



Corporate Parenting Scorecard

(Data February 2024)

Happy, Safe & Loved, Thriving

About this Scorecard...

The Corporate Parenting Panel is the forum whereby the Lead Member for Children, Councillors, Officers, and relevant partners have oversight and the ability to seek assurances regarding our collective Corporate Parenting responsibilities and achievements against the Corporate Parenting Principles (C & SW Act 2017).

Panel members will be seeking to ensure, as far as possible, secure, nurturing and positive experiences for our children looked after and care experienced young people.

In order to fulfil these responsibilities, it is important that panel members understand our cohort of children looked after and care experienced young people. To have oversight of our Key Performance Indicator outcomes, locally, and benchmarking against our statistical neighbours and the National context.

The Corporate Parenting Scorecard provides the most up to date data regarding our profile, strengths and areas that require focussed improvement to ensure scrutiny, oversight and targets to improve the lives of, and have high aspirations for our children looked after and care experienced young people.

Our Scorecard will include information relating to specific areas directly impacting our children, such as, health and wellbeing, placement stability, distance from home, fostering and adoption, and outcomes for our care leavers,

Contents

Children Looked After slides 4-16	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Overall number of CLA• Rates per 10'000• Demographics• UASC• No. CLA entering & Leaving Care• No. of children adopted	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Health Assessments• Dental Checks• Long Term Placement Stability• Distance from Home• Visiting	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Change of Social Worker• Social Worker Workload
Fostering slide 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No. of Fostering households		
Care Experienced Young People slides 18-22	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Overall number of CEYP• Demographics• Education, Employment and Training (EET)• Accommodation suitability	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Care Experienced Young People's Advisor Workload	



Children Looked After (CLA) – Number of CLA

The number of CLA can change on a daily basis, this is regularly monitored. To allow for benchmarking with comparator groups a Rate per 10,000 children aged 0-17 is used.

			Slough Performance			Benchmarking (as at 31/03/2023)		
Measure	Good to be	Target	Feb 2023	Feb 2024	Trend last 12 months	Statistical Neighbours	South East	England
No. of CLA	n/a	n/a	263	203		n/a	n/a	n/a
Rate of CLA per 10,000 children aged 0-17	n/a	n/a	58.4	47.4		58.7	57.0	71.0

The decrease in the number of CLA is a result of a decrease in unaccompanied asylum seeking children over the last 12 months. The decrease in entries into care has been impacted by the increased focus and resourcing on managing risk to enable children to remain in the care of their parents. The legal gateway process has been reviewed together with the threshold to issue court proceedings.



Children Looked After (CLA) – Demographics

CLA: 206



Females	Males
84	122
(41%)	(59%)

CWD	CWD
7	21
(3%)	(10%)

CLA SB	CLA SB
0	3
(0%)	(1%)

Age cohort	No. of CLA		% of CLA		% of Slough Children	
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
a) less than 1	4	3	2%	1%	2%	2%
b) 1 to 4	12	13	6%	6%	11%	11%
c) 5 to 10	17	27	8%	13%	17%	18%
d) 11 to 15	21	31	10%	15%	14%	14%
e) 16 +	30	48	15%	23%	5%	5%
Total	84	122	41%	59%	49%	51%

Broad Ethnicity	No. of CLA		% of CLA			% of Slough Children
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Total	
a) Asian	17	27	8%	13%	21%	51%
b) Black	11	21	5%	10%	16%	8%
c) Mixed	14	24	7%	12%	18%	8%
d) Other	1	5	0%	2%	3%	6%
e) White	41	45	20%	22%	42%	26%
Total	84	122	41%	59%	100%	100%



Children Looked After (CLA) – Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children

These are CLA who are seeking asylum in the UK but who have been separated from their parents or carers. LAs are expected to exercise the same Corporate Parenting responsibilities for these children until they turn 18.

			Slough Performance			Benchmarking (as at 31/03/2023)		
Measure	Good to be	Target	Feb 2023	Feb 2024	Trend last 12 months	Statistical Neighbours	South East	England
No. of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children	n/a	n/a	28	25		n/a	n/a	n/a
% of CLA that are Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children	n/a	n/a	10.6%	12.3%		15.8%	14%	9%

Although there has been a decrease of those in care compared to the same time last year and the number of unaccompanied asylum seeking children coming into care has decreased, the proportion of UASCs that make up the CLA population is a little higher than the same as last year.



