



Corporate Parenting Board

26 June 2013

Time 17:30 hours **Public meeting?** YES **Type of meeting** Other

Venue Civic Centre, St Peter's Square, Wolverhampton WV1 1SH

Room Committee Room 4 (3rd floor)

Membership

Chair Cllr Val Gibson (Lab)

Labour

Cllr Paula Brookfield
Cllr Dr Micheal Hardacre
Cllr Julie Hodgkiss
Cllr Phil Page
Cllr Rita Potter
Cllr Martin Waite

Conservative

Cllr Mrs Christine Mills
Cllr Mrs Patricia Patten
Cllr Paul Singh

Liberal Democrat

Information for the Public

If you have any queries about this meeting, please contact the democratic support team:

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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

Item No. *Title*

MEETING BUSINESS ITEMS

1. **Apologies for absence**
2. **Declarations of interest**
3. **Minutes of the previous meeting (13 March 2013)**
[For approval.]
4. **Matters arising**
[To consider any matters arising from the minutes]
5. **Strategic Priorities for Corporate Parenting – Delivery Directorate**
[To receive a presentation from Keith Ireland, Strategic Director, Delivery Directorate on the strategic priorities for Corporate Parenting within the Delivery Directorate]
6. **Performance Monitoring – Looked After Children (LAC)**
[To receive a report on Performance Monitoring for Looked After Children] **[TO BE CIRCULATED AT THE MEETING]**
7. **Update/Review of Children’s Homes Managed or Commissioned by Wolverhampton City Council**
[To receive details of the current position with Children’s Homes managed or commissioned by the Council]
8. **Adoption Scorecard**
[To receive, for information, an analysis of the Adoption Scorecard]
9. **Fostering Service Annual Report – April 2012 – March 2013**
[To receive the Fostering Service Annual Report]
10. **Corporate Parenting Action Plan 2012/13 and 2013/14**
[To receive a position report in relation to the Corporate Parenting Action Plan]
11. **Protocols and Procedures for Undertaking Visits to Residential Establishments – Presentation**
[To receive a presentation in relation to the protocols and procedures to be followed when undertaking visits to establishments]

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

13. **Exclusion of press and public**
[To pass the following resolution:

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 on the grounds shown below.]

Part 2 – exempt items, closed to the press and public

<i>Item No.</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Grounds for exemption</i>	<i>Applicable paragraph</i>
14.	Members Visits to Establishments	Information relating to any individual	1

MINUTES

meeting: **CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL**

date: **13 MARCH 2013**

PRESENT:-

Councillor Constable (Chair):
Councillors Hodgkiss, Mrs Mills, Potter, P Singh and Waite

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:-

- S Cox - Deputy Head of Looked After Children, Children and Family Support Division, Community Directorate
- J Welsby - Assistant Director, Children and Family Support, Community Directorate
- T Westwood - Assistant Director, Schools, Skills and Learning, Education and Enterprise Directorate
- D Williams - Head of Safeguarding, Children and Family Support, Community Directorate
- C W Craney - Democratic Support Officer, Central Services Division, Delivery Directorate

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PART I - OPEN ITEMS
(Open to the Press and Public)

Apologies for Absence

- 36 Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Paula Brookfield, Dr Hardacre and Mrs Patten together with A Viggers (Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust).

Declarations of Interest

- 37 No declarations of interest were made relative to items under consideration at the meeting.

Minutes – Meeting – 14 November 2012

- 38 Resolved:-
That the minutes of the meeting held on 14 November 2012 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

Matters Arising

- 39 There were no matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 14 November 2012.

Minutes – Children in Care Council – 30 January 2013 (Appendix 13)

The minutes of the meeting of the Children in Care Council held on 30 January 2013 were presented. The latter part of the meeting had taken the form of a Joint Meeting with the Corporate Parenting Panel during which progress with the implementation of the Corporate Parenting Pledge was discussed.

- 40 Resolved:-
That the minutes of the meeting of the Children in Care Council held on 30 January 2013 be received and noted subject to the inclusion in the list of apologies of "Councillor Mrs Patten".

Matters Arising

J Welsby, Assistant Director, Children, Young People and Families, Community Directorate, drew to the attention of the Panel the following issues which had been raised at the meeting of the Children in Care Council on 30 January 2013 and upon which he intended to submit reports to future meetings of the Corporate Parenting Panel:

- Differences between foster care finances and residential care finances in terms of pocket money, clothing allowances, holiday spending money etc.
- Setting Up Home Support Grants and Support.

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Resolved:-

- (i) That the reports now referred to be submitted to a future meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel;
- (ii) That arrangements be made for the Corporate Parenting Panel to meet with the Children in Care Council on an annual basis.

Strategic Priorities for Corporate Parenting – Education and Enterprise Directorate

T Westwood, Assistant Director, Schools, Skills and Learning, Education and Enterprise Directorate reported on the strategic priorities of the Education and Enterprise Directorate in relation to Corporate Parenting including:

- Pupil Premium;
- Wolverhampton Peer Support Group;
- Raising the Participation Age (RPA);
- Connexions Contract;
- Apprenticeships.

S Cox, Deputy Head of Looked After Children, Children, young People and Families Division, Community Directorate, commented on the success of the Apprenticeship Programme insofar as it related to Looked After Children. T Westwood acknowledged the comment but reminded the Panel that the Programme was not restricted to Looked After Children but was available to all school leavers in Wolverhampton.

Councillor Hodgkiss referred to the work in respect of absenteeism from school and enquired as to the availability of more general information focussed on the general school population and whether it would be possible for a report on this matter to be considered by the Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel. J Welsby reported that this particular area of work was undertaken by the Education Welfare Service. Any Looked After Children not attending 85% of lessons would be considered by a Specialist Officer Panel. S Cox explained that targeted support would be provided to these particular children.

In response to a question from the Chair, Councillor Constable, J Welsby advised that as a direct result of their life experiences it was always unlikely that Looked After Children would enjoy equitable academic achievement to their Non Looked After peers. There was a clear link between attainment and domestic stability from an early age. It would be difficult to assess the true picture given that some young children would be adopted at an early age and would not form part of a statistical set. A fairer measure would be academic improvement measured from the time a child was taken into care. S Cox confirmed that whilst equalisation was an aspiration it was unlikely ever to be achieved.

Councillors P Singh, Potter and Waite referred to a number of Looked After Children who had gone on to particular academic success, including entrance to Oxford University, and to the recent successes at the Midlands Achievers of the Year Award. Councillor Waite enquired as to whether any partnership work was undertaken with the Girls High School with a view to LAC's being recruited. S Cox reported on the work undertaken by the Looked After Children Education Team (LACE) in seeking to identify exceptional achievers for attendance at such schools.

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Resolved:-

(i) That the report be received and noted;

(ii) That an analysis of the number of Looked After Children attending good / outstanding schools be submitted to a future meeting.

Work Programme 2013/14 (Appendix 14)

S Cox presented a report which outlined a suggested Work Programme for the Panel for the 2013/14 Municipal Year.

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Resolved:-

That, together with the reports identified earlier in the meeting, the Work Programme for 2013/14 as detailed in the report be approved.

