

REPORT TO: Health and Wellbeing Board
DATE: 17 July 2013
REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director Children and Enterprise
PORTFOLIO: Children, Young People and Families
SUBJECT: Children in Care of Other Local Authorities (CICOLA's)

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To present an update report regarding the current numbers of Children in Care of Other Local Authorities (CICOLA's) and the possible impact on services with Halton.
- 1.2 To assess within the context of neighbouring local authorities the numbers of Residential Children's Homes operating within Halton, the types of these services and the potential financial impact on the borough.
- 1.3 To offer an update regarding ongoing works developments in this area.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

- 1. the content of the report is discussed and comments invited; and**
- 2. further work is undertaken to get a more accurate picture on how many CICOLA's reside in Halton, ensuring that the procedures around notifications of CICOLA's are appropriately utilised.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 At any time there are a total of around 60,000 children that are looked after in the UK – this represents 0.5% of all children. Over the course of any year a total of 85,000 children will spend some time being looked after. Nationally 40% of children remain looked after for less than 6 months with 15% being looked after for 5 yrs or longer.
- 3.2 Local authorities have statutory duties in determining the most appropriate placement for a looked after child.
- 3.3 For a variety of reasons, for example type of specialist provision required, availability of specific services to meet the young persons needs locally, the young person could be placed out side of the local authority that they lived in.

4.0 THE NOTIFICATION PROCESS

- 4.1 The current notification process for authorities is that the placing social worker should notify the new authority with a notification form. Although this is mandatory and expected there have been instances where this has not been completed. Instances where it is recognised that there has been a delay or lack of completion then the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) will be informed to ensure a complaint is returned to the local authority raising safeguarding concerns.
- 4.2 The LAC nurse currently provides the local authority a monthly update of the list. The Looked after Child Nurse should also implement an initial health assessment. This is required to be completed within 2 weeks of a child's placement.
- 4.3 To improve the accuracy of the list Halton Borough Council have also developed a provider forum where all the providers are asked to complete and return when CICOLA's arrive into the borough. The process is repeated when the child leaves the placement and is discharged from the provision.
- 4.4 The Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) will also be engaging the GP's within this process and encouraging the GP's to complete a notification to the local authority.
- 4.5 Further work is being implemented to ensure all children are accounted for and attend appropriate educational provision.
- 4.6 A request has also been made regionally to ascertain if there are good examples of maintain accuracy of an integrated list. There has been no positive feedback at the moment. The government are consulting on a new policy to be launched later this year 'Reforming children's homes care' and 'Improving safeguarding for looked after children'. This policy will have three functions with one of them being to improve the notification process:
- 1) Prior to a new provider opening a Children's home a risk assessment will be completed between the police, local authority and the new provider which will inform Ofsted in relation to registering the provider /provision and refusing
 - 2) The provider will notify the local authority when a young person is new to the placement and area as well as when they leave.
 - 3) Improve provider standards in preventing child sexual exploitation.
- 4.7 It is acknowledged that despite the new consultation Halton borough Council and its partners need to work together to improve the notification process. There are further improvements required which will improve the accuracy of the list:

- 1) To focus on just Halton children and young people as currently St Helens children and young people are still on the list.
- 2) To have separate sheet/section for end of placement/children leaving Halton (To include where have they gone to.
- 3) To have mandatory start date of the placement
- 4) The CCG have also stated that they would want date of initial health assessment completed onto list
- 5) To have the child's current school placement included onto the list
- 6) To have when the child leaves the placement

To support this the CCG are completing an audit to quality assure the information received by the specialist looked after nurse.

From a table by the Specialist Nurse (specialist nurse caseload only)

- 1 Length of time from receipt of notification to receiving records from the placing authority
- 2 The authority placing the young person
- 3 If the team was not notified, how did the team find out?
- 4 Did the placing authority send a copy of the care plan or discuss verbally the needs of the young person?
- 5 Did the placing authority request a health assessment?
- 6 Did the young person have unmet health needs on arrival? What were they?
- 7 Length of time from notification received to specialist nurse visiting

