

LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES
SAFEGUARDING AND IMPROVEMENT UNIT

Children's Rights Service: Children in Care Annual Report 2013-14

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1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The Leicestershire Children's Rights Service (CRS) established in 1987 was the first in the country. The service ensures that all Children in Care and Care Leavers have access to advocacy provided by someone who is independent from social workers and care providers.
- 1.2 The CRS is located within the Safeguarding & Improvement Unit (SIU) within Children and Family Services (CFS). There are 2 FTE Children's Rights Officers (CROs), one with a lead for children in care and the other with a lead for child protection. They work alongside Independent Reviewing Officers (IROs) and ensure a continued degree of independence from social workers and managers with responsibility for service delivery – significant in terms of the advocacy role, challenging planning and decision making for children and young people where appropriate.
- 1.3 This report highlights the context, purpose and aims for this service, focussing on the work of the CRO for Children in Care and Care Leavers between 1st April 2013 and 31st March 2014. It will also include a plan for 2014-15

2.0 Purpose of the Service and Legal Context

- 2.1 The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (hereafter CRC), Article 12 states that "parties shall assure to the child who is capable of forming his or her own views the right to express those views freely in all matters affecting the child, the views of the child being given due weight in accordance with the age and maturity of the child".
- 2.2 The Children Act 1989 states that "before making any decision with respect to a child whom they are looking after ... a local authority shall, so far as is reasonably practicable, ascertain the wishes and feelings of [the child]".
- 2.3 It is within the context of these two key pieces of legislation that the Children's Rights Officer for Children in Care and Care Leavers operates

3.0 Aims and Objectives

- 3.1 The aim of the Children's Rights Service for Children in Care is to support Children in Care and Care Leavers and ensure that their voice is heard throughout the care planning process. This can take a number of different forms.
- 3.2 The CRO can support children and young people in meetings where decisions are made about their care plan; attend strategy meetings where concerns about their placement or carers are discussed; enable them to make a complaint using the most effective means of seeking a

resolution; or help them seek independent legal advice where appropriate.

- 3.3 It is important that the young people are aware that the CRO is someone who (like Independent Reviewing Officers) is independent from the social work teams and is there to support and represent their views and wishes in their own words.

4.0 Children's Rights Children in Care and Care Leavers Advocacy Service

4.1 *Supporting children and young people at their review meetings*

- 4.1.1 The CRO will attend Looked After Children (LAC) Review of Arrangements meetings, progress meetings and any other meetings held when requested by children and young people. Wherever possible the CRO will meet with them some time prior to the meeting in order to discuss the things they would like to raise and explain the process and purpose of the meeting if they are newly looked after.
- 4.1.2 Sometimes when a child or young person is placed out of County it is more efficient use of time to visit the young person prior to their review or progress meeting and discuss their views and wishes with the IRO rather than returning again for a second time. By doing this it is possible to see them alone and discuss any issues they might have about the placement as well as their Care Plan or Pathway Plan.
- 4.1.3 It is the view of the CRO that over the past year there has been a noticeable change in the style of LAC Review meetings with an increased emphasis on the views of the child or young person. This reflects the increasing emphasis upon the voice of the child being represented and evidenced in all aspects of the care planning and review process
- 4.1.4 Where a child or young person wishes to attend their meeting (and many do), the meetings are increasingly held at a time and venue to accommodate this. However, a small number of meetings take place in school (time and a convenient venue) and will involve some children and young people being removed from a lesson. Some children and young people have indicated in the past, through meetings such as the Children in Care Council or other participation days that they are unhappy with this because it identifies them as being different from their friends who are not "in care". This is also the case for other meetings such as meetings to discuss Personal Education Plans (PEP).

4.2 *Care Planning and placement issues*

- 4.2.1 The main issues relating to placements and care planning fall into two areas. Children and young people wanting to move from where they are living and this not being possible or those possibly being moved who wish to remain where they are.

