

# Short term placement stability

**A Presentation for Corporate Parenting Panel  
Central Bedfordshire Council Children's Services  
March 2018**

# PURPOSE

- Following a request made by the Corporate Parenting Panel in November '17 seeking reassurance regarding the number of children who have experienced 3 or more placement moves in the past 12 months.
- There is a requirement placed on the Local Authority by the Department for Education (Performance indicator - exNI62) to measure the percentage of Children Looked After who experienced 3 or more placement moves over the previous 12 months

# Performance context

(comparison with statistical neighbours)

Annual data	CBC performance ( <i>low is good</i> )	Comparison to statistical neighbours
March 2017	9.9%	No info currently available
March 2016	12.2%	11.4%
March 2015	14%	11%

At the time of writing, (January '18) this percentage has decreased further to 6.6% (21 children). This is a reduction of more than 50% compared to March 2015.

# Children with three or more placements in the last 12 months

- Total number of children who experienced 3 or more moves is 21
- 2 young people had 5 moves in the last 12 months (both are 17 years old)
- 4 children had 4 placement moves during the period (the average age for this cohort is 16 years old)
- 15 children in this cohort had 3 placement moves (the average age in this cohort is 9 years old) – 3 of the children in this cohort are under 1 year old and are in process of being adopted
- 2 young people in this cohort are Asylum Seekers

## Analysis

*(pen pictures provided in the addendum to this presentation )*

- 8 children experienced placement moves due to challenging behaviour
- 2 young people moved due to behaviour that lead to Youth Justice involvement
- 1 young person had a number of placement moves due to mental health needs
- In one of the cases the moves experienced by the young person were directed by Court
- Some of the placement moves are good practice in achieving early permanency

## How did we do it?

- As of January 2018, 93.4% (297) of our children are in stable placements. 78.2% (248) have been in their current placements for 2 years or more.
- The percentage of children with 3 or more moves in the last 12 months is 6.6% (21 out of 318 children). This is a significant strengthening of placement stability and it constitutes our best performance in the last 3 years.
- Some examples of activities which helped in achieving this:
  - A robust foster carers recruitment
  - Skill based analysis of our Foster Carers
  - Careful matching of our children to Foster Carers
  - Ongoing training and support (including out of hours) for our Foster Carers
  - A clinical psychologists support to Foster Carers
  - “fragile placement meetings” and “disruption meetings” held at point of need to prevent breakdown

# What does placement stability means for our children?

- Consistency of care – a place to call home
- Secure attachment
- Improved educational outcomes
- Better mental health
- Better relationships
- Preparation for independence