

Time 5.30 pm **Public Meeting?** YES **Type of meeting** Oversight
Venue Training Room - Ground Floor - Civic Centre, St Peter's Square, Wolverhampton WV1 1SH

Membership

Chair Cllr Val Gibson (Lab)

Labour

Cllr Julie Hodgkiss
Cllr Milkinderpal Jaspal
Cllr Welcome Koussoukama
Cllr Lynne Moran
Cllr Peter O'Neill
Cllr Rita Potter
Cllr Paul Sweet
Cllr Martin Waite

Conservative

Cllr Christine Mills

Quorum for this meeting is three Councillors.

Information for the Public

If you have any queries about this meeting, please contact the Democratic Services team:

Contact Helen Tambini
Tel/Email Tel: 01902 554070 or helen.tambini@wolverhampton.gov.uk
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Some items are discussed in private because of their confidential or commercial nature. These reports are not available to the public.

Agenda

Part 1 – items open to the press and public

<i>Item No.</i>	<i>Title</i>
1	Apologies for absence
2	Declarations of interests
3	Minutes of the previous meeting - 18 January 2018 (Pages 3 - 10) [To approve the minutes of the previous meeting as a correct record and sign]
4	Matters arising [To consider any matters arising from the minutes of the meeting]
5	Schedule of outstanding matters (Pages 11 - 14) [To consider and comment on the schedule of outstanding matters]
6	Quality Assurance and Compliance Update (Pages 15 - 28) [Jas Kakkar, Lead Commissioner – Personalised Support to present report]
7	Care Leavers up to the age of 18 that are pregnant or teenage parents (Pages 29 - 32) [Laura Wood, Senior Social Work Manager to present briefing note]
8	Adoption Agency Interim report (Pages 33 - 42) [Dawn Deans, Senior Social Work Manager – Adoption, to present update]
9	Children and Social Work Act 2017 (Pages 43 - 48) [Alison Hinds, Head of Looked After Children to present briefing]
10	Corporate Parenting Strategy Update (Pages 49 - 54) [Alice Vickers, Corporate Parenting Officer to present report]
11	Performance Monitoring Information (Pages 55 - 70) [Emma Bennett, Director of Children's Services to present report]
12	Exclusion of the press and public [That in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business as they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information falling within paragraph 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972]

PART 2 - ITEMS NOT OPEN TO THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

13	Councillor visits to establishments
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Attendance

Chair Cllr Val Gibson (Lab)

Labour

Cllr Milkinderpal Jaspal
Cllr Lynne Moran

Cllr Peter O'Neill
Cllr Rita Potter

Cllr Martin Waite

Employees

Emma Bennett
Clare Bishop
Fiona Brennan
Alison Hinds
Darren Martindale
Puja Taloy
Helen Tambini
Alice Vickers

Director of Children's Services
Family Support Worker
Designated Nurse, Looked After Children
Head of Looked After Children
Virtual School Head for Looked After Children
Participation Officer for Looked after Children
Democratic Services Officer
Corporate Parenting Officer

Emma Jane Kisby, Foster Carer attended as an adviser to the Board.

Item No. *Title*

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Hodgkiss, Koussoukama, Mills and Sweet.

Apologies for absence were received from Tracy Kenny, Foster Carer and Kyron Hughes, Care Leavers Forum.

2 Declarations of interests

There were no declarations of interest made.

3 Change to the Order of Agenda Items

The Chair moved that agenda item 6, Care Leavers Forum – Reducing Care Leaver Isolation on Birthdays and item 7, Children in Care Council – Feedback from Take Over Day, be considered before item 3, Minutes of the Previous Meeting, item 4, Matters Arising and item 5, Schedule of Outstanding Matters.

Resolved:

That agenda items 6 and 7 be considered before items 3, 4 and 5.

4 Care Leavers Forum - Reducing Care Leaver Isolation on Birthdays

Members of the Care Leavers Forum (CLF) attended the meeting and presented their ideas on ways to reduce the feelings of isolation on birthdays.

They suggested that rather than having two sums of £50 for eighteenth and twenty-first birthdays, the money should be split into £25 for eighteenth, nineteenth, twentieth and twenty-first birthdays. That would help to make all of those birthdays special.

They suggested a revision of the Birthday Monies Policy. All young people needed to have an up to date Pathway Plan and as part of that, to encourage positive behaviour and integration it was suggested as an incentive that any young person who did not have an updated Plan or meet with their Young Person's Advisor (YPA) would not receive their birthday money and that money could then be put into a fund for holidays and group activities for other young people who were integrating.

Members of the CLF stated that birthdays could often leave Care Leavers (CL) feeling very isolated as they would not have an opportunity to spend time with their families and appropriate support was needed, particularly to help with mental health issues. In terms of the individual support packages, it was suggested that each one should be individually assessed regarding mental health.

The Chair thanked the young people for the excellent presentation and the two proposals.

In answer to a question regarding contact with young people after the age of 21, Emma Bennett, Director of Children's Services advised that all CL should receive a birthday card delivered by their YPA up to the age of 25 and she confirmed that she would also send a birthday card. In respect of contact after the age of 25, further discussions would need to take place with the Transitions Team.

Members of the CLF invited members of the Board to attend future meetings of the Forum.

Members of the Board thanked the young people for attending, sharing their own experiences and for their comments and proposals.

Resolved:

1. That the presentation on Reducing Care Leaver Isolation on Birthdays be noted.
2. That the proposal to split birthday monies into four gifts of £25 for eighteenth, nineteenth, twentieth and twenty-first birthdays be agreed.
3. That the proposal to revise the Birthday Monies Policy to encourage engagement and integration be agreed.
4. That the further comments made by the members of the CLF be noted.

5 Children in Care Council - Feedback from Take Over Day

Members of the Children in Care Council (CiCC) attended the meeting and gave a presentation on feedback from the Take Over Day.

The Chair thanked the young people for the excellent presentation which had raised many key issues which would be considered.

Members of the Care Leavers Forum (CLF) suggested a peer mentoring programme, with older Care Leavers (CL) helping younger CL who were struggling. Peer mentoring would also help to encourage those who were not engaging with their Young Person's Advisor (YPA).

Alice Vickers, Corporate Parenting Officer confirmed that officers were in the process of looking at mentoring schemes.

In answer to a question regarding what further help could be offered to foster carers, Emma Jane Kisby referred to the training courses she had attended, in particular the excellent course arranged by Joginder Shoker Kang. Receiving advice and support on nurturing, in particular attachment issues was paramount. Foster carers needed support in understanding children.

Alison Hinds, Head of Looked After Children confirmed that the training programme for foster carers was being reviewed. Issues raised at the Take Over Day would be taken into consideration.

In answer to questions regarding Total Respect training, Emma Bennett, Director of Children's Services stated that she would check if that training was mandatory for foster carers. She advised that each Fostering Agency had a version of Total Respect training as part of their assessments.

Alice Vickers advised that she had visited three of the top 10 independent Fostering Agencies used by the City of Wolverhampton Council and the Commissioning Team would be happy to take that forward.

Emma Bennett confirmed that this would be a priority as part of the Corporate Parenting Strategy for next year.

Resolved:

That the presentation on the Feedback from Take Over Day and the comments raised be noted.

6 Minutes of the previous meeting - 9 November 2017

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 9 November 2017 be confirmed as correct record and signed by the Chair.

7 Matters arising

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting.

8 Schedule of outstanding matters

The Chair presented the report on current progress on matters previously considered by the Board.

Emma Bennett, Director of Children's Services confirmed that 92% of LAC were known to the local authority at least 30 days prior to becoming LAC. Only 48 had not been known before.

9 Virtual School Head Annual Report 2016-2017

Darren Martindale, Virtual School Head for Looked After Children presented the Virtual School Head Annual Report 2016-2017 and highlighted key points, including the Turnabout Programme and the Aspire2Uni (A2U) Programme.

The Chair thanked Darren Martindale for the excellent report and referred to the Turnabout Programme which was welcomed by all and highlighted the positive outcomes of working with children.

In addition to the information contained in the report and in response to questions from Board members, officers stated the following:

- Foster carers would usually attend parent evenings at school and such details would be recorded on each Personal Education Plan (PEP). The PEP had been designed to prompt discussions on those issues.
- The I Awards celebrated young people's achievements as did schools and foster carers who took an active role in celebrating achievements, both academic and non-academic.
- The I Awards invited nominations from Designated Teachers (DT) and there had been a record number from DT, both from inside and outside of the city.

- In some cases, both foster carers and family members attended parent evenings and other school events; however, that was dependent on individual circumstances.
- The Council ensured that foster carers encouraged the aspirations of the young people they were caring for and additional support was always available if foster carers wanted some extra help.
- Training was given to foster carers to support education at home and there was an additional section on the PEP which asked how a foster carer supported study in the home. Foster carers were involved in the Aspire2Uni Programme and it was hoped to further expand that. An online resource Britannica was also available and had already received over 23,000 hits. That resource was both safe and comprehensive.
- Young people received a congratulatory card from the Council for exam and degree successes.
- The importance of stability for LAC was acknowledged and every effort was made to ensure that; however, there were times when change was unavoidable, sometimes due to staff turnover and exit interviews were undertaken to identify why staff were leaving. The workforce was also being consulted to identify what were the most important factors of working in the city.
- In many cases foster carers would be willing to travel long distances to prevent a child or young person having to move school.
- Sometimes to ensure stability a child or young person might remain in a lower achieving school as it would be less beneficial to move them.

Resolved:

That the Virtual School Head Annual Report 2016-2017 report be noted.

10

Performance Monitoring Report/Children Looked After Return Initial Analysis 2016-2017

Emma Bennett, Director of Children's Services presented the Performance Monitoring Report and the Children Looked After Return Initial Analysis and highlighted key points. She confirmed that the Board was receiving the standard performance report, together with additional benchmarking information providing initial analysis of Looked After Children (LAC) performance as reported in the Children Looked After (903) statutory return.

In respect of routes into care and Ofsted ratings, Emma Bennett advised that as of the end of November 2017 there were 11 Unaccompanied Asylum Seekers. Where an Ofsted inspection had taken place and a children's home had been identified as inadequate or requiring improvement, then inspections would take place immediately.

In respect of health, Emma Bennett advised that there had been a slight dip to 86% and that would require monitoring.

Fiona Brennan, Designated Nurse, Looked After Children stated that the dip was most likely caused by initial checks rather than reviews and it would be helpful to have a breakdown of those figures.

In respect of adoptions, Emma Bennett advised that additional resources had been made available until the end of March 2018 in order to ensure the Council improved performance in supporting the application of adoption orders.

In respect of the Children Looked After Return Initial Analysis 2016-2017, Emma Bennett confirmed that this was an annual report. It was known that Wolverhampton had a relatively high number of LAC at 108 per 10,000 population instead of 85; however, Wolverhampton had a slower rate of increase compared to other authorities. Wolverhampton was the 37th best performing authority in the country for statutory outcomes for Care Leavers (CL).

In answer to a question regarding a comparison with statistical neighbours in respect of care proceedings, Emma Bennett confirmed that statistics were available and an analysis could be undertaken and the data made available. There had been a considerable increase in care proceedings across the country.

Resolved:

1. That the Performance Monitoring report and the Children Looked After Return Initial Analysis 2016-2017 report be noted.
2. That a breakdown of initial health check and review figures be submitted to the next meeting of the Board.
3. That details of care proceedings and comparisons with Wolverhampton's statistical neighbours be submitted to the next meeting of the Board.

11 **Corporate Parenting Board - Proposed Amendment to Terms of Reference**

Helen Tambini, Democratic Services Officer presented the Corporate Parenting Board – Proposed Amendment to the Terms of Reference and highlighted key points.

Resolved:

That the amendment to the Terms of Reference of the Corporate Parenting Board be approved.

12 **AOB**

The Chair referred to public attendance at future meetings and advised that items relating to the Care Leavers Forum (CLF) and the Children in Care Council (CiCC) should not be held in public as young people were in attendance. Rather than waiting until the latter part of the meeting to consider exempt items, it was proposed, when such items were on the agenda, to have exempt items at the beginning.

Resolved:

That future agenda items be varied to ensure that items relating to the CLF and the CiCC be considered first and in private.

13 **Exclusion of the press and public**

Resolved:

That in accordance with Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business as they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information contained in

paragraph 2 of the Act, namely information that is likely to reveal the identity to an individual.

14 Councillor Visits to Establishments

No visits to establishments had been undertaken since the last meeting of the Board.

In answer to a question regarding Councillors visiting private establishments, Emma Bennett, Director of Children's Services advised that if there were young people placed in private establishments by the Council then Councillor visits would be welcomed and a list of those establishments would be provided.

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CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL	Corporate Parenting Board 22 March 2018
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Report title	Schedule of Outstanding Matters	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Val Gibson Children and Young People	
Wards affected	All	
Accountable director	Emma Bennett, Children and Young People	
Originating service	Governance	
Accountable employee(s)	Helen Tambini Tel Email	Democratic Services Officer 01902 554070 Helen.Tambini@wolverhampton.gov.uk

Recommendation for action:

The Corporate Parenting Board is asked to consider and comment on the schedule of outstanding matters.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to appraise the Board of the current position with a variety of matters considered at previous meetings of the Corporate Parenting Board.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 At previous meetings of the Board the following matters were considered and details of the current position is set out in the fourth column of the table.

<u>DATE OF MEETING</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>LEAD MEMBER/ OFFICER</u>	<u>CURRENT POSITION</u>
18 January 2018	Performance Monitoring report	Emma Bennett	To be submitted to next meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Breakdown of initial health check and review figures.• Details of care proceedings and comparisons with Wolverhampton's statistical neighbours.
18 January 2018	Councillor visits to establishments	Emma Bennett	List of private establishments used by the Council to be provided to councillors.

3.0 Financial implications

- 3.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.
- 3.2 The financial implications of each matter will be detailed in the individual report submitted to the Board.
[NM/28022018/Z]

4.0 Legal implications

- 4.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.
- 4.2 The legal implications of each matter will be detailed in the individual report submitted to the Board.
[RB/28022018/Q]

5.0 Equalities implications

- 5.1 There are no direct equalities implications arising from this report.
- 5.2 The equalities implications of each matter will be detailed in the individual report submitted to the Board.