- 4.2.2 The range of placement options available can vary according to many factors and may be resource led or based more on specific needs of a young person. Where a child or young person has more complex needs, there is a greater requirement for a more specialised placement. This could lead to a placement being identified which is further away from Leicestershire. Even within the County, the distances (both in terms of miles and time) between placement and a young person's family can seem vast.
- 4.2.3 Travelling time from placement to school or college, and how this is achieved has been a concern raised with the CRO. Many young people in care spend a considerable amount of time in taxis. Far more than their friends who are not in care. In terms of preparation for independence this needs to be considered and wherever possible, they should be supported to use public transport, where available, once they are of an age and ability, as this is the norm for their peers.

4.3 *Helping young people obtain independent legal advice*

- 4.3.1 The CRO has supported a number of children and young people at meetings with solicitors and enabled them to seek independent legal advice. In addition the CRO has supported Care Leavers who are young parents whose children are themselves subjects of either Child Protection Plans or Care Proceedings.
- 4.3.2 Where the child or young person is on a Full Care Order, the CRO will usually attempt to consult with the solicitor who was involved in those proceedings. This is because they are more likely to have a good knowledge of their background and means that they won't have to tell their "story", which can sometimes be distressing, all over again.
- 4.3.3 This year the CRO has supported a young person to obtain legal advice about inheritance matters in relation to a deceased grandparent. This has proven to be an extremely complex matter and has been further complicated by the difficulty the care leaver has in managing their own life on the most basic level.
- 4.3.4 Two young people have contacted the CRO requesting support in obtaining legal advice when considering making a claim against the Local Authority in relation to experiences whilst they were looked after. Both of these young people are care leavers who had been subjects of a Care Order. At present these cases are on-going through an access to records request and are in the hands of solicitors. County Solicitors are made aware of any such claims at the earliest opportunity.

4.4 *Preparation for independence and planning for leaving care*

- 4.4.1 It is apparent when speaking to care leavers that many leave care feeling ill prepared and are struggling financially and emotionally. It is a challenge for Social Workers and Carers to work with them and provide them the skills early enough to ensure the impact of living on a low income and managing their own home can be successfully achieved.

- 4.4.2 The lack of support available to Care Leavers out of hours has been a concern in the past, especially over a weekend or Bank Holiday period when their support workers are not available. This was raised by young people when they attended Corporate Parenting Board. The comments about their experiences contributed to the redevelopment of the Out of Hours Service with a view to providing a more appropriate level of service to meet the need.
- 4.4.3 One of the difficulties highlighted by Care Leavers is the Benefits system. There are strict rules and timescales they need to comply with in order to be eligible to claim Job Seekers Allowance and other benefits such as Housing Benefit. Failure to attend appointments or provide the necessary documents can result in their payments being stopped or sanctioned. This results in additional financial difficulties and debts often being incurred, especially in relation to rent and utility bills.
- 4.4.4 Planning for young people who have additional needs which will require support from Transitions Team and Adult Services in the future needs to be made well in advance in order that the correct support package is in place. There have been some good examples of this in 2013-14; however it has frequently been almost the young person's 18th birthday before an appropriate resource is identified.
- 4.4.5 There continues to be concerns raised by young people who are Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) about their accommodation post 16. Frequently they will have been placed with IFA carers in City and they are being moved once they reach 16 or leave school.
- 4.4.6 The reason given by Social Work Team Managers and Social Workers is that when they reach 18 they are ineligible for social housing in the City and therefore need to establish links with locations within the County. The difficulty with this is that their only connection with the County is that this is the Local Authority where they initially presented. Careful consideration should be given to the use of placements within the City in order that this doesn't continue to happen.
- 4.4.7 These young people will establish links in Leicester including education, mosque and friendship groups but when they become 16 years of age there are attempts to move them to another placement within the County. It is unclear whether this is resource/financially led and the housing argument is secondary. There doesn't seem to be evidence of such moves being planned for non UASC.