Date of Next Meeting

The Chair, Councillor Constable, advised the Panel that following the re-scheduling of this meeting the proximity to the next scheduled meeting was only a matter of two weeks and suggested that it be cancelled

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Resolved:-

That the next meeting of the Panel scheduled for 27 March 2013 be cancelled.

Wolverhampton City Council

OPEN DECISION ITEM

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

Date 26 JUNE 2013

Originating Service Group(s)	DELIVERY/OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE	
Contact Officer(s)	KEITH IRELAND	CHARLOTTE JOHNS
Telephone Number(s)	4500	4240
Title	<u>CONTRIBUTION TO CORPORATE PARENTING FROM THE DELIVERY DIRECTORATE AND OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE</u>	

RECOMMENDATION

That the report be received and noted.

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To report on the developments within the Delivery Directorate and the Office of the Chief Executive that impact on Looked After Children.

2 Background

- 2.1 The Delivery Directorate and Office of the Chief Executive work to support the Council in its corporate parenting role.
- 2.2 Delivery and the Office of the Chief Executive aid the development of policies, initiatives, services and budget setting processes which support the delivery of the Corporate Parenting Strategy. By ensuring a 'Confident, Capable Council', we support the organisation in delivering the City Strategy, the Corporate Plan including the objective of 'empowering people and communities' and in turn our organisational commitments to Looked After Children.
- 2.3 A breakdown of specific actions and tasks undertaken by the Delivery Directorate and Office of the Chief Executive are listed in appendix A.

3 Financial Implications

- 3.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. [MT/15062013/Q]

4 Legal Implications

- 4.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report. [FD/10062013/F]

5 Equal Opportunities Implications

- 5.1 The improved outcomes the corporate parenting strategy seeks for Looked After Children is in line with our Equal Opportunities policy statement.

6 Environmental Implications

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

CONTRIBUTION TO CORPORATE PARENTING FROM THE DELIVERY DIRECTORATE AND OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Service	Specific Tasks/Actions	Accountable Officer/s
Delivery/OCE	The Assistant Director, Finance and the Head of Policy will represent Delivery and the Office of the Chief Executive respectively on the Corporate Parenting Strategy Group. The Communications Team have also assigned a 'Corporate Parenting Champion'.	Mark Taylor Charlotte Johns Helen Heywood
Delivery	A 'Total Respect' training session ran by Looked After Children has been scheduled for the Delivery Directorate Leadership Team in September 2013.	Keith Ireland
HR	The Council has an Apprenticeship Strategy and scheme, and the Council supports vulnerable young people to apply for apprenticeship vacancies. The Council offers support to Looked After Children through pre-apprenticeship work with this group.	Sue Davies
	The Council offers work experience opportunities to Looked After Children as a priority.	Sue Davies
	The Council supports employees who wish to take extended leave in order to participate in foster caring.	Sue Davies
Procurement	Building into contracts that work experience opportunities are available to Looked After Children and Care Leavers where possible.	Pete Oakeshott
Policy Team (Policy & Equalities)	The Policy Team provides data and information, such as census information, that help services to better plan activities that could support Looked After Children. The performance management framework developed and implemented by the team also includes measures and analysis to support the Corporate Parenting agenda. For example, Cabinet (Performance Management) Panel consider on a quarterly basis data and information relating to the number of looked after children.	Charlotte Johns

	The Policy Team supports the Families in Focus Information and Research Officer. Families in Focus is a government programme designed to turn around the lives of 'troubled' families nationally. Locally this initiative is aligned to work with families where there is a higher risk that children may become looked after.	Charlotte Johns
Policy Team (Scrutiny) / Democratic Services	The Scrutiny Board and Panels, in particular the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel, consider the implications of their business on Looked After Children.	Charlotte Johns
	The Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel includes a co-opted member from the Youth Council, which has a commitment to include at least one Looked After Child.	Charlotte Johns
	In April 2013 conducted a Scrutiny Training session for the Youth Council, which has a commitment to include at least one Looked After Child.	Charlotte Johns
	The annual scrutiny planning session in April 2013, which included representatives from the Youth Council identified a review or inquiry into the costs of Looked After Children services which will take place in 2013-14.	Charlotte Johns
Communications	The Communications Team support corporate parenting through prioritising news stories about Looked after Children which help to breakdown stigma of what a Looked after Child is both in the authority and also with the wider public. A recent example was the news piece on the Achieve Your Dreams event in March 2013, which celebrated the excellent achievements of Looked After Children.	Helen Heywood

Wolverhampton City Council

OPEN INFORMATION ITEM**Corporate Parenting Board**

Date 26 JUNE 2013

Originating Service Group(s)	LAC SERVICE
Contact Officer(s)	YVONNE NELSON BROWN (OPERATIONAL MANAGER – CHILDREN’S RESIDENTIAL SERVICES)
Telephone Number(s)	01902 550182
Title	<u>UPDATE/REVIEW OF CHILDREN’S’ HOMES MANAGED OR COMMISSIONED BY WOLVERHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL</u>

SUMMARY**1. Purpose**

- 1.1 To inform members of the Corporate Parenting Board of the current status of Children’s Homes managed or Commissioned by the City Council.

2. Financial Implications

- 2.1 The cost of a contracted placement is in the region of £2,500 per week. This compares favourably to the cost of a placement within one of the Authority’s homes which ranges between £2,600 and 3,000 per week. Out of City Placements which may cost up to £5000, dependent on what is required. [MA/20062013/C]

3. Legal Implications/Statutory requirements and service user’s rights

- 3.1. Wolverhampton City Council has statutory duties concerning the accommodation and care of Looked After Child(ren)/young person(s). The Council has a responsibility to ensure that the child(ren)/young person(s) is placed in an environment which will promote and safeguard his/her welfare and achieve good outcomes in line with a Care Plan that is subject to independent review and in accordance with the Children Act 1989.
- 3.2 The establishment must be registered to take child(ren)/young person(s) in accordance with the provisions of the Children Act 1989 and the Care Standards Act 2000. [FD/19062013/I]

4. Equal Opportunities

- 4.1 The Local Authority has a duty to provide accommodation to all young people, some of who are some of the most disadvantaged and deprived children and young people within the city.

5. Environmental Implications

5.1 Wolverhampton City Council has eight residential homes across the city. Four of the homes are managed by Advanced Child Care Limited who are commissioned to provide and deliver residential placements for Wolverhampton's Children and Young people. The homes are situated across the city in residential areas. Consultation with local communities is always undertaken prior to planning application.

6. Background

6.1 The City Council operates eight children's homes, four of these being provided through a mixed economy approach with our partners Advanced Child Care. In total there are 29 placements provided within the mainstream homes and a total of 28 placements provided by the short break homes.

6.2 The children's homes provide a tiered approach providing short breaks, short to medium term placements, and some long term placements with planned care through to semi-independent or independent living.

7. Current Provision

7.1 The current residential care provided by Wolverhampton City Council is as follows:

(i) Council Managed Provision

Red Gables	- 4 places + 2 Independent Living Spaces
Upper Pendeford Farm	- 4 places + 2 Independent Living Spaces
Stowheath House	- 8 places (Disabled Children) (<i>short break</i>)
Windmill Lane	- 8 places (Disabled Children) (<i>short break</i>)

7.2 Both Red Gables and Upper Pendeford Farm can accommodate up to 4 young people on a residential basis. However they both also contain two Independent Living Spaces, which are used as a resource to skill 16-17 year olds to gain greater independence in readiness for leaving care.