6.0 Environmental implications

- 6.1 There are no direct environmental implications arising from this report.
- 6.2 The environmental implications of each matter will be detailed in the individual report submitted to the Board.

7.0 Human resources implications

- 7.1 There are no direct human resources implications arising from this report.
- 7.2 The human resources implications of each matter will be detailed in the individual report submitted to the Board.

8.0 Corporate landlord implications

- 8.1 There are no direct corporate landlord implications arising from this report.
- 8.2 The corporate landlord implications of each matter will be detailed in the individual report submitted to the Board.

9.0 Schedule of background papers

- 9.1 Minutes of previous meetings of the Board and associate.

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CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL	Corporate Parenting Board 22 March 2018
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Report title Quality Assurance and Compliance Update

Cabinet member with lead responsibility Councillor Val Gibson
Children and Young People

Wards affected All

Accountable director Emma Bennett, Children and Young People

Originating service Commissioning

Accountable employee(s)
Sarah Smith Head of Strategic Commissioning
Tel: 01902 555318
Email: sarah.smith@wolverhampton.gov.uk

Report has been considered by

Commissioning Management Meeting
30 October 2017

People Leadership Team - 27 November
2017

Councillor Sandra Samuels OBE Briefing
- 29 November 2017

Wolverhampton Safeguarding Adults
Board - 14 December 2017

Strategic Executive Board - 9 January
2018

Councillor Val Gibson Briefing
- 6 February 2018

Adult and Safer City Scrutiny Panel
- 6 February 2018

Recommendation for noting:

The Corporate Parenting Board is requested to note:

- The update on the Council's arrangements for monitoring the quality of registered care services in the City.
- Continue to support the work of the Quality Assurance and Compliance Team, hosted by Wolverhampton within Social Care commissioning. The work of this team provides the Council with additional assurance that residents' needs can be appropriately met.
- The continued improvement in the quality of registered care and support services in Wolverhampton.
- The continued commitment of the Council to work with the provider market to improve the quality of care provided for the direct benefit to the users of these services, their relatives and carers. This includes the many residents who purchase their own care independently of adult social care services.
- That an excellent working relationship with the statutory regulator of care provision - Care Quality Commission (CQC) and the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and other partners has also been established.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 The Council is committed to providing a range of excellent care and support locally for the residents of Wolverhampton and we are building on our commitments to ensure people live longer, healthier lives.
- 1.2 There is a large market for care and support provision that responds effectively to the needs of the residents in Wolverhampton. The majority of the adult social care services currently commissioned are focused on meeting eligible care needs utilising the national eligibility criteria. These services include residential and nursing care, domiciliary care services, day services and very sheltered housing schemes are provided across the public, private and voluntary care sectors.
- 1.3 Ensuring there are good quality local care and support services in the independent sector market is critical and remains integral to the Council's plans to meet the current and future needs of residents. To support the development of the care market and to ensure that care and support services are of a high quality for our citizens, this Council has invested additional resources in the development of a Quality Assurance function which has been operational since November 2016.

2.0 The Quality Assurance of Registered Care Services in Wolverhampton

- 2.1 The Quality Assurance and Compliance Team is responsible for the quality monitoring of the adult social care market for care and support with a view to establishing and maintaining standards, minimising risk and ensuring continuous improvement. In addition, the team has oversight and management of provider and market failure on behalf of the Council.

The activities carried out by the Quality Assurance and Compliance Team include:

- Unannounced and announced visits.
- Desktop monitoring.
- Maintenance of a risk management system.
- Managing the suspension of new business process.
- Gathering views of service users and/or their relatives.
- Sharing information with commissioners, regulatory bodies, safeguarding, other local; authorities and other agencies as appropriate.
- Developing and reviewing monitoring processes and procedures.

The visit types include:

- Contract Review.
- Service Review.
- Initial visit.
- Routine monitoring visit.
- Themed visit.
- Suspended services.

Annual programme of quality assurance monitoring visits

- 2.2 An annual programme of reviews of all registered social care providers is in place and is

supported by a quality assurance process and toolkit for the Contract Management and Quality Assurance of Commissioned Services. The primary purpose of the contract monitoring and quality assurance visit is to ensure that commissioned services are meeting the standards and requirements of their contracts, to review the safety, quality and effectiveness of services commissioned by the City of Wolverhampton Council and to ensure continuous improvement.

- 2.3 The review is also an opportunity for commissioners to engage with customers of care services. When reviewing care homes, the reviews provide the opportunity to observe interaction between staff and residents, view the physical environment of the home and to talk to relatives/carers and staff about services and to seek their views about their experiences. As well as ensuring that providers are meeting their contractual obligations, the quality of the providers care provision is also monitored in line with CQC 5 Key Lines of Enquiry which are Safe, Effective, Caring, Responsive and Well Led.
- 2.4 For children the quality of the providers' care provision is monitored in line with the three areas in the Ofsted inspection framework, these areas include, the overall experiences and progress of children and young people, how well children and young people are helped and protected, and the effectiveness of leaders and managers.
- 2.5 During the course of the visit, or following the visit, the officer may offer guidance or signpost the provider to agencies or bodies in order to obtain accurate and up to date advice and best practice guidelines.

Provider action plans

- 2.6 At the conclusion of a review visit, officers will share initial observations and findings and if required agree immediate actions as appropriate. Following completion of the visit the Quality Assurance and Compliance Team collate all review findings and populate a standardised report template. The report details the purpose of the review and visit, the methodology, findings and any required actions. The report is sent to the provider within two weeks. Where actions and improvements are required an Action Plan is produced detailing the area that needs to be remedied.
- 2.7 The provider is required to update and return the Action Plan to the Quality Assurance and Compliance Officer within two weeks detailing how and by when they intend to address the actions required. Copies of the report are shared with the commissioner as required. The progress of the provider is then monitored against the agreed Action Plan, desktop monitoring, data returns and visits and timescales until the actions have been completed to a satisfactory level.
- 2.8 Written and verbal feedback is provided at the end of each visit. The officer will highlight any immediate concerns or actions that are required.

Service User and Relative feedback

- 2.9 In order to understand the experience of the people using the service, the team seek feedback from service users and/ or their relatives. This may take place during the visit, or by arranged telephone, email or face to face contact, dependent upon the needs of the service user. This information is also used to inform the outcome and any actions the provider may need to work as part of their Action Plan.

Links to safeguarding investigations

- 2.10 Officers from the Quality Assurance and Compliance Team are informed of safeguarding investigations involving independent sector care providers and attend planning meetings as required. The number and nature of safeguarding investigations are reviewed by the Quality Assurance and Compliance Team as part of the quality assurance process to help inform and prioritise visits. The Quality Assurance and Compliance Team also work closely with the front line social work teams to identify when this is the case.

Joint Working

- 2.11 The work of the Quality Assurance and Compliance Team is supported by joint working with the CCG Quality Nurse Advisors. Some visits will be carried out jointly with the CCG or another local authority that also uses the service.
- 2.12 Lower level concerns and intelligence regarding commissioned services are discussed at Commissioning and Quality Assurance Meetings. The Quality Assurance and Compliance Team also communicate regularly with CQC to share intelligence on providers and findings from inspections and quality assurance visits.

The role of the Care Quality Commission (CQC)

- 2.13 As outlined above the contract management and Quality Assurance Team also communicate regularly with CQC to share intelligence on providers and findings from inspections and quality assurance visits and the Regional Manager for CQC regularly attends the Joint Contract Management and Quality Assurance Governance Meetings.
- 2.14 As the statutory regulator of care provision, CQC are required to undertake regular inspections of all registered health and social care services. CQCs approach to inspections changed in October 2014 and all care providers are now inspected under the five Key Lines of Enquiry. There are four ratings given to health and social care services, outstanding, good, requires improvement and inadequate. By law care providers must display the ratings that they have been given. Following a CQC Inspection the findings are published on CQCs public website.
- 2.15 There is often a delay of several months between the Inspection Visit and the report being published, during which time the Quality Assurance Team will have already worked with the provider to address the areas of concern. The rating will also remain in place until the provider is re-inspected. This can lead to mixed messages regarding the quality of care being provided locally and has been raised as an issue for CQC to address. In addition, CQC also have their own independent alert processes and can call a 'Management Review' meeting with a Provider at any time if they have any serious concerns.

The role of Ofsted

- 2.16 The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) inspect and regulate services that care for children and young people, and services providing education and skills for learners of all ages.

2.17 They carry out inspections and regulatory visits throughout England and publish the results online. Their goal is to achieve excellence in education and skills for learners of all ages, and in the care of children and young people. They are responsible for:

- inspecting maintained schools and academies, some independent schools, and many other educational institutions and programmes outside of higher education;
- inspecting childcare, adoption and fostering agencies and initial teacher training;
- publishing reports of their findings so they can be used to improve the overall quality of education and training;
- regulating a range of early years and children's social care services, making sure they're suitable for children and potentially vulnerable young people;
- reporting to policymakers on the effectiveness of these services.

The role of the Adult and Safer City Scrutiny Panel

2.18 Regular updates have been provided to Adult and Safer City Scrutiny Panel who have taken an active interest in the work of the Quality Assurance and Compliance Team.

3.0 Improvement in the Quality of Care in Wolverhampton

Current CQC ratings

3.1 The improvement in the quality of care provided in residential care homes in Wolverhampton is reflected in the current CQC rating for the 56 residential care homes in Wolverhampton and the 19 nursing care homes in Wolverhampton.

3.2 Analysis carried out by Which? (Consumers' Association) of data released by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) showed that in six local authority areas, 50% or more of local beds are in homes rated by CQC inspectors as requiring improvement or inadequate. In the London borough of Westminster, seven in ten (69%) beds were found in care homes rated 'Requires Improvement' or 'Inadequate'. In Manchester and Wakefield, three in five beds (58%) are in care homes rated as 'Requires Improvement' or 'Inadequate', followed by Kirklees (57%), Portsmouth (56%) and Tameside (55%).

3.3 Locally, 68% of Wolverhampton care homes are 'Outstanding or Good', and 16% are 'Inadequate or Requires Improvement'. 7% of care homes nationally are 'Not Yet Inspected', compared with 16% in Wolverhampton. (see Appendix 1).

3.4 The number of nursing homes nationally that have a rating of 'Outstanding or Good' homes is 64% - in Wolverhampton it is 31.5%, and the number that has a rating of 'Inadequate or Requires Improvement' is 28% (Wolverhampton 37%), but again the number of 'Not Yet Inspected' in Wolverhampton is significantly higher at 31.5%. It would take all six currently 'Not Yet Inspected' services in Wolverhampton to be inspected and rated 'Good' or above, and at least one currently 'Inadequate or Requires Improvement' service to improve to 'Good' to reach the national average.

3.5 In residential homes, excluding the 'Not Yet Inspected' services, the number nationally that have a rating of 'Outstanding or Good' homes is 82%; in Wolverhampton it is 90%. The number of 'Inadequate or Requires Improvement' homes is smaller at 10% in Wolverhampton compared with 18% nationally.

- 3.6 This suggests that Wolverhampton needs to concentrate resources on the 'with nursing' sector.
- 3.7 West Midlands regional figures excluding Wolverhampton show that 75% of homes are rated 'Good' or 'Outstanding' and 25% are rated as 'Requires Improvement' or 'Inadequate'. Wolverhampton does, however, have a greater proportion of homes (16%) 'Not Yet Inspected' compared to the West Midlands regional figure of 9%.
- 3.8 The Wolverhampton figures show an improvement compared to the figures for 2016. In 2017, 81% of homes were 'Good' or 'Outstanding' compared to 73% in 2016. In 2017, 19% of homes were 'Requires Improvement' or 'Inadequate' compared to 27% in 2016 (excludes those homes 'Not Yet Inspected').
- 3.9 The use of a domiciliary care framework means that some providers of care in Wolverhampton are based out of City. It is therefore not possible to do a comparison on a geographical basis as this is for residential care homes.

Current Ofsted ratings Residential Children's Homes

- 3.10 The improvement in the quality of care provided in residential children's homes in Wolverhampton is reflected in the current Ofsted ratings. Appendix 2 illustrates the breakdown of the current ratings for the eight residential children's homes in Wolverhampton:
- One children's home (12.50%) is rated 'Outstanding'.
 - Three children's homes (37.50%) are rated 'Good'. – Upper Pendeford Farm – inhouse provision.
 - Four children's homes (50.00%) are rated 'Requires Improvement'.
- 3.11 The Ofsted report, which summaries ratings of all children's care services in England as on 31 August 2017, confirms that there are currently 94 residential children's homes in the West Midlands region. The region covers Wolverhampton, Dudley, Walsall, Sandwell, Birmingham, Solihull and Coventry. Regionally, 10.64% of these homes are rated 'Outstanding', 61.70% 'Good', 23.40% 'Requires Improvement' and 4.26% 'Inadequate'.
- 3.12 The Wolverhampton ratings are an improvement compared to the ratings for 2016. One residential children's home has improved from 'Good' to 'Outstanding'. There is no 'Inadequate' residential children's home in the city.

Independent Fostering Agencies

- 3.13 In the West Midlands region, there are 18 independent fostering agencies regulated by Ofsted. Three of these agencies are registered in Wolverhampton. Appendix 2 illustrates the breakdown of the current ratings for the three independent fostering agencies in Wolverhampton:
- Two fostering agencies (66.67%) are rated 'Good'.
 - One fostering agency (33.33%) is rated 'Inadequate'.

- 3.14 The West Midlands region covers Wolverhampton, Dudley, Walsall, Sandwell, Birmingham, Solihull and Coventry. Regionally, 55.56% of the 18 independent fostering agencies are rated 'Good', 38.89% 'Requires Improvement' and 5.56% 'Inadequate'.
- 3.15 The Wolverhampton children's services were judged by Ofsted in 2017 to be in the top 20% nationally with a rating of 'Good'. 45% of Wolverhampton Looked After Children in foster care are placed with Wolverhampton internal foster carers. 55% are placed with carers working for independent fostering agencies.

