

Knowsley Placements – Trends, Gaps, Needs

Knowsley Provider Forum

1st June 2020

Introduction

- [Sufficiency Position Statement 2018-21 published](#)
- Includes ongoing Action Plan (refreshed for 2020/21 as part of 3-year financial strategy)
- Looks back over past few years at trends and profiles
- Projects forward over next few years, and sets priority action areas
- Hopefully helpful to providers – Knowsley want to work with you to continually improve local sufficiency

Sufficiency Statement: Exec Summary

- Previous Sufficiency Strategy 2015-17 (linked to Edge of Care strategy) successfully reduced demand for CLA placements
- Over last 3 years, while overall numbers of CLA have remained stable, fewer children are coming into and out of care
- However, market conditions and increasing numbers of children who present with complex needs (often in relation to emotional and mental health and exploitation) continues to place pressure on sufficiency in Knowsley
- From analysis of changes in placement trends and profile of Knowsley CLA, emerges key lines of enquiry for new sufficiency strategy to address. This includes:
 - how Knowsley Council works with the external market;
 - what the long-term strategy for internal residential homes should be;
 - meeting demand through foster carers; and
 - how best as Corporate Parents to support the needs of Children Looked After

QUICK SNAPSHOT

Current Knowsley CLA Snapshot

- 306 Children Looked After (w/c 1 June 2020):
 - 87 (28%) with external provision
 - 100 (33%) with inhouse provision (97 foster, 3 resi)
 - 119 (39%) with family/friends/parents/other
- Of the 87 in external provision:

CATEGORY	# of Placements	% of Total
Semi-Independent /16+	12	14%
IFA	46	53%
Short Breaks IFA	0	N/A
Other Local Authority Foster Care	1	1%
Parent and Child Residential	0	N/A
Secure	0	N/A
Residential Home	18	21%
Short Breaks/Respite Residential	1	1%
Residential Home with Education	8	9%
Crisis Intervention	1	1%
TOTAL EXTERNAL PLACEMENTS	87	

Snapshot of current searches (w/c 1 June)

- 8 x IFA searches ongoing (3 x sibs, 4 x M, 1 x F)
- 3 x Residential searches ongoing (1 F, 2 M)
- 1 x SAIL searches ongoing
- 1 x Respite Residential
- 1 x Parent & Child ongoing

PLACEMENT ACTIVITY: TRENDS

2019/20 Placement Activity

- Over the last year, we made 78 external placements:

Placements Made	Number	Gender	Average Age
IFA	24 (for 17 YP; includes 5 sibling groups)	15 x F 9 x M	9.5
Residential	27 (for 17 YP)	11 x F 16 x M	14.5
16+ SAIL	20 (for 17 YP)	9 x F 11 x M	17.5
Secure	3 (for 3 YP)	3 x M	16.5
Parent & Child Assessment Unit	2	N/A	N/A
Short Breaks Residential	2 (for 2 YP)	2 x M	12.5

Trends in Placement Activity

Type	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
IFA	32	23	24	24
Residential	15	23	20	27
SAIL	20	15	30	20
Secure	0	6	5	3
Parent & Child Assessment	1	3	2	2
Resi School	1	0	1	0
Short Breaks Residential	0	0	0	2
TOTAL	69	70	82	78

Conclusions & Projected Needs

- Stable overall CLA numbers, proportions in each placement type, and placement activity in 19/20
- Small movements: Resi up; IFA flat; SAIL down
- Challenging market conditions, emerging risks (e.g. CE) and complexity of CLA cohort
- Knowsley's needs (for local fostering & resi):
 - **more complex adolescents** (inc. challenging behaviour, mental health, CE, LD, autism)
 - **step down** from Secure/Mental Health/Resi
 - **specialist** provision that is resilient, skilled, solo/small

Priority Areas for Action

- Sufficiency Action Plan:
 - Market Development
 - Residential
 - Fostering
 - Emotional Health & Wellbeing
- Aims being to:
 - Positive outcomes for our Children Looked After
 - Keep children closer to home & school
 - Improve placement stability
 - Stabilise financial pressures

Any Comments or Questions?

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