

Report from the Assistant Executive Member

12

Looked After Children numbers as of w/e 09/03 - 231

- numbers have ranged from 229 to 238 since the 1st January.
- 13 children are part of the national scheme to take children from the South East.
- we now have a responsibility to our Care Leavers up to age 25 wef April 2018.

Foster Care Recruitment

- on course for 8 approvals by April leaving us with 66 households.
- social media has proved successful as has word of mouth.
- The Team Leader is carrying out surgeries for the Foster Carers to attend if required. These are proving successful.
- A Foster Carer Conference was held on the 9th March.
- the revised rates and skills payments have been finalised and with DLT.

Service Improvements

- a quarter of Foster Carers are trained in Therapeutic Therapy.
- Joint SIB with Bristol, South Glos and Banes to provide intensive support to stabilise Care Leavers and help them into work. Bristol is the lead authority. Required outcomes include emotional wellbeing, a stable tenancy and employment.

Virtual School

- Pupil Premium is increasing to £2,300 wef April.
- The profile of education has successfully been raised with Social Workers.
- The Governing Body will now include Senior School colleagues which will improve representation.
- Target setting training has been cascaded to both Designated Teachers and Social Workers, specifically aimed at setting challenging targets.
- PEPs are being put in place for pre school up to post 16.

Ofsted

- on course to complete action points by the end of May.

Adoption West

- the launch has been delayed and will now be 01/07/2018. As a temporary measure Jenny Slee is acting as temporary basis.

Budget

- the budget prediction is currently standing at a £2.6 m overspend. Pressures from Supported Living Costs and Secure Accommodation (2 places currently required which have an average annual cost of £360k). 60 of our children are currently with IFAs.

Mitigation

- Therapeutic care to divert children from higher need care.
- NSC Mother and Baby placements.
- Residential Task Force in place, reviewing our residential placements, looking to put bespoke Foster Care around the child where possible.
- SIB

Diversion - 30 children on track. Please note if there are siblings in the family, this number is potentially increased.

Reunification - 5 children on track.

The team is still looking to widen the remit where possible to build on the successes achieved.

- Investigating a partnership approach to fostering with Bristol/Banes and South Glos in light of Adoption West. Partners looking to see how Adoption West develops.

Councillor Lisa Pilgrim