

APPENDIX A
ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Education and Children's Services
DATE	25th January 2018
TITLE OF REPORT	Education and Children's Services Directorate Performance Improvement Report - ADDENDUM
REPORT NUMBER	ECS/18/004
DIRECTOR	Bernadette Oxley and Helen Shanks (Acting)
ADDENDUM AUTHOR	David Bliss

1. PURPOSE OF ADDENDUM

- 1.1 The purpose of this Addendum is to provide Elected Members with additional information about the performance report in relation to Children's Social Work and, in particular, to the percentage of looked after children with an allocated social worker.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to note the content of the Addendum along with the Report to which it refers.

3. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

- 3.1 Scrutiny of the Performance Report by Elected Members at the last Education & Children's Services Committee highlighted the lower proportion of looked after children with an allocated social worker (85%), compared to the proportion of all children known to social work with an allocated social worker (93%).
- 3.2 This apparent anomaly was further investigated as it did not reflect the Service's commitment to supporting looked after children and ensuring that their needs are appropriately planned for and met.
- 3.3 This investigation has discovered that the reported statistic has in fact been inappropriately calculated over a number of previous quarters. Rather than identifying the number of looked after children at the reporting period and calculating the percentage of those children with an allocated social worker, the report instead identified the number of unique placements made of looked after children. As some children move placements during the reporting period, the number of placements will always exceed the number of children looked after.
- 3.4 Consequently, the Report of the percentage of looked after children with an allocated social worker presented to Committee for this quarter has been re-

calculated to not only reflect an accurate figure for Quarter 2, but also for previous quarters. At Quarter 2, for example, the proportion of looked after children with an allocated social worker was 98%, which is more in line with the service's expectation. It also represents notably improved performance over the last year.

- 3.5 The explanation for the error in the way that this data had been previously incorrectly calculated is that it is a system generated report from Carefirst, the service's main recording system, and that when the report was first set up the wrong denominator was used. This has now been rectified for future reports.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no additional financial implications.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no additional legal implications.

6. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

- 6.1 There are no additional implications.

7. IMPACT SECTION

7.1 People

The Directorate is committed to improving the key life outcomes of all people in Aberdeen, including looked after children, and ensuring that wherever possible such children have an allocated social worker remains a priority.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 8.1 There are no additional background papers.

9. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

David Bliss
Service Manager (Strategy & Improvement)
dbliss@aberdeencity.gov.uk
01224 522048

11. HEAD OF SERVICE DETAILS

Bernadette Oxley
Head of Children's Services
boxley@aberdeencity.gov.uk
01224 522110