

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Report

Committee/Panel:	Children & Families Advisory Panel
Date:	25 June 2018
Title:	Overview of Placements in Children's Homes 2017-2018
Report From:	Director of Children's Services

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1. Recommendation

1.1 That the Panel notes the progress of the Residential Strategy.

2. Summary

2.1. The purpose of this paper is to provide information on placements made in the children's homes during the period 1 April 2017 and 31 March 2018 since the Residential Strategy has been implemented with the build of five purpose built new homes.

2.2. The report provides information on admissions and discharges to the homes and length of stay.

3. Introduction

3.1. Hampshire County Council's Residential Strategy was based on the provision of eight homes that would replicate a normal family living environment, teams of staffs that were able to deliver emotionally warm professional parenting (Pillars of Parenting) and placements for children for whom this type of service was the placement of choice.

3.2. Hampshire County Council is now operating eight children's homes offering 33 beds. Five of these homes are new builds completed in the summer of 2018. Ofsted rates all of the homes as 'Good' or 'Outstanding' and recognises the quality of the buildings and the expertise of the staff teams.

4. Contextual information

4.1. During this reporting period there have been a number of moves for children and staff as the build programme progressed.

4.2. The Mead (Odiham), Cypress Lodge (Basingstoke) and Milesdown (Winchester and then latterly Basingstoke) were open throughout this period.

- 4.3. In the summer, the children and staff team from The Green House moved from their temporary location to their new build, Candle Lodge, in Eastleigh.
- 4.4. The children and staff team from Godbey House moved to their new build, Crofton House, in Havant.
- 4.5. Amani in Dibden Purlieu, Berry View in Andover and Ferne Lodge in Fareham opened in the summer and began accepting new admissions. With the completion of the new homes, maximum capacity rose to 33 beds. Maximum capacity has not yet been achieved and this is primarily due to recruitment difficulties which are being addressed by a new recruitment campaign.

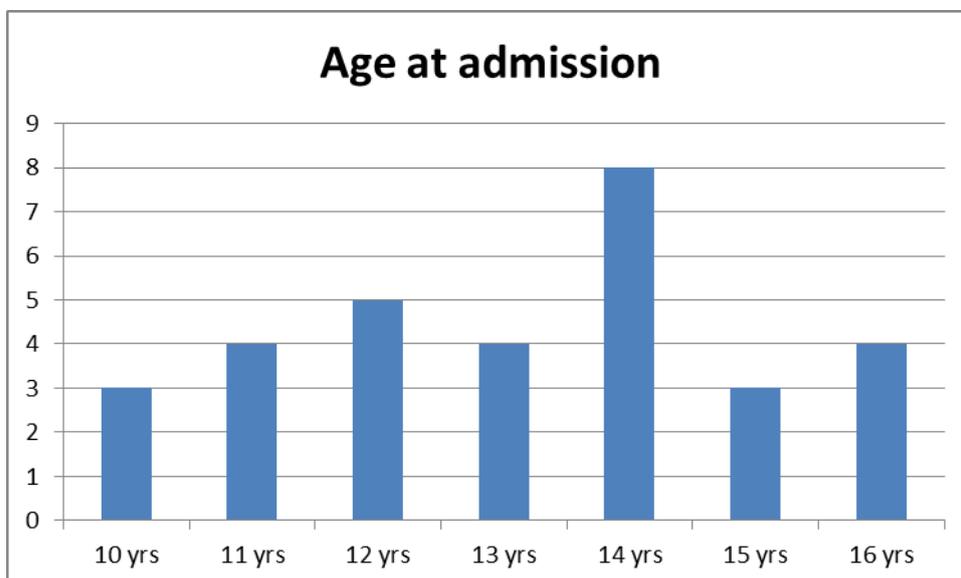
5. Number of Children looked after in the children's homes in 2017/18.

- 5.1. A total of 50 children were looked after in the children's homes at some point in the 12 month period of reporting.
- 5.2. 19 of these children (38%) were in their placement for more than a year.

6. Admissions in 2017/18.

- 6.1. 31 children were admitted during the year: 16 boys, 14 girls and 1 transgender child.
- 6.2. 20 were planned admissions (65%). This is an improvement of 55% on 2016/17.
- 6.3. 11 were unplanned admissions. These admissions were made when alternative arrangements were unavailable.
- 6.4. 17 of the children placed in 2017-18 remain in placement (55%).
- 6.5. 12 children were in foster care prior to their admission to the homes.
- 6.6. 8 children were previously with non-county providers (NCPs) of residential care.
- 6.7. 9 children were previously with a family member.
- 6.8. 2 children were previously in Welfare Secure placements.