(ii) Commissioned Provision

Stafford Road	- 4 placements	} All three homes provide short to medium term residential provision and are provided by Advanced Child Care
Brooklands Parade	- 5 placements	
The Wergs	- 4 placements	

7.3 Merridale Street West (MSW) is a 4 bedded placement for young people with complex needs – Medium Term became operational on 16th April 2012. It is a multi-disciplinary children's home for young people with a complexity of needs. Young people referred to or residing at MSW will have been diagnosed to have numerous complex needs that have been difficult to address within Wolverhampton and beyond. There is a multi-disciplinary

staff team comprising of a team and Assistant psychologist. The service utilises partnerships with Communities, Children and Family Support (social care / education) and the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) - CAMHS.

8. OFSTED - Inspecting Children's Home

- 8.1 All the homes below have been recently inspected by OFSTED and the outcomes are encouraging. The purpose of inspections is to assess the quality of care provided to the children and young people.
- 8.2 NMS and Children's Homes Regulations were revised 1st April 2011. All homes will have annual full inspection followed by a progress inspection. The purpose being to follow up progress on recommendations or requirements from the full inspection. Both inspections are unannounced. The inspection will test compliance with relevant legislation, Regulations and National Minimum Standards (NMS)

Name of the Home	OFSTED Judgement	Date of full Inspection	Date of Progress Inspection
Council Managed Provision			
Upper Pendeford Farm	Adequate	November 2012	February 2013
Stowheath House	Adequate	July 2012	January 2013
Red Gables	Good	May 2013	March 2013
Windmill Lane	Adequate	May 2013	Sept 2013
Commissioned Provision			
Brooklands Parade	Good	May 2013	March 2013
Stafford Road	Good	May 2012	Dec 2012
The Wergs	Adequate	May 2013	Dec 2012
Merridale Street West	Good	October 2012	Imminent

- 8.3 Improvement plans are in place for those homes deemed as adequate. These are scrutinised at the cross service meeting for progress (copies of the plans will be available to the panel for their perusal if required).

9. Future Process

- 9.1 The LAC Transformation programme recognises the growing looked after population. This has resulted in a review in relation to the residential portfolio. This will identify the current provision and whether modifications are required. This is in relation to numbers, age and needs.
- 9.2 It is anticipated that local residential provision should be able to respond to predictable clusters of need, but with the flexibility to adapt to changing needs as they arise within the LAC population. Greater diversity and flexibility of local provision is likely to prevent care being prolonged, will assist young people to maintain contact with friends and family (if appropriate) and reduce cost.
- 9.3 A review of the homes mentioned above is due to commence June 2013. This will be led by the commissioning team.

9.4 Stowheath House and Windmill Lane have been subject to review and the outcome is anticipated.

10. Interventions with the Children's Homes

10.1 The homes draw on a range of interventions and approaches to support and improve outcomes for children and young people. Partnership work with both CAMHS/YOT and enables the following interventions and approaches to be implemented throughout all the main stream homes:

11. Team around the Child

- The Team around the Child (TAC) was developed in response to the need for Specific (Integrated) Services to provide an integrated approach to young people who reside in residential care.
- The purpose is to empower young people to chair their own meetings and assisting in the planning process to meet their needs.
- The concept is for young people to be involved in decision making with regard to their day to day care programmes, to ensure review recommendations are adhered to and to enable accountability by professionals who are responsible for care planning.
- Young people are encouraged to set outcomes that are achievable; this will enhance their self-confidence.

The Aim of the TAC includes:

- Identifying how support can be offered to the child and family to meet their needs
- Reviewing support given to the family and young person
- Jointly agree Solutions and Actions
- Complete a 6 weekly TAC Plan
- To deliver actions as agreed by the 6 weekly TAC Plan
- To monitor outcomes
- Ensure effective partnerships
- Ensure accountability and effective interventions
- Supporting the planning process of looked after children

12. What is Restorative Justice?

12.1 Restorative Justice (RJ) is increasingly recognised as a primary way of addressing and reducing crime. Instead of an approach based on sanction and punishment, RJ focuses on resolution of what has happened through discussion, negotiation, and outcomes determined not by the courts, but by agreement between those most affected – the victim and the offender usually through mediation.

12.2 'Restorative Justice' enables those people directly affected – offenders or perpetrators, victims and aggrieved, family members and members of the community – to communicate and agree how to deal with a particular incident and its consequences.'
(Youth Justice Board)

12.3 'Restorative Justice is defined as a procedure dealing with the aftermath of an offence, which involves victims, offenders and others whose interests have been affected. It seeks to help victims regain a feeling of safety, and to help offenders to make amends. It also seeks to hold offenders accountable, to reconcile victims with offenders, and to strengthen the community in order to prevent further offences.
(Youth Justice Board *Restorative Justice in the Juvenile Secure Estate*, 2005)

12.4 The implementation of Restorative Justice is proving particularly effective in the homes. Staff are actively applying the process and with involvement from other agencies such as youth service, youth offending team and the community police liaison officers as meant fewer young people are being prosecuted for what could be described as 'low level offences'.

13. The 'Pillars of Parenting' or 'Authentic Warmth Approach'

13.1 This approach aims to improve the life chances of children in care, a need to enjoy and experience consistent and prolonged 'authentic warmth'. This model of child care utilises psychological theory and research. 'Authentic Warmth' is introduced into daily interactions between young people and residential carers and puts the child's individual emotional well-being at its core.

13.2 The core pillars that would be implemented are:

- Primary care and protection.
- Secure attachment
- Positive self-perception
- Emotional competence
- Self-management skills
- Resilience
- Sense of belonging
-

14. The 'Therapeutic Crisis Intervention' model together with PRICE Physical Intervention approaches.

14.1 All staff are trained in TCI [Therapeutic Crisis Intervention] and PRICE.

14.2 The current training course is based on the theoretical framework of the 'Stress Model of Crisis', which covers four stages of a crisis situation i.e. the triggering phase, escalation phase, crisis phase and recovery phase. Both methods (T.C.I. and PRICE) are complimentary as they both have the same underlying principles in relation to carrying out physical intervention.

14.3 Following a physical intervention young people are encouraged to undertake a 'life space interview'. This enables both staff and young people to discuss the incident and reflect on how and why the physical intervention was necessary and to examine strategies to prevent this re-occurring.

14.4 These approaches of practice can, together, create an effective way of living and learning alongside traumatised children and young people, which can:

- Heal their disturbed and fragmented sense of themselves.
- Teach them how to make healthy relationships with parents, siblings and others.
- Allow them to focus on growing, enjoying and achieving in their lives.
- Working closely with the family of the young people.

15. Occupancy

15.1 The total number of contracted residential placements through Advance Child Care is 17. The authority has a total number of 12 placements managed by council. The average total occupancy level is indicated below. Figures for 2011/2012 were on average 96%.