4.0 Continual Improvement

- 4.1 Clearly there is and always will be more to do to improve the quality of care provided. All providers, regardless of their current CQC rating, receive a regular quality assurance monitoring visit and have an Action Plan from the Quality Assurance and Compliance Team to implement.
- 4.2 Action Plans are in place for all homes who have been rated as 'Requiring Improvement' and these services are prioritised by the Council. Officers have met with the home owners or registered managers and are working with homes to make the required improvements. Additional quality assurance visits are also being undertaken. Feedback from our quality assurance visits did not warrant the need to place any of the homes in default of their contracts with the Council and we continue to make respite and permanent placements with these services.
- 4.3 Should the provider not respond to the Council's intervention and raise their performance by making the improvements identified within their Action Plan within the required timescale the Commissioning and Quality Meeting will recommend further action under the terms of the contract. This may include the suspension of placements, contract defaults and, in exceptional circumstances, contract termination which may result in the closure of a service.

5.0 Planned Developments

- 5.1 The improved quality of care and support services in Wolverhampton has directly benefited the users of care services. The Council is, however, committed to further promote quality in registered care services in Wolverhampton and is working with the CCG on a joint project to improve the quality of in care homes who require improvements.
- 5.2 A new 'red bag scheme' is currently being piloted in Wolverhampton to help reduce an elderly patient's stay in hospital. The red bag keeps important information about a care home resident's health in one place, easily accessible to ambulance and hospital staff. The bag includes medication, belongings, paperwork and personal and clinical information about the resident, which will assist ambulance and trust staff to speed up the transfer process.
- 5.3 The Quality Assurance and Compliance Team and the CCG Quality Nurse Advisors are working together to deliver the SPACE Programme. This is a two-year pilot (2016-2018) and currently involves 18 care homes in Wolverhampton (959 beds) and 12 in Walsall (comparative bed capacity) supported by The West Midlands Patient Safety Collaborative (WMPSC).

5.4 The Safer Provision and Caring Excellence (SPACE) programme aims to upskill care home staff in service improvement techniques in order to improve safety and reduce harm in care homes. It intends to achieve this by giving participating care home staff and managers the tools and skills that they need to understand safety culture in their care home. This gives staff and managers the opportunity to identify training needs and to co-design service improvement strategies with programme facilitators, through promoting long-term sustainability of change, collecting data to measure the effectiveness of quality improvement strategies implemented in participating care homes. This is facilitated and supported by the Quality Assurance and Compliance Team and the Quality Nurse Advisors with experience in Quality Improvement to help in:

- Improving the quality of care delivered to residents in care homes.
- Reducing the incidence of harm.
- Reducing avoidable hospital admissions.

5.5 On 22 November 2017, in recognition of the improvements care homes are making to improve quality and safety for residents, care home staff and managers were invited to attend and the SPACE Quality Improvement Awards 2017, where they were rewarded for their contribution with an award in the following categories; most improved care home, most innovative improvement and care home manager of the year.

5.6 The Quality Assurance and Compliance Team are in the process of developing a Quality Assurance Framework, to build on the outcomes of the quality assurance activity to drive service improvement through the strategic use of quality assurance outcomes and performance information. It will inform good practice, effectively manage risk, provide benchmarking checks, and help prioritise future improvement, promote and embed a culture of quality assurance.

6.0 Financial implications

6.1 There are no financial implications associated at this stage within this report.
[MI/09032018/H]

7.0 Legal implications

7.1 There are no legal implications associated at this stage within this report.
[RB/02032018/S]

8.0 Equalities implications

8.1 The Equality and Human Rights Commission reinforced the message that the commissioning of health and social care services requires a more balanced approach to 'quality and price'. Commissioning must also include closer monitoring that incorporates human rights at all levels.

8.2 The Quality Assurance and Compliance Team in monitoring service/providers exercises its functions as part of the Council, and has due regard to:

- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act 2010;

- advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not;
- foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not;
- having due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular, the need to;
- remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;
- take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- encourage persons who share a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

9.0 Environmental implications

- 9.1 There are no environmental corporate landlord implications associated at this stage within this report

10.0 Human resources implications

- 10.1 There are no human resources implications associated at this stage within this report.

11.0 Corporate landlord implications

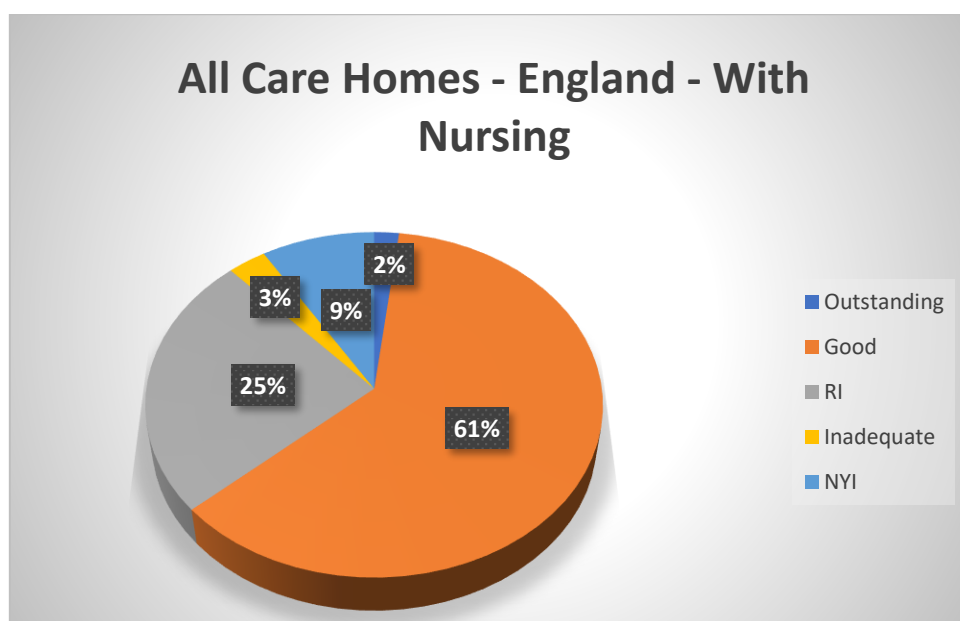
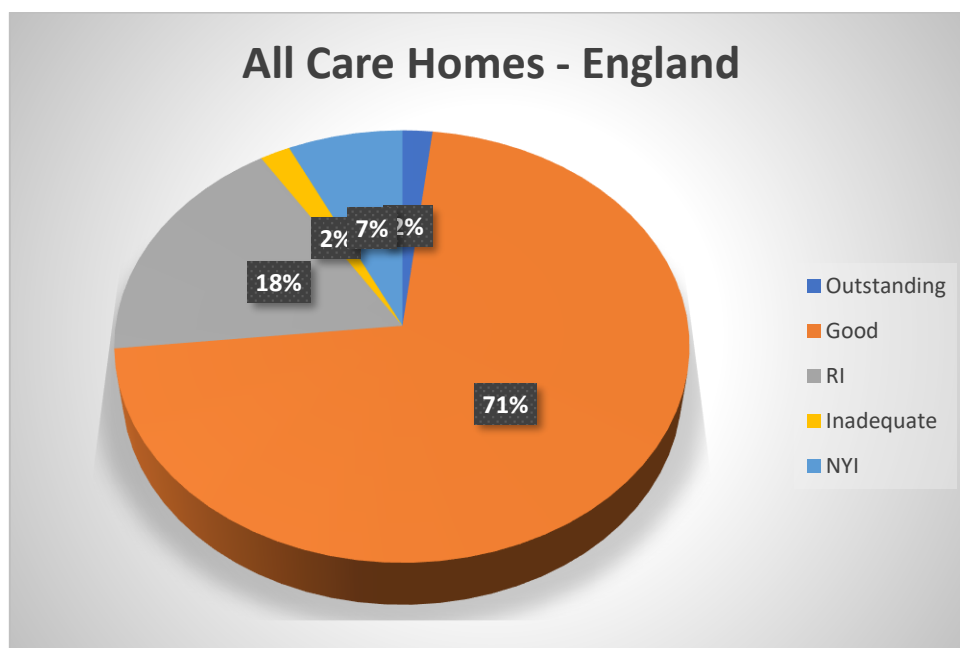
- 11.1 There are no corporate landlord implications associated at this stage within this report.

12.0 Schedule of background papers

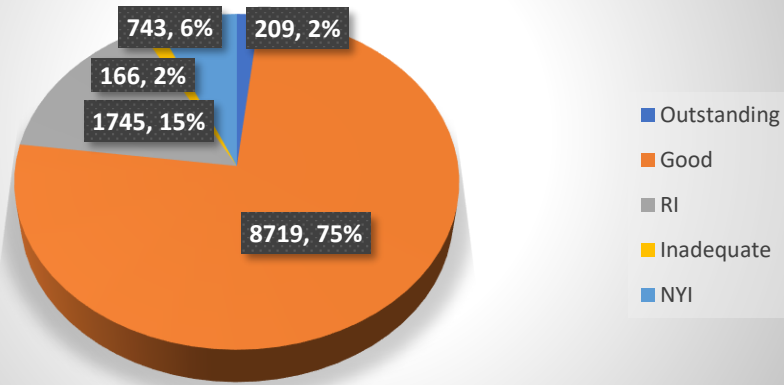
- Commissioning Management Meeting - 30 October 2017
- People Leadership Team - 27 November 2017
- Councillor Samuels OBE Briefing - 29 November 2017
- Wolverhampton Safeguarding Adults Board - 14 December 2017
- Strategic Executive Board - 9 January 2018
- Councillor Val Gibson Briefing - 6 February 2018
- Adult and Safer City Scrutiny Panel - 6 February 2018

Number of Care Homes: 16019

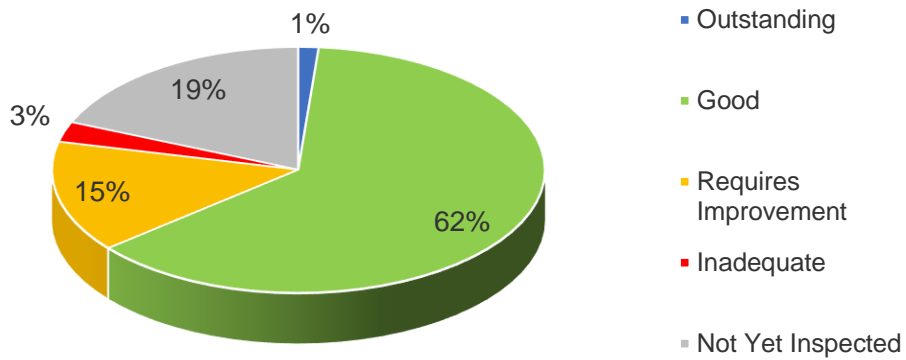
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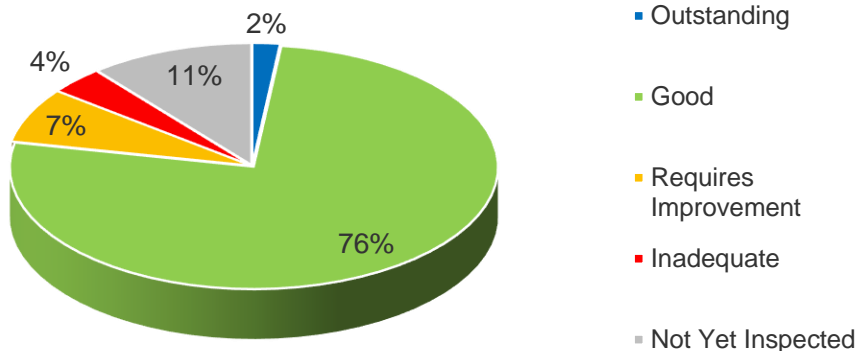
All Care Homes - England - Residential



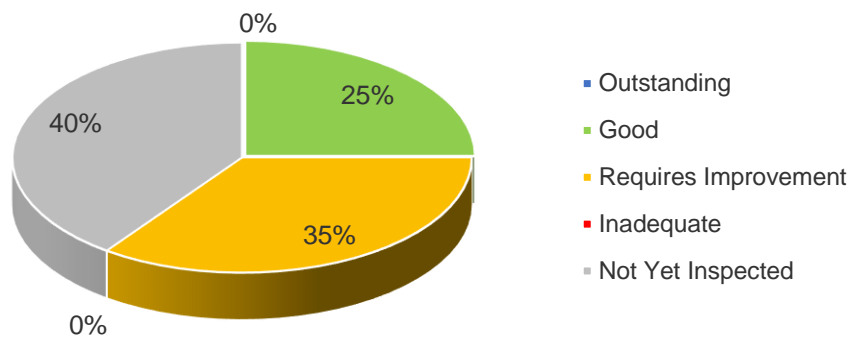
Wolverhampton - All Care Homes



Rating - Residential Homes



Rating - 'With Nursing' Services



Appendix 2

West Midlands Regional Ofsted Ratings (as of 31/08/2017)

Children's Homes

	Wolverhampton		Dudley		Walsall		Sandwell		Birmingham		Solihull		Coventry		REGION	
	No. of Services	% of Services	No. of Services	% of Services	No. of Services	% of Services	No. of Services	% of Services	No. of Services	% of Services	No. of Services	% of Services	No. of Services	% of Services	No. of Services	% of Services
Outstanding	1	12.50	2	22.22	1	9.09	0	0.00	5	10.20	0	0.00	1	14.29	10	10.64
Good	3	37.50	5	55.56	6	54.55	8	88.89	31	63.27	0	0.00	5	71.43	58	61.70
Requires Improvement	4	50.00	2	22.22	4	36.36	1	11.11	9	18.37	1	100.00	1	14.29	22	23.40
Inadequate	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	4	8.16	0	0.00	0	0.00	4	4.26
Not Yet Inspected	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
TOTAL	8	100.00	9	100.00	11	100.00	9	100.00	49	100.00	1	100.00	7	100.00	94	100.00

Independent Fostering Agencies

	Wolverhampton		Dudley		Walsall		Sandwell		Birmingham		Solihull		Coventry		REGION	
	No. of Services	% of Services	No. of Services	% of Services	No. of Services	% of Services	No. of Services	% of Services	No. of Services	% of Services	No. of Services	% of Services	No. of Services	% of Services	No. of Services	% of Services
Outstanding	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00%	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
Good	2	66.67	1	100.00	1	100.00	1	25.00	3	50.00	1	50.00	1	100.00	10	55.56
Requires Improvement	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	3	75.00	3	50.00	1	50.00	0	0.00	7	38.89
Inadequate	1	33.33	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	5.56
Not Yet Inspected	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
TOTAL	3	100.00	1	100.00	1	100.00	4	100.00	6	100.00	2	100.00	1	100.00	18	100.00

Briefing Note

Title: Care Leavers up to age 18 that are pregnant or teenage parents

Prepared by: Laura Wood **Date:** 2nd March 2018

Intended audience: Internal ☐ Partner organisation ☐ Public ☐ Confidential ☐

Purpose

To provide an update regarding what actions have been taken since the initial report came to the Corporate Parenting Board in May 2017.