4.5 Complaints

- 4.5.1 There were a number of referrals which resulted in the CRO supporting the child or young person who wanted to make a complaint. For many the complaints procedure is a complex and lengthy process which may not always result in the desired outcome for the young person who feels aggrieved.
- 4.5.2 The CRO, Corporate Parenting Team Manager and Customer Services Manager responsible for Corporate Complaints hold meetings on a

quarterly basis in order to look at the complaints received and issues raised by children and young people. They try to identify whether there are any key themes which require addressing. The Corporate Parenting Team Manager is also able to feed in issues identified by IROs from the LAC Review process.

- 4.5.3 One of the main areas of concern relates to the support (or rather the perceived lack of support) provided to Care Leavers. A number of Care Leavers contacted the CRO with complaints that they felt they were not being supported by their allocated worker.
- 4.5.4 Despite attempts to try to introduce improved ways of supporting young people as they move on to living in their own tenancies or supported housing, many continue to be ill prepared, struggle to budget and manage the responsibilities of running their own home.

4.6 Secure Accommodation

- 4.6.1 During the year covered by this report there have been two children and young people placed in Secure Accommodation. As part of the procedures relating to this the CRO maintains regular contact with the young person and attends the Secure Accommodation Review Panel (SARP).
- 4.6.2 A significant change was established following the request of one young person who wanted to attend their SARP meeting. Traditionally in Leicestershire the SARP has been held at County Hall and the views, wishes and feelings have been represented at the panel by the CRO. This practice has now changed and the young person attended the panel at the Secure Unit.
- 4.6.3 The experience for the two young people has been varied. They are very different and for one (who instigated the changes) it was an empowering experience and they were able to participate fully in their SARP. For the other, who was young and a far more traumatised young person, it was very stressful and they were unable to cope with the formality of such a large meeting attended by a large number of people who were unknown to them.
- 4.6.4 The CRO is involved in setting up training for Secure Accommodation Panel members and work to increase the involvement of more independent members.

5.0 Quantitative Information: 2013-14

- 5.1 The number of referrals made to the Children's Rights Service Children in Care and Care Leavers has increased significantly over the past few years, from 171 in 2010-11 to 229 in the period covered by this report (April 2013 to March 2014). This reflects the growth of the care population over a similar period. Full referral data is contained in Appendix 3.

| Looked After population in Leicestershire on 31 March | | | | |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 |
| 330 | 353 | 373 | 435 | 458 |
| Annual change | +7.0% | +5.7% | +16.6% | +5.3% |

(Source: SSSA 903 Return)

- 5.2 The 229 referrals in 2013-14 involved 137 young people, the majority of whom were aged 11 and over. Most referrals came from Social Workers or Carers who made the initial contact with the CRO on behalf of the young people. The majority of children and young people who contact the CRO directly were already known to the service.
- 5.3 The requests for advocacy for younger children continue to be low. A large number of the younger children are the subjects of a Care Order with a plan for adoption. They are usually too young to express a view about this, are represented by a solicitor and Guardian and their plan is reviewed by an IRO. Therefore the role of an independent advocate is greatly reduced.
- 5.4 There is roughly an even split in the placement type of young people referred to the CRO with around a third each living in family placements (foster care, with connected persons or placed with parents), residential homes or schools and supported housing or their own tenancies. This is an increase in the referrals from care leavers compared to last year and possibly reflects the connections the CRO has maintained with young people through involvement with participation events.
- 5.5 The number of young people contacting the CRO whose ethnicity is not White/British is 21.9%. Of these many were mixed/dual heritage. Wherever possible, if a young person is referred whose first language is not English an interpreter is arranged.