15.2 The chart below highlights occupancy for each home 1.4.12-31.3.13

Children's Homes	Average Percentage Occupancy
	%
Upper Pendeford Farm	84
Red Gables	96
Merridale St West	84
Stafford Road	95
Brooklands Parade	99
The Wergs	97
Total	93% overall

Date: 26 JUNE 2013

Portfolio(s)

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

Originating Service Group(s)

CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & FAMILIES

**Contact Officer(s)/
Telephone Number(s)**

**JOHN WELSBY
1449**

Title

ADOPTION SCORECARD

1.0 RECOMMENDATION

That the report be received and noted.

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 In 2011 the government introduced a way of measuring the performance of Local Authorities in relation to adoption expressed in a scorecard format.

2.2 Since then the scorecard has become an annual report which covers a rolling 3 year history.

2.3 In response to feedback, the measures used have undergone some improvement and if read as a whole, the scorecard is a valuable form of feedback on some key aspects of performance.

2.4 Reading “as a whole” is important as for instance, an adoption agency that has primarily babies would expect to operate to much shorter timescales than a more inclusive service which believes that adoption is the best outcome for a wider range of children – even if it takes longer to find the right family.

3.0 WOLVERHAMPTON SCORECARD

3.1 Our timescales in 2011 illustrated that our care planning processes were poor and that this resulted in delays through to adoption that were too long and occurred in too many cases.

3.2 These poor timescales led to the Department for Education visiting Wolverhampton to investigate our practice further.

3.3 The engagement with Department for Education went well and they recognised legitimate reasons for some of our timescales and accepted what we were doing to improve on other areas.

- 3.4 Following this visit we volunteered to undergo a diagnostic assessment of our adoption processes to help us understand where our delays were and how we could improve.
- 3.5 The impetus given by the scorecard, by the diagnostic assessment and by our rising numbers of Looked After Children, has resulted in the creation of improved care planning and adoption planning processes and this is beginning to be reflected in our scorecard.
- 3.6 Our analysis of our latest scorecard measures show that while timescales still suffer from historical problems, timescales for adoption of children becoming looked after more recently have improved significantly, while we have maintained our commitment to achieve adoption as the best outcome for a wide range of children.
- 3.7 Care Planning and Adoption Improvement plans have been in place for some time and were developed further by the diagnostic assessment referred to above; the improved outcomes resulting are evidenced in the attached.
- 3.8 We are taking forward further improvement through our use of a new government grant part of which will be committed to improved recruitment of adopters through the sub-regional body "Adoption in the Black Country".

4.0 THE SCORECARD ANALYSIS

- 4.1 The analysis of the scorecard measures is attached. This analysis is based on the targets used in the 2011/12 scorecard as the 2012/13 scorecard has not yet been produced.
- 4.2 This analysis has been forwarded to the Department for Education for the attention of the Children's Minister as requested by them, and is being presented to Councillors in various forms to invite questions, challenge and scrutiny.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Council has received a 2013/14 Adoption Reform Grant Allocation of £1,081,932 made up as follows:

Part A:	£499,722
Part B:	£582,210.

- 5.2 Part A is not ring-fenced giving local authorities the freedom to target the funding at all or any part of the entire adoption process as local circumstances require. Part B of the grant is ring-fenced to support local authorities in addressing structural problems with adopter recruitment and particularly in relation to any problems presented by the equalisation of the inter-agency fee.

The expectation is that Part B will be specifically targeted at adoption recruitment, and will help to reduce the backlog of children awaiting adoption.

(JB/14062013/I)

6.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Adoption Scorecards introduced by statutory guidance “An Action Plan for Adoption: Tackling Delay (March 2012) are a component to address delay in the adoption system.”

[FD/11062013/C]

7.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Wolverhampton continues to make improvements in adoption outcomes for Looked After Children and continues to perform well when compared with the national average in placing older children and children of Black Minority Ethnicity backgrounds

8.0 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 There are no environmental implications.

Wolverhampton City Council



ANALYSIS OF ADOPTION SCORECARD INFORMATION 2012-2013

Sarah Norman
Strategic Director Community.
Wolverhampton City Council

KEY PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENTS FOR YEAR 2012-2013

Wolverhampton adoption service continues to make improvements in adoption outcomes for its looked after children. The following key performance indicators demonstrate this.

In addition, Wolverhampton City Council was inspected by Ofsted in October 2012 and received an overall rating of good, an improvement on the previous inspection that rated the service as adequate.

1. In the year 2012-2013, 36 children have been adopted in Wolverhampton compared to 60 in total over the previous three year period 2009-2012 (an average of 20 adoptions per year).

The A4 indicator confirms improved performance in this area. For the year 2012-2013 23% of children left the care of Wolverhampton City Council via adoption. This is almost double the England average and shows an increase of 9% compared to the three year period 2009-2012.

2. The timeliness for children placed for adoption in the period 2012-2013 has also improved with the average number of days from becoming looked after to being placed for adoption decreasing from 936 for the three year period 2009-2012 to 876 for the year 2012-2013 (Indicator A1).
3. The new indicator A10 demonstrates that for the children we are placing in new adoptive families, this is being achieved in timescales that are well below the A1 indicator target of 639 days. For this indicator in the year 2012-2013 Wolverhampton's average figure is 412 days.
4. Analysis of the detail behind the A2 indicator data shows improved performance in timeliness for children with placement orders granted since July 2011. For these children the average number of days between the placement order being granted and the child being matched is 154 days. This performance is much better than the England average and the government target. This indicator demonstrates the effectiveness of the adoption action improvement plan.
5. Wolverhampton has continued to improve on good areas of practice. In the period 2012-2013 24% of black and minority ethnic children leaving care were adopted. This is four times the England average of 6% (Indicator A6).
6. Wolverhampton continues to pursue adoption for what would be regarded as harder to place children including those aged five years or older. 11% of children adopted in the period 2012-2013 were aged five years or above. This is significantly higher than both the England average of 7% and Wolverhampton's performance of 7% for the three year period 2009-2012 (Indicator A7).

7. Wolverhampton's commitment to adoption as a positive outcome for many of our looked after children remains strong. In the year 2012-2013 only 8.7% of the children (15) with a plan of adoption had their plan of adoption changed compared with 14% in previous 3 year period (2009-2012) (Indicator A5). 87% of these children had their plan changed to enable them to stay with their current carers on an alternative permanent arrangement, or returned to family members.
8. In the year 2012-2013 the number of children awaiting adoption has decreased from the previous three year period 2009-2012 (Indicator A9)

Areas for continued development

- To continue to build on improvements in all areas via the monitoring of the adoption action improvement plan.
- To effectively use the Adoption Reform Grant to support continued improvements enabling more children to be placed for adoption in a more timely way.

A1 AVERAGE TIME FROM CHILD ENTERING CARE AND MOVING IN WITH ITS ADOPTIVE FAMILY

We have increased the number of children adopted this year from 19 last year to 36 children this year, almost doubling this cohort.

This indicator shows a decrease in the number of days between entering care and moving in with their adoptive family from an average over 3 years (2009-2012) of 936 days, to 876 days in the year 2012-2013.

Children Placed within Timescale:

Of the 12 children placed within the expected 639 days, 11 were aged two years or under and 11 were White British.