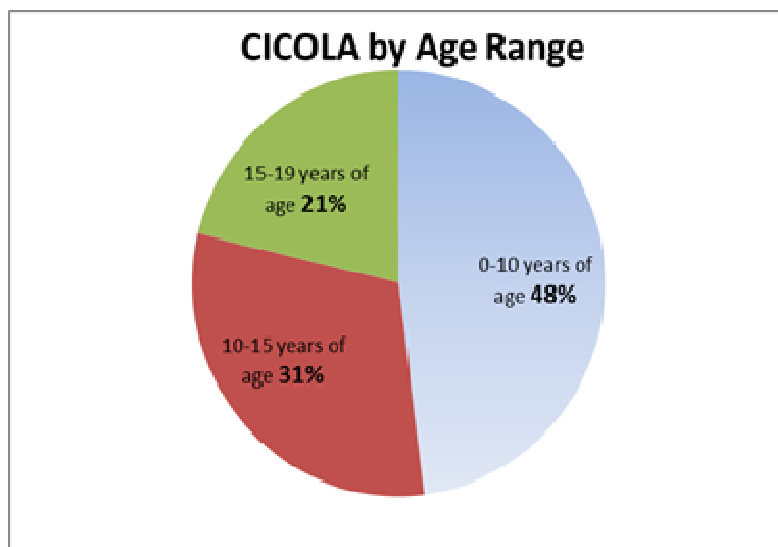
5.0 CICOLA PROFILE

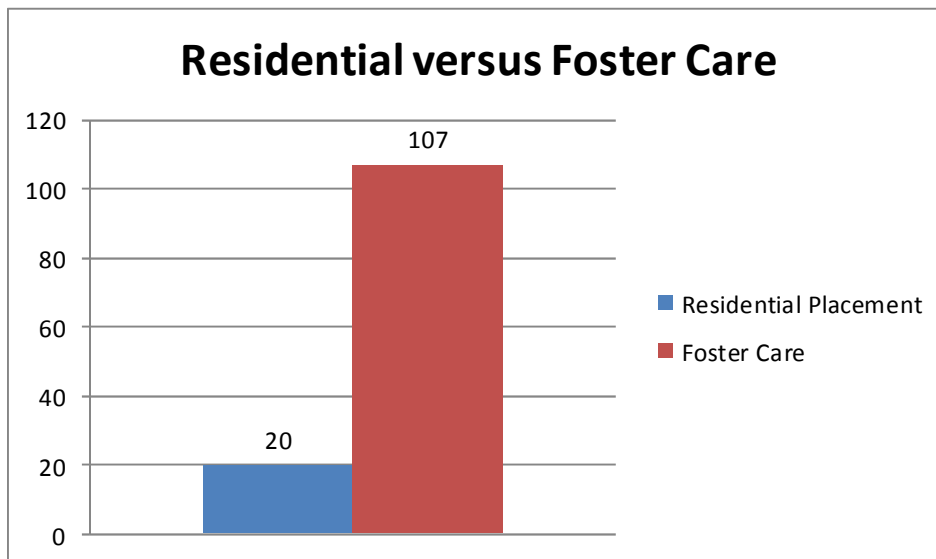
5.1 Below is an attached table demonstrating where the numbers of children are predominantly coming from. There are currently 138 Children on the CICOLA list (11 of these have an unknown address). It is not known where 7 children have come from. Recent work with the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) has led to the development of a joint CICOLA list.

5.2 The main referrer into the borough is Liverpool followed by Knowsley. It is worth noting that there has been a significant reduction of CICOLA's moving into Halton from boroughs many miles away.

<i>Placing Local Authority</i>	<i>Age of child 0-10</i>	<i>Age of child 10-15</i>	<i>Age of child 15-19</i>
Knowsley	12	1	2
Manchester	1	1	2
Liverpool	26	10	7
St Helens	4	0	0
Wakefield	1	0	0
Essex	0	1	0
Warrington	3	5	2
West Yorkshire	1	0	0

Lancashire	2	0	2
Shropshire	0	0	2
East Berks	0	0	1
South Staffordshire	1	0	0
Huddersfield	0	1	1
Buckinghamshire	0	0	1
Cheshire East	2	2	1
Wirral	2	0	1
South Devon	0	1	0
Leeds	1	0	2
Sefton	0	3	0
Blackburn/Darwin	0	1	0
London	0	0	2
Oxford	0	1	0
Rochdale	1	0	1
Birmingham	0	0	1
Aylesbury	0	0	1
Salford	0	1	0
Wigan	0	3	0
Oldham	0	2	0
Wakefield	1	0	0
Derbyshire	0	0	1
Brent	0	0	1
Telford and Wrekin	0	1	0
Cheshire West and Chester	2	1	1
Wolverhampton	0	0	1
Total	60	38	33