6.0 Qualitative Information: Children in Care and Care Leavers experience in Leicestershire and Nationally

- 6.1 One of the actions for the Children's Rights Service for 2011-12 was to monitor the compliance with the promises made to young people in "The Pledge". The Pledge was initially launched in July 2010 and was a list of promises based on consultation with Children in Care and Care Leavers who attended a series of participation events.
- 6.2 The key themes in the Pledge were broken down into the five main headings from "Every Child Matters". These were listening to you, coming into care and having a good experience of being in care, keeping you healthy, supporting your education and personal development and preparing you for leaving care, independence & adulthood.

- 6.3 It was felt in 2012-13 that Leicestershire Children in Care and Care Leavers had taken an active role in monitoring the progress with the Pledge and had been able to represent their views at the Corporate Parenting Board. This has continued during 2013-14, although a review and update of the Pledge and Promise is required and is part of the 2014-2015 Corporate Parenting and Participation work plans.
- 6.4 Children and young people have continued to be involved in all significant committee meetings and have also represented Leicestershire on a national level by attending All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) meetings at Westminster and Taking it to the next level (NCB Corporate Parenting & Children in Care Council event) which they attended with the Director & Lead Member for Children's Services.
- 6.5 The issues raised by children and young people in Leicestershire continue to mirror those raised by other children in care from across the UK. This has been evidenced by a report produced by Coram which listed the top 15 issues for children and young people who phoned the Voice Helpline. These were:
1. "I want to move" or "I don't want to move"
 2. "I want to continue my education, training or employment"
 3. "I need more money or support with my finances, benefits or debt"
 4. "I would like some support at my meeting"
 5. "I need somewhere to live"
 6. "I want more (or less) contact with family"
 7. "I want to complain"
 8. "I have a problem with my Social Worker or Personal Advisor"
 9. "I would like support through the Child Protection process"
 10. "There are problems with my Pathway Planning"
 11. "I want more (or less) contact with my Social Worker or Personal Advisor"
 12. "I am homeless and Social Services won't accommodate me"
 13. "I don't feel safe" (e.g. gangs, safeguarding issues, bullying, trafficking & sexual exploitation)
 14. "I have got problems with my Immigration status"
 15. "I would like some legal advice"

(Source: <http://www.coramvoice.org.uk/young-peoples-zone/top-15-issues-children-care>)

- 6.6 Overall, it is the view of the CRO that the children and young people in Leicestershire are happy, living in placements where they feel they are safe and supported. They take an active part in decision making about their care plan and have an opportunity to have their voice heard in relevant meetings. This is based upon contact with children and young people accessing the CRS as well as comments made by children and young people who have attended Children in Care Council meetings; feedback and evaluation from events such as the launch of the Beacon Website and the Celebration of Achievement Awards.

- 6.7 There are however, areas where there is need for improvement. Access to housing post 18 is not ideal. As a result of the Staying Put Policy, an increasing number of young people are able to remain with their carers post 18. However, this is often not the case for those who are considered to be amongst the most vulnerable of the Looked After population such as those who have been in custody and placed in hostel accommodation on their release.
- 6.8 It is frequently the case that young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) are also the ones on the lowest income (basic state benefits), least equipped in terms of educational qualifications, budgeting and organisational skills and are far more likely to fail when living in their own tenancy.
- 6.9 This group are also the ones who are least likely to have a voice. Their lives can be chaotic, they are unable to attend participation meetings. They have “Pay as you go” phones, frequently change their numbers and without any credit on their phones they are unable to maintain contact with any support worker trying to help them.
- 6.10 The CRO is a strong advocate for young people in relation to issues around education, employment and training and securing opportunities to aid and support their transition into independence and adulthood. Alongside this the CRO recognises the importance of promoting their sense of self worth and self belief and works collaboratively with other stake holders in this respect to ensure young people are supported to be involved in a variety of events where promoting self esteem is a key focus. e.g. Celebration of Achievement Events, Beacon Football Team and other participation and consultation activities.

