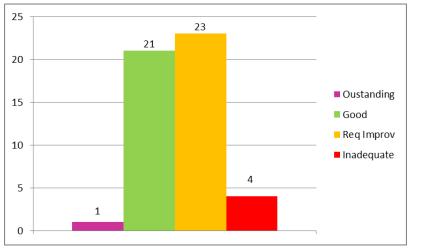




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#### **Practice Quality: Audit and Evaluation Report**

Over the past two months we have reviewed our Practice Evaluation (PE) arrangements in response to feedback from Ofsted and from colleagues within the organisation. We have launched new tools and a new approach to their completion and next steps are to develop new arrangements around the schedule of activity including critically how we close the loop and act upon the findings from evaluations. The new arrangements focus more on impact and outcomes and are more strength and relationship based in keeping with our values and practice model. We have also undertaken a safeguarding deep dive which will be reported in the next report, and have been planning a trial practice week whereby a group of senior leaders will spend three days in the areas observing frontline practice and completing PEs using the new approach.



During April and May there were 67 practice evaluations completed in relation to care leavers and children in care. These were attributed grades as in the table to the left. Thus in these practice evaluations we have graded fewer than 10% inadequate and around 40% good or better with the remainder RI. However across both the recent ASTI audits and early indications from the safeguarding audits we see in effect the reverse with fewer than 10% good, 30-40% inadequate and the remainder RI.



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Questions	Yes	No	Other (i.e. sometimes)
Do you understand why CS is involved			
with you and your family?	90%	10%	0%
Have CS involved you in decisions			
which affect your child?	80%	14%	6%
Has working with CS helped you as a			
family?	72%	18%	10%

For the aforementioned CiC and care leavers we also gathered feedback from 29 parents, carers and young people within this sample: 18 were from parents; 9 were from young people; 1 from a grandparent & 1 from a Foster Carer. This table shows the answers to 3 key questions

During April our Assessment and Short Term Intervention (ASTI) teams undertook an audit of 54 cases to examine progress against the ASTI improvement plan that had been developed in January. This plan had identified 5 areas for improvement, leading to 5 core standards agreed by managers, and developed to build upon examples of good practice and increasing the consistency of this practice. The audits identified progress against the core standards in that all cases had an up to date assessment, 86% had up to date demographics including records of family and professional networks and 60% had case summaries. Nonetheless overall gradings were as described above. Those managers undertaking the audit reported that this was a positive experience and there is a plan to repeat the process in August. Meanwhile there is also a piece of work that has commenced to improve the quality of assessments, now that timely completion is embedded.

During June and July we will be embedding the new practice evaluation arrangements and exploring the reasons behind the inconsistencies in terms of grade descriptors highlighted above. However our new PE tools do not ask the evaluator to give a grade and this will allow us to focus more on impact







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#### Children's Social Care O&S Committee 25 July 2018

#### Children who go Missing

In the last 12 months on average 107 children go missing a month within Birmingham. Some children have more than 1 missing episode. The average missing episodes for all children a month is 189. For each missing episode the Children's Trust offers a return home interview (RHI) to the child.

On 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018 Birmingham Children's Trust took over the direct provision of the return home interviews. Previously the local authority had contracted the service out to The Children's Society.

Staff previously conducting the interviews were TUPE'd over to The Trust. There are now 3.4 missing support workers, who are part of an expanded CSE/Missing team in the Trust.

#### Changes since March 2018

#### 1. All Birmingham children are offered a RHI

- All Birmingham children are offered a return home interview, including those placed outside of Birmingham. Previously only children living in Birmingham or within a 20 mile radius of Birmingham were being offered an interview.
- We are not currently offering children placed by other local authorities in Birmingham a return home interview. This is the responsibility of their home authority.

# 2. Closer collaboration with social workers, exploitation co-ordinators and Police

- The 3 full time members of staff are aligned to the 3 areas of South, East, and North, West & Central, enabling closer collaboration with social workers and child exploitation co-ordinators. This will be extended further by the missing support workers attending the new area MASE (multi-agency sexual exploitation) Panels from September 2018.
- We are working closely with the Police. All return home interview reports are sent to Partnerships (Police team). The intelligence is used by colleagues. Currently Partnerships are collating information around locations from these reports. The links with Locate (Police team) have been strengthened. Missing 72 hour strategy discussions are increasing; and regular discussions take



place around individual children. The Police and Trust have been working with children's placements to raise awareness around missing issues.