6.0 OFSTED rating of Children's Homes in Halton (31st March 2013)

- 6.1 There was a total of 12 external agency childrens homes operating in the borough – this represents a reduction of 3 homes within the last 18 months . In total this means that there were a total of 22 placements (beds) which represents a reduction of 11 beds in the last 18 months This reduction represents a home reduction of 20% and a bed reduction of just over 33% in the last 18 months – this has primarily been due to the Commissioning Manager working with colleagues from the Planning section to confirm providers have appropriate permissions , sharing information with local providers regarding Haltons requirements as well as close links with the Missing From Care service , Police , YOS and the sharing of qualitative information with placing local authorities
- 6.2 During this time Halton were also in direct discussions with OFSTED Inspectors for the local homes and shared some of the consistent practice issues (for instance young people being placed into local homes in the early hours of the morning , young people being moved from other homes at significant distance within the same organisation) The market reduction is highly favourable given that during this same time period there was a 10% increase in both the number of childrens homes Nationally and in the North West located homes as well as in the number of beds Currently 25% of the National childrens homes sector is based within the North West For information during this period North West authorities have regionally reduced the number of Residential placements by approximately 10% - this

means that the gap between the number of placements used in the North West by the North West authorities and the available resources is widening potentially meaning that other local authorities will be impacted by the number and type of CICOLAs being placed in local resources Of the homes currently in the borough 9 are rated by OFSTED (last full inspection) as good and 3 are rated as satisfactory.

7.0 Placement Provide Forum – including an update in relation to attendance, the themes covered and consideration of thematic meetings across Halton, St Helens and Warrington.

- 7.1 The placement provider forum has continued to meet on a quarterly basis having been instigated in January 2011.
All providers of Residential , Fostering and Leaving Care services both located in Halton as well as all providers being used for the placements of Halton young people at the time Attendance has improved continues to be good Any non attendance without apologies being received is followed up by the Commissioning Manager direct with the agency Future meetings will have to be rebooked in a larger venue due to the increase in attendance

The standing item themes that have been

CICOLA notifications
Missing from care
CSE / Safeguarding updates
Training events
Safer workforce group feedback

The thematic agenda items have included

Parent and carers engagement
Smoking cessation
Role of LADO
Healthy placements pilot
Placements North West update
Restorative justice
Youth provision
Risk assessing / missing from care

- 7.2 Feedback from the providers has been positive in terms of the usefulness of the forum and also the networking opportunities that it provides In July 2012 a joint placement provider forum took place with St.Helens , the purpose of this was to consult providers in relation to the Healthy Placements pilot that Halton and St.Helens are leading on , again written feedback from this event was positive .
- 7.3 Discussions have taken place with colleagues from St.Helens and Warrington in relation to possible future joint provider forums taking place whilst maintaining each local authorities priorities or unique market position . Providers have also voiced that a forum led by Halton would be their

preferred option to avoid duplication – this discussion will continue however there has recently been some changes in personnel in Warrington and reallocation of tasks within St.Helens which has led to some delay The provider forum planned for 10th April 2013 had to be cancelled due to staff sickness (SM) but information was shared “virtually” to provide an update The next provider forum will take place on 10th July 2013 and will cover a reminder of “Colins Case” including actions taken and feedback from a provider representative attending the CSE launch event taking place on 28th June 2013 along with the standing items

8.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

There are no policy implications

9.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

No other implications

10.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL’S PRIORITIES

11.0 Children and Young People in Halton

There needs to be further work undertaken to identify the impact of CICOLA’s on Children’s Services within Halton.

12.0 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

There needs to be further work undertaken to identify the impact of CICOLA’s on future Employment and Learning Services within Halton.

13.0 A Healthy Halton

There needs to be further work undertaken to identify the impact of CICOLA’s on Health Services within Halton.

14.0 A Safer Halton

There needs to be further work undertaken to identify the impact of CICOLA’s on Criminal Justice Services within Halton.

15.0 Halton’s Urban Renewal

There needs to be further work undertaken to identify the impact of CICOLA’s on future housing demands within Halton.

16.0 RISK ANALYSIS

A risk analysis will need to be undertaken as part of the ongoing work around CICOLA’s

17.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

The nature of this work is to support equality and diversity

18.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

None under the meaning of the Act