

Briefing Note

Title: Children and Young People in Care – Statutory Performance 2018

Date: 7 February 2019

Prepared by: James Amphlett

Job Title: Business Intelligence Manager

Intended Audience: Internal Partner organisation Public Confidential

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this briefing note is to outline performance of key national indicators within the Children and Young People in Care service.
- 1.2 These indicators are collated from data submitted in the Children Looked After – 903 Return each June for the previous financial year.
- 1.3 There is an accompanying PowerBi dashboard that shows current and historical performance against regional, statistical and national averages that is available on the Children's Services Performance SharePoint.

2.0 Overview

- 2.1. This report highlights 10 key indicators covering Children and Young People in Care. At present this does not include adoption timescales which are still to be released.
- 2.2. Out of the ten indicators five saw improvement in 2018 compared to 2017. Four indicators saw a decrease although one of these remained strong. One indicator remained the same.
- 2.3. Wolverhampton achieved the top quartile of performance in two indicators; percentage of Children and Young people in Care subject to a conviction, final warning or reprimand during the year and percentage of Children and Young people in Care who ceased to be looked after that were adopted in year. Wolverhampton also achieve second quartile performance in a further three indicators.
- 2.4. Wolverhampton only achieve bottom quartile performance in one indicator; percentage of Children and Young People in Care at 31 March with three or more placements during the year. Performance in this indicator has improved however in 2018 - 2019.

3.0 Analysis of Indicators

3.1. Numbers of Children and Young People in Care

Children and Young People in Care per 10,000 children under 18	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Direction of travel (Low is good)
Wolverhampton	117	136	135	112	108	108	↔
West Midlands	72	73	74	73	75	78	↑
Statistical Neighbours	81	82	83	83	83	87	↑
England	60	60	60	60	62	64	↑

Over the five-year period there has been a reduction in the number of Children and Young People in Care per 10,000 population. Despite this decrease Wolverhampton has a substantially larger looked after population than regional, statistical and national averages. In 2018, the number of children and young people in care remained at 108 per 10,000 population. Despite this, the gap to comparators decreased within increases seen in regional, statistical and national averages.

3.2. Placement Stability

% of Children and Young People in Care at 31st March with 3 or more placements during the year	2016	2017	2018	Direction of travel Low is good
Wolverhampton	13	13	16	↑
West Midlands	10	10	11	↑
Statistical Neighbours	10	10	9	↓
England	10	10	10	↔

16% of children and young people who had been in care for one year on 31 March 2018 had three or more placements during the year. This was 3% more than in 2017 and shows Wolverhampton's performance poorly against regional, statistical and national averages. Wolverhampton's performance is ranked as the 143rd poorest for this indicator. This indicator, that is used to judge short term stability, is the only indicator that shows Wolverhampton in the lowest quartile of performance.

Internal performance for this indicator shows that in 2018 - 2019 performance has improved from 16% in March 2018 to 12% in January 2019.

% of Children and Young People in Care at 31st March in placement for over 2 years/placed for adoption	2016	2017	2018	Direction of travel Low is good
Wolverhampton	68	65	70	↑
West Midlands	69	69	68	↓
Statistical Neighbours	69	71	70	↓
England	68	70	70	↔

Despite performing poorly in short term placement stability, there is a much-improved picture for long term stability. 70% of children and young people who had been in care for over two and a half years on 31 March 2018 had been in the same placement for two years. This was an increase of 5% on 2017. This performance was stronger than the regional comparators and in line with statistical and national averages.

% of Children and Young People in Care at 31st March placed over 20 miles from their home address	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Direction of travel (Low is good)
Wolverhampton	11	13	16	16	11	13	↑
West Midlands	12	12	13	14	14	13	↓
Statistical Neighbours	14	15	15	17	18	20	↑
England	13	13	14	14	14	15	↑

13% of children and young people in care were placed within 20 miles of their home address in 2018. This is a slight increase on 2017 however is significantly stronger than Statistical Neighbours.

3.3. Wellbeing of Children and Young People in Care

Emotional and Behavioural Wellbeing - SDQ average scores	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Direction of travel (Low is good)
Wolverhampton	12.6	12.3	13.2	14.2	14.4	13.7	↓
West Midlands	13.7	13.5	13.5	14.1	13.9	13.7	↓
Statistical Neighbours	14.77	14.51	14.52	15.16	14.26	14.3	↑
England	14	13.9	13.9	14	14.1	14.2	↑

Wolverhampton recorded its strongest average score for emotional and behavioural wellbeing of children and young people in care since 2015 in 2018. The SDQ score of 13.7 gives Wolverhampton an average of 'normal'. This score shows Wolverhampton positively in comparison to regional, statistical and national comparators. Wolverhampton is ranked as the 47th best performing authority in this area. Further to this the percentage of children and young people who completed the questionnaire increase to over 90% in the year; the strongest performance to date.

% of Children and Young people in Care subject to a conviction, final warning or reprimand during the year	2016	2017	2018	Direction of travel (Low is good)
Wolverhampton	5	4	2	↓
West Midlands	4	4	3	↓
Statistical Neighbours	5.13	4.44	4.43	↓
England	5	4	4	↔

Just 2% of children and young people in care were subject to a conviction, final warning or reprimand during the year. This performance shows Wolverhampton as the 14th best authority in the country and in the highest quartile of performance. The performance is also stronger than all standard comparators.

% of Children and Young people in Care whom had a missing incident during the year	2015	2016	2017	2018	Direction of travel (Low is good)
Wolverhampton	2	5	5	6	↑
West Midlands	5	6	8	9	↑
Statistical Neighbours	5.7	6.39	9.4	10	↑
England	6	9	10	11	↑

Wolverhampton has a low percentage of children who go missing from their placement. In the year just 6% of children and young people in care went missing compared to 9% regionally and 11% nationally. Despite this strong performance the percentage has increase from just 2% in 2015.

3.4 Leaving Care

% of Children and Young people in Care who ceased to be looked after that were adopted in year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Direction of travel (High is good)
Wolverhampton	21	22	22	24	26	24	↓
West Midlands	16	17	18	18	20	18	↓
Statistical Neighbours	17.3	17.9	20	20.1	21.3	17.9	↓
England	14	17	17	15	14	13	↓

24% of children who ceased to be looked after in 2018 were adopted. This is significantly stronger performance than West Midlands (18%), Statistical Neighbours (17.9%) and England (13%) averages. This shows Wolverhampton in the top quartile for performance and ranked as the 8th best performing authority against the indicator. In the year performance decreased slightly from 26% in 2017.

% Care Leavers in suitable accommodation	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Direction of travel (High is good)
Wolverhampton	77	76.4	81	77	90	84	↓
West Midlands	87	75.8	75	80	82	84	↑
Statistical Neighbours	85	79.67	80.4	78.3	82.6	83.2	↑
England	88	77.8	81	83	84	84	↔

The percentage of Care Leavers who live in suitable accommodation decreased in the year to 84% but remains in line with regional, statistical and national

comparators. Current performance compares favourably to years before 2017 however, when a large increase was seen.

% Care Leavers in Education, Employment or Training	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Direction of travel (High is good)
Wolverhampton	45	31	42	41	56	56	↔
West Midlands	54	41	41	47	46	50	↑
Statistical Neighbours	55.1	40	45.7	44.4	46.7	47.6	↑
England	58	45	58	59	50	51	↑

Care Leavers who are in education, employment or training remains an area of strength for the authority. Wolverhampton performs favourably compared to regional, statistical and national averages. Wolverhampton's current performance is in the second quartile and work continues to improve this indicator further.