7. Age at admission



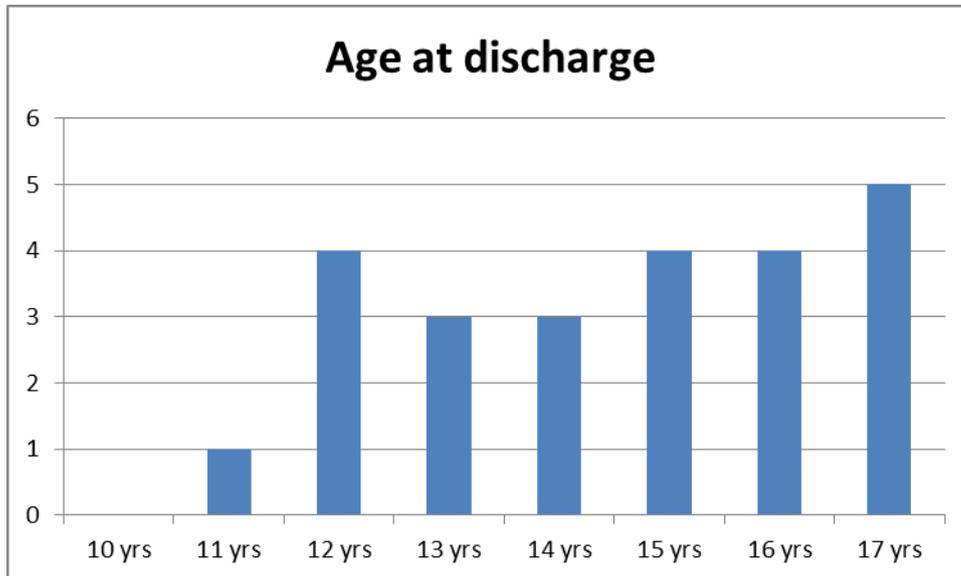
7.1. Data shows a trend towards the admission of younger children. It is likely that this is due to social workers selecting residential care for children who are unlikely to thrive within foster care. In some cases, social workers have specifically requested placement in one of our homes, identifying successes of other children as the reason for their request.

8. Discharges in 2017-18

- 8.1. 24 children were discharged during this period.
- 8.2. 21 (87.5%) of these endings were in accordance with the care plan or agreed changes to the plan as a result of children voting with their feet.
- 8.3. 2 post 16 children made planned moves to family members.
- 8.4. 5 children under the age of 16 achieved the original placement plan and returned to their family or previous foster carer. 4 of these children were admitted in 2017/18.
- 8.5. 3 children voted with their feet and returned to their family contrary to their original plan and the plan was changed to reflect this. These children did not engage with the service and 2 were emergency admissions. 2 of these children were admitted in 2017/18.
- 8.6. 1 child admitted in 2017/18 had a managed transition to foster care.
- 8.7. 5 children moved to post 16 accommodation.
- 8.8. 1 child made a planned move to a non-county placement as his educational needs could not be met whilst at the children's home.
- 8.9. 4 children were admitted as bridging placements until they could make a planned move to a placement better able to meet their needs.

8.10. 3 children were unable to remain in their placements; 1 child refused to settle in placement and his aggressive behaviour had too great an impact on the other children; 1 child required a greater level of therapeutic support than could be provided; and one child was remanded to custody.

Age at Discharge



8.11. The 11 year old was unable to remain in placement as his needs were too extreme to be met in-house.

8.12. One 12 year old moved to an NCP as his educational needs could not be met in-house, two 12 year olds were bridging placements and one 12 year old made a planned transition to foster care.

8.13. Two 13 year olds did not engage with the service and were supported to return to their families and one 13 year old was a bridging placement.

