

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE

August 2013

CHILDREN IN CARE – PERFORMANCE REPORT

1. Purpose of the Report

To report and comment on key progress issues affecting children in the care of the County Council.

2. Information and Analysis

Number of Children in Care

At the end of July 2013 there were 638 children in the care of Derbyshire County Council. This was a small (3.9%) decrease when compared with the number at 31 March 2013 (664).

District	Number of Children in Care 31 March 2012	Number of Children in Care 31 March 2013	Number of Children in Care 31 July 2013	Percentage change March to July 2013
Under 1	45	49	49	0.0%
1 to 4	149	129	110	-14.7%
5 to 9	121	134	140	+4.5%
10 to 15	222	205	202	-1.5%
16 and over	163	147	137	-6.8%
Total	700	664	638	-3.9%

The number of Children in Care at 31/07/13 who were aged '5 to 9' saw an increase (4.5%) when compared with 31/03/13. All other age groups saw a reduction in numbers.

District	Number of Children in Care 31 March 2012	Number of Children in Care 31 March 2013	Number of Children in Care 31 July 2013	Percentage change March to July 2013
Disabled Children	36	32	34	+6.3%
High Peak & North Dales	103	103	104	+1.0%
Chesterfield	113	121	113	-6.6%
North East Derbyshire & Bolsover	154	134	126	-6.0%
Amber Valley	92	82	75	-8.5%
Erewash	145	133	124	-6.8%
South Derbyshire & South Dales	57	59	62	+5.1%
Total	700	664	638	-3.9%

Between 31 March and 31 July 2013, the largest decreases in the number of Children in Care at a district level were seen in Amber Valley (8.5%), Erewash (6.8%), Chesterfield (6.6%) and North East Derbyshire & Bolsover (6.0%).

By contrast South Derbyshire & South Dales saw an increase of 5.1% in their number of Children in Care over the same period, as did the Disabled Children's Teams where the number increased by 6.3%.

As the overall number of Children in Care has decreased, this has also meant a reduction in the number per 10k population under 18 years from 42 at 31 March 2013 to 41 at 31 July 2013.

Derbyshire has historically had a low number of children in care per 10k population under 18 years when compared with our statistical neighbour group of Authorities and England overall. Historical performance compared to statistical neighbour Authorities and England as published by the DfE is shown in the table below. Data for 2012-13 will be available in September 2013.

Number of Children in Care per 10k population under 18	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Dudley	82	93	93	100	
Wigan	73	77	70	71	
Cumbria	45	52	53	63	
Warwickshire	48	53	58	61	
Kent	4	47	54	56	
Lancashire	50	52	53	54	
Northamptonshire	42	46	48	51	
Staffordshire	41	44	47	51	
Nottinghamshire	30	36	43	49	
Derbyshire	33	40	41	45	42
Lincolnshire	39	38	35	36	
<i>Statistical Neighbour Average</i>	<i>48</i>	<i>53</i>	<i>54</i>	<i>58</i>	
<i>Statistical Neighbour Average (excluding Derbyshire)</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>54</i>	<i>55</i>	<i>59</i>	
<i>England</i>	<i>55</i>	<i>59</i>	<i>59</i>	<i>59</i>	

Children who started to be Looked After during the year (Admissions)

During the 12 month period to 31/07/13 there were 272 admissions to care. This was a 2.2% decrease when compared with the number of admissions during the 2012/13 financial year (278 admissions). When comparing the 2012/13 admissions to 2011/12 financial year there was a 3.5% decrease.

The table below shows breakdowns by age range for each of the three periods. Between the 2011-12 and the 2012-13 financial years the most notable changes are an increase in admission of children aged '5 to 9' and '16 and over' and a decrease in admissions for children aged 'Under 1' and '10 to 15'. In the 12 months to 31st July 2013 admissions by all age groups apart from 'Under 1' showed a decrease when compared to the 2012-13 financial years.

Admissions by age group	1 April 2011 to 31 March 2012		1 April 2012 to 31 March 2013		1 August 2012 to 31 July 2013	
	Number	% of total	Number	% of total	Number	% of total
Under 1	70	24.3%	63	22.7%	71	26.1%
1 to 4	58	20.1%	60	21.6%	58	21.3%
5 to 9	45	15.6%	49	17.6%	43	15.8%
10 to 15	79	27.4%	55	19.8%	50	18.4%
16 and over	36	12.5%	51	18.3%	50	18.4%
Total	288	-	278	-	272	-

The 'Category of Need' of children admitted to care during the 12 months to 31/08/13 is broadly in line with those from the 2012/13 financial year. Abuse or Neglect continues to be the most common reason why children are taken into care, accounting for just over half of admissions.