7.0 Developments during the last twelve months:

See Appendix 1 - Performance of Children in Care Advocacy Service against 2013-14 Annual Work Programme.

8.0 Recommended areas for improvement in 2014-15

- 8.1 The CRO will ensure that information about the CRS is widely available for all children and young people, Social Workers and Carers in a format that is easily accessible and simple to understand. This includes working with the IRO Service on “Coming Into Care” packs and best use of the Beacon Website as another medium to support this.
- 8.2 CRO for children in care and care leavers will undergo training in Signs of Safety methodology. This approach has been well developed within the Child Protection Advocacy Service, as progress has been made across the child protection conference service - the same is planned over 2014-15 in relation to Looked After Reviews which is relevant for

the CRO for children in care and care leavers to be skilled up in this area of work also.

- 8.3 Further work around preparation for independence should be undertaken, listening to the voice of care leavers through SYPAC (Care Leavers focus group) and older members of the Children in Care Council
- 8.4 Discussions should be undertaken with the District Councils around access to suitable accommodation for care leavers. The availability and suitability of social housing appears to be varied across the County. Unlike London Boroughs or Unitary Authorities, Leicestershire does not have direct responsibility for housing.
- 8.5 Young people who have additional needs which may require support from Transitions Team and Adult Services need to be identified as early as possible as their needs may require more specialist planning
- 8.6 The location of placements used for UASC need to wherever possibly be located within the County, rather than the City in order to avoid the need to move them as they prepare for independence

9.0 Actions for 2014-15

See Action Plan: Appendix 2

Elaine Constable

Children's Rights Officer Children in Care

Safeguarding & Improvement Unit

July 2014

Appendix 1: Performance of Children in Care Advocacy Service against 2013-14 Annual Work Programme

| ACTION | WHO | WHEN | RAG | COMMENTARY |
|---|---|--|---|---|
| <p>Promote Children's Rights Service to include : Information about CRS to be included on the Beacon website and regularly reviewed</p> <p>Visits to all relevant locality social work teams to promote the service.</p> <p>Update and Re-launch Corporate Parenting Team Leaflet</p> | CRO | <p>May 2013</p> <p>Over 2013-14</p> <p>By March 2014</p> | <p>G</p> <p>A</p> <p>A</p> | <p>Information about CRS is on the Beacon website but needs updating on the LCC website</p> <p>IRO's check at reviews that children and young people are aware of the CRO & how to make contact; Coming into Care Pack is being developed within IRO Service</p> <p>Rolling programme of visits to all Children in Care Teams to promote role of CRO</p> <p>Work in progress - carried forward to 2014-15</p> |
| <p>Notification of all Out of County Placements</p> <p>Monthly updates through Joint Solutions Forum.</p> | CRO with Corporate Parenting Team Manager | April 2013 | G | Notification and regular update process is now in place and work has commenced to ensure that CRO is in contact with and has oversight of all children and young people placed out of county. |

| | | | | |
|--|---|-----------------------------------|----------|--|
| Identify advocates with specialist communication skills | CRO with Corporate Parenting Team Manager | April 2013 | A | Linked in with work being undertaken on consultation - carried forward to 2014-15. Needs to look in particular at how best to provide for disabled children and young people especially those with additional communication needs. |
| System of notification to CRO of strategy meetings for young people in care / on the edge of care about whom there are CSE concerns. | CRO with SIU Admin | To be in place by end of Dec 2013 | G | In place |