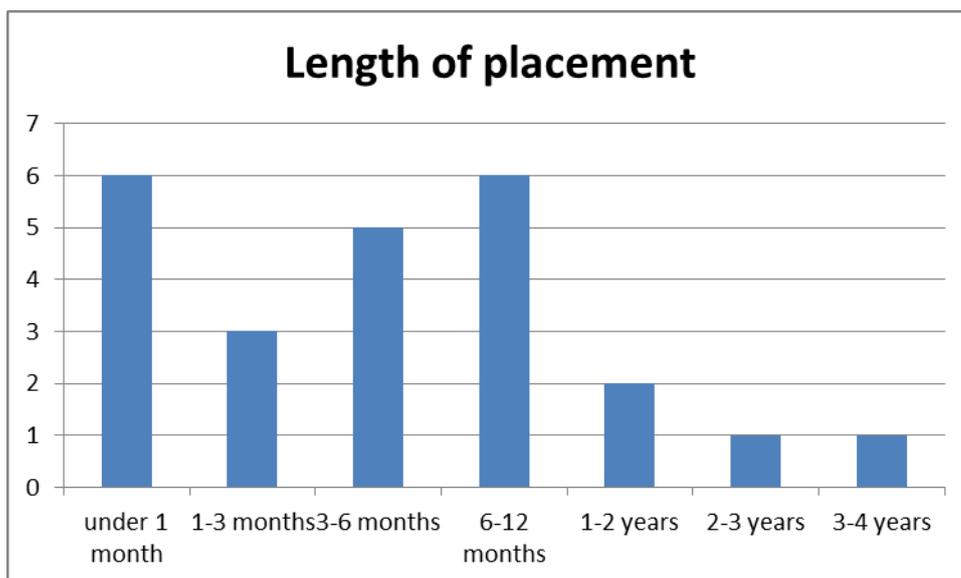
8.14. The 14 year olds returned to family or previous foster carers.

8.15. Three 15 year olds returned to their families and one was a bridging placement.

8.16. Three 16 year olds moved to post 16 accommodation and one moved to an NCP as he was not accepting of a placement in the children's home but was not ready for post 16 accommodation.

8.17. Two 17 year olds returned to their family, 2 moved to post 16 accommodation and one was remanded to custody.

9. Length of Placement

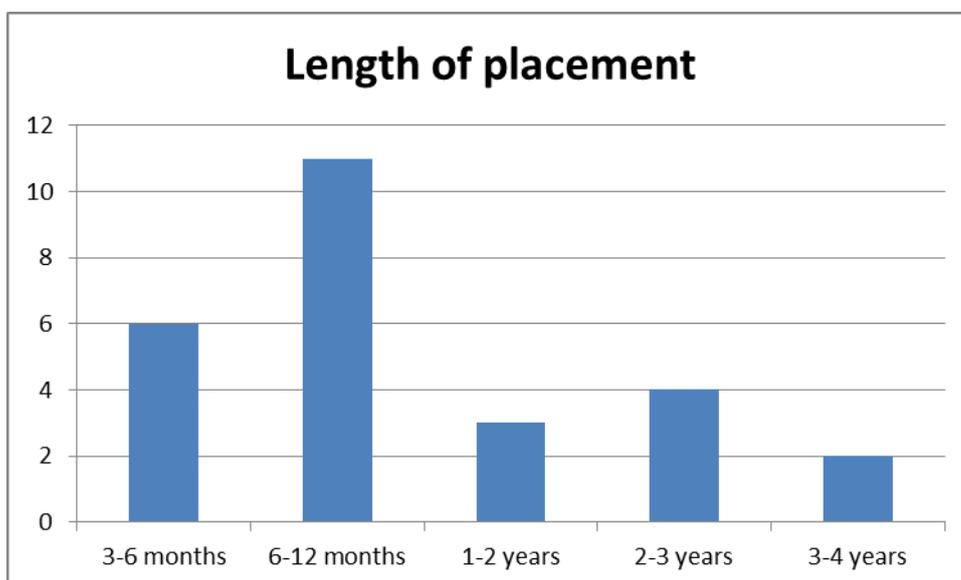
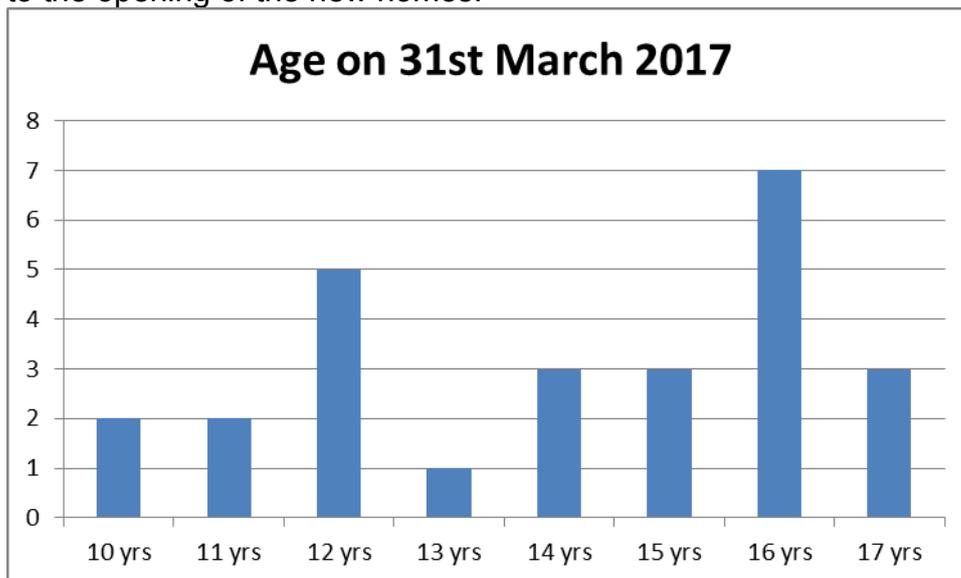


