

Corporate Parenting Board

4 September 2018

Report of the Corporate Director of Children, Education and Communities

Placement Stability

Summary

1. This paper provides an update on placement stability for City of York Council's children in care.

Background

2. It is known that repeated placement moves can affect children in care's wellbeing and outcomes. Placement stability is measured by two indicators – 3 or more moves in one year; looked after for 2.5 years or more and stability for 2 years of those years.
3. This report highlights that there has been a reduction in placement stability over the past 3 years and places this in the context of our children in care numbers and demographic; our placement sufficiency. The report will offer vignette examples of reason for placement moves and impact.
4. City of York Council children's services department has identified placement sufficiency as a priority area and is conducting a Placement Review with a view to providing robust and flexible future proof placement options for our children in care. Progress on this review will be shared with Corporate Parenting Board in November.

Council Plan

5. This report links to the Council Plan priority - a focus on frontline services - to ensure all residents, particularly the least advantaged, can access reliable services and community facilities. Improving placement sufficiency will have a direct impact on improving frontline services for children in care.

Implications

- Financial - None
- Human Resources (HR) - None
- Equalities - None
- Legal - None
- Crime and Disorder - None
- Information Technology (IT) - None
- Property - None
- Other - None

Risk Management

6. There are risks to individual children of worsened outcomes by multiple placement moves.
7. The Placement Review is the mechanism by which the Local Authority will mitigate risk by meeting our sufficiency needs through flexible and responsive foster care provision, good quality emergency provision and residential provision.

Recommendations

8. The Corporate Parenting Board is asked to note the contents of this paper.

Reason: To keep the Board updated.

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**Chief Officer Responsible for the
report:**

Jon Stonehouse
Corporate Director of Children,
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**Report
Approved**



Date
20.08.18

Specialist Implications Officer(s) - None

Wards Affected: *List wards or tick box to indicate all*

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers: None

Annex

Annex A – Placement Stability