Children Placed outside Timescale:

Of the remaining 24 children, who took longer than 639 days:

17 of the 24 (71%) were adopted by their foster carers. (See Indicator A10).

Sibling Groups:

11 of the 24 children were placed as sibling groups:

8 children were placed as sibling groups of two. These children were aged at least 2+ years with the majority being school age.

3 children were placed as a sibling group of 3. The children were from a travelling background and were aged 4, 6 and 8.

Ethnicity:

9 of the 24 children were from a BME background (38%)

Age groups:

11 children were aged 3-4 years when placed (46%) and 8 children were aged 5-9 years (33%) giving a total of 79% who were 3 years or older when placed.

A2 AVERAGE TIME BETWEEN RECEIVING COURT AUTHORITY TO PLACE AND THE LOCAL AUTHORITY DECIDING A MATCH

Almost half of the children in the cohort (44%) were placed within government set timescales (16 of 36).

Of the children meeting required timescale (16 children), 6 children were aged 4+ years with three of those children being placed together in a sibling group of 3.

The A2 data shows improved performance in terms of timeliness for children with placement orders granted more recently.

For children with a placement order granted since July 2011, the average number of days taken to match to their adoptive family is 154 days. This is well below the England average and the government target.

This evidences improved practice in terms of timeliness.

Of Children with Placement Orders granted since July 2011 only 5 have exceeded the target and only by a small margin. 4 of these children were part of a sibling group, all of whom have been adopted by their foster carers. The other child was due to be placed with his older sibling, but given their closeness in age, we needed to ensure the older sibling was settled enough to adapt to her brother joining her.

Outlying children:

Within this indicator there were two children whose timeliness did not fit the overall pattern.

Child A (1206 days):

Had serious bowel and heart conditions which needed corrective surgery and we were unable to family find for a significant time whilst he recovered from both operations and his prognosis became clearer.

This child is a dual heritage White African Caribbean male child aged 5 when adopted.

He was adopted by his foster carers.

Child B (1221) days:

Following a plan of adoption being agreed this child was the subject of Child Protection concerns in his foster placement and following an investigation he was moved to an alternative foster placement.

He took some time to settle and his development began to progress well.

Extensive family finding took place and his current carers advised of their intention to adopt when we were unable to secure a suitable adoptive family.

This child is a dual heritage White African Caribbean male child aged 4 when adopted.

Demography of Children adopted in 2012-2013:

This data shows that a significantly higher number of children have been adopted this year. The majority of those children would be regarded as harder to place based upon their complexity of need, their age and their ethnicity. This is supported by our A6 which shows 24% of our black and minority ethnic children leaving care are adopted compared to the England average of 6%.

In addition, indicator A7 demonstrates the high number of children aged 5 or over who are adopted, with our performance at 13% compared with the England average at 7%.

Of the 36 children in total:

Age:

14 were 0-2 years old when placed

10 were 3-4 years old when placed

12 were 5-9 years old when placed

Ethnicity:

25 are of White British background

11 are of BME backgrounds.

A3 THE NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN WHO WAIT LESS THAN 21 MONTHS BETWEEN ENTERING CARE AND MOVING IN WITH THEIR ADOPTIVE FAMILY

See analysis for A1 and A10

A4 ADOPTIONS FROM CARE

This year has seen an increased number of adoptions, 36 in total.

In the previous 3 year period 2009-2012, there were a total of 60 adoptions in Wolverhampton (an average of 20 adoptions per year).

The performance in this area is 23% which is an increase from 14% in the 3 year period 2009-2012. This statistic is almost double the England average of 12%.

This demonstrates our ongoing commitment to adoption as a positive outcome for many of our LAC who are unable to return home.

A5 NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN FOR WHOM THE PERMANENCE DECISION HAS CHANGED AWAY FROM ADOPTION

This indicator at 8.7% shows an improvement from 2009-2012 and supports our commitment to adoption as an outcome for LAC.

This data relates to 15 children:

11 had their plan changed to permanent fostering and have been linked to their current carers. (7 of whom were part of sibling groups).

2 children went to live with family members, following a plan of adoption being agreed.

Only 2 children had plan changed to permanent fostering who were not staying with their carers. In relation to these specific children:

- 1 child aged 8 has suffered significant sexual abuse.
- 1 child aged 8 has had two previous adoption placement breakdowns.

87% of children who had their plan changed, enabled them to stay with their current carer or live with a family member.

3 of these children have significant development delay.

A6 THE PERCENTAGE OF BLACK AND MINORITY ETHNIC CHILDREN LEAVING CARE WHO ARE ADOPTED

Wolverhampton continues to perform well in this particular area. In the year 2012-2013 24% of black and minority ethnic children leaving care were adopted. This is an increase from the three year period 2009-2012 of which the measure was 13% and well above the England average of 6%.

A7 THE PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN AGED 5 OR OVER LEAVING CARE WHO ARE ADOPTED

This indicator shows a big increase from the 3 year period 2009-2012 which measured 7%, to the year 2012-2013 which measured 11%.

This continues to show Wolverhampton's commitment to placing older children for adoption. Continuing to secure appropriate adoptive placements may take longer given the ages and circumstances of many of the children. This figure is well above the England average of 7%.

As A1 shows, we are successfully able to place young White British children in a timely way. However, as one would anticipate, older and harder to place children are likely to take longer to identify a suitable adoptive family.

A8 AVERAGE LENGTH OF CARE PROCEEDINGS LOCALLY (WEEKS)

Figures are provided by CAFCASS.

A9 NUMBER OF CHILDREN AWAITING ADOPTION

This indicator is showing a decrease.

In the 3 year period 2009-2012 there were 95 children awaiting adoption. This has decreased to 88 in the year 2012-2013.

Although we continue to have a significant number of children each year with a new plan of adoption (in the year 2012-2013 – 63 children), the number of children awaiting adoption is declining.

This is, in part, due to the increased number of children we have matched at Panel this year compared to last year. This number has more than doubled.

2012-13 number of children matched = 43

2011-12 number of children matched = 20

Given the high number of children we currently have placed for adoption, and the continued support offered to foster carers to adopt; and with the effective use of the Adoption Reform Grant and key sub regional developments via ABC; Wolverhampton are confident that we will continue to increase the number of adopted children to at least 50 in 2013-2014.

In addition to this the focus will remain, not only to continue to increase the number of children adopted but also to ensure this is undertaken in a timely manner.

A10 AVERAGE TIME BETWEEN A CHILD ENTERING CARE AND MOVING IN WITH ITS ADOPTIVE FAMILY – ADJUSTED FOR FOSTER CARER ADOPTIONS

The data for this year shows Wolverhampton has supported a considerable number of foster carers in adopting the child they have placed with them.

For the child, the positive of this scenario is that they remain within the family environment in which they feel secure and stable thus reducing the need for a placement move or transfer of attachment to new parents and family.

Indicator A10, demonstrates that for children for whom we find alternative adoptive families, we are achieving well below the A1 target of 639 days. Our average figure for the year 2012-2013 is 412 days.

For the children who did take over 639 days, 73% were 3 years old or above, and 55% were 5 years old or above.