Admissions by age group	1 April 2011 to 31 March 2012		1 April 2012 to 31 March 2013		1 August 2012 to 31 July 2013	
	Number	% of total	Number	% of total	Number	% of total
Abuse or Neglect	154	53.5%	138	49.6%	146	53.7%
Child's Disability or Illness	4	1.4%	10	3.6%	10	3.7%
Parental Disability or Illness	24	8.3%	18	6.5%	16	5.9%
Family in Acute Stress	26	9.0%	28	10.1%	22	8.1%
Family Dysfunction	59	20.5%	64	23.0%	59	21.7%
Socially Unacceptable Behaviour	5	1.7%	4	1.4%	5	1.8%
Absent Parenting	16	5.6%	16	5.8%	14	5.1%
Total	288	-	278	-	272	-

At District level, when comparing the 12 month period to 31/07/13 with the 2012/13 financial year, there have been increases in admissions for Disabled Children, North East Derbyshire & Bolsover and South Derbyshire & South Dales. This contrasts with reduced admissions in Amber Valley, Chesterfield, High Peak & North Dales and Erewash.

Admissions by District	1 April 2011 to 31 March 2012		1 April 2012 to 31 March 2013		1 August 2012 to 31 July 2013	
	Number	% of total	Number	% of total	Number	% of total
Disabled Children	6	2.1%	15	5.4%	21	7.7%
High Peak & North Dales	62	21.5%	36	12.9%	34	12.5%
Chesterfield	48	16.7%	60	21.6%	54	19.9%
North East Derbyshire & Bolsover	50	17.4%	45	16.2%	47	17.3%
Amber Valley	35	12.2%	36	12.9%	34	12.5%
Erewash	56	19.4%	55	19.8%	48	17.6%
South Derbyshire & South Dales	31	10.8%	31	11.2%	34	12.5%
Total	288	-	278	-	272	-

Analysis of the family group size for those children and young people admitted to care in the 12 month period to 31/07/13 shows 58.2% of admissions being for individual children. This is a slight decrease from 59.0% in the 2012/13 financial year and a bigger decrease from 70.2% in the

2011/12 financial year. The decrease between 2011-12 and 2012-13 was partly due to two sibling groups of 6 children being admitted to care in the period.

District	Single Child	2 Children	3 Children	4 Children	5 Children	6 Children
Disabled Children	10	4	1	0	0	0
High Peak & North Dales	20	7	0	0	0	0
Chesterfield	27	5	2	2	1	0
North East Derbyshire & Bolsover	26	6	0	1	0	1
Amber Valley	27	2	1	0	0	0
Erewash	30	7	0	1	0	0
South Derbyshire & South Dales	20	7	0	0	0	0
Derbyshire	160	38	4	4	1	1

Children who ceased to be Looked After during the year (Discharges)

During the 12 month period to 31/07/13 there were 335 discharges from care. This represents a 7.4% increase in the number of children discharged from care when compared with the 2012/13 financial year (312 discharges) and 34% increase when compared to 2011/12 financial year (250).

The most notable changes have been significant increases in discharges of children aged '1 To 4' and young people aged 18. This contrasts with decreases in discharges of children and young people aged '10 to 15' and '16 to 17'. The table below gives a breakdown of discharges by age range for the 2011/12 and 2012/13 financial year and the 12 month period to 31/07/2013:

Discharges by age group	1 April 2011 to 31 March 2012		1 April 2012 to 31 March 2013		1 August 2012 to 31 July 2013	
	Number	% of total	Number	% of total	Number	% of total
Under 1	17	6.8%	14	4.5%	22	6.6
1 to 4	63	25.2%	87	27.9%	99	29.6
5 to 9	38	15.2%	42	13.5%	45	13.4
10 to 15	42	16.8%	34	10.9%	26	7.8
16 to 17	84	33.6%	38	12.2%	36	10.7
18	6	2.4%	97	31.1%	107	31.9
Total	250	-	312	-	335	-

Discharges information for the 12 month period to 28/02/13 indicates that children and young people are remaining in care for a longer period of time before discharge. During the 2011/12 financial year, 72.8% of discharges made were for children who had been in care for less than 1 year. In the 2012/13 financial year this had fallen to 42.3% and for the 12 month period to

31/07/13 this had fallen to 42.1%. The largest increases have been seen for children discharged after '1 Year To 3 Years'.