#### 3. Increase in successful RHIs

- The percentage of successful return home interviews has increased from the previous 12 month average of 35% in April we achieved 44%, in May 58% and in June 50%. A successful return home interview is a face to face or telephone discussion where we engage the young person in a meaningful conversation about their missing episode.
- The data for offering and conducting return home interviews within 72 hours was not previously being collated. The data since 1 April 2018 has been collated and IT colleagues have been finalising the reports this month to provide this detail.

#### 4. Increase in numbers of referrals arising out of RHIs

 Subjectively we are seeing an increasing number of referrals coming out of the return home interviews that have led to Children's Advice and Support Service (CASS) opening up referrals; cases being stepped up from family support; and section 47 strategy discussions being held.

The Police have informed us that they will be amending their working practice around 'absent' children as of September 2018. The Police are currently quantifying the size of this change but it could see a large increase in the numbers of children classed as missing, as it will include those currently classed as 'absent'. Absence is a classification that West Midlands Police currently use for any person who is not deemed to be missing, but they are not where they should be.

Karen Brookes Team Manager CSE & Missing Team 17 July 2018

#### Children's Social Care O&S Committee

#### Date: 25 July Time: 10.00 am Venue: Committee Room 6

#### Attendance and Children Out of School

#### 1. Introduction

All pupils have a right to full time education. There is no greater priority than to ensure that those pupils out of school are returned to full time education as quickly as possible. Our ambition is that all children have a school place, attend school regularly (our expectation is that a child's attendance rate is 90% or above) and that they reach their academic potential.

Our aim is to work together more collaboratively to promote the inclusion of vulnerable children including those within the Children's Trust. We are continuing to develop our shared understanding of the complex factors impacting on the improvement of educational outcomes in order to provide multi agency responses and solutions to these.

#### 2. Background

#### **School attendance**

Attending school is the key to educational success. Our analysis is that as a City we need to improve. The table below highlights Birmingham's pupil absence benchmarked against the national average.

	School Type	<b>Overall Absence</b>	Persistent Absence
England	State-funded primary	4	8.3
B'ham	State-funded primary	4.4	10.4
England	State-funded secondary	5.4	13.5
B'ham	State-funded secondary	5.4	14.4
England	Special	9.7	28.5
B'ham	Special	11.5	32.8

#### Exclusions

The table below highlights Birmingham's three year trend for exclusions. Secondary School exclusions are falling but there is a slight increase at primary school level. There have been no exclusions of Children in Care since 2014.

Yr	Three year trend			
Phase	2014/15 Academic Year	2015/16 Academic Year	2016/17 Academic Year	2017 / 2018 Academic Year at 31.05.18
Secondary Permanent Exclusions	189	176	185	111 (147)*
Primary Permanent Exclusions	89	92	111	100 (86)*
Special Permanent Exclusions	7	6	7	6 (5)*
Total Permanent Exclusions	285	274	303	217 (238)*

 Increase in exclusions in primary schools in the city and nationally, putting additional strain on alternative provision. Particularly for physical violence against staff by primary school children who struggle to communicate reverting to physical means.



#### Exclusion data analysis

Main findings:

- Increasing trend in exclusions for primary schools
- Inequalities by gender and ethnicity
- 84% exclusions are male
- In 2016/17 there was a large increase in female exclusions

#### Next Steps

More in-depth analysis of the:

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- Characteristics of schools with high level of exclusions
- Correlation for Free School Meals and SEND

#### **Children Not in Full Time Education**

Table below showing: Looked After Children data:

Vulnerable Group	Total Cohort	No. in Group	Percentage of cohort
	1274	16	1.26%
No School Place			
Under 25hrs	1274	9	0.71%
NEET		68	21.73%
Not in Education,			
Employment or Training	313		

#### Context

The total Birmingham school population is approximately: 210,000 (primary and secondary). We are in the process of allocating a school place or taking legal action for those children who do not have a school place – a total of 152 children.