- 9.1. Placements lasting under a month were made in emergencies. Three were bridging placements; two children returned to family and one child's violent behaviour resulted in a move to a NCP.
- 9.2. For placements lasting 1-3 months; one was a bridging placement, one child returned home and one child moved to a NCP.
- 9.3. Four children were in placement for 3-6 months before returning to live with family or a previous foster carer and one child made a planned transition into foster care.
- 9.4. Five of the six children leaving between 6-12 months were post 16; one returned to her family and the others moved to post 16 accommodation. The sixth child was 15 and returned to live with her family.
- 9.5. For placements ending after 1-2 years, one child moved to post 16 accommodation and one 12 year old moved to a NCP.
- 9.6. The child who was remanded in custody had been in placement for nearly three years.
- 9.7. The 17 year old who returned to his family had been in placement for three and a half years.

10. Children in Placement on 31 March 2018

- 10.1. There were 26 children in placement on 31 March 2018. On 31 March 2017, there were 19 children in placement and the increase in numbers is due

to the opening of the new homes.



10.2. As of 31 March 2018, there were imminent move on plans for one 17 year old to post 16 accommodation, one 16 year old who was in a bridging placement and one 15 year old was waiting for a planned transition to foster care nearer her family.

10.3. 65% of children had been placed within the last 12 months.

11. Future direction

11.1. It is anticipated that the new build in Winchester will be completed in winter 2018-19.

11.2. Various strategies are being used to attract new candidates to the vacant positions within the children's homes

11.3. The Mead has changed its statement of purpose to be an emergency/ assessment provision providing placements to 5 young people in order to

provide a period of stability and time to plan for the most suitable move on plan whether that is foster care, residential care or reunification.

12. Conclusion

- 12.1 The homes have had a successful year and the feedback received from children, families, staff, Ofsted and other external bodies (for example, The Howard League) has been very positive. One Ofsted inspector remarked during an inspection that it was “one of the best homes” he had ever visited. Hampshire’s strategy for providing homes for children that respect and value them through homely buildings and an emotional warmth model of parenting (Pillars of Parenting) is showing success within its first year and is becoming a known flagship service outside of Hampshire.

CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:**Links to the Strategic Plan**

Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:	yes
People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives:	yes
People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment:	yes
People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:	yes

Other Significant Links

Links to previous Member decisions:	
<u>Title</u> Changes to the in house provision of Residential Children's Homes Children's Residential Care Strategy	<u>Date</u> 28 January 2011 20 May 2014
Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives	
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
None	

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

1. Equality Duty

1.1. The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act;

Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, gender and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;

Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant characteristic connected to that characteristic;

Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic different from the needs of persons who do not share it;

Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

1.2. Equalities Impact Assessment:

A full equalities impact assessment about placements in children's homes has been completed and can be found at the below link:

<http://www3.hants.gov.uk/cs-equality-diversity.htm>

2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:

2.1. The strategy aims to have a positive impact on offending by young people.

3. Climate Change:

How does what is being proposed impact on our carbon footprint / energy consumption?

All homes have been built using the latest technologies and materials to reduce the carbon footprint.

How does what is being proposed consider the need to adapt to climate change, and be resilient to its longer term impacts?

The new build homes meet current building regulation standards for thermal performance. Appropriate sustainable materials have been used to reduce the impact on the environment wherever possible.