



Hampshire
County Council

Update on Children in Care and Corporate Parenting

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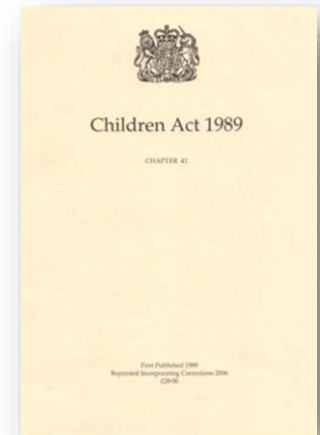
20th Nov 2019

What will we cover

- Why children are taken into care
- Our children
- Placements & costs
- Care leavers
- Corporate parenting and the principles
- What our looked after children tell us
- Hampshire Childrens Homes Strategy

Why children are taken into care?

- We have a duty under the Children Act 1989 to ensure children are safeguarded from harm
- The term 'looked after' is used when a child lives away from their family
- Children become looked after when they are made subject to a legal order made by a court:
 - care order
 - emergency protection order
 - police protection
 - accommodated at the request of their parent(s) or any other adults with parental responsibility for the child
 - unaccompanied asylum seeking children



Our Children...

Age group and gender

	Hampshire	England
Male	58%	55%
Female	42%	45%
0	4%	6%
1 – 4	11%	19%
5 – 9	21%	19%
10 – 15	40%	36%
16+	24%	20%

Legal status

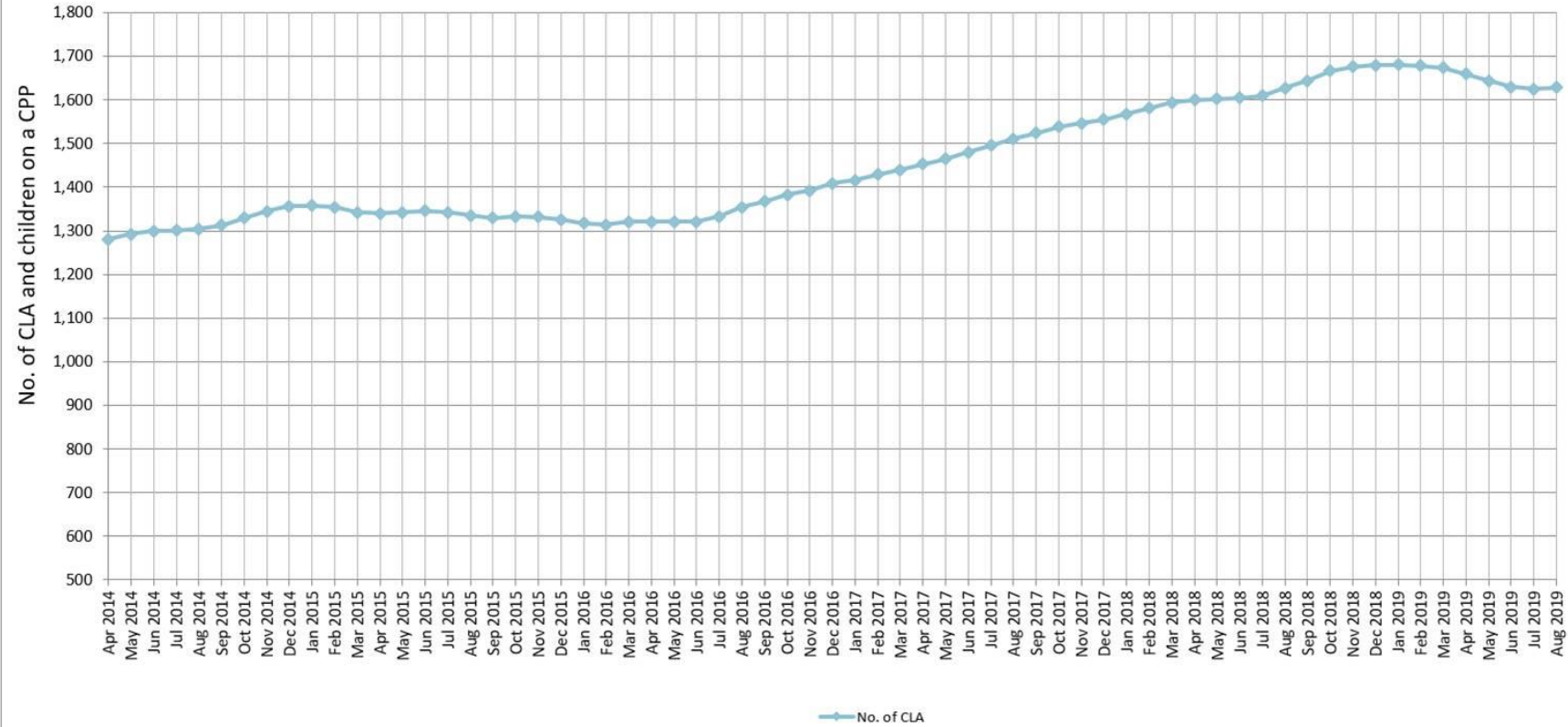
	Hampshire	England
Care Orders	74%	62%
Section 20	21%	34%
Others	5%	4%



