Knowsley – Picture of Sufficiency

Knowsley Provider Forum

3rd December 2018

Introduction

- Sufficiency Position Statement 2018 about to be published
- More detailed and comprehensive than snapshot given at June forum
- 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

QUICK SNAPSHOT

Current Knowsley CLA Snapshot

- 300 Children Looked After (w/c 26 Nov 2018):
  - 94 (31%) with external provision
  - 109 (36%) with inhouse provision (104 foster, 5 resi)
  - 97 (32%) with family/friends/parents/other
- Of the 94 in external provision:

CATEGORY	# of Placements	% of Total
Semi-Independent /16+	12	13%
IFA	51	54%
Short Breaks IFA	1	1%
Other Local Authority Foster Care	1	1%
Parent and Child Residential	1	1%
Secure	0	N/A
Residential Home	16	17%
Residential School	1	1%
Residential Home with Education	10	11%
Crisis Intervention	1	1%
TOTAL EXTERNAL PLACEMENTS	94	

Recent Placement Activity

- Over recent 6-month period (Apr-Sept 2018), we made 42 external placements:

Placements Made	Number	Gender	Average Age
IFA	15 (for 12 YP; includes 3 sibling groups)	5 x F 7 x M	10
Residential	12 (for 11 YP)	3 x F 8 x M	14
16+ SAIL	10 (for 9 YP)	3 x F 6 x M	17
Secure	2	2 x M	16
Parent & Child Assessment Unit	2	N/A	N/A
Resi School	1	N/A	N/A

SUFFICIENCY POSITION STATEMENT

Exec Summary

- Previous Sufficiency Strategy 2015-17 (linked to Edge of Care strategy) has 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

Demographics of Knowsley CLA

- Population: stable over last 3 years, c.290 (higher rate than national average, but lower than statistical neighbours)
- Gender: 47% female, 51% male; increased recognition of gender variation & transgender
- Ethnicity: 94% White-British; aligned to local population diversity
- Ages: higher rate of younger children than national average (especially 5-10 age band); lower rate of 16+; little change over last 3 years
- Legal Status: 71% full Care Order, 19% Interim, 7% S20
- Location: high rates from Northwood (Kirkby), Stockbridge Village, Prescot South, and Page Moss

Placement Profile & Trends

- Majority of children into foster care (36% inhouse fostering, 16% friends/family carers, 18% IFA); placed with parents (16%); external residential (9%); inhouse residential (1%)
- Over last 3 years, churn in & out of care significantly reduced = less placements needed (and reduced placement days)
- 2015/16-2017/18: overall days used in placements has reduced:
  - IFA placements reduced
  - External residential reduced
  - Parent & Child increased
  - Family & Friends fostering increased
  - Inhouse fostering increased
  - Inhouse residential reduced
  - YOIs reduced
- Overall, Knowsley has reduced use of IFA provision, whilst at the same time increasing use of inhouse fostering provision
- Demand for SAIL 16+ placements has also decreased
- However, use of residential placements, plus Secure, has shown an increase recently, resulting in a significant increase in such spend (which is generally of a high unit cost, for a relatively small number of CLA), and is due to both the prevailing market conditions and complexity of CLA coming through the system

Fostering

- The use of foster care has changed slightly over the last 3 years (2015/16-2017/18)
- Decrease in number of IFA placements used, but increase in number of days that children have spent in IFA care – suggests IFA care meets longer-term needs for smaller number of children
- Use of in-house placements remained stable over the three-year period, with children spending fewer average days in in-house foster care than any other foster care provision - suggests in-house foster care is meeting more short-term accommodation needs
- Vast majority within 20 miles; 50/50 male:female; largest group is aged 10-15
- Projection that long-term demand will be met through fostering

Fostering Market in Knowsley

- Number of IFA carer households within Knowsley has declined slightly over recent years (53 in 2016, 49 in 2018)
- Mirrors the regional picture of a shrinking market and challenges in recruiting new carers
- Estimated number of IFA households across the North West has fallen 11% in just two years (1933 households in 2018, down from 2172 in 2016)
- As a snapshot of local IFA usage, in November 2018, Knowsley had placements with 6 (of the 49) in-borough IFA households

What this tells us?

- We need to work closer with local providers to match needs with provision
- We are generally after skilled carers in or around Knowsley, with specialisms in caring for primary school aged and above children, who can present with challenging behaviour – this is the gap/need that our inhouse provision cannot always meet

Residential

- Demand for residential care has decreased over the last 3 years; the majority of demand is met through external residential
- Demographics changed over last 3 years:
  - More girls
  - Fewer subject to S20
  - More in 10-15 age band
  - Less placed locally or within 20 miles
- But demand may increase over coming years
- Projection that future demand will be focused on complexity/behavioural challenges, 10-15 age band

Residential Market in Knowsley

- Including KMBC, there are 7 providers of residential children's homes within Knowsley. In total, there are 17 children's home, accounting for 56 beds overall (43 'external', 13 'inhouse')
- In terms of geographical spread: 1 x Cronton, 6 x Kirkby, 4 x Huyton, 6 x Whiston/Prescot
- Supply has increased slightly over the past three years, with the opening of new provision from existing providers (KMBC and Lytham Care)
- However, despite this apparent increase in sufficiency, Knowsley only has 1 placement (as at November 2018) with a private provider within the borough

What this tells us?

- We need to work closer with local providers to match needs with provision
- We are generally after smaller (dual/solo) provision in or around Knowsley, with specialisms for adolescents with complex needs / challenging behaviour (this includes: mental health, CSE/CCE, LD, autism – many of which are undiagnosed)
- We are looking at whether our inhouse provision can be better configured going forward

Supported & Independent Living

- Over last 3-year period:
  - 31-36 placements used per year
  - Typically 10 at any one point in time
  - Average time spent in placement = 130 days
  - Indicative of some CLA with multiple moves
  - Majority male (76%)
  - More placements now in-borough (rest in LCR)
- Projection that demand will remain flat

16+ SAIL Market in Knowsley

- The provision of ‘supported & independent living’ accommodation for 16/17 year old Children Looked After is not a regulated sector, and therefore can be difficult to fully track and profile the provision within any LA area
- There are three strands to this market: 1) group living units; 2) accommodation with floating support; 3) floating support only
- There are 3 ‘group living’ units in Knowsley
- The NW framework has 79 providers, with 42 operating in Merseyside/Cheshire alone
- KMBC also have an agreement with KHT for the provision of 1-bed flats, with floating support commissioned separately

What this tells us?

- We have sufficient local provision
- We are working across LCR to put in place clear LCR Quality Standards for local providers to work towards (pre-cursor to new regional framework sometime in 2019) and are keen to work with local providers on shaping this

Complex Needs & Placement Stability

- Since last sufficiency statement:
  - demand for placements has been more stable
  - but increase in cases where children present with complex needs (SEND, mental and emotional health needs, child exploitation)
- CLA with disability = 8%; mostly LD, autism
- Teenage entrants to care least stability
- Long-term stable placements = less Missings, school absence, or school changes

Conclusions & Projected Needs

- Stable overall numbers, small movements within – e.g. Resi up; IFA and SAIL down
- But reasons behind this: challenging market conditions and challenging CLA cohort
- Knowsley's needs:
  - more complex adolescents (inc. challenging behaviour, CE, LD, autism, MH)
  - step down from Secure/MH/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
  - Improve placement stability
  - Stabilise financial pressures

Any Comments or Questions?

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