

10 September 2019		ITEM: 8
Corporate Parenting Committee		
Children Coming Into Our Care During June And July 2019		
Wards and communities affected: All		Key Decision: Non Key
Report of: Janet Simon, Strategic Lead, Children Looked After		
Accountable Assistant Director: Sheila Murphy, Assistant Director, Children's Services		
Accountable Director: Roger Harris, Corporate Director of Adults, Housing & Health / Interim Director Children's Services		
This report is public		

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to inform Members of some of the reasons children come into our care. This is to assist Members in their role as Corporate Parents, to understand the issues that are likely to mean children come into care.

1. Recommendation(s)

- 1.1 For the Corporate Parenting Committee to note the information in the report
- 1.2 For the information in the report to assist Members in their role as Corporate Parents

2. Introduction and Background

- 2.1 Members wish to have a greater understanding of the issues that might affect a child coming into our care. By having a snapshot during June and July 2019 Members will be able to see the types of need that lead to children coming into our care. Members will be better informed in carrying out their Corporate Parenting duties.

3. Issues Options and Analysis of Options

In order for Members of the Corporate Parenting Committee to have an understanding of the kinds of issues that result in children coming into our care, we have set out the issues presenting, for children who came into our care during June and July 2019.

There were 29 young people in total who came into our care during those 2 months. Of those 29 children and young people:

- 15 were under 10 years of age
- 5 were aged between 10 – 15 years of age
- 9 were 16+ years of age; 7 of whom were unaccompanied asylum seekers
- There were 6 family groups
- 6 were female and 23 were male

The unaccompanied asylum seeking young people will be initially accommodated by Thurrock whilst waiting transfer to another Eastern Region local authority through the transfer protocol. The main presenting issues for the 16+ young people who came into our care was family breakdown, including parents who did not feel they could manage the presenting behaviours by the young people.

Children who came into our care under the age of 15 (20 children) did so because the care offered to those children meant they were not considered to be safe in the family home. Of those 20 children, 1 has subsequently returned home. We went into court proceedings in respect of 14 of these children to secure their position in our care and to plan for their permanence. 6 children were placed with extended family members, the remaining 14 were placed with foster carers.

Some of the key issues that led to children coming into our care, includes:

- Domestic Violence
- Mental health issues
- Substance misuse (including alcohol)
- Homelessness
- Neglect
- Physical Abuse
- Sexual Abuse

4. Reasons for Recommendation

4.1 So that Members can effectively carry out their Corporate Parenting duties.

5. Consultation (including Overview and Scrutiny, if applicable)

5.1 Not applicable

6. Impact on corporate policies, priorities, performance and community.

6.1 N/A

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **David May**
Strategic Lead Finance

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **Lindsey Mark**
Deputy Head of Legal Services Social Care and Education

There are no Legal implications associated with this report.

7.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: **Natalie Warren**
Strategic Lead Community Development and Equalities

The Service is committed to practice which promotes inclusion and diversity, and will carry out its duties in accordance with the Equality Act 2010 and related Codes of Practice and Anti-discriminatory policy. Placements and Staff members represent diverse backgrounds and heritage and are able to promote equality and diversity.

7.4 Other implications (where significant) – there are no implications as a result of this report

- None

8 Background papers used in preparing the report (including their location on the Council's website or identification whether any are exempt or protected by copyright):

- Not Applicable

9. Appendices to the report – there are two appendices for this report

- Appendix 1 – Report on Children coming into our care during June and July 2019

Report Author:

Janet Simon
Strategic Lead
Children Looked After