

**Performance Commentary – Looked After Children (December 2014)**

- i. The number of **Looked After Children** increased compared to the previous month (with 10 new admissions in the month and no recorded leavers) and stood at 207 – about 1 child for every 190 who live in Slough. As a rate per 10,000 (53.1) this remains lower than comparators, but is increasing towards the national rate (60). About 60% of these children have been looked after for less than 2 years.
- ii. All Looked After Children continue to be allocated to a single named, **qualified social worker**.
- iii. At year end the **majority of Looked After Children were placed in “family type” settings**: 64 Looked After Children were placed with independent foster carers, 60 with in-house foster carers; 23 with relative / friend or own parent, and 19 in supported residential settings. 14 were in Children’s homes (a reduction on historic numbers) but 7 were placed in mother and baby units – the past six months has seen an increased usage of these latter type placements. 12 were placed with prospective adoptive parents.
- iv. **Placement stability** has generally improved, with good performance on “3 or more placements” and “long term stability” indicators: December saw a further improvement in the percentage of long-term Looked After Children in placements of at least two years duration (to 69% - our best ever result!)
- v. **Annual Health and Dental checks** continue to be held and recorded and Slough performance is above England and statistical neighbour average
- vi. We continue to perform well on securing a high % volume of adoptions and Special Guardianship Orders.
- vii. We appear to be better at securing **placements within or close to Slough** than has been the case in the past, with lower numbers (21%) of recently-accommodated LAC placed more than 20 miles from our borders, and 71% of all LAC living either inside Slough or no more than 20 miles away.
- viii. Performance in respect of **Care Leavers in EET (around their 19<sup>th</sup> birthday)** has improved over the 12 months from April 2013 to March 2014 (the most recent data available). In March 2013, only 26% of care leavers were in EET compared to 71% in March 2014. The March 2014 performance is better than England and statistical neighbour average (data for March 2013).