Appendix Wolverhampton Adoption Scorecard indicators update for year 2012-2013

Indicator	Definition (note latest result is in-year not 3 year)	Measure	3 year 2008 - 2011	3 year 2009 -20012	Single year 2012/13	Target	England 3 yr 2009-12
A1: Average time between a child entering care and moving in with its adoptive family, for children who have been adopted (days)	<p>1. This indicator includes all children adopted in the period 1 April 2012 to 31 March 2013 that were placed for adoption immediately prior to their adoption.</p> <p>2. Time is calculated between a child starting to be looked after and their placement for adoption, i.e. the date they move with their adoptive family. Only children with valid data are included.</p> <p>3. Figures are rounded to the nearest day.</p>	Average (days)	810 days	936 days	876 days Note see also the new A10 indicator)	639 days	636
A2: 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 (days)	<p>1. This indicator includes all children adopted in the period 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2012 that were placed for adoption and on a placement order or freeing order immediately prior to their adoption.</p> <p>2. Time is calculated between receiving court authority to adopt (granting of placement order/freeing order) and matching with adopters. A time of zero is assigned to children who were matched before court authority was received.</p> <p>3. Figures are rounded to the nearest day.</p>	Average (Days)	166 days	239 days	344 days or 293 days with 2 outliers removed. The 21 children with Placement Orders after July 2011 show dramatic improvement (average 154 days!)	213 days	195

Indicator	Definition (note latest result is in-year not 3 year)	Measure	3 year 2008 - 2011	3 year 2009 -2012	Single year 2012/13	Target	England 3 yr 2009-12
A3 The number and percentage of children who wait less than 21 months between entering care and moving in with their adoptive family	<p>1. This indicator includes all children adopted in the period 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2012 that were placed for adoption immediately prior to their adoption and all children with a current adoption plan at 31 March 2012 (excluding those where the decision to adopt has been reversed). When adoption is the preferred option for permanence this is referred to as the adoption plan.</p> <p>2. Time is calculated between a child starting to be looked after and their placement for adoption, i.e. the date they move in with their adoptive family. Only children with valid data are included. Children are flagged if they waited less than 21 months (measured at 639 days) between starting to be looked after and being placed for adoption or had not yet been looked after for 21 months at 31 March 2012.</p> <p>3. The numerator is therefore all adopted children who were placed for adoption first who were placed less than 21 months after becoming looked after and all children looked after at 31 March 2012 with a current adoption decision who were placed less than 21 months after becoming looked after or who had not yet been looked after for 21 months."</p> <p>4. The denominator is therefore all adopted children who were placed for adoption first and all looked after at 31 March with a current adoption decision.</p>	<p>Number Children</p> <p>% Children</p>	<p>50</p> <p>41%</p>	<p>65</p> <p>39%</p>	<p>59 / 157</p> <p>38%</p>	<p>Not set</p>	<p>10,180</p> <p>56%</p>

Indicator	Definition (note latest result is in-year not 3 year)	Measure	3 year 2008 - 2011	3 year 2009 -20012	Single year 2012/13	Target	England 3 yr 2009-12
A4 Adoptions from care (number adopted and percentage leaving care who are adopted)	<p>1. Only the last occasion on which a child ceased to be looked after in each year has been counted. A child who ceased to be in care in more than one year will be counted more than once.</p> <p>2. This indicator compares the number of children who ceased to be looked after in the period 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2012 with the number of children who were adopted during that period.</p>	<p>Number Adopted</p> <p>% adopted of leaving Care</p>	<p>65 Children</p> <p>16%</p>	<p>60 Children</p> <p>14%</p>	<p>36 / 157 Children</p> <p>23%</p>	Not set	<p>9,740</p> <p>(12%)</p>
A5 The number and percentage of children for whom the permanence decision has changed away from adoption	<p>1. The denominator includes all children with an on-going adoption decision in the period 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2012. (The adoption decision date may be prior to 1 April 2009.) The numerator includes all children with an on-going adoption decision in the period 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2012 for whom the decision was reversed in the period 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2012.</p>	<p>Number rescinded</p> <p>%</p>	<p>20 children</p> <p>16%</p>	<p>30 children</p> <p>14%</p>	<p>15 / 173 children</p> <p>8.7%</p>	Not set	<p>1360</p> <p>(7%)</p>

Indicator	Definition (note latest result is in-year not 3 year)	Measure	3 year 2008 - 2011	3 year 2009 -20012	Single year 2012/13	Target	England 3 yr 2009-12
A6: The percentage of black and minority ethnic children leaving care who are adopted	<p>1. Only the last occasion on which a child ceased to be looked after in the year has been counted.</p> <p>2. The numerator includes all children with a known ethnicity of Asian, Black, Chinese, Mixed or Other who were adopted in the period 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2012. The denominator includes all children within these ethnic groups who ceased to be looked after for any reason in the same time period. Numerators and denominators exclude all children where ethnicity was refused or not obtained.</p> <p>3. Percentages show the proportion of all black and minority ethnic children leaving care who are adopted. Therefore if a local authority has a low proportion of black and minority ethnic children in their care population then the denominator will reflect this low number.</p>	<p>Number</p> <p>%</p>	<p>25 Children</p> <p>18%</p>	<p>20 Children</p> <p>13%</p>	<p>10 / 42 children</p> <p>24%</p>	Not set	<p>1,490</p> <p>6%</p>
A7: The percentage of children aged 5 or over leaving care who are adopted	<p>1. Only the last occasion on which a child ceased to be looked after in the year has been counted.</p> <p>2. Age on leaving care.</p> <p>3. The numerator includes all children who were adopted in period 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2012 who were aged 5 or over. The denominator includes all children who were aged 5 or over when they ceased to be looked after in the same time period.</p>	<p>Number</p> <p>% adopted age 5 or over of all care leavers aged 5 or over</p>	<p>20 Children</p> <p>7%</p>	<p>20 Children</p> <p>7%</p>	<p>12 / 106 Children</p> <p>11%</p>	Not set	<p>20</p> <p>7%</p>

Indicator	Definition (note latest result is in-year not 3 year)	Measure	3 year 2008 - 2011	3 year 2009 -20012	Single year 2012/13	Target	England 3 yr 2009-12
A8: Average length of care proceedings locally (weeks)	<p>1. Figures are provided from the Cafcass National Case Management System (CMS).</p> <p>2. The unit of measurement is a care application. An application can involve multiple children. CMS is a live system and any late entries will be accounted for at the time of release of subsequent updates to this data."</p> <p>3. Average care duration is calculated from date of care application to the court to date application completed on CMS in the selected time period. Averages are based on care applications completed in the period.</p> <p>4. The average length of care proceedings locally includes all care proceedings which the local authority has initiated, including care proceedings which take place in courts outside of the local authority area.</p> <p>5. All data updated on 25 September 2012. Changes to figures are due to late updates in information within the CMS</p>	Weeks	57	56	Not available	Not set	56
A9: Number of children awaiting adoption	<p>1. This indicator includes all children with an adoption plan in year ending 31 March 2012 that were still looked after at 31 March 2012 and who had not been placed for adoption at 31 March 2012. When adoption is the preferred option for permanence this is referred to as the adoption plan.</p>	Number	50 Children	95 Children	88 Children	Not set	95