Discharges by Duration of care	1 April 2011 to 31 March 2012		1 April 2012 to 31 March 2013		1 August 2012 to 31 July 2013	
	Number	% of total	Number	% of total	Number	% of total
6 weeks or less	52	20.8%	22	7.1%	30	9.0%
6 weeks to 6 months	61	24.4%	53	17.0%	49	14.6%
6 months to under 1 year	69	27.6%	57	18.3%	62	18.5%
1 year to 3 years	50	20.0%	109	34.9%	115	34.3%
3 years to 5 years	6	2.4%	32	10.3%	33	9.9%
5 years and over	12	4.8%	39	12.5%	45	13.7%
Total	250	-	312	-	335	-

The number of children discharged from care who were adopted has continued to increase. Adoptions made up 20.8% of discharges during 2011/12 and this figure increased to 24.4% of discharges in 2012/13 and to 22.7% for the 12 month period to 31/07/13. Also, there has been a continued reduction in the percentage returning home to live with parents from 36.0% during 2011/12 to 27.2% during 2012/13 and 28.1% in the 12 months to 31/07/13. The table below shows a breakdown of discharges by reason for the three periods:

Discharges by Duration of care	1 April 2011 to 31 March 2012		1 April 2012 to 31 March 2013		1 August 2012 to 31 July 2013	
	Number	% of total	Number	% of total	Number	% of total
Adopted	52	20.8%	76	24.4%	76	22.7%
Died	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.3%
Care Taken Over By Another LA	1	0.4%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Returned Home To Live With Parents	90	36.0%	85	27.2%	94	28.1%
Residence Order Granted	14	5.6%	22	7.1%	18	5.4%
Special Guardianship	7	2.8%	11	3.5%	13	3.9%
Moved Into Independent Living	20	8.0%	74	23.7%	73	21.8%
Transferred To Adult Care	0	0.0%	5	1.6%	4	1.2%
Sentenced To Custody	8	3.2%	11	3.5%	7	2.1%
Any Other Reason	58	23.2%	28	9.0%	49	14.6%
Total	250	-	312	-	335	-

Placements of Children in Care

The number and percentage of children in care who are placed with Independent Fostering Agencies has increased from 13.0% 31/03/12 (91 children) to 16.9% at 31/03/13 (108 children). This contrasts with a fall in the number of children in care placed with DCC foster carers.

However, the number and percentage of children in care who were placed in an agency residential placement has decreased from 6.0% of children in care at 31/03/12 (42 children) to 5.5% at 31/07/13 (35 children).

The table below shows a breakdown by placement type of children in care at 31/03/12, 31/03/13 and 31/07/13.

Discharges by Duration of care	1 April 2011 to 31 March 2012		1 April 2012 to 31 March 2013		1 August 2012 to 31 July 2013	
	Number	% of total	Number	% of total	Number	% of total
Foster Placement (Agency)	91	13.0%	127	19.1%	108	16.9%
Foster Placement (DCC)	418	59.7%	349	52.6%	348	54.5%
Placed For Adoption	47	6.7%	52	7.8%	52	8.2%
Residential Placement (Agency)	42	6.0%	45	6.8%	35	5.5%
Residential Placement (DCC)	49	7.0%	45	6.8%	43	6.7%
Placed With Parents	14	2.0%	15	2.3%	17	2.7%
Independent Living	39	5.6%	31	4.7%	35	5.5%
Total	700	-	664	-	638	-

Key Performance Indicators

Information currently available for Key Performance Indicator outcomes as at the end of February 2013 show that, for the eight indicators where information is available, performance improved for 5 indicators but fell for 2 indicators when compared with outcomes for the 2012/13 financial year. One indicator remained the same.

Indicator	2011/12 Outcome	2012/13 Outcome	July 2013 Outcome	Performance Change
Children in Care who were reviewed within required timescales	86.6%	70.7%	79.1%	↑
Average time between a child entering care and moving in with their adoptive family, for children who have been adopted (days) - 3 year average	632	586	561	↑
Average time between a local authority receiving court authority to place a child and the local authority deciding on a match to an adoptive family (days) - 3 year average	192	221	221	No Change
Children who wait less than 21 months between entering care and moving in with their adoptive family (number and %)	178 (56.3%)	137 (55.2%)	144 (54.8%)	↓
Stability of Placements: Number of placements	7.9%	9.6%	7.4%	↓
Stability of Placements: Length of placements	69.5%	65.0%	66.7%	↑
Care leavers in suitable accommodation	93.9%	94.8%	96.6%	↑
Care leavers in education, employment or training	81.6%	74.1%	75.9%	↑

Action is being taken to address the issue of compliance with Children in Care review timescales.

3. Other Considerations

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: - financial, legal, prevention of crime and disorder, equality of opportunity; and environmental, health, human resources, property and transport considerations.

4. Recommendations

That the report be noted.