	0 -25 school days	26 -50 school days	51-100 school days	101 and over school days	
Reception	12	2	1	0	
Year 1	18	1	6	0	
Year 2	9	2	3	0	
Year 3	5	0	0	0	
Year 4	8	1	1	0	
Year 5	6	0	0	0	
Year 6	15	2	2	0	
Year 7	11	3	2	0	
Year 8	12	1	2	0	
Year 9	12	4	0	0	
Year 10	8	1	2	0	
Year 11	0	0	0	0	
TOTAL	116	17	19	0	15

Other cohorts who are out of education include:

- Elective Home Education
- Gypsy, Roma, Traveller
- Asylum seekers

The current analysis of contributing factors for children out of education (these can be independent or interrelated) includes

- 1. Anxiety based
- 2. Medical
- 3. Family environment
- 4. ACES: Adverse Childhood Experiences (please see appendix 1)
- 5. Parents/carers are not confident/supportive of the education system

#### Actions

We are taking the following actions to improve the situation:

- We have been working intensively with secondary school heads to promote inclusion positively alongside our equal opportunities work to protect and champion our children at risk. This has established new networks for schools and highlighted the need for full time attendance and proposed a new funding formula for devolved budgets so that schools have a greater ownership and accountability for reducing exclusions.
- 2. Work has commenced on engagement with primary schools to mirror the secondary model.
- 3. School Governors are actively challenging and revoking exclusions
- 4. We have been working jointly on an SEMH Pathfinder, which is a collaborative approach to working with children and families with multiple complex needs. There are currently 12 Pathfinder schools in Birmingham (SEMH special schools, Pupil Referral Unit City of Birmingham School and Lumen Christi Catholic Multi Academy Schools), working towards a new kind of intensive, relational support supported by a core team of multi-agency professionals. School posts are funded by educational establishments and aligned to the Pathfinder.
- 5. Children are actively referred to the Fair Access Process which has recently been revised to be more inclusive
- 6. Mentors talk to families and schools to coach the families and to apply challenge to the schools to take "challenging" children or children who have been out of the education for weeks.
- 7. We have instigated a phased process of return to education which starts with the Birmingham Online School
- 8. At any one time Birmingham's Think Family programme is working with 2,000 families with multiple needs including poor school attendance.
- 9. We have employed three new members of staff to work specifically with schools, families and children to improve attendance/to ensure that children return to education.
- 10. Education, SENAR and the Children's Trust are working more collaboratively than ever before to identify vulnerable children and young people. This includes those with undiagnosed special educational needs.
- 11. We have established Attendance and Children out of School Triage and Panel arrangements (Appendix 2) to find solutions for those where there are barriers to children attending school. The multi-agency panel is initially focused on Children subject to a Children In Need Plan, Child Protection Plan or open to the Youth Offending Service and is comprised of:

- Education Safeguarding
- Attendance Lead Officer
- Head of Service, Early Help and Family Support.
- Head of Service YOS
- Principal Officer SENAR

These arrangements commenced in June 2018 and seek to develop a holistic understanding of the barriers to attendance and identify the most appropriate actions and solutions where usual processes and protocols have been explored without success. There is an escalation process and a commitment to highlight any situations where 'systems' are failing children. We are jointly committed to robustly monitor and report on any situations where the 'system' is failing children.

#### **Next Steps**

- There has been an improvement in secondary exclusions and there is now a focus on primary schools.
- We will monitor the managed moves that schools are making and challenge where necessary.
- We will continue to challenge the use of elective home education, by schools.
- The Birmingham Early Help and Safeguarding Partnership has agreed that improving school attendance will be our priority over the next 12 months. The Chairs of Primary and Secondary Forums are members with messages also promoted in Special School Forums.
- Data systems –there is an increased emphasis on sharing information and access to systems.
- All professionals working with vulnerable children to have a pathway into advice and support on education.
- There is a strong commitment to continue to raise our performance for children to national averages and then beyond.