The report highlights what progression the local authority has made in ascertaining and promoting pregnancy preventative services and/or support services that are available city wide for Care Leavers (CL) that are pregnant and/or teenage parents.

Overview

The City of Wolverhampton Council is working together with partner agencies to provide support services to expectant parents, young parents and young people who have had their children removed due to concerns for their child's welfare. In addition to this the local authority are aiming to improve young people's education and knowledge regarding sexual health and parenting to ensure that only those who are ready to become parents choose to do so.

Background and context

Some of the issues facing Looked After Children (LAC) and Care Leavers (CL) which can result in LAC/CL becoming teenage parents:

- History & culture of low aspiration.
- Attachment-related difficulties and negative previous experiences resulting in a longing to have a family of their own to love them.
- Disrupted education and elevated level of SEN.
- Negative assumptions around LAC and CL.
- Lack of education regarding sexual health.
- Substance misuse and chaotic behaviours.

When the report came to Corporate Parenting Board in May 2017, the following were expectant parents and/or young parent figures:

	Total	Female	Male
LAC	3	1	2
CL under 18	1	0	1
CL over 18	47	29	18 – 3 are unsure they are the father
Total	51	30	21

NB: Three of the young people in the above statistics have more than one child.

It was acknowledged that the way in which data was collated needed to be improved, it was agreed that there will be specific classifications once the new ICT system Eclipse goes live, unfortunately this has not happened yet, date to be confirmed. Therefore, I am unable to offer comparative figures for the general population in respect of the number of babies removed from parents at present.

In May 2017, we were aware that we had the following services within the City of Wolverhampton Council:

Preventative work:

- The LAC nurse is co-located one day a week within LAC to support increased partnership working with workers and encourage young people to access weekly support regarding sexual health.
- Drop in Fridays for CL at The Way Youth Zone where the LAC nurse is readily available for advice, support and guidance.
- EMBRACE - Wolverhampton Sexual Health Service.
- Members of the LAC Transition Service are trained in C card distribution to ensure young people can receive regular contraception and chlamydia testing.

Support Services for young parents:

- Young parents group every Sunday morning at The Way, which teaches young people about core parenting skills whilst supporting them to build resilience and a sense of community.
- Early help services to ensure the young person has specific support regarding their parenting skills, this is a 'whole' family approach.
- Family Nurse Partnership who are specialist midwives visiting young people twice per week until their child is two years old.
- Specialist supported accommodation for young parents such as Vine Square and Seacole.
- City wide sexual health services.
- LAC transition team monitor pregnant LAC/CL more closely to ensure they are adequately supported and that their child is safeguarded.

Breaking the cycle of removal into Local Authority care:

- The switch project.
- Breaking the cycle project.

Progression since May 2017:

A monthly multi-agency Care Leaver Pregnancy and Sexual Health Steering Group is chaired by the Senior Social Work Manager within LAC Transitions. The objectives of the Group are to consider the following:

- Ensure all agencies have an awareness of the issue facing LAC and CL when they are expecting a child/become parents.
- Ensure all agencies know each other's role and responsibilities supporting increased communication.
- Ensure all agencies know each other's role and responsibilities supporting increased communication.
- Increase knowledge and/or develop preventative services.
- Increase knowledge and/or develop support services for young parents.
- Increase knowledge and/or develop 'breaking the cycle' of removal of a young person's child into local authority care.
- Highlight the gaps in services and provide recommendations.

Services now in place:

- Puju Taloy (Participation Officer) is completing workshops with health visitors and nurses to ensure they have an awareness of the issues pregnant CL/parents face. There is closer liaison regarding potential referrals to MASH/involvement and access to care first to ensure midwives have relevant details to enable them to adequately support CL and their child.
- All midwives and nurses to attend total respect training – There will be 40 practitioners trained in total respect.
- Emma Allan-Smith the named LAC nurse is an intensive nurse whose role is to support the health needs of CL, she offers 1:1 sessions/home visits which are offered to all CL.
- An updated Expectant Parent Policy is in the process of being finalised by Rachel Warrender, Quality and Improvement Officer, to ensure that all workers know how to adequately safeguard parents and their unborn child.
- There is an additional LAC nurse post specifically to support the LAC Transition service and complete medicals up to 50 miles out of area which will enable increased readily available support.
- Indi Group runs from The Way every Friday, this supports CL parents with independence skills which will enable them to parent appropriately.
- Updated specific sexual health training for LAC Transitions staff has taken place.
- There has been an audit of teenage parents which involved consultation regarding their experiences. A case analysis has been drafted from this consultation looking at common themes, awaiting report.
- There is a Facebook page and twitter account for the EMBRACE service, this provides up to date information regarding sexual health services including clinic details, the links are now shared on our Facebook page.
- The Partnering Families team, previously known as the Family Nurse Partnership, is proactively supporting first time mothers aged up to 25 who are vulnerable. When their child is aged one they will review if they can be transferred to a health visitor, if not they will continue up until two years old, this is an intensive programme of support with highly skilled professionals. CL will get priority for this service and second time mothers will now be considered. Partnering Families team are providing the LAC nurse with updates on LAC on their caseloads to ensure they are all adequately supported.
- Young people can access counselling support via Wolverhampton Star Services, provided by Barnados.

Ideas for progression of support:

- Practice virtual babies – There have been active debates regarding the use of these dolls as they would need to be supported by a specific programme of prevention work. The Way has priced up some options but they would need to develop specific training that goes along side allocating the virtual dolls. The Way has stated they would be able to fund half

with the other half funded from elsewhere, no one on the Steering Group has any funding available at present, the Steering Group are awaiting exact costs. If this could be progressed CL could access the LAC Transition training flat to have a 'taster' of what it would be like to live independently with a child.

- Nova runs a Young Parent Programme for mothers and fathers which is a 26-week programme, the education, employment and training coordinator from LAC Transition is going to start working in partnership with Nova regarding this.
- Seacole Court, Vine Square and Talent Match are said to offer a father's programme which we are in the process of ascertaining more information.
- Informal sexual health information sessions for CL – These will be quarterly at the training flat with pizza and a free hair cut provided by WOW hair salon – Full sexual health screenings and contraception drop will be available. There will be separate male and female sessions.
- Family support worker role supports intensive direct work regarding health, keep safe, basic sexual health and contraception – this need to be formalised into a work programme.
- Information leaflet regarding support offered to young parents as part of the care leaver local offer.

Gaps/Recommendations:

All professionals within the multi-agency Steering Group felt that there has been an increase in young people keeping the child after unplanned pregnancies as we do not have local facilities to undertake terminations, the nearest clinic is in Tipton which young people struggle to access due to distance and levels of support available. Young people will not attend "clinics"/ "groups" in fear that they will be seen/too far to travel.

Currently discussed regarding sexual health within schools is not mandatory, we have been advised that this is soon to become compulsory.

There is minimal support for young males/fathers, the group have been unable to ascertain support for males which already has funded attached, the majority of the support is focused around females.

CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL	Corporate Parenting Board 22 March 2018
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Report title	Adoption Agency Interim Report
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Val Gibson Children and Young People
Wards affected	All
Accountable director	Emma Bennett, Children and Young People
Originating service	Children and Young People
Accountable employee(s)	Dawn Deans 01902 550842 Email: dawn.deans@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by	The report has not been considered at any other meetings.

Recommendation for action:

The Corporate Parenting Board is recommended to consider and provide feedback on the City of Wolverhampton Council Adoption Agency Interim Report.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 This report details the work of the City of Wolverhampton Adoption Service from April 2017 to October 2017.
- 1.2 The purpose of the interim report is to provide updated information in relation to adoption locally.

2.0 Background

2.1 Adoption Reform Agenda

- 2.2 In July 2015 the Government published its paper in relation to Regionalising Adoption, which sets out its proposal to move to regional adoption agencies which they believed would help to: speed up matching and markedly improve the life chances of neglected and damaged children, improve adopter recruitment and adoption support and reduce costs.
- 2.3 City of Wolverhampton Council, Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council, Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council, Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council joined together to form the Adoption@Heart Regional Adoption Agency (RAA).
- 2.4 The Adoption@Heart model proposes the new service will deliver services from function based teams which would enable staff to prioritise one area of work which will in turn increase productivity and reduce the unit costs associated with adopter recruitment & assessment, family finding and support services.
- 2.5 The launch for Adoption@Heart 'front door- 'Recruitment and Assessment service launched 1 March 2018 and the workstream has been developing the Adoption@Heart website and adopter preparation training in anticipation. The Adoption@Heart Regional Adoption Agency will launch later in the year.

3.0 Panel Business

- 3.1 Below are the number of adopters approved and the number of children matched with prospective adopters between April 2017 and October 2017:

Approval of Prospective adopters	Matches of children with prospective adopters
7	19

4.0 Adopter Approval

- 4.1 Nationally there has been a fall in adopters waiting because of a contraction in adopter recruitment by local authorities and Voluntary Adoption Agencies in response to the lower number of placement orders being granted, however the City of Wolverhampton have not experienced a reduction in the number of placement orders. The adoption in the

Black Country Consortium has maintained its activity 15 referrals to City of Wolverhampton Adoption Team.

- 4.2 Initial visits were undertaken, however the conversion rate to progress applications has reduced for a variety of reasons including; adopter or family illness, bereavement, house moves and change of job. A number of prospective adopters requested they were placed on hold as they did not want us to request references from employers when they had recently started a new job.
- 4.3 With regard to the number of matches considered by Adoption Panel the process of considering financial support to foster carers who express an interest to adopt has been amended. Foster carers are required to complete a financial assessment form which is assessed by the Welfare Rights team. We have had six foster carers express an interest in adopting the child/ren they care for. However, a number of foster carers have been reluctant to complete a financial assessment form and this has significantly delayed the process. In extra ordinary circumstances (e.g. harder to place, whether owing to age, a sibling group needing to be placed together or having other special needs) discretionary payments can be authorised via the Resource Allocation Panel. This is informed by assessments and support plans. This process will avoid foster carers being approved and/or being linked with children then delaying the process of applying for an adoption order while finances are finalised, this has caused significant delay in seven cases.
- 4.4 During this period there were seven adopter approvals. This is on a par with our Adoption Black Country consortium partners, although a reduction for City of Wolverhampton Adoption Team.
- 4.5 Wolverhampton Adoption Team have continued to improve on early permanency placements, there has been three early permanence placements via Foster for Adoption/ concurrency during April 2017 to October 2017. This is an area of practice that City of Wolverhampton continue to progress. Research shows that there are three factors which influence the success of a placement: timeliness – the speed with which a child finds their way to their stable and long-term family; quality of care – the ability of the carer to adequately meet the needs of the child; and stability – whether the placement endures over the long term. It is the adopters who hold the risk if the placement is not permanent; and early permanence placements can limit delay and secures good outcomes for children, whether they are rehabilitated home, or they are adopted.

5.0 Links of children with prospective adopters

- 5.1 There have been 19 links during this reporting period.
- 5.2 The A1 indicator measures the average time between a child entering care and moving in with its adoptive family children who have been adopted with a target set by Government of 426 days.

- 5.3 The A2 indicator measures the average time between a local authority receiving court authority to place a child and the local authority deciding on a match to an adoptive family. The current target is four months 121 days.
- 5.4 10 out of the 19 children met the A1 indicator. There are children who are 'outliers'; where it has taken longer to progress to an adoption placement, there can be a variety of reasons why the A1 indicator is not met as discussed below;

Child A	Date became LAC	Should Be Placed For Adoption Decision	Placement Order granted	Date matched	Date placed for adoption	A 1 indicator	A2 indicator
	07/09/2015	08/02/2016	15/03/2017	14/06/2017	28/06/2017.	660	191

Child A became a Looked After Child and a number of viability assessments were undertaken that resulted in the 26 weeks court timetable being extended. This resulted in the A1 indicator being 660 days however Child A met the A2 indicator and was linked in 91 days.

- 5.5 Five out of the 19 children aged between five months – eight months old met both the A1 and A2 indicator which equates to 27%. Court proceedings concluded in a timely manner and suitable adopters were identified, albeit one child was adopted with in house adopters.
- 5.6 12 out of the 19 children met the A2 indicator and were placed within four months (121) of a placement order which equates to 64 per cent.
- 5.7 Three of the 19 children linked at panel were part of a sibling group of two.
- 5.8 Of the 19 children matched, seven were over the age of five, equating to 37 per cent, this remains above the national average of eight per cent. One young person was aged 15 years and her sibling aged 10 years were subsequently linked for adoption with their foster carers. Another child aged seven had a plan of open adoption.
- 5.9 When considering the ethnicity of the children matched, seven of the 19 children were of black and minority ethnic (BAME) background. This equates to 37 per cent of children matched. This remains above the national average of 5 per cent.
- 5.10 The City of Wolverhampton continue to successfully place harder to place children however they may take longer to link due to their complexities.
- 5.11 Eight children matched were placed with adopters approved by Wolverhampton; this includes two children who were linked with their foster carers, one linked with a previous

connected person and two in early permanence placements. The remainder were placed with adopters approved by other local authorities or voluntary agencies.

- 5.12 Two interagency placements were made with City of Wolverhampton adopters; a sibling group of two children and a single child; resulting in £70.000 interagency fee being recouped.

