

Agenda Item	
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Report to (Committee name will be populated from Modern.gov)



Date of Meeting	27 th November 2018
Portfolio	Corporate
Report Author	Jill McGregor
Public/Private Document	Public

Sufficiency Statement

Executive Summary

1. Children’s Social Care are required to produce a Sufficiency Statement which details the Local Authorities intentions to ensure that there is sufficient support and placements for children and young people who are cared 4 by the Local Authority.

Recommendation

2. That the Committee approves the Sufficiency Statement and the Commissioning intensions from Children’s Social Care to ensure that the sufficiency is met.

Reason for Recommendation

3. Children’s Social Care have a duty to ensure that there is a range of placements sufficient to meet the need of children and young people in the care of the local authority. It is therefore the responsibility of Children’s Social Care to ensure that this duty is met.

Key Points for Consideration

4. The number of children and young people who are Cared 4 by the Local Authority is increasing therefore it is important to secure sufficiency both within the Rochdale borough but also within Greater Manchester. The full sufficiency statement is in Appendix 1.

The detailed commissioning action plan (Appendix 2) is the priority area of work for the Commissioning Manager within Children’s Social Care to ensure that the sufficiency is met.

The gap analysis that has been completed to date shows that there are specific areas within services which need to be improved, this includes the recruitment of foster carers within the internal service and ensuring that the skills of these carers can meet the needs of the children and young people who are cared for. The following are areas which have been identified as gaps:

- Over the past financial year there have been more children entering the care system than those who have left care. The Cared for populations across the Greater Manchester region has increased by 8% over the past 12 months therefore this has had significant impact on not just local but regional sufficiency. This has meant that in some cases children and young people have had to be placed further away from their local area.
- There has been a significant increase in the number of children and young people in private residential care, this has been due to the insufficient number of foster placements available and due to the complex needs of children requiring specialist support including children with disabilities, CSE and HSB.
- There is a cohort of children who are placed in a residential setting who require a permanent placement within a family setting, therefore Rochdale BC are undertaking bespoke recruitment for foster families for these young people. This will include working with Multi Agency partners to ensure that the wrap round support is offered for these young people and families.
- Due to the demographics and population of Rochdale, the demand for sibling placements has continued to increase, and the age range of siblings is from 0-18. Due to the ages and gender of the sibling groups there has been a reduction of our ability to place with our internal carers due to the availability of bedrooms within their households and therefore increased demand on the independent fostering providers.
- There is a lack of available resource for young people to move onto independence within the Rochdale area. There is a need to increase our leaving care provision.

There is a reliance on the use of external providers for fostering, residential and leaving care provision. This has a significant impact on the financial expenditure of the Local Authority. Therefore if the Local Authority can secure sufficiency with our own services this will reduce the financial impact on the Local Authority.

5. None.

Risk and Policy Implications

6. The Local Authority has a duty to provide secure and safe accommodation to children and young people who are cared for. This is a statutory duty under the Children's Act 2004.

Consultation

7. None required

Background Papers	Place of Inspection
8. Sufficiency Statement 2018 – 2020	Number 1 Riverside
Commissioning Action Plan	Number 1 Riverside.

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