Children Looked After (CLA) – Entries into Care

The number of children coming into care can vary on a day to day basis and for a variety of reasons, including where they have experienced significant harm, abandonment or are unaccompanied asylum seeking children.

			Slough Performance			Benchmarking (as at 31/03/2023)		
Measure	Good to be	Target	Feb 2023	Feb 2024	Trend last 12 months	Statistical Neighbours	South East	England
No. of children entering care Year to Date	n/a	n/a	137 (134)	68 (67)		n/a	n/a	n/a
Rate of children entering care per 10,000 children aged 0-17 Year to Date	n/a	n/a	34.2	16.7		27.3	28	28

The decrease in entries into care has been impacted by the increased focus and resourcing on managing risk to enable children to remain in the care of their parents. The legal gateway process has been reviewed together with the threshold to issue court proceedings. And there has been a substantial decrease in the number of UASCs that have entered care.



Children Looked After (CLA) – Exits from Care

Children can leave for a number of reasons such as being adopted, returning to their immediate or extended family or as a result of turning 18.

			Slough Performance			Benchmarking (as at 31/03/2023)		
Measure	Good to be	Target	Feb 2023	Feb 2024	Trend last 12 months	Statistical Neighbours	South East	England
No. of Children Exiting from care Year to date	n/a	n/a	108 (105)	118 (118)	↑	n/a	n/a	n/a
Rate of children exiting care per 10,000 children aged 0-17	n/a	n/a	29.7	31.9	↑	27.1	27	27

The most prevalent reasons for children exiting from care in 2023-24 include Age Assessed to be over 18 (26), Returning Home (25), Children moving into Independent Living Arrangements (14), Staying Put Arrangements (13), Special Guardianship Orders (13) and. 64% of exits from care were for positive reasons however this is below comparator groups 69% (SN), 51% (SE), 60% (ENG).



Children Looked After (CLA) – Adoptions

Whilst the intention is to always try to rehabilitate children back home to their families, for some children this is not always possible. For some of these children adoption maybe a more appropriate option to provide them with permanency in a forever family.

			Slough Performance			Benchmarking (as at 31/03/2023)		
Measure	Good to be	Target	Feb 2023	Feb 2024	Trend last 12 months	Statistical Neighbours	South East	England
No. of children exiting care as a result of adoption Year to Date	n/a	n/a	16	3		n/a	n/a	n/a
% of children exiting care as a result of adoption Year to Date	n/a	n/a	15%	3%		9.9%	7%	9%

2022-23 was an exceptional year for adoptions - there were a significantly high number of adoptions with 20 children adopted. This year by comparison there has been a reduction.



Children Looked After (CLA) – Health Assessments

CLA have many of the same health related issues as their peers, however the extent of these is greater because of their past experiences. Health assessments are undertaken to promote and monitor children's physical and mental health.


Measure	Good to be	Target	Slough Performance			Benchmarking (as at 31/03/2023)		
			Feb 2023	Feb 2024	Trend last 12 months	Statistical Neighbours	South East	England
% of CLA (in care for 12 months+) with a Review Health Assessment within timescales	High	90%	94.6% (141)	86.3% (135)		89.8%	88%	89%

Although performance has decreased over the last 12 months, **it remains in line with comparator groups**. Challenges include delays in referrals to health, out of area health assessments and some young people refusing to attend.



Children Looked After (CLA) – Dental Checks

Healthy teeth and gums are important for all children and are also particularly important for children in care. As a Corporate Parent we need to ensure that the children in our care, maintain good dental hygiene.

Measure	Good to be	Target	Slough Performance			Benchmarking (as at 31/03/2023)		
			Feb 2023	Feb 2024	Trend last 12 months	Statistical Neighbours	South East	England
% of CLA (in care for 12 months+) with a Dental Check within timescales	High	90%	76% (114)	79.8% (123)		77.2%	75%	76%

Post COVID there continues to be national challenges in obtaining access to Dentists, with appointments with NHS Dentists in high demand particularly for those children placed outside of Slough. Performance in Slough continues to improve and is above that of comparator groups.



Children Looked After (CLA) – Long Term Stability

Remaining in a long term stable placement can have a number of benefits for children looked after. These include benefitting from a consistent relationship with their carers, improvements in educational attainment, physical and mental health and their own sense of belonging to a family as well as their wellbeing and happiness.