6.0 Children's Decisions

- 6.1 There has been two "Should be Placed for Adoption" (SBPFA) decisions made during this reporting period.
- 6.2 During this period four SBPFA decisions were rescinded.

7.0 Adoption Support

- 7.1 Wolverhampton Adoption Team recognises that adopted children and their families need to be able to access appropriate and sensitive adoption support at any time in their lives. Prior to an adoptive family being identified, Family Support Workers begin working with harder to place children including older children, sibling groups, and children with complex histories preparing them for a move to an adoptive placement.
- 7.2 The work considers the child's relationship with their biological parents, helps them to understand they are not in foster care because they were bad or naughty, as well as helping the child understand the difference between foster care and adoption. In addition to this, the work explores different types of families and takes into consideration the wishes of the child and the type of family they want. The work has proven to be very successful.
- 7.3 During April 2017 and October 2017 moving on work has been undertaken with nine single children and two sibling groups.
- 7.4 Adoption Support consultations are undertaken with prospective adopters where children meet a range of indicators including those that are aged three and over, those that have complex needs and sibling groups. Consultations include exploring a child's past experiences, consider how they communicate anxiety and distress, and explore the adopters understanding of attachment based parenting. This has also contributed to a significant number of older children being placed in adoptive placements that remain intact.
- 7.5 During this period there has been one disruption; where a child was placed for adoption and the placement ended prior to the granting of an adoption order. The child was placed at the age of seven following extensive moving on work. The child remained in placement for five months. The care plan included a plan of annual open adoption with birth mother and grandmother. The child communicated her distress via challenging behaviour, and although adoption support was in place, the adoptive parents struggled to keep her safe

and following a section 47 investigation it concluded she should leave the placement. The child is now in a settled foster placement where her emotional needs are being met.

- 7.6 During April 2017 and October 2017 thirteen adoption support consultations were undertaken with four single children and two sibling groups.
- 7.7 18 assessment of need assessments have been undertaken since April 2017- October 2017. 19 adoption support fund applications have been made. Adoption support fund applications have funded the following provision; Therapeutic Life Story work, Occupational Therapy, Child and Mental Health Service (CAMHS), Sustain specialist assessment and therapy, Creative play therapy, Family therapy, Psychotherapy, Circle of Security Parenting programme, Safebase parenting programme, and Developmental Dyadic Psychotherapy.
- 7.8 In October 2016 the Government introduced The Fair Access Limit (FAL), which requires Local Authorities to share the costs of therapeutic support with adopters above £5,000, through a match-funding approach. This measure was introduced because demand for support is more than double the level forecast. To date the City of Wolverhampton have matched funded £800.
- 7.9 Currently, the average claim made for individual funding for Wolverhampton is in the region of £4,000.
- 7.10 The post adoption contact (PAC) coordinator manages more than 400 letter box exchange arrangements and provides support to birth families in writing and by reading letters to provide good written contact for children.
- 7.11 The assumption that the traditional 'closed' model of adoption is compatible with the welfare interests of the child is being challenged. Research has indicated that adoption arrangements which accommodate a degree of ongoing involvement from members of the child's birth family have been viewed as successful.
- 7.12 The City of Wolverhampton Adoption Team have several direct contact cases between siblings who have been adopted and support is offered to adopters in setting up the initial contact and they then facilitate it between themselves thereafter. There have been three cases of open adoption with birth relatives.
- 7.13 While the trend in adoption is moving to open adoption, it is apparent that adopters are not yet prepared emotionally for the challenges of direct contact. All three cases have involved interagency placements and the preparation by external agencies has been woeful. There have been discussions how to include this in adopter preparation training for the RAA.
- 7.14 The City of Wolverhampton Adoption Team continues to work in partnership with Adoption in the Black Country (ABC) incorporating Walsall, Sandwell and Dudley to purchase adoption support packages from Adoption U.K. and After Adoption enabling us

to work in partnership with these organisations. These support packages provide services to adopters, adopted children, adopted adults and birth family members.

- 7.15 All Wolverhampton approved adopters continue to receive 12 months free membership to Adoption UK. Additionally, local adopters who access adoption support are also provided with 12 months membership. Adopters are invited to attend the Adoption Support Group run by Adoption UK on a bi-monthly basis, access training and a lending library.
- 7.16 Complementary to the support offered through Adoption UK the City of Wolverhampton Adoption Team run an adoption support group, this is a group made up of adopters who have attended the Circle of Security parenting programme that is run annually by the adoption team. This keeps adopters linked to the City of Wolverhampton Adoption Team and we can offer additional support in a timely manner as the group meets monthly.
- 7.17 ABC deliver a post approval training programme, the workshops are available to approved adopters who are waiting for a placement, those who have had a child placed, or those who have adopted. The workshops have included an education workshop for adopters, telling workshop and sensory integration.

8.0 Strategic issues and forward plans

- 8.1. The City of Wolverhampton Adoption Team will continue to progress links in a timely manner and endeavour to improve the A1 and A2 indicator. Wolverhampton Adoption Team continue to balance the need for timely placements with not giving up on finding families for older children and children with complex needs. There are occasions where timescales have been sacrificed in the interest of placing older children, sibling groups and children with complex needs.
- 8.2 The number of adopter approvals has reduced; while prospective adopters continue to express an interest in adoption attending information events, it has proven a challenge to convert the activity into prospective adopter assessments for a variety of reasons. This is an area we continue to monitor.
- 8.3 As the regionalising agenda is progressed it will be important to ensure that the team continues to build on previous success. This will include further improving timeliness, recruiting more adopters who will consider concurrency and foster to adopt and remaining ambitious for harder to place children to ensure they are offered the opportunities they deserve and adoption support is provided to families when needed.
- 8.4 The Adoption Service has demonstrated the ability to embrace new ways of working in order to improve outcomes for children. The model for Adoption@Heart with the *golden thread* of adoption support is similar to Wolverhampton's model and we will continue to practice in this manner in preparation for moving into the RAA.
- 8.5 The Government has committed to funding essential therapeutic support to adoptive placements until 2020; the challenge for Wolverhampton Adoption Team will be to

provide further opportunities to increase the skill of the workforce so the previously undisclosed level of demand will be met in the future.

9.0 Financial implications

- 9.1 The total approved budget for the Adoption Service is £4.5 million.
- 9.2 The Adoption Support Fund has been available for the Council to utilise since 2015, the funding will continue to be available until 2020. An additional £1 million has been made available for 2017-2018, taking the total fund to £29 million for local authorities to benefit from. Individual allocations are not granted, claims are submitted to the Department of Education for each individual case.
- 9.3 Since 2016-2017 a match funding fair access limits approach was introduced which asked local authorities to share the costs of support over and above the fair access limits through a match funded approach due to the scale of demand for the fund. The fair access limit is up to £5,000 for therapy.
- 9.4 Currently, the average claim made for individual funding for Wolverhampton is in the region of £4,000.
- 9.5 Should therapeutic services cost over the fair access fund limits in the future then the Council will have to contribute towards these costs. Should this arise then the budget would need to be identified from within the Adoption Service.
[NM/08032018/F]

10.0 Legal implications

- 10.1 There have been no legislative changes in this reporting period.

The relevant legislation is contained in the body of the report.

There are no legal implication arising from the report.
[TC/07032018/U]

11.0 Equalities implications

- 11.1 The City of Wolverhampton Adoption Team seeks to recruit and purchase adopters who can meet the needs of a diverse range of children. This includes children of different black and minority ethnic groups, both young and older children, male and female children. This is reflected within the recruitment strategy and all new policies have been subject to an equalities analysis.

12.0 Environmental implications

- 12.1 There are no direct environmental implications arising from this report.

13.0 Human resources implications

- 13.1 Regionalisation will have human resources implications but the extent of these is not known at present. Human resources will be considered as part of the scoping exercise.

14.0 Corporate landlord implications

- 14.1 There are no direct corporate landlord implications arising from this report.

15.0 Schedule of background papers

- 15.1 There are no background papers related to this report.

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CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL	Corporate Parenting Board 22 March 2018
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Report title	Children and Social Work Act 2017	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Val Gibson Cabinet Member for Children and Young People	
Wards affected	All	
Accountable director	Emma Bennett, Children and Young People	
Originating service	Looked After Children	
Accountable employee(s)	Alison Hinds Tel Email	Head of Looked After Children 01902 553035 alison.hinds@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by	People Leadership Team SEB 13 February 2018 Exec Board 26 February 2018	

Recommendation for action:

Corporate Parenting Board is recommended to receive information regarding the implications to service delivery of the Children and Social Work Act 2017 and support the implementation plans being put in place.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 Following on from the 'Children's Social Care Reform – A vision for change' document published in January 2016, the government produced the Children and Social Work Bill which received Royal Assent on 27 April 2017.

Overall the Children and Social Work Act aims to:

- Improve support for Looked After Children in England and Wales especially for those leaving care.
- Enable better learning about effective approaches to child protection and care in England.
- Establish a new regulatory regime for the social work profession in England.

As such the Children and Social Work Act 2017 requires changes to the following areas of practice.

1.2 Looked After Children and Care Leavers:

- The Act introduces seven corporate parenting principles to which local authorities must have regard. These are:
 - to act in the best interests and promote the physical and mental health and wellbeing of relevant children and young people;
 - to encourage those children and young people to express their views, wishes and feelings;
 - to take into account the views, wishes and feelings of those children and young people;
 - to help those children and young people gain access to and make best use of services provided by the local authority and its relevant partners;
 - to promote high aspirations and seek to secure the best outcomes for those children and young people;
 - to have regard to the need for those children and young people to be safe and have stability in their home lives, relationships and education or work;
 - to prepare those children and young people for adulthood and independent living.
- Local authorities in England must publish a local offer for Care Leavers, providing information about services which the local authority offers that may assist Care Leavers in, or in preparing for, adulthood and independent living. This includes services relating to health and well-being; relationships; education and training; employment; accommodation; participation in society:
- An extension of local authority support to Care Leavers to age 25, including provision of Personal Advisers, assessment of the needs of former relevant children and preparation of a Pathway Plan.
- Educational achievement of previously Looked After Children - local authorities in England must make advice and information available for the purpose of promoting the

educational achievement of previously Looked After Children educated in their area, and must appoint at least one person for the purpose of discharging that duty; schools must designate a member of the staff as having responsibility for promoting the educational achievement of previously Looked After Children. This includes children subject to Adoption and Special Guardianship Orders.

- Additional considerations have been introduced in relation to the permanence provisions which a court, when deciding whether to make a care order, is required to consider. These are: the impact on the child concerned of any harm that he or she suffered or was likely to suffer; the current and future needs of the child (including needs arising out of that impact); the way in which the long-term plan for the upbringing of the child would meet those current and future needs.
- The Children and Social Work Act provides amendments to the Adoption and Children Act 2002, in that the court is now required to have regard to the views of any prospective adopters with whom the child is placed.
- Placing children in secure accommodation elsewhere in Great Britain - has come into force. This allows local authorities in England and Wales to place children in secure accommodation in Scotland under the Children Act 1989.

1.3 Safeguarding Children:

- Establishment of a Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel to identify serious child safeguarding cases in England which raise issues that are complex or of national importance, and, where they consider it appropriate, to arrange for those cases to be reviewed under their supervision to identify any improvements that should be made by safeguarding partners or others to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. Events to be notified to the Panel are: Where a local authority in England knows or suspects that a child has been abused or neglected, the local authority must notify the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel if:
 - a) The child dies or is seriously harmed in the local authority's area, or
 - b) While normally resident in the local authority's area, the child dies or is seriously harmed outside England.
- Abolition of Local Safeguarding Children Boards, and introduction of local arrangements for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children: the safeguarding partners for a local authority area in England are the local authority; a Clinical Commissioning Group for an area any part of which falls within the local authority area; the chief officer of police for a police area any part of which falls within the local authority area.
- Local child safeguarding practice reviews - the safeguarding partners for a local authority area in England must make arrangements (a) to identify serious child safeguarding cases which raise issues of importance in relation to the area, and (b) for those cases to be reviewed under the supervision of the safeguarding partners, where they consider it appropriate to identify any improvements that should be made by persons in the area to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

- Provision is made for combining safeguarding partner areas and delegating functions.
- Child death reviews - the child death review partners for a local authority area in England must make arrangements for the review of each death of a child normally resident in the area.

1.4 Relationships education for children:

The act introduces compulsory relationships education for primary school pupils in England, as well as sex and relationships education for secondary school children.

1.5 New Regulatory Regime for the Social Work Profession in England:

The Act enshrines in law a series of changes to the social work profession, including:

- The creation of a new organisation, Social Work England, to take over from the Health and Care Professions Council as the profession's regulator.
- A requirement for the new regulator to obtain the Education Secretary's approval for professional standards.
- New powers for the Education Secretary to set 'improvement standards' for social workers, and introduce assessments for practitioners.

2.0 Progress

- 2.1 A steering group has been established to oversee the implementation of the above changes that relate to children looked after and Care Leavers.
- 2.2 The corporate parenting principles will be incorporated into the refresh of the Corporate Parenting Strategy to be approved in April 2018.
- 2.3 The Care Leaver Offer is being developed with partners and once approved will be launched in Care Leaver's Week in October 2018.
- 2.4 The Principal Social worker for Children and Adults will be responsible for leading on the implementation of accreditation of social workers, in line with national requirements. Initial briefings have already been delivered to all children's social workers and managers at a recent social work conference. This is currently being piloted in Leeds and surrounding local authorities and will inform further roll out.
- 2.5 Any development of any new or amended arrangements for safeguarding included in the act will be implemented by the Wolverhampton Safeguarding Children's Board. Partners have all engaged in a response to the proposed changes in Working Together which will set out the statutory guidance. Locally, there are no plans to hugely change existing arrangements which work well.

- 2.6 The only aspects of the legislation which have been implemented are those relating to permanence and adoption orders. These aspects came into force on 31 October 2017.
- 2.7 Statutory guidance on the implementation of this act is still in draft form but is expected to be published by the end of March 2018.