David Bishop Head of Service Birmingham City Council Dawn Roberts Assistant Director Birmingham Children's Trust

#### Appendix 1

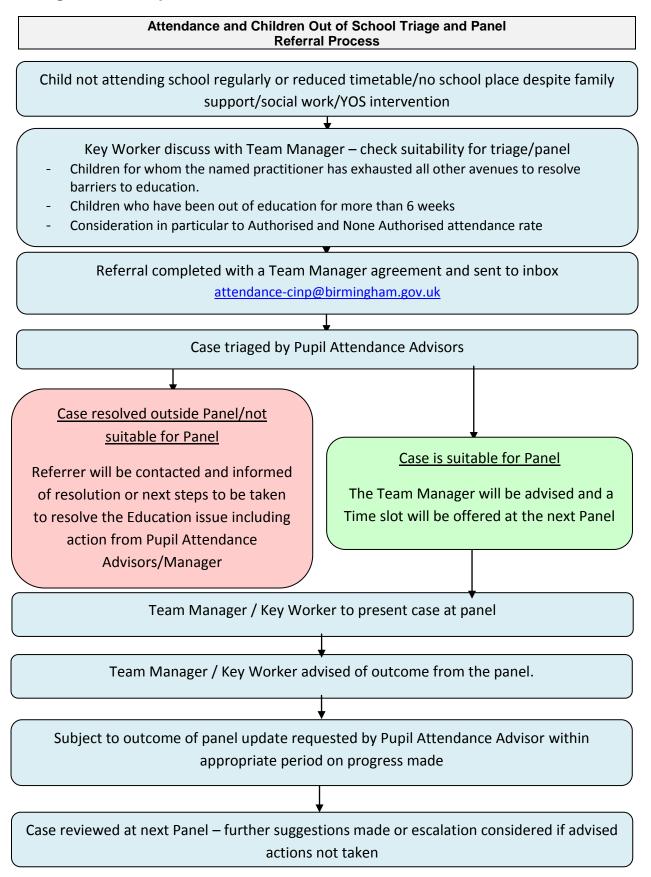
ACES



## How common are ACEs?

No ACEs	<b>52%</b>
1 ACE	<b>*******************</b> *****************
2 or 3 ACEs	<b>*************</b> ***********************
4 or more ACEs	<b>*******</b> 9%
Source: Addressing Adversity (2017, Young Mind	s)

#### Appendix 2 Triage and Panel process





# Children's Social Care O&S Committee: Work Programme 2018/19

Chair:	Cllr Mohammed Aikhlaq
Committee Members:	Cllrs: Safia Akhtar, Diane Donaldson, Charlotte Hodivala, Shabrana Hussain, Morriam Jan, Lucy Seymour-Smith and Alex Yip
Officer Support:	Rose Kiely, Group Overview & Scrutiny Manager (303 1730) Amanda Simcox, Scrutiny Officer (675 8444) Committee Manager: Sarah Stride (303 0709)

### 1 Terms of Reference

1.1 To fulfil the functions of an Overview and Scrutiny Committee as they relate to any policies, services and activities concerning the Children's Trust, vulnerable children, corporate parenting and other child social care and safeguarding functions of the council.

## 2 **Priority Issues**

- 2.1 The following were highlighted in June as the possible priority issues for the committee's 2017/18 municipal year:
  - Children's Trust July and November 2018 committee meetings and visits in September 2018 and March 2019;
  - Safeguarding to include the Birmingham Safeguarding Children's Board Annual report in February 2019 and Youth Justice Strategic Plan in December 2018;
  - Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) October 2018;
  - Early Years November 2018.
  - Corporate Parenting the Corporate Parenting Board Annual report and an update on progress with the Corporate Parenting Inquiry recommendations will be discussed in February 2019. Also, the Cabinet Member for Children's Wellbeing is the Lead Member for Children's Services (LMCS) and the LMCS and the Director of Children's Services (DCS) have a shared responsibility with all officers and members of the local authority to act as effective and caring corporate parents for Children in Care. The Cabinet Member is attending the November 2018 committee meeting.