Measure	Good to be	Target	Slough Performance			Benchmarking (as at 31/03/2023)		
			Feb 2023	Feb 2024	Trend last 12 months	Statistical Neighbours	South East	England
% of CLA (aged under 16 and in care for 2.5 years or more) in a stable placement (2 years or more)	High	65%	63.6% (35)	67.9% (36)		68%	69%	65%

It is a DfE requirement that this measure only takes into account children until the age of 16 – this is in order to measure the stability experienced by children looked after prior to their formative years. A number of Slough children have remained in long term stable placements over the age of 16. This measure does not always factor in reasons as to why placements have ended. Some of the reasons why long term stable placements in Slough have ended over the last 12 months (other than due to the children turning 16) include children returning home, being adopted, foster carers giving notice due to children’s behaviour or family circumstances.



Children Looked After (CLA) – Distance from Home

It is important that children looked after remain close to home, so that they can maintain their family networks and friendships. It also allows the LA and Partner Agencies to work together to ensure that their needs are being met locally.



			Slough Performance			Benchmarking (as at 31/03/2023)		
Measure	Good to be	Target	Feb 2023	Feb 2024	Trend last 12 months	Statistical Neighbours	South East	England
% of CLA placed more than 20 miles away from home	Low	20%	28.8% (67)	26.6% (53)		19%	28%	21%

73.4% of children looked after were placed within 20 miles of their homes – this involves 143 children. Although every effort is made to place children as close to home as possible sometimes as part of the children’s care plan it may be appropriate to place them at a distance. The availability of placements that can meet the complex needs of children also means that children may be placed away from their homes.



Children Looked After (CLA) – Visiting

We visit children for various reasons including to see whether they are well, developing as expected, that the placement is meeting their needs and to ensure that actions from their care plan are being progressed.

Measure	Good to be	Target	Slough Performance			Benchmarking (as at 31/03/2023)		
			Feb 2023	Feb 2024	Trend last 12 months	Statistical Neighbours	South East	England
% of CLA seen within timescales	High	90%	91.4% (243)	95.6% (197)		n/a	n/a	n/a
% of CLA seen alone within timescales	High	90%	79.5% (209)	92.7% (191)		n/a	n/a	n/a

Performance remains high with 95.6% of children having been seen within timescales. Where children have not been seen within timescales it is because children, carers or social workers not being available. In some instances we are unable to see children alone due to the additional needs that they have. Visits are tracked weekly to understand which children have not yet been seen and the reasons why and when the next visit is going to occur.



Children Looked After (CLA) – Change of Social Worker

It is important for a child's social worker to remain consistent to allow a relationship to be formed between them and the child. This also helps to ensure that actions from the child's care plan are completed in a timely way.


Measure	Good to be	Target	Slough Performance			Benchmarking (as at 31/03/2023)		
			Feb 2023	Feb 2024	Trend last 12 months	Statistical Neighbours	South East	England
% of CLA (in care for 12 months or more) with 2 or more changes in social worker in the last 12 months	Low	n/a	41.9% (65)	34.6% (55)		n/a	n/a	n/a

Staff turnover has reduced which means that children are experiencing fewer changes in social worker. Changes in a social worker can occur when children are transferred to different services (within children's social care) which specialise in the progression of key aspects of their plan.



Children Looked After (CLA) – Social Worker Workload

To enable social workers to progress children’s plans and build relationships with the child in a meaningful way their workloads need to allow them the time to do that.


Measure	Good to be	Target	Slough Performance			Benchmarking (as at 31/03/2023)		
			Feb 2023	Feb 2024	Trend last 12 months	Statistical Neighbours	South East	England
Average no. of children allocated to Social Workers in CLA & Support Services	Low	18	13.9	14.9		n/a	n/a	n/a

Currently social worker workloads are below target as the teams are fully staffed and turnover has remained at it’s lowest for quite some time.



Fostering (IFA) – Fostering Households

Foster carers provide homes for children and enable them to remain within a family environment. It is crucial for LAs to have their own in house foster carers when children need to be placed, allowing children to be placed locally and allows for LAs to keep placement costs manageable.

			Slough Performance			Benchmarking (as at 31/03/2023)		
Measure	Good to be	Target	Feb 2023	Feb 2024	Trend last 12 months	Statistical Neighbours	South East	England
No. of in house fostering households	High	60	47	51		n/a	n/a	n/a

The numbers of in house foster carers has increased over the last 12 months. There are currently 3 households going through the recruitment process.