Financial implications

- 3.1 The total approved budget for the Children and Young People's Service is £49.4 million.
- 3.2 In order to accommodate the changes to the Children and Social Work Act 2017 specifically around the extension of local authority support to Care Leavers to age 25, it is initially proposed to increase the grade 6 Young Person's Advisors by two fulltime equivalents at an additional cost of £89,000, following some predictive analysis informed by consultation with current Care Leavers
- 3.3 Existing funding of £22,000 has been identified from within the Transitions Service to contribute towards the overall additional cost of £89,000 as referred to in the paragraph above. It is proposed that the additional cost is £67,000 will be funded from within the overall existing budget for Children and Young Peoples Service.
- 3.4 The local authority will receive 'Burden' money from the DfE. Once the national funding is agreed, each local authority will receive a share based on its share of the Care Leaver cohort aged 21 to 24. For example, if Wolverhampton has 1% of all Care Leavers aged 21 to 24 in England, it will receive 1% of the national funding. Actual allocations are still awaited from DfE. Once allocations have been released any funding received will be used to offset the additional costs of delivering the changes to the Act.
[NM/30012018/C]

4.0 Legal implications

- 4.1 The legal implications are set out in the body of the report.
[TC/08022018/N]

5.0 Equalities implications

- 5.1 An Equality Analysis has been completed. The Children and Social Work Act 2017 expands and strengthens the responsibility to offer services to Looked After Children and Care Leavers. No equality implications have been identified as part of the analysis completed

6.0 Environmental implications

- 6.1 There are no direct environmental implications arising from this report.

7.0 Human resources implications

- 7.1 An increase in staff will be required to effectively offer additional support to Care Leavers up until the age of 25. Two additional Young Person's Advisor posts are to be established within the Transitions Team in the Looked after Children's Service.
- 7.2 The new arrangements for accreditations of children's social workers will require the support of Human Resources and Workforce Development colleagues.

8.0 Corporate landlord implications

- 8.1 There are no direct corporate landlord implications arising from this report.

9.0 Schedule of background papers

- 9.1 There are no background papers related to this report.

CITY OF
WOLVERHAMPTON
COUNCIL

Corporate Parenting Board

22 March 2018

Report title	Corporate Parenting Strategy Update	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Val Gibson Children and Young People	
Wards affected	All	
Accountable director	Emma Bennett, Children and Young People	
Originating service	Children and Young People	
Accountable employee(s)	Alice Vickers Tel Email	Corporate Parenting Officer 01902 553010 Alice.Vickers@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by		

Recommendation for action:

The Corporate Parenting Board is recommended to consider and comment on the developments of the Corporate Parenting Strategy since March 2017 and the progress of the Action Plan.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 That the Corporate Parenting Board considers the developments over the past year of Corporate Parenting Strategy and Action Plan.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The City of Wolverhampton Council (CWC) approved a two-year Strategy in December 2015, which ends this municipal year. An Action Plan to look at five areas of focus, which are the main commitments laid down in the Strategy, has been developed and implemented throughout the year.

- 2.2 The aim of this report is to feedback on progress.

3.0 Progress, options, discussion, etc.

- 3.1 The Strategy was approved and endorsed by the CWC's Cabinet in December 2015.
- 3.2 The CWC pledge to Looked After Children (LAC) and Care Leavers (CL) focuses on four areas; these are Education Employment and Training (EET), Health, Social Skills, Corporate Responsibilities and Prevention of Criminalisation. The Senior Officers Group, which consists of Heads of Service from CWC and lead officers from partner agencies monitor the progress of the Action Plan and Strategy. This report will focus on each area in turn and highlight key progress and discuss any areas of challenge.
- 3.3 Education, Employment and Training (EET)

The key requirements in this area of focus are:

- Help young people to feel able to challenge and share their views in the Personal Education Plan (PEP).
- Raise Aspirations of LAC and CL and professionals supporting them.
- Maximise access to work experience and apprenticeship opportunities for LAC and CL.

With the partnership of the Senior Officers Group and the Employment, Education and Training (EET) Action Group the key requirements for EET have been delivered and the following achievements have been actioned:

- Care Leavers Week focusing on university, work experience, apprenticeship and traineeship opportunities in partnership with Wolverhampton University and Jaguar Landrover.
- An electronic PEP has been designed to ensure the voice of the child is being captured.
- Eight of the 10 work experiences for vulnerable young people have been accessed by LAC or CL in this year.
- 98% of CL have an up to date Pathway Plan and are being quality assured to ensure evidence of career planning is included.

- Work experience, apprenticeship and traineeship opportunities are being monitored on the types of opportunity and the number of those accessing these opportunities.
- Foster carer training has been developed and is being delivered on accessing EET opportunities
- Trowers and Hamlin Solicitors put on Aspirational workshops for young people on 5 May 2017.

3.4 Health

The key requirements in this area of focus are:

- To Ensure LAC have access to appropriate family planning support to enable them to make appropriate choices on contraception early enough.
- Health support for CL to transition to adult health services if required.

The Corporate Parenting Officer regularly attends the LAC Health Steering Group, which is a partnership group between the LA (Local Authority), CCG (Clinical Commissioning Group), RWT (Royal Wolverhampton Trust) and BCPFT (Black Country Partnership Foundation Trust). This Group has achieved the following:

- Take Over Day gave members of Children in Care Council (CiCC) and Care Leavers Forum (CLF) the opportunity to meet with health professionals from CCG, RWT and CAMHS with an agenda focused on transitions to adult services.
- Business case and successful recruitment for an additional named nurse for LAC and CL placed out of city.

3.5 Social Skills and Development

The key requirements in this area of focus are:

- To support LAC in receiving consistent placement, residential and foster care.
- To raise and strengthen support for CL in society with a programme of activities through National Care Leavers week.
- All LAC and CL have access to leisure services provided by WV active for free and foster carers to receive colleague discount.

Through regular meetings with the CiCC and CLF, the following achievements have been made through the year:

- Instagram and Twitter accounts set up for keeping young people up to date on events and opportunities to participate and access services.
- CL Christmas party took place 3 December 2017, organised with support from Councillor Kaur, local charities and local businesses.
- Partnership with HeadStart in promoting the needs and issues of LAC and CL, through their conference and events.
- Joint party for Christmas for the CiCC, CLF and Be Safe Teams.
- Raised the participation of the CiCC from six young people to 17 and CLF from five to ten young adults.

- Access to rooms at WV Active, Aldersley Stadium for LAC, CL and foster carer events.

3.6 Corporate Responsibilities

The key requirements in this area of focus are:

- To work with DWP and financial experts in developing a scheme which protects CL savings.
- Ensuring the role of corporate parenting is understood to support LAC and CL corporately.

Through regular meetings of the Senior Officers Group for Corporate Parenting, the following achievements have been made throughout the year:

- CL and LAC nominated for national and local awards celebrating success (Gareth Rafferty Young Citizen Award, Kyron Hughes – Design a Logo for Catch 22).
- Assistant Corporate Parenting Officer has been successful in being appointed on to the National Bench Marking Forum for CL.
- The Assistant Corporate Parenting Officer has raised the issue of benefits and effect on savings with the National Bench Marking Forum for CL.
- A young person and two foster carers have become members of the CPB.
- Education Board requesting the LAC and Skills team to work in partnership to support LAC and CL into Education, Employment and Opportunities.
- Councillor training on Corporate Parenting booklet has been sent out to all Councillors with a full face to face training session.
- Developed the Regional Corporate Parenting Group for the West Midlands.

3.7 Prevention of Criminalisation of LAC and CL

The key requirements in this area of focus are:

- Total Respect (TR) training and Corporate Parenting training for frontline police officers and PCSOs.
- Design and distribute an entitlement and expectation document for LAC and CL in custody.
- Increase police presence at young peoples' social and celebration events.

In partnership with the Police and Her Majesty's Prisons (HMP) the following has been achieved in this period:

- 40 frontline police officers have been TR trained.
- 12 Specialist police officers from Neighbourhood and Strengthening Family Teams have been TR trained.
- Introduction to TR delivered to HMP Conference on CL.
- 23 CL leads from the Midlands Regional HMP group have received TR training.

- Attendance at CLF at Drake Hall with two of CWC young people who are in custody in attendance.
- Attendance at the regional HMP and LA meetings to gain good practice.
- A draft leaflet on entitlement for CL in custody has been completed and is now out for consultation.

4.0 Financial implications

- 4.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.
- 4.2 Any costs associated with developing the Strategy and implementing the Action Plan will be found from existing budgets within the Children and Young People's Service.
[NM/07032017/C]

5.0 Legal implications

- 5.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.
[RB/06032018/B]

6.0 Equalities implications

- 6.1 An initial equalities screening has been completed on this Strategy and Action Plan, this has highlighted that equality implications have been addressed.

7.0 Environmental implications

- 7.1 There are no direct environmental implications arising from this report.

8.0 Human resources implications

- 8.1 There are no direct human resources implications arising from this report.

9.0 Schedule of background papers

- 9.1 Corporate Parenting Strategy 2015-2017.

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CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL	Corporate Parenting Board 22nd March 2018
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Report title	Performance Monitoring Information	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Val Gibson Children and Young People	
Wards affected	All	
Accountable director	Emma Bennett, Children and Young People	
Originating service	Communications, Insight and Performance Team	
Accountable employee(s)	Helena Kucharczyk	Insight and Performance Manager
	Tel	01902 555440
	Email	Helena.Kucharczyk@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by	Corporate Parenting Board 22 March 2018	

Recommendation for action:

The Corporate Parenting Board is recommended to consider the report and request any additional indicators or data items that they would like to see reported in future performance updates.

Recommendations for noting:

The Corporate Parenting Board is asked to note the most recent performance relating to Looked After Children and Care Leavers.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Corporate Parenting Board on the latest performance relating to Looked After Children and Care Leavers.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The Corporate Parenting Board has regularly received a performance report. The report in its current format has been presented to the Board since January 2015, with some additions and enhancements made to the report over time at the request of the Board.

3.0 Update

- 3.1 All current indicators in the report have been updated with data as at January 2018.

Please note that some 2017-2018 out-turn data remains provisional and will not be confirmed until statutory data is published by the Department for Education.

- 3.2 Where available national and comparator data has been updated, including:

- Population data.
- Looked After Children numbers.
- Absence data - please note there was an error in previous reports where persistent absence was underreported this has now been corrected and updated with 2016 data.
- Care Leavers data.

4.0 Financial implications

- 4.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.
[NM/12032018/U]

5.0 Legal implications

- 5.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.
[TC/13032018/U]

6.0 Equalities implications

- 6.1 The report contains some demographic data, however, there are no direct equalities implications arising from this report.

7.0 Environmental implications

- 7.1 There are no direct environmental implications arising from this report.

8.0 Human resources implications

8.1 There are no direct human resources implications arising from this report.

9.0 Corporate landlord implications

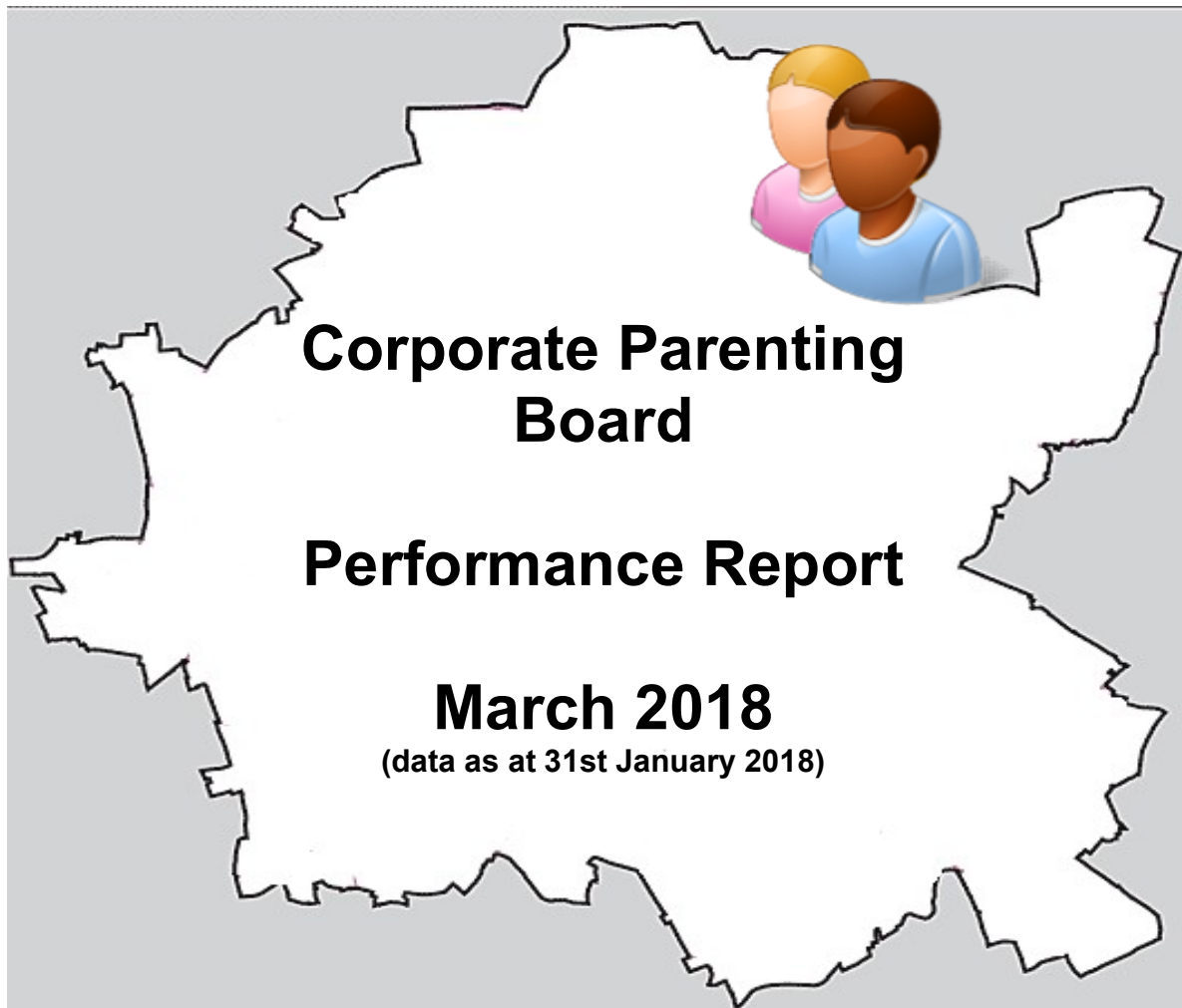
9.1 There are no direct corporate landlord implications arising from this report.