Appendix 2: Annual Work Programme 2014-15

| ACTION | WHO | WHEN | RAG | COMMENTARY |
|---|--|----------------|----------|--|
| Review and update Corporate Parenting Team Leaflet to include information about both CROs, Participation and entitlements from Corporate Parenting Team Schemes | Corporate Parenting Team | September 2014 | A | Draft completed as part of IRO Service care planning developments and work is underway with Comms to finalise. Leaflet is contained in new Coming into Care pack so all children and young people will have direct information regarding the services of the Children's Rights, Participation and Corporate Parenting Teams. |
| Identify ways of offering advocacy for children and young people with additional needs particularly communication needs and disabled children. | CRO with Corporate Parenting Team Manager. | Dec 2014 | A | As part of initial phase of developments in IRO Service to review and update consultation options and processes. |
| Ensure all teams are aware of the role of the CRO by setting up visits to all team meetings | CRO | Sept 2014 | G | Rolling programme in place. |
| Set up regular visit to young people's meetings at LCC and | | | | |

| | | | | |
|---|--|-----------------------|----------|---|
| other contracted homes to ensure the VOICE of the young people is heard | CRO | Sept 14 | G | In place |
| Review of the impact and effectiveness of the CRS for children in care and care leavers | CRO with Corporate Parenting Team Manager. | March 2015 | A | Within current work plan for CRS |
| Signs of Safety training | CRO | Next available course | G | Dates booked and CRO is involved in other learning and development opportunities e.g Signs of Safety Conference 21 st November 2014. |

Appendix 3: Statistics

| Referrals received between 01-Apr and 31-Mar | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------------|
| | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb | Mar | Tot. |
| 13-14 | 35 | 16 | 24 | 22 | 23 | 10 | 12 | 23 | 9 | 21 | 18 | 16 | 229 |
| 12-13 | 22 | 22 | 19 | 16 | 18 | 18 | 25 | 22 | 10 | 15 | 17 | 8 | 212 |
| 11-12 | 18 | 10 | 23 | 15 | 14 | 19 | 6 | 21 | 13 | 14 | 14 | 11 | 178 |
| 10-11 | 23 | 13 | 19 | 9 | 21 | 11 | 7 | 8 | 18 | 14 | 14 | 14 | 171 |
| 09-10 | 16 | 25 | 21 | 10 | 14 | 12 | 32 | 33 | 21 | 30 | 26 | 20 | 260 |
| 08-09 | 13 | 10 | 18 | 3 | 11 | 2 | 5 | 11 | 14 | 6 | 16 | 11 | 120 |
| 07-08 | 14 | 12 | 4 | 12 | 10 | 8 | 7 | 15 | 5 | 6 | 8 | 4 | 105 |
| 06-07 | 27 | 19 | 8 | 6 | 18 | 19 | 11 | 14 | 8 | 7 | 5 | 6 | 148 |
| 05-06 | 9 | 10 | 13 | 8 | 5 | 21 | 15 | 8 | 7 | 8 | 7 | 10 | 121 |
| 04-05 | 14 | 8 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 11 | 12 | 6 | 7 | 14 | 4 | 4 | 95 |
| 03-04 | 4 | 7 | 11 | 8 | 11 | 11 | 15 | 4 | 7 | 6 | 6 | 15 | 105 |
| 02-03 | 7 | 9 | 12 | 5 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 9 | 6 | 20 | 7 | 8 | 97 |
| 01-02 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 10 | 8 | 3 | 11 | 18 | 10 | 8 | 79 |
| 00-01 | 3 | 2 | 7 | 7 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 6 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 52 |

Age group at time of referral

| | M | F | | % | | |
|--------------|------------|------------|------------|-------|-------|-------|
| | | | | 13/14 | 12/13 | 11/12 |
| Under 6 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0.9 | 1.4 | 0.6 |
| 6 to 10 | 8 | 5 | 13 | 5.7 | 1.4 | 5.6 |
| 11 to 15 | 47 | 30 | 77 | 33.6 | 38.7 | 33.7 |
| 16 & over | 61 | 76 | 137 | 59.8 | 58.5 | 57.3 |
| TOTAL | 116 | 113 | 229 | | | |