It should be noted that there is a national shortage of foster carers, with many carers retiring and feeling the impacts of a post COVID fallout and the cost of living crisis making it ever more challenging to recruit and retain carers.



Care Experienced Young People (CEYP) – No. of CEYP

These are young people who have spent time in care – specifically they will have been in care for at least 13 weeks spanning their 16th birthday. A personal advisor is allocated to support them from the age of 16th up until the age of 25 (if required) to help them develop their independent skills as they transition into adulthood.

			Slough Performance			Benchmarking (as at 31/03/2023)		
Measure	Good to be	Target	Feb 2023	Feb 2024	Trend last 12 months	Statistical Neighbours	South East	England
No. of CEYP eligible for services	n/a	n/a	249	242		n/a	n/a	n/a

The number of young people who meet this criteria has decreased slightly over the last 12 months by about 1%. The number of young people remains high due to older children coming into care and as a result of the number of unaccompanied asylum seeking children.



Care Experienced Young People (CEYP) – Demographics

CEYP: 242



Females

Males

91

151

(38%)

(62%)

CWD

CWD

8

25

(3%)

(10%)

Age Cohort	No. of CEYP		% of CEYP		% of Slough Young People	
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
a) 16 to 17	25	47	10%	19%	11%	12%
b) 18 to 19	25	59	10%	24%	9%	10%
c) 20 to 21	18	32	7%	13%	8%	9%
d) 22 +	23	13	10%	5%	21%	20%
Total	91	151	38%	62%	49%	51%

Broad Ethnicity	No. of CEYP		% of CEYP			% of Slough Young People
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Total	
a) Asian	19	39	8%	16%	24%	47%
b) Black	12	45	5%	19%	24%	10%
c) Mixed	15	19	6%	8%	14%	6%
d) Other	1	11	0%	5%	5%	6%
e) White	44	37	18%	15%	33%	32%
Total	91	151	38%	62%	100%	100%



Care Experienced Young People (CEYP) – EET Status



We want positive outcomes for young people and therefore monitoring whether they are in Education, Employment or Training (EET) allows us to facilitate them becoming contributing members of the communities that they live in.

Measure	Good to be	Target	Slough Performance			Benchmarking (as at 31/03/2023)		
			Feb 2023	Feb 2024	Trend last 12 months	Statistical Neighbours	South East	England
% of CEYP (aged 19-21) that are in Education, Employment or Training	High	52%	51% (41)	47% (43)		55%	57%	56%

Challenges for young people getting into and staying in EET include child care responsibilities, their mental health and wellbeing, disruption to their accommodation, lack of work experience, developing the resilience to remain in EET, being in custody, awaiting the outcome of their asylum claim and criminal exploitation concerns.



Care Experienced Young People – Accommodation



We need to ensure that young people are in safe and suitable accommodation that is appropriate for their for their age and development.

Measure	Good to be	Target	Slough Performance			Benchmarking (as at 31/03/2023)		
			Feb 2023	Feb 2024	Trend last 12 months	Statistical Neighbours	South East	England
% of CEYP (aged 19-21) that are in Suitable Accommodation	High	85%	94% (75)	88% (81)		87.8%	86%	88%

Most young people are in suitable accommodation. However there are 10 young people in unsuitable accommodation, this includes 2 young people in prison, 6 are in temporary housing (i.e. Bed and Breakfasts, temporary accommodation) some which have been placed their by housing departments and 3 young people deemed to be of no fixed abode.



Care Experienced Young People – Care Experienced Young People’s Advisor Workload



To enable personal advisors to progress young people's plans and build relationships with the young people in a meaningful way their workloads need to allow them the time to do that.

Measure	Good to be	Target	Slough Performance			Benchmarking (as at 31/03/2022)		
			Feb 2023	Feb 2024	Trend last 12 months	Statistical Neighbours	South East	England
Average no. of young people allocated to CEYP Advisors	Low	18	23.7	27.6		n/a	n/a	n/a

This measure is a combination of the work that personal advisors do with different cohorts (aged 16-25). Due to the increases in young people that meet the criteria for care leaving support workloads for PAs are increasing.



Thank you for listening

For more information please contact

jo.spender@sloughchildrenfirst.co.uk

Nikki.Donegan@sloughchildrenfirst.co.uk