10.0 Schedule of background papers

10.1 There are no background papers related to this report.

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**CITY OF
WOLVERHAMPTON
COUNCIL**



Key Points to Note

Demographics

Demographic data has been updated with the 2016 mid-year population estimates. A considerably lower proportion of LAC are from BME backgrounds compared to the Wolverhampton CYP population. 2017 comparator data has been updated for the number of Looked After Children (LAC). The number of LAC has increased over the past 6 months and now is higher than at any point in the previous year and a half. The rate of LAC starts is not increasing however the rate of LAC ends has slowed down. A reduction is required to bring Wolverhampton in line with our comparators.

Placements

In-house Foster Carers trend data shows that the percentage of children placed with in-house foster carers has increased over the past two months. An increase in Friends and Family placements has also been seen. The proportion of LAC placed more than 20 miles from home remains at 15%. The indicators that look at placement stability have remained strong in the month against a backdrop of static LAC numbers and increased adoptions. Stability generally continues to show positive results and demonstrates that Looked After Children in Wolverhampton benefit from stable placements.

Routes into Care and Ofsted Ratings

This data shows which proportion of LAC were known to children's services in the 30 days prior to becoming looked after and the proportion of LAC that are asylum seekers and UASC (unaccompanied asylum seekers). Please note that children are classed as CiN if they are in the process of being assessed and may not have been CiN for very long or the subject of formal CiN plans. On-going work is being undertaken to identify how many children were also known to Early Help services and it is anticipated that this will be available by the end of the year. The report now also shows the number of children placed in children's homes and the Ofsted ratings of those homes - of the 36 children currently placed in children's homes, 29 (80%) are in homes that are rated good or outstanding.

Assessments and Reviews

Performance in timeliness of assessments of Looked After Children in Wolverhampton has decreased to 71% . Reviews completed on time in the year have increased 94% compared to 82% in 2016-17 year out turn. The percentage of children that participated in their reviews has increased after lower rates of performance in early 2017/18 and stands at 95%.

Education

The 2016 KS2 and KS4 results show that Wolverhampton LAC performed better than LAC nationally, regionally and within statistical neighbours, however, there remains a significant gap between the performance of LAC and all Wolverhampton children.

Small numbers can make these measurements volatile. For further information about the education attainment of LAC in Wolverhampton please refer to the Virtual School Head teacher annual report.

Attendance data has been updated for 2016 - attendance of Wolverhampton LAC at school is better than that of comparators. please note there was an error in previous reports where persistent absence was under-reported

Health

The percentage of children with up to date dental checks decreased in the month to 85% and is now lower than year out-turn 2016/17. The result however remains significantly higher than the 60% of children in the general Wolverhampton population that have seen a dentist in the past 2 years which is falling.

The percentage of health checks that are up to date has remained at 88% compared to 91% at year out-turn 2016/17. Most children who do not have up to date health checks are placed outside of the city.

Leaving Care**Adoption**

Adoption timeliness in the year 2017-18 showed signs of improvement earlier in the year however the adoption of some longer term LAC over the past quarter sees A1 timescales for the year higher than 2016/17 and national. There have been 29 adoptions in 2017/18 with 64% within A1 indicator timescales.

Care Leavers

The percentage of Care Leavers in Employment Education and Training cohort has changed to include all children and young adults who turn 17 to 21 in the year. At the end of January 2018 61% of 17-21-year olds were in Education, Employment or Training. NALM (not available for the labour market). 81% of care leavers are available for work with 19% (41 young people) not available due to pregnancy or young motherhood, illness or disability or because they are in custody.

The proportion of care leavers currently deemed to be in suitable accommodation is also included and shows that 88% of the cohort are currently in suitable accommodation.

Demographics



59038 children aged 0-17 live in Wolverhampton
23.0% of the total population

ONS 2016 mid-year estimate

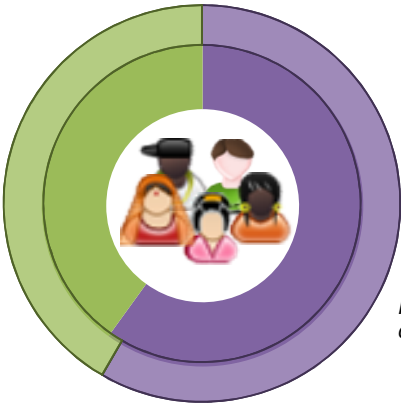


48.8% of the CYP population and 43.1% of LAC are female



51.2% of the CYP population and 56.9% of LAC are male

41.6% of the CYP population and 40.1% of LAC are BME

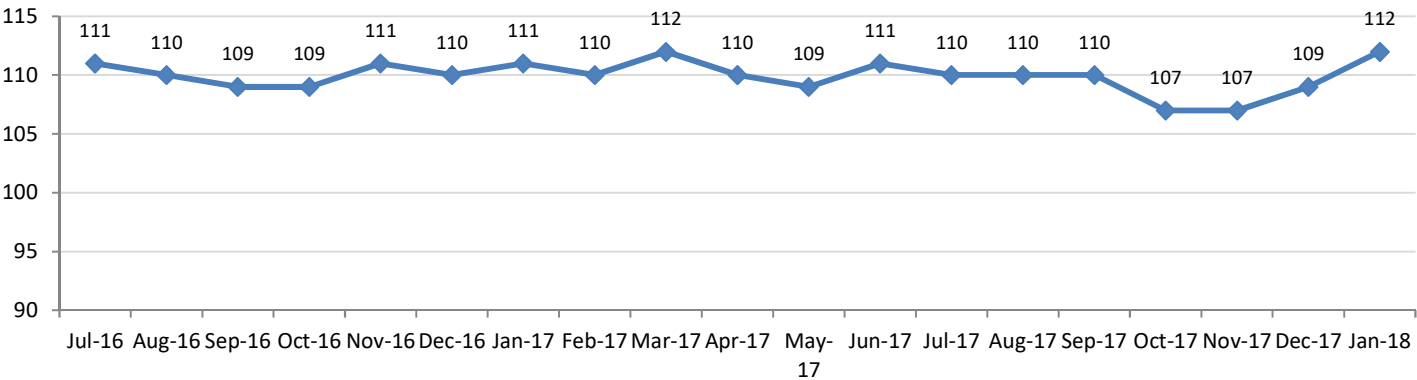
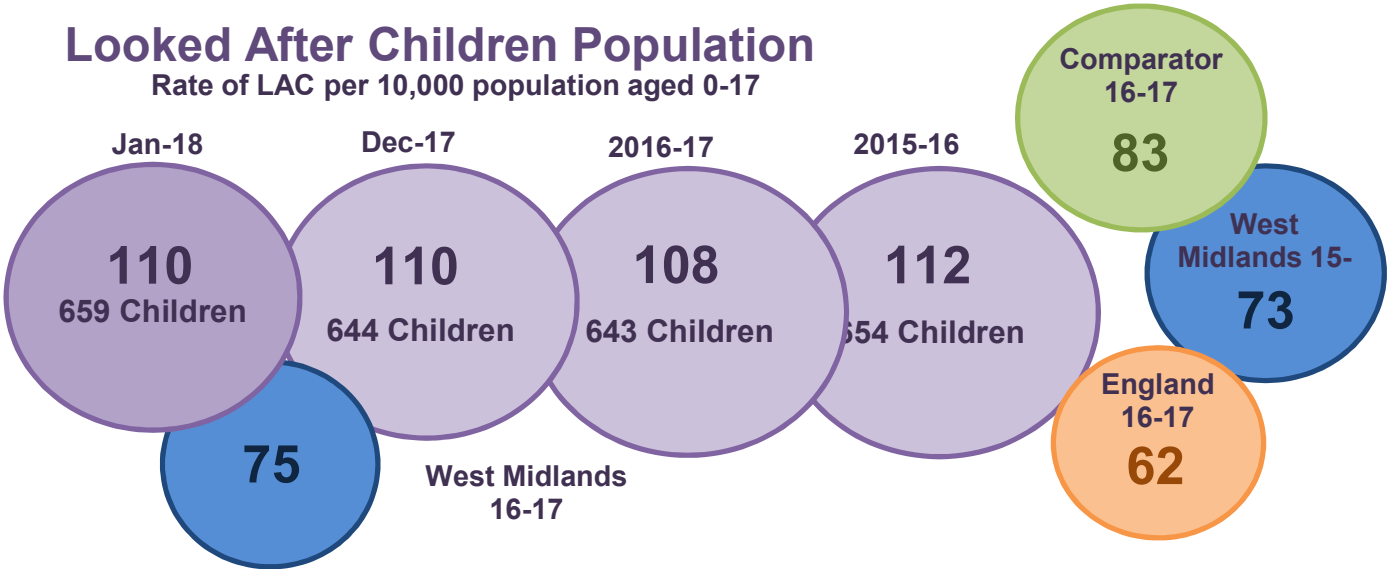


58.4% of the CYP population and 59.9% of LAC are white

Inner circle represents the LAC population, the outer circle is the CYP population

Looked After Children Population

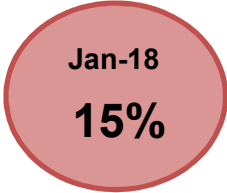
Rate of LAC per 10,000 population aged 0-17



Placements

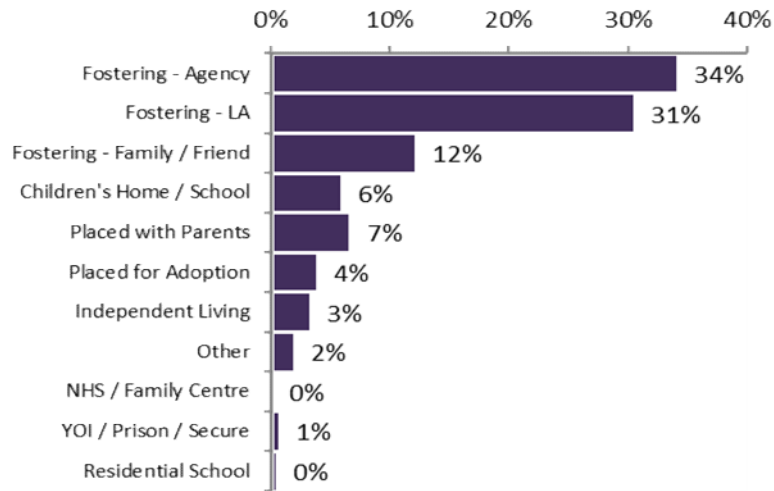


% LAC Placed 20 miles + from home

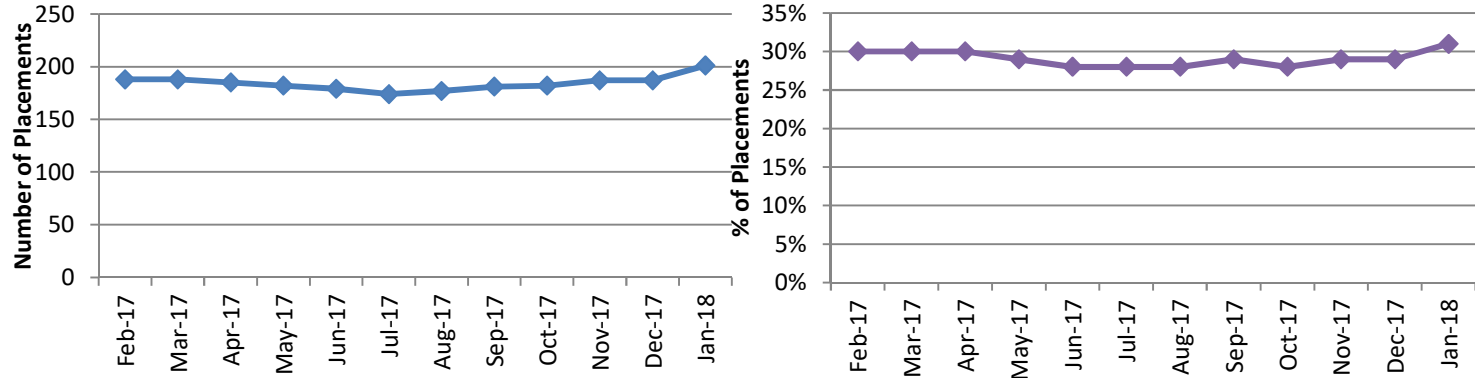


2016-17 Out-turn = 14%
2015-16 Out-turn = 16%
2014-15 Out-turn = 16%

LAC Placements



In - House Foster Placements

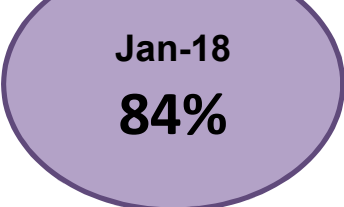


The proportion of LAC Placed with in-house foster carers has increased in the past two months and is now at 31% The gap has narrowed between the proportion of internal and agency foster placements.