Gender of the 137 young people referred:

| | |
|--------|----|
| Male | 77 |
| Female | 60 |

Ethnicity of the 137 young people referred:

| | No. | % | % * | % ** | |
|-------|-----|------|------|------|--|
| Asian | 3 | 2.2 | 2.9 | 5.1 | * Children in care |
| Mixed | 18 | 13.1 | 7.5 | 2.0 | ** Leics population |
| Other | 8 | 5.8 | 5.4 | 0.7 | |
| White | 107 | 78.1 | 84.2 | 92.0 | All these figures should be treated with caution due to the very small numbers involved. |
| Black | 1 | 0.7 | 0.0 | 0.2 | |
| TOTAL | 137 | 100 | 100 | 100 | |

Placement at time of referral:

| | |
|---|------------|
| Family Placements | |
| LCC foster placement | 41 |
| Connected person | 2 |
| Pre-adoption placement | 2 |
| Agency foster placement | 27 |
| Residential Home | |
| LCC Community Home | 21 |
| Educare | 14 |
| Keys | 2 |
| Agency placement | 25 |
| Custody/Secure Accom | 13 |
| Independent living/ Supported Lodgings | 69 |
| Placed with parents | 5 |
| Not looked after/Child in Need * | 8 |
| TOTAL | 229 |

Legal Status at time of referral:

| | |
|------------------------------------|------------|
| S20 accommodated | 71 |
| Interim Care Order | 2 |
| Full Care Order | 77 |
| Care Leaver (s24) | 59 |
| S25 Secure Order | 7 |
| Not L/A: Child in Need/ Res Order. | 7 |
| Other | 6 |
| TOTAL | 229 |

Source of referral:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|------------|
| Young person | 35 |
| Social Worker/Support Worker/Manager | 115 |
| Residential Worker | 8 |
| Foster Carer/Connected Person | 11 |
| Parent/Relative | 5 |
| IRO | 22 |
| Ed CIC/Youth Service | 7 |
| Family Placement Team/Placements | 9 |
| Solicitor | 4 |
| Probation | 3 |
| Other | 10 |
| TOTAL | 229 |

Issues raised by young people contacting the Children's Rights Officer:

| <i>Issue raised</i> | Family Placement (inc relatives) | Supported Lodgings/ Ind. Living | Placed with Parents | Residential home or school | YOI / Prison | Not Looked After/C in N | |
|---|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|--------------|-------------------------|-----------|
| Accommodation / Housing | 1 | 9 | 1 | 1 | | | 12 |
| Allegation / Concerns re carer | 2 | 1 | 1 | 3 | | | 7 |
| Care Plan / Placement move | 10 | 2 | | 6 | | 1 | 19 |
| Complaint | 3 | 7 | 1 | 2 | | | 13 |
| Contact with sibs/family members | 8 | | 1 | 1 | 1 | | 11 |
| Child Sexual Exploitation | | 1 | | 1 | | | 2 |
| Education | 3 | 1 | 1 | 6 | | 2 | 13 |
| Financial support / Allowances | 2 | 7 | | | | | 9 |
| Lack of support | 2 | 6 | | | 2 | 2 | 12 |
| Leaving Care Grant | | 3 | | | 2 | | 5 |
| Legal advice/Support at solicitors or in court | 6 | 12 | | 2 | | | 20 |
| Legal Planning Meeting | 2 | 1 | | | | | 3 |
| Placement | 13 | 2 | 1 | 8 | | | 24 |
| Planning / Strategy Meeting | 6 | 2 | | 11 | | | 19 |
| Review/Admission or Progress Mtg | 9 | 3 | | 15 | | | 27 |
| Secure Accommodation / SARP | | | | 5 | | | 5 |
| Support @ CP Conference or Core Group re own child | 2 | 1 | | 2 | | | 5 |
| Transport | 4 | 3 | 1 | 3 | | | 11 |
| Other | 2 | 3 | | 4 | | 3 | 12 |
| TOTAL | 75 | 64 | 7 | 70 | 5 | 8 | |

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