CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL SCORECARD Summary – 2024 02 February

Meeting	Corporate Parenting Panel
Author	Nikki Donegan Head of service CLA & CEYP
	Jo Spender, Head of Service; Sufficiency & Corporate Parenting Lead
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1   Summary of the February 2024 scorecard:

- The number of Children Looked After (CLA) has decreased over the last 12 months – the number of looked after children at the end of February is 203 (an additional 3 children are subject to short break care).

  - The number of children entering into care has been lower than in previous years. Over the last 3 months there have been 17 children entering into care. Since April there have been 68 entries into care, compared to the same period the previous year there were 137 entries into care. The decrease in entries into care has been impacted by the increased focus and resourcing on managing risk to enable children to remain in the care of their parents. The legal gateway process has been reviewed together with the threshold to issue court proceedings.

  - The number of children exiting from care varied over recent months with 29 exits from care in the last 3 months.

  - The rate of CLA has also decreased and is now 45.8 below that of comparator groups – statistical neighbours 58.7, South East 57, England 71.

  - There is an overrepresentation of older children aged 16+ (particularly males) when compared to the Slough population of the same age

  - Children from White, Mixed and Black communities are over-represented whilst those from Asian communities are under-represented

  - The number of unaccompanied asylum seeking children (25) has decreased since the same time last year (28), however the proportion of the CLA cohort that are unaccompanied asylum seeking children has seen a slight increase due to the overall cohort decreasing.

  - Performance on Health checks remains high although there has been a further decrease in February, whilst Dental checks for CLA are showing

improving performance

- o Long term placement stability for CLA showed an increase in February. Performance can be impacted by children getting older, returning home, being adopted, foster carers giving notice due to children's behaviour or family circumstances

- o Visiting to CLA within timescales is improving with more children having been seen in timescales and more children seen alone

- o Just over a quarter of CLA are placed within 20 miles of their home, this has remained stable over the last 12 months

- o Children are experiencing fewer changes in social worker – with workforce stability showing considerable improvement

  - ▪ Workloads for social workers in the CLA and Support Service have increased over the last few months

- The number of Care Experienced Young People has fluctuated over the last few months and is slightly lower than the same time last year. At the end of February 2024 there were 242 young people a 1% decrease from the previous year

  - o There is an over-representation of young males aged between 16 and 19 – predominantly as a result of the increase of UASCs over the last 2 years.

  - o Young people from White, Mixed and Black communities are over-represented, whilst those from Asian communities are under-represented

  - o Challenges for young people getting and remaining in education, employment and training still exist including, child care, mental health and wellbeing, disruption to accommodation, lack of work experience, developing resilience, being in custody, awaiting outcome of asylum claims as well as concerns around criminal exploitation

  - o The proportion of young people in suitable accommodation remains high

    - ▪ 2 young people are in prison, whilst 6 are in temporary housing and 3 young person is deemed to be of no fixed abode

  - o Current workloads for Care Experienced Young People's Advisors continue to be high