Indicator	Definition (note latest result is in-year not 3 year)	Measure	3 year 2008 - 2011	3 year 2009 -20012	Single year 2012/13	Target	England 3 yr 2009-12
A10 Average time between a child entering care and moving in with its adoptive family adjusted for foster carer adoptions, for children who have been adopted (days)	<p>1. This indicator includes all children adopted in the period 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2012 that were placed for adoption immediately prior to their adoption.</p> <p>2. Time is calculated between a child starting to be looked after and their placement for adoption, i.e. the date they move with their adoptive family. Where children are adopted by their foster carer, the time is measured until the date they moved in with their foster carer. Only children with valid data are included.</p> <p>3. Figures are rounded to the nearest day.</p>	Average Days	New in October	529 days	412 days	Not set but A1 Target = 639 days	546

Wolverhampton City Council

OPEN DECISION ITEMCorporate Parenting Board

Date 26 JUNE 2013

Originating Service Group(s) **LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN**

Contact Officer(s)/ **DAPHNE ATKINSON**
 Telephone Number(s) **01902 553070**

Title **FOSTERING SERVICE ANNUAL REPORT - APRIL 2012 - MARCH 2013****SUMMARY**

The report describes the work of Wolverhampton Fostering Service from 1st April 2012 to 31st March 2013. The Fostering Service is part of the wider Looked After Children Services

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To enable the Corporate Parenting Board to have a clear understanding of the work undertaken by the Fostering Service over the past year.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1. That the report be noted and referred to Cabinet.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The total budget allocation for 2012/2013 for the fostering service was £ 5.240 million.
- 3.2 Any cost that may arise as a result of implementing the improvement plan will be met from existing resources. (JB/17062013/M)

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Fostering Service, in accordance with the Fostering Services (England) Regulations 2011, delivers the Council's statutory functions under the Children Act 1989, particularly with regard to the duty to ensure there is sufficient accommodation for looked after children. (Children Act 1989, Section 22G)
 [FD/12062013/Y]

5. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The work of the Fostering Service helps to support the outcomes of some of Wolverhampton city's most vulnerable and disadvantaged children and young people. There is a clear duty placed upon Wolverhampton City Council to contribute towards improving and enhancing the lives of looked after children.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no known environmental implications

FOSTERING SERVICE ANNUAL REPORT 2012 – 2013

1. Introduction

This report describes the work of Wolverhampton City Council's Fostering Service from 1st April 2012 to 31 March 2013. The Fostering Service is part of the wider Looked After Children Service.

The Fostering Service structure is as follows:

- **Team Manager** - is responsible for all the service planning and operational management of the Fostering Service.
- **Practice Managers** – There are two practice managers who work in conjunction with the team manager to ensure the operational management of the service.
- The fostering team operates a generic structure whereby the entire work of the service is carried out by all members of the wider social work team. We have a complement of 12.5 qualified social workers, and 5 unqualified social care post.

The work of the service includes:

- **Recruitment, Initial Assessments, Training, and Assessment of Foster Carers** - utilising high profile recruitment campaigns, as well as locally targeted recruitment for example, short breaks, siblings group, long term foster carers and foster carers for teenagers.
- **Support and Development** - providing supervision, post approval training and support to temporary, permanent, and family and friends foster carers. Assessing existing foster carers who wish to consider permanent placements for children who are in their care.
- **Family Finding for Permanency** – identifying permanent families and assessing them for children who are requiring permanent placements with foster families.
- **Family and Friends** – Training, assessing, development and supporting Family and Friends (Connected Persons) foster carers
- **Private Fostering** – This is a regulated area of work and is inspected by OSFTED. The last Inspection was in 2010. We assess, train and support Private Foster carers.

Training of Foster Carers

- We provide approximately 90 different courses to our foster carers each year. The Fostering Training co-ordinator sources and supports the training programme for foster carers. The training Co-ordinator and Workforce Development Officer (The workforce development officer, although not directly sitting in the Fostering Team is part of our training group) works closely with the Fostering training co-ordinator in supporting, planning, and commissioning of training and development, both for the team and foster carers.
- **Fostering Support** - provides focused support to children and foster carers, to enhance placement stability by offering various programmes of supportive intervention.
- **Independent Reviewing Officers** - There are two Independent Reviewing officers who undertake all reviews of foster carers and are involved in aspects of service development. They are within the Safeguarding Service.
- **Social work staffing** - The Fostering Service enjoys a full complement of 12.30 equivalent qualified social worker posts, and 4 full time equivalent unqualified posts.
- **Staff training** - There is a wide range of training and development offered to staff throughout the year. This includes staff briefings, Locality conference, Looked after Children conferences. All staff are subject to individual Employee Development Review meetings.

2. Development and changes within the Service

2.1 Recruitment, Training and Assessment of Foster Carers.

The current aim is to increase in-house fostering provision and address the imbalance between this and externally purchased placements by increasing the former.

Our strategy is based on developing a mixed economy of provision, combining directly managed with commissioned resources. The recruitment, training and assessment of the department own foster carers are central to the success of this strategy.

Resulting from the termination of the relationship between Wolverhampton City Council and Five Rivers in March 2013, the Fostering Service has reverted to undertake its own Recruitment, Initial Assessment and Training processes. This is supported by the City Council's call centre, City Direct, who handle all the initial screening of fostering enquiries.

The councils Communication and Marketing Department lead officer, Mel Potter, supports this process and we have devised a Recruitment Strategy and an Action

Plan which we are currently implementing. This culminated in a Fostering campaign during Fostering Fortnight (13-28 May)

The Recruitment process:

Enquiries

- Prospective foster carers are sent information about fostering within one working day of enquiring.
- Prospective carers are offered an Initial home visit from a fostering social worker within 5 days of their contact.
- Applicants must attend preparation training, which is run over 4 days, every two months
- Full statutory checks and references are undertaken on all applicants and DBS checks are made on any other adults or young persons in the household over the age of 18 years.

Assessments

Due to the decommissioning arrangements between Wolverhampton City Council and Five Rivers, Wolverhampton City Council has tendered for a new multi supplier framework agreement to carry out and ensure timely completion of comprehensive and high quality form F assessments of prospective foster carers, to assist in increasing the available pool of high quality internal foster carers. The tender was successful in securing three service providers. They are Core Assets, Children Services, Sanctuary Personnel Ltd, and Minster Social Work, all are Independent Fostering Agencies, and will be responsible for assessing prospective foster carers who are able to provide a non-stigmatised, safe, stable, caring, homely environment for looked after children and young people.

3. Keep Foster Carers and Adopters supported and Trained (KEEP)

3.1 Wolverhampton, Sandwell, Dudley and Walsall are currently collaborating in this partnership arrangement to deliver evidence based specialist services for looked after children, with Dudley as the lead authority. The funding was agreed by the Department of Education (DfE) and the project started in December 2011. The focus of the intervention is primarily on strengthening foster carer's parenting skills and confidence. It is a 90 minute weekly group program led by a trained facilitator plus a co-facilitator which runs over 16 weeks. The program has a specific 13 week curriculum, and extra sessions. There is now a support group in place, which is supported by a clinical psychologist.

Aims of KEEP

- Increase the parenting skills of carers
- Decrease the number of placement disruptions
- Improve outcomes for children
- Maintain placement stability.