Data as at 30th Sept 2019

Hampshire Looked After Children

No. of CLA
Activity Volumes - 3 Month Moving Average From April 2014 to September 2019



Placements & Costs

Placements

- c70% In-house foster carers
- c20% IFA
- c10% In-house and external residential

Costs

Average cost of Looked After Children	£52,800 per year ²
Range from	£8,954 a year
To	£413,061 a year ¹
Total budget of Children's Social Care	£151m ³
Projected spend (Q2 forecast for Childrens Social Care)	£156m
Overspend (Q2 pressure Childrens Social Care)	£5m

CLA Fostering and Residential (In House and External)	£
Q2 funding	£73.9m
Q2 forecast	£72.8m
Q2 variance	(£0.7m)

1. £7,900 per week NCP
2. Based on Q2 forecasts and activity, excluding UASC
3. Q2 including cost of change draw down for T19 slippage and the £4.6m CLA funding agreed by Cabinet in October

Care Leavers

Any adult who has spent time in care as a child ie. foster care, residential care or other arrangements outside the immediate extended family

(Care Leavers Association)

Care leavers are defined in the Children Act 1989 as:

- Eligible children
- Relevant children
- Former relevant children
- Other qualifying care leaver

The local authority has a duty to carry out an assessment of the young person's needs and provide the necessary advice and support.

The local authority has a duty to appoint a personal advisor for the young person if he/she asks for one until such time as he/she reaches the age of 25 or informs the local authority that a personal advisor is no longer required.

What is Corporate Parenting?

When the local authority takes on the role of a good parent to a child in its care

We have a duty to act as a good parent and to be the best parent we can

Children and young people in care have a unique place in society.

Aspire for children to have the outcomes that every effective parent would want for their own children

Local councillors become champions of the children in their care, making a real difference to improving their lives.

Should encompass their education, their health and welfare and their aspirations as they enter adulthood

Children in care know better than anyone else what works well, what is less successful, and what needs to change.

Sometimes we share parental responsibility with the child's parents

Listening and talking to children is crucial to their development. It helps them learn thinking skills and improves self-esteem and confidence



Corporate Parenting Principles

Requires the local authority to have regard to the need to:-



Things our looked after children tell us

Children and young people reported positive relationships with their carers, trusted their carers and thought they showed an interest in their education

70% of young people talked regularly with their carers about the things that mattered to them, which was a larger proportion compared to the peers in the general population (66%) who talked regularly to a parent

Children felt safe and settled in their homes with 89% of 8-11 year olds feeling settled 'all or most of the time' which was a larger proportion when compared to the 16 other local authorities. The majority of children and young people also liked their bedrooms

100% of 4-7 year olds, 99% of 8-11 year olds (better than the 16 local authorities) and 93% of 11-18 year olds thought the adults they loved with noticed how they were feeling 'all or most of the time' or 'sometimes'

93% of 4-7 year olds, 95% of 8-11 year olds, and 88% of 11-18 year olds, who knew their social worker trusted them 'all or most of the time' or 'sometimes'

92% of 8-11 year olds and 88% of 11-18 year olds were given opportunities to explore the outdoors. For 11-18 year olds this is a larger proportion compared to peers in 16 other local authorities



Source: Bright Spots 2018

Hampshire's Children's Homes Strategy

- Small, homely buildings for 4 children
- 8 homes spread across the county in local communities
- 33 beds for children aged 10-18
- A placement of choice *not* a last resort
- An agreed model of practice – Pillars of Parenting



Thank you and any questions



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