## 3 Meeting Schedule

3.1 Below is the list of potential committee dates and Members may want to use some of these dates for other things other than committee meetings, such as visits, informal briefings etc.

All at 10 am	Session / Outcome	Officers / Attendees
20 June 2018 in committee room 6	Informal meeting to discuss the Work Programme and priorities.	Andy Couldrick, Chief Executive, Children's Trust, Seamus Gaynor, Head of Executive, Children's Trust, Sarah Sinclair, Interim AD, Commissioning and Natalie Loon, Corporate Parenting Coordinator
25 July 2018 committee room 6	Cllr Booth, Cabinet Member for Children's Wellbeing	Suman McCarthy
Report Deadline: 16 July 2018	<ul> <li>Children's Trust briefing and discussion. To include:</li> <li>Update on Children Missing from Home and Care – return home interviews).</li> <li>Information on CIC.</li> <li>Children at risk that do not have access to full time education.</li> <li>Adverse Childhood Experience (Sparkbrook &amp; Balsall Heath ward).</li> </ul>	Andy Couldrick, Chief Executive, Seamus Gaynor, Head of Executive, Children's Trust and Sarah Sinclair, Interim AD, Commissioning
19 September 2018 committee room 6 Report Deadline: 10 September 2018	Visit to observe the work of the Children's Trust.	Seamus Gaynor, Head of Executive, Children's Trust
17 October 2018 Committee room 2 Report Deadline: 8 October 2018	Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) – this could be a joint meeting with the Learning, Culture and Physical Activity O&S Committee. (TBC)	Austin McNamara, AD, SEND (TBC)
	Birmingham Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB) Annual Report.	Penny Thompson, Chair of BSCB and Simon Cross, Business Manager
14 November 2018 committee rooms 3 & 4	Cllr Booth, Cabinet Member for Children's Wellbeing	Suman McCarthy
Report Deadline: 5 November 2018	Children's Trust report – the first 6 months.	Andy Couldrick, CEX



All at 10 am	Session / Outcome	Officers / Attendees	
	Early Years, Health and Wellbeing contract.	Sarah Sinclair, Interim AD, Commissioning	
12 December 2018 committee rooms 3 & 4 Report Deadline: 3 December 2018	Youth Justice Strategic Plan (annual) – this could be done jointly with the Housing and Neighbourhoods O&S Committee and linked to the work of the Community Safety Partnership.	Dawn Roberts, AD, Early Help and Trevor Brown, Head Of Youth Offending Services	
16 January 2019 committee rooms 2 Report Deadline: 7 January 2019	ТВС		
13 February 2019 committee rooms 2 Report Deadline: 4 February 2019	Update on Progress on the Child Poverty Commission	Councillor Tristan Chatfield, Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion, Community Safety & Equality and Marcia Wynter, Cabinet Support Officer	
	Corporate Parenting Board report (annual) and a progress update on the Corporate Parenting Inquiry recommendations.	Andy Pepper, AD, Children in Care Provider Services and Natalie Loon, Corporate Parenting Support Officer	
13 March 2019 committee room 2 Report Deadline: 4 March 2019	Visit to observe the work of the Children's Trust.		
17 April 2019 committee room 6	ТВС		
Report Deadline: 8 April 2019			

## 4 Other Meetings

#### Call in Meetings

None scheduled

Petitions



None scheduled

#### **Councillor Call for Action requests**

None scheduled

It is suggested that the Committee approves Wednesday at 1.30pm as a suitable day and time each week for any additional meetings required to consider 'requests for call in' which may be lodged in respect of Executive decisions.

## 5 Report to City Council

5.1 The committee to agree the topic for their report to City Council.

#### (TBC)

Date	ltem

## 6 Outstanding Tracking

Inquiry	Outstanding Recommendations	Date of Tracking
Children Missing from Home and Care	R2 – Develop an overarching strategy for missing children so responsibilities are clear and understood, <b>risk is</b>	Update received: 12 October 2016, 26 April
	managed well, especially for looked after children	2017 and 18 October
	and persistent runaways, information is shared	2017
	effectively and appropriate support is in place for children and families.	
Corporate Parenting	R1 – R7	Update rec'd 18 Oct 17 &
		Annual Report 14 Feb 18

R01 - Councillors to commit to at least one activity from the 'menu of involvement'. This will then be published on the Council's website. A follow-up survey will be undertaken by the Scrutiny Office in nine months requesting an update from Councillors on this. Responsibility - All Councillors, by April 2017.