Placement Stability

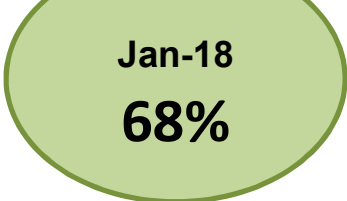


LAC with fewer than 3 placements in the last 12



Wolves 16-17 (Provis) = 86%
Wolverhampton 15-16 = 87%
West Midlands 15-16 = 90%
Comparator 15-16 = 90% England 15-16 = 90%

% of children in same placement for 2 years or more or placed for adoption (when looked after for



Wolves 16-17 (Provis) = 67%
Wolverhampton 15-16 = 68%
West Midlands 15-16 = 69%
Comparator 15-16 = 69% England 15-16 = 68%

Performance shows that Looked After Children in Wolverhampton benefit from largely stable packages although percentages of stable relationships has decreased in the current year

Routes into Care and Ofsted Ratings



% of LAC know to LA 30 days prior to becoming LAC

87%

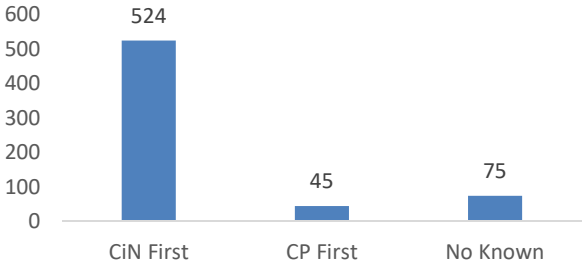
% of LAC who are Asylum Seekers

1.7%

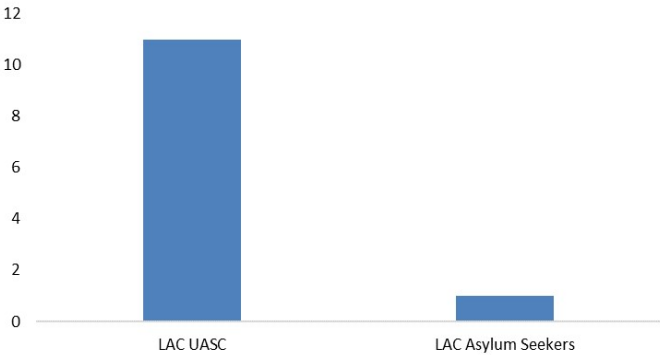
% of LAC in Good or Outstanding Children's Homes

80%

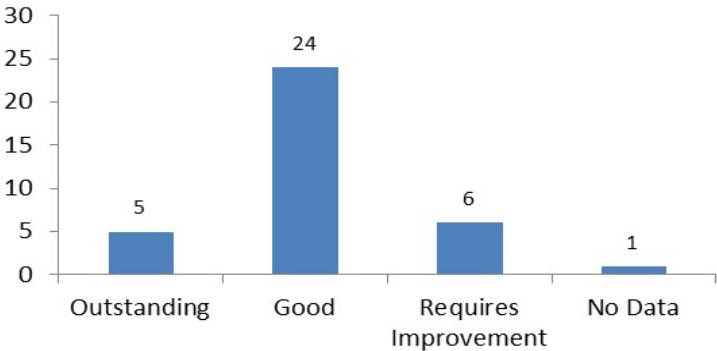
Knowledge of Child Pre LAC (30 Days)



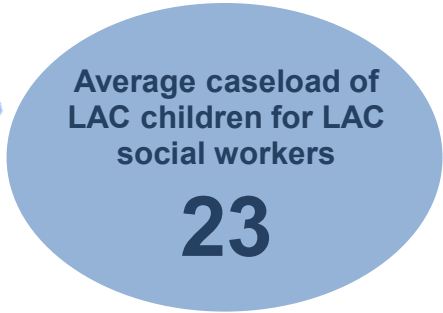
How many LAC are Asylum Seekers



Number of Children in Residential Care Homes by OFSTED Rating

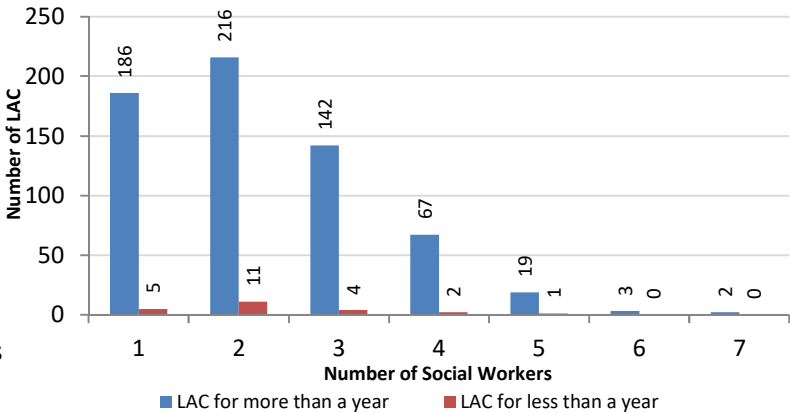


Assessments & Reviews



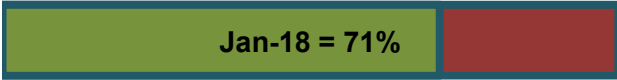
13 social workers hold over 20 cases. The fewest cases allocate to a worker is 1.

Number of Social Workers LAC have had in the past 12 months



Looked After Children with up to date assessments

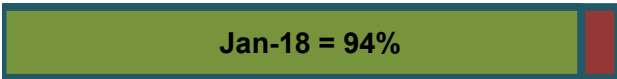
An up to date assessments is one that has been authorised within the last six months.



2016-17 Out-turn = 98%
2015-16 Out-turn = 97%

Looked After Children whose reviews have been completed on time

First Review is within 20 working days. Second review within three months. Third and subsequent reviews every six months



2016-17 Out-turn = 82%
2015-16 Out-turn = 90%

71% of LAC assessments are currently up to date, compared with 98% at the end of March 2017

Currently 94% of LAC reviews are up to date, this includes 50% of Adoption reviews and 97.50% of all LAC

The proportion of LAC reviews where the child was present or contributed by other means since 1 April 2017

95%

Jan-18

Performance in LAC participation in reviews since year end has increased to 93%

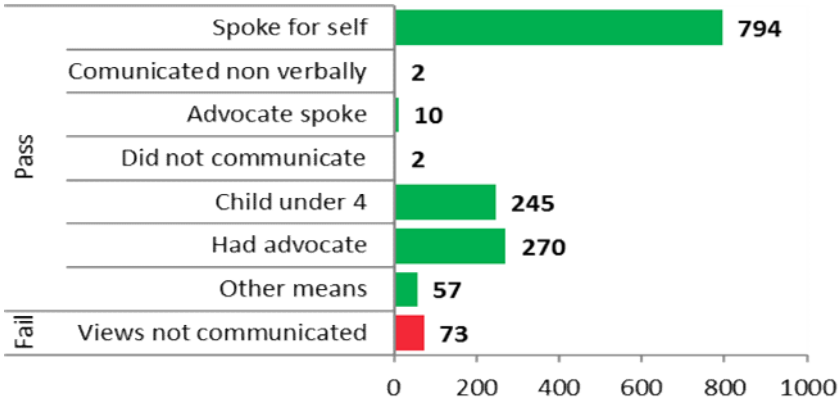
90%

2016-17 Out-turn

93%

2015-16 Out-turn

Context: Full Answers for Participation





KS2 Expected Standard	Maths	Reading	Writing	Reading, Writing and Maths	Key Stage 4	GCSE A* - C in Eng & Maths	Attainment 8	Progress 8
Wolverhampton LAC 2016	51%	60%	58%	37%		20.0%	24.1	-1.16
Wolverhampton 2016	70%	65%	75%	53%		58.8%	47.7	-0.13
West Midlands 2016	41%	38%	43%	23%		17.1%	23.4	-1.07
Statistical Neighbours 2016	40%	35%	43%	25%		18.0%	22.2	-1.17
England 2016	41%	41%	46%	25%		17.5%	22.8	-1.14

PLEASE NOTE: Small numbers in the cohort reaching each key stage can cause results to be volatile making comparison difficult.

National results show that looked after children reaching KS2 level 4 in Maths, Reading and Writing in 2016 performed better than regional, statistical neighbour and national results. Performance in GCSEs is also better. However, there remains a significant gap between the performance of all children and LAC.

Detailed analysis of LAC educational performance was presented to the Panel via the Virtual School Head teacher report. Please note that there is some discrepancies when nationally published data is compared with locally held data - it is the national data that is presented here.

The proportion eligible LAC with an up to date Personal Education Plan (PEP)



95%
2016-17 Out-turn

90%
2015-16 Out-turn

77%
PEPS (Years 1 -11) -
Jan-18

LAC Absence from School - 2016
(taken from nationally published data)

* Children looked after for 12 months or more

69%
PEPS (Years 12 and 13)
- Jan-18

Unauthorised Absence *

0.6%

West Midlands - 0.8%
Statistical Neighbours -1.1%
England - 1.0%

Overall Absence *

3.3%

West Midlands - 3.8%
Statistical Neighbours - 3.9%
England - 3.9%

LAC Persistent Absence

6.7%

West Midlands - 8.2%
Statistical Neighbours - 9.4%
England - 9.1%

There has been an decrease in the number of PEP's in the month and both indicators still show a strong result. The new E-PEP system is due to go live from the start of November 2017.

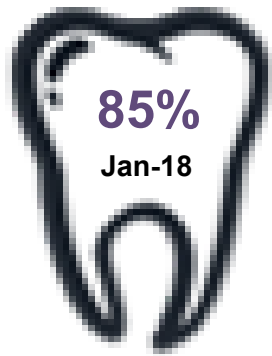
* Absence data has been updated - please note there was an error in previous reports where persistent absence was under-reported

LAC Health



60% of children in the
Wolverhampton Local Authority
Area have seen a dentist in the last
two years

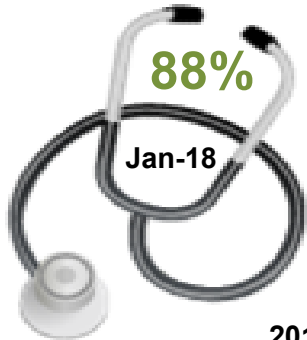
Dental Checks



2016-17 Out-turn = 81%

2015-16 Out-turn = 89%

Health Checks



2016-17 Out-turn = 91%

2015-16 Out-turn = 88%

There has again been a increase in
performance since year out turn in dental
checks and results in this area remain
strong as a result of improved working
with the CCG and RWT.

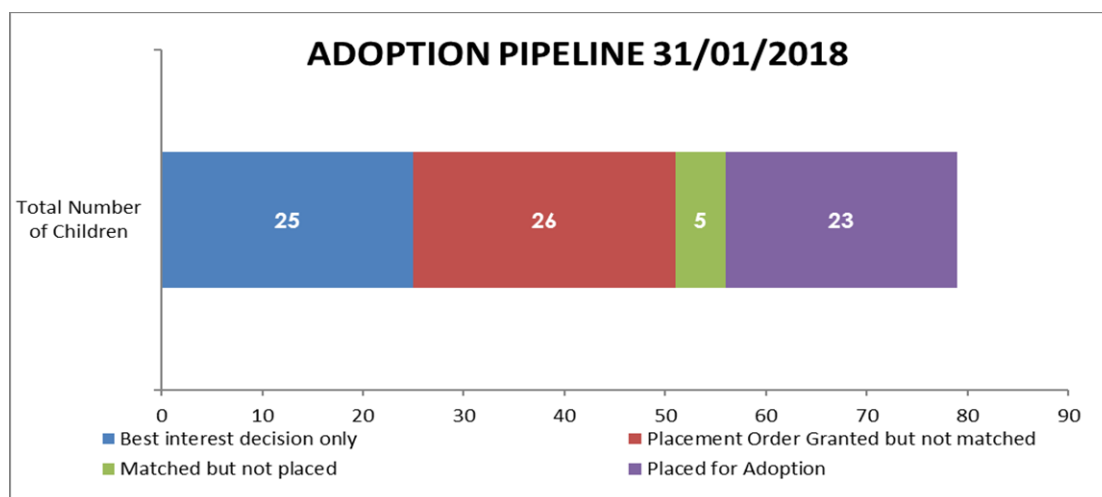
Performance of Health Checks remains
strong however has seen decreased
since year out-turn.

Leaving Care



Children Adopted	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	January 2018
	51	61	47	29

Adoptions



Adoption Scorecard Results

The adoption scorecard is calculated using results and performance over a three year period

A1 - Average time between a child entering care and moving in with their adoptive family

615 Days

3 Year avg 2015-2018

(672 days 2013-2016)

Target - 428 days

A2 - Average time between receiving court authority to place and finding a match

241 Days

3 year avg 2015-2018

Target - 121 days

A10 - Average time between a child entering care and moving in with their adoptive family (stopped at point of fostering for foster carers adoptions)

506 Days

3 year avg 2015-2018

(508 days 2013-2016)

Target - 428 days

Single year performance 2016-17

A1 - 651 days with 64% of children adopted within timescales

A2 - 238 days

A10 - 518 days

Single year performance (2017-18 as at 31 May)

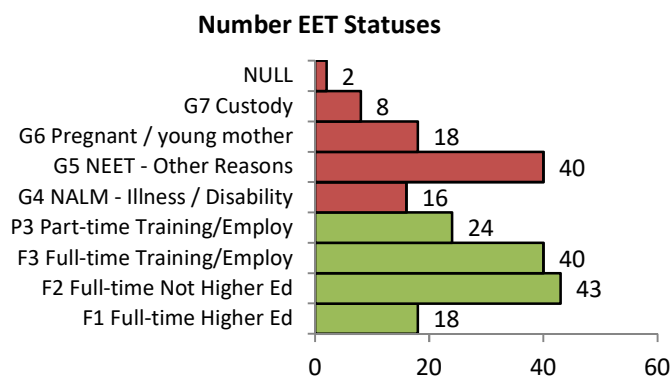
A1 - 582 days with 59% of children adopted within timescales

A2 - 297 days

A10 - 483 days

The adoption scorecards for 2013-16 were published in March 2017. Wolverhampton were once again rated 'double red' in the two key indicators, however, performance around adopting hard to place children including those over the age of 5 and from BME backgrounds continues to be better than performance nationally.

Care Leavers



Care Leavers in Education, Employment and Training

Current - 61%
Wolverhampton (16/17) - 56%
West Mids (16/17) - 46%
Statistical Neighbours (16/17) - 47%
England (16/17)- 50%

% of Care Leavers in Suitable Accommodation

88%

% of Care Leavers available to work

81% Available
19% NALM

(34 Care Leavers are NALM (not available for the labour market) due to illness / disability, pregnancy or young mothers or being in custody)

The percentage of children and care leavers in education, employment or training (EET) has increased slightly at 60% compared with year out turn 2015-16

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