

# Knowsley Placements – Trends, Gaps, Needs

Knowsley Provider Forum

2<sup>nd</sup> December 2019

# Introduction

- Sufficiency Position Statement 2018-21 published
- Includes ongoing Action Plan (being refreshed now for 2020/21)
- 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

# 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 – recent rise in CLA population (now 312, up 4% since Jan)
- 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

- 312 Children Looked After (w/c 25 Nov 2019):
  - 95 (30%) with external provision
  - 111 (36%) with inhouse provision (106 foster, 5 resi)
  - 106 (34%) with family/friends/parents/other
- Of the 95 in external provision:

CATEGORY	# of Placements	% of Total
Semi-Independent /16+	14	15%
IFA	48	51%
Short Breaks IFA	1	1%
Other Local Authority Foster Care	1	1%
Parent and Child Residential	1	1%
Secure	1	1%
Residential Home	16	17%
Short Breaks/Respite Residential	2	2%
Residential Home with Education	10	11%
Crisis Intervention	1	1%
<b>TOTAL EXTERNAL PLACEMENTS</b>	<b>95</b>	

# Snapshot of current searches (w/c 29 November)

- 4 x IFA searches ongoing (1 sibs, 3 F)
- 6 x Residential searches ongoing (3 F, 3 M)
- 0 x SAIL searches ongoing
- 1 x Respite Residential/IFA search ongoing

# **PLACEMENT ACTIVITY: TRENDS**

# 2019/20 Placement Activity

- Over the last 8 months (April-Nov), we made 58 external placements:

Placements Made	Number	Gender	Average Age
IFA	19 (for 14 YP; includes 5 sibling groups)	13 x F 6 x M	9.5
Residential	19 (for 11 YP)	7 x F 12 x M	14.5
16+ SAIL	14 (for 10 YP)	7 x F 7 x M	17.5
Secure	3 (for 3 YP)	3 x M	16.5
Parent & Child Assessment Unit	1	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	Apr-Nov 2019
IFA	32	23	24	19
Residential	15	23	20	19
SAIL	20	15	30	14
Secure	0	6	5	3
Parent & Child Assessment	1	3	2	1
Resi School	1	0	1	0
Short Breaks Residential	0	0	0	2
TOTAL	69	70	82	58

# Conclusions & Projected Needs

- Stable overall numbers; slight increase in overall CLA and placement activity again in 2019/20
- 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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