

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

1. Cabinet decisions since the last Executive Report to the County Council

- 1.1 There will have been 5 Cabinet meetings (29 March 2016, 18 April 2016, 16 May 2016, 20 June 2016 and 11 July 2016) since the last Executive Report to County Council. There were no items of business specifically attributed to the Children's Services portfolio.

2. Consequences of Cabinet decisions before the last meeting of the County Council on 17 May 2016

- 2.1 Nothing to report.

3. Anticipated/ future decisions to be made by Cabinet

- 3.1 There are currently no anticipated Cabinet decisions are required in the near future.

4. Key Partnerships

- 4.1 I sit on the Health and Wellbeing Board; Children and Young People's Integrated Commissioning Executive (CYPICE) and Hertfordshire's Safeguarding Children Board (HSCB).

5. Other comments

5.1 Children Looked After and Care Leavers

5.1.1 Priorities

- **Education.** The percentage of children looked after (CLA) achieving 5 or more GCSEs (inc. English & mathematics) in 2015 was 10.5% compared with 13.8% nationally. This performance is consistent with previous years.
- **Care Leavers aged 19-21 not in education or training.** In March this figure was 46.5%, this compares with 39% nationally. There has been a 20% improvement since last year but the figure is still stubbornly high.
- **Stable placements.** There has been a considerable improvement in the stability of long term placements, rising from 62.8% in March 2015 to 69.4% in March 2016. However the percentage of children looked after with three or more placements in the last twelve months remains an area for improvement. Latest provisional performance for March 2016 is 12.6%, which is above the national average of 10%.

5.1.2 Improvement Activity

A performance clinic has been scheduled for July. This will cover:-

- Priority access to advisors at Job Centre Plus for Care Leavers
- Use of the newly established Care Leaver Hubs to work with those hardest to reach
- Delivery of the Job Centre Plus Flexible Support funded 'Employment Guarantee Scheme' by Youth Connexions.

5.1.3 Placement Moves

- Reviews of all children who have moved placement since 1st April 2016 and putting in additional support where there is an identified risk of further breakdown.
- Staff training about improved placement planning and the use of support meetings at the earliest opportunity.

5.1.4 Return Home Interviews for Children Looked After

The procurement has been completed for an independent service to offer return home interviews for children looked after who have gone missing. The provider 'Missing People' started delivering this service from 1st June. This should improve the number of children participating and intelligence gathering.

5.2. Ofsted Update

The post inspection action plan (PIAP) has been agreed by Ofsted and continues to be monitored by Children's Services.

As at April 2016, 60% of items were reported as Green and on progress. It is expected that the majority of actions in the PIAP will be completed by autumn 2016, although some items are long term strategic improvements and will take longer to embed. Progress continues to be monitored by senior management in Children's Services on a quarterly basis.

Ofsted's annual report on social care was published on 28 June 2016 and highlighted Hertfordshire's innovative academy supporting the development of newly qualified social workers and our leadership programme for senior social work staff.

The report also highlighted the work of Hertfordshire's Safeguarding Children Board (HSCB) and praised its work across the partnership and also the culture of openness, scrutiny and challenge within the Board.

The full report can be viewed at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ofsted-social-care-annual-report-2016>

5.3 **SEND Update**

The DfE published data recently on the performance of all Local Authorities in relation to the SEND reforms. This showed that Hertfordshire completed over 500 new Education, Health and Care Plans in 2015 with 97% within the statutory timescale of 20 weeks. Our performance was well above the national average of 55.5%. This is a great achievement of our staff and professionals in other services.

Work is progressing well across the 10 work streams linked with the SEND Strategy 2015-18 and there is good engagement from parents and schools in delivering locally. The strategy, work stream briefs, progress reports and associated publications can be found at www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/sendstrategy.

Hertfordshire County Council is to be subject to a Local Area SEND inspection by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) the week commencing the 4th July 2016.

5.4 **Road Safety in Hertfordshire**

A total of 32 children were killed or seriously injured on roads in Hertfordshire in 2015. This is an 11% reduction on 2014 and 20% reduction on the 2005-2009 average. More specifically, 50% of the casualties were pedestrians and 31% were car users. Full details of road safety initiatives in Hertfordshire schools are available here.

<http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/transtreets/schtravel/roadsafetysch/>

6. **Cabinet Panels**

- 6.1 Since the last Executive Report to Council, the Children's Services Cabinet Panel has met on 22 April 2016 and 28 June 2016. The matters discussed can be found at the following locations:

22 April 2016

<https://cmis.hertfordshire.gov.uk/hertfordshire/Calendarofcouncilmeetings/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/372/Committee/19/Default.aspx>

28 June 2016

<https://cmis.hertfordshire.gov.uk/hertfordshire/Calendarofcouncilmeetings/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/373/Committee/19/Default.aspx>

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July 2016