R02 - The menu of involvement for Councillors is developed into a corporate parenting handbook for Councillors for May 2018. This will include providing Councillors with examples of how they can undertake each task. Responsibility: Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Schools by May 2018.

R03 - Training is offered to Councillors in the first couple of weeks of becoming a Councillor. Responsibility: Deputy Leader by May 2018.

R04 - Every children's home in Birmingham that has a Birmingham child in care is visited by the end of July 2017 and the District Corporate Parent Champions ensure this happens. Responsibility: District Corporate Parent Champions by July 2017.

R05 - Supporting documentation for completing cabinet reports includes a requirement that consideration is given as to any impact of the proposals on children in care. If there are likely impacts, the cabinet report should include this in the body of the report. Responsibility: Cabinet Member for Transparency, Openness and Equality by October 2017.

R06 - The AD, Children in Care Provider Services presents an annual Corporate Parenting Board report to the Schools, Children and Families O&S Committee. Responsibility: Cabinet Member for Children, Families & Schools by Feb 2018.



## 7 Useful Acronyms

ASTI = Assessment and Short Term	EDT = Emergency Duty Team	PCT = Primary Care Trust
Intervention	EFA = Education Funding Agency	PEP = Personal Education Plan (all CIC must
BEP = Birmingham Education	EHE = Elective Home Education	have one of these).
Partnership	EYFS = Early Years Foundation stage	PEx = Permanent Exclusions
BSCB = Birmingham Safeguarding	FCAF = Family Common Assessment	RAG = Red, Amber, Green
Children Board	Framework	SCR = Serious Case Review
CAF = Common Assessment	FGM = Female Genital Mutilation	SEN = Special Educational Needs
Framework	FSM = Free School Meals	SENAR = SEN Assessment and Review
CAFCASS = Child & Family Court	IRO = Independent Reviewing Officer	SENDIASS = SEND Information, Advice and
Advisory Support Service	Key Stage 1(Ages 5-7) Years 1 and 2	Support Service
CAMHS = Child and Adolescent	Key Stage 2 (Ages 7-11) Years 3, 4, 5	SENCO = Special Educational Needs
Mental Health Services	and 6	Coordinator
CASS = Children's Advice and	Key Stage 3 (Ages 11-14) Years 7, 8 and	SEND = Special Educational Needs and
Support Service CIC = Children in Care CICC = Children in Care Council CiCES = Children In Care Education Service (formerly LACES Looked After Children Education Service) COBS = City of Birmingham School CPR = Child Protection Register CRB = Criminal Records Bureau CSE = Child Sexual Exploitation DFE =Department for Education DV = Domestic Violence	9 Key Stage 4 (Ages 14-16) Years 10 & 11 Key Stage 5 (ages 16 – 18) MASH = Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub NEET = Not in Education, Employment or Training NRPF = No Recourse to Public Funds Ofsted = Office for Standards in Education	Disability SGOs = Special Guardianship Orders UASC = Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children YOT = Youth Offending Team

## 8 Forward Plan for Cabinet Decisions

8.1 The following decisions, extracted from the Cabinet Office Forward Plan of Decisions, are likely to be relevant to the Children's Social Care O&S Committee's remit.

ID Number	Title	Proposed Date of	Date of Decision
		Decision	
005164/2018	T023 – Provision of Transport Services (Contract Extension)	26 Jun 18	26 Jun 18

8.2 The following are joint decisions made by the relevant Cabinet Member and Chief Officers.

Ref No	Title	Cabinet Member & Lead Officer	Date of Meeting
004965/2018	Birmingham Children's Trust Establishment	Cllr Carl Rice, Children, Families and Schools and Sarah Sinclair, Interim AD, Children and Young People Commissioning	28 Feb 2018