Total numbers of Foster Carers trained to date = 21

Total number of Foster carers on current training programme = 06

Total number of placement disruption within this group of carers = 1

4. Family Finding for Permanency

There are currently 74 children awaiting permanent placements with foster carers. This comprises of children placed within internal and external resources. The length of time children wait for their permanency plans to be secured is variable.

In 2012/13 we secured 13 children with permanent foster parents, with other linkings planned and scheduled throughout the year. This area of work is subject to monitoring under the LAC Performance monitoring framework on a monthly basis

5. Family and Friends Carers

5.1 Viability Assessments

The introduction of the 1989 Children Act, Care Planning and Case Review (2010) Family and Friends Guidance 2011, Fostering Regulations 2011, and the 26 weeks Care Planning court process which sets out the requirements and arrangements for placing children in care of the local authority, with parents, Family and Friends or other Connected persons has led to a significant increase in the work relating to Children placed with Family and Friends (Connected persons). Viability assessments are completed by the Fostering team as part of the Family and Friends Connected person's process and are usually dictated by the court process.

We continue to see marked increase in referrals for these assessments and the work undertaken between 1st April 2012 and 31st March 2013 includes 14 Schedule 4 reports, 106 completed Viability assessment reports, and 13 Family and Friends foster carers presented to the foster panel.

Numbers of approved Family & Friends in Fostering Service	57
Numbers of Family & Friends Approvals	13
Numbers of Family & Family assessments allocated	13
Numbers of outstanding Viability Assessments	11
Numbers of completed Viability Assessments recommended	32
Numbers of Viability Assessment not recommended	74

6. Short Break Scheme

This work provides support to disabled children and young people and their families by offering short term breaks. There are currently 2 carers, providing 3 placements for children. Over this period, we have seen families choose to use the direct payment option to support their need. We continue to work with our colleagues in the Disabled Children and Young People's Team whereby we explore other opportunities for families.

7. Private Fostering Arrangements

Over the last year we have concentrated our awareness and publicity campaign on child care and health professionals, so that they are aware of the Private Fostering arrangements and the need to refer children who may be privately fostered.

- October 2012, information leaflet went into pay packet of all city council employees. At the same time leaflets were enlarged and used in a display at the Central Library.
- The Parenting Institute ran a 'Parents 'week called 'Make a moment, encouraging parents to give their children quality time throughout their childhood. . This ran for a week, and Library staff afforded time for us to network and leave literature with the parenting groups in operation at the time.
- We have undertaken a series of Information sessions to Health Visitors, Midwives and Community Mental Health Teams in the city.
- The Health sector has been most proactive as Champions for Private Fostering and in disseminating information.
- We have worked with Wolverhampton Football Club who had two privately fostered children within their intensive training programme.
- Information and briefings sessions have also been delivered to various teams within the city; for example, Multi Agency Support teams (MAST), Children's Centres, Disabled Children and Young People's Team and Locality teams.
- The Engage site which is managed by the Private Fostering social worker is a dedicated and interactive site for Private Fostering in the education sector is in place.

Private Fostering Arrangements details as at March 31st 2013

- There were 14 cases of Private fostering arrangements which comprises of the following:
 - 11 were in assessments and from those 11 the following occurred :
 - 2 were disqualified
 - 1 child returned to their parents within a week of the process.

- 1 child returned home after 9 weeks with the carer.
- 2 assessments are currently in process.
- 3 families obtained Special Guardianships Orders
- 2 young person's no longer met the requirement due to becoming 16
- 3 were closed

Plans are in place to include Private Fostering as part of the Induction training programme for new workers to the city.

8. Recruitment of Foster Carers as undertaken by Five Rivers

8.1 Recruitment, Initial Training and Assessment.

The contractual arrangement which started with Five Rivers on the 1st April 2011 was for the whole of the recruitment service and was contracted to provide 70 mainstream placements over a three year period. However in September 2012 Wolverhampton City Council became concerned that Five Rivers were not meeting the contractual agreement of the contract, in that they failed to deliver the quota of assessments agreed. Therefore a formal notice of non-compliance was issued.

Unfortunately, due to staffing difficulties experienced by Five Rivers the situation did not improve. Consequently, Wolverhampton City terminated its formal contractual arrangement with Five Rivers in March 2013. This means that Five Rivers involvement in actively recruiting foster carers for Wolverhampton stopped on the 1st March 2013, with calls now been screened locally by City Direct. However Five Rivers continues to process those enquiries which came through before that date.

8.2 Enquiry levels 1st April 2012 – 31st March 13

April	14
May	16
June	23
July	08
August	10
September	00
October	02
November	21
December	08
January	20
February	03
March	29
Total	154
Initial Assessments	37
Conversions	24%
Skills to Foster	06

Approvals	2
Conversion	33%

8.3 Systems for processing Initial Enquiries

The process for initial enquiries from prospective foster carers changed in April 2011 when Five Rivers became the preferred provider for Referral, Initial Training and Assessments (RITA). Prior to this, the full responsibility rested with Wolverhampton Fostering Service.

Since February 2013, Wolverhampton City Fostering service through City Direct, contact centre has managed the contact and enquiry from prospective fostering applicants

Initial Assessments take the form of a home visit and are completed within five days of the initial enquiry by Fostering Social Workers.

8.4 Enquiries by source of marketing methods

The information recorded by Five Rivers appears to indicate that by far the greatest rate of enquiries throughout 2012-2013 has been received from Wolverhampton City Council. This is via direct telephone contact or from the Wolverhampton website.

Since the return of the Contact and Enquiry process to Wolverhampton City, we have seen a steady flow of enquiries, and this has been further supported by the National Fostering Fortnight 13th-28th May 2013, which has helped to raise fostering profile. The work of the Marketing team also supported this, and Wolverhampton City had several articles in the press and on its website. This culminated in an Information event, which generated encouraging interest in fostering for Wolverhampton

Illustration of Interest Re: Enquiries since contract returned to Wolverhampton City Council

Fostering calls	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	TOTAL
W/C 29.04.13	5	5	5	5	5	17
W/C 06.05.13	0	5	0	4	9	18
W/C 13.05.13	7	4	2	5	14	32
W/C 25.05.13	16	8	9	13	9	55

8.5 Preparation and Assessment Courses.

The Skills to Foster preparatory training returned to the responsibility of Wolverhampton Fostering in February 2013, and we have skilled facilitators who will undertake the training throughout the year.

9. Approved Foster Carers

9.1 How many applications were received for the year?

It was expected that the commissioning arrangements with Five Rivers would have provided 30 placements between this review period. Unfortunately, the contract expectation has not delivered the target agreed.

Between 1st April 2012 to 31st March 2013, 05 new temporary fostering households were approved by Fostering Panel.

There were also 13 Family and Friends carers approved as foster carers.

On the 31st March 2013 there were 650 Looked After Children, of these, 260 children were in Internal Foster placements (excluding Friends and Family), 57 were in Friends and Family Placements, making a total internal foster placements (including Friends and Family) of 320. There are over 300 Looked After Children in Independent Fostering Agency placements (IFA).

Within the Looked After Children population the number of children continues to rise which has resulted in the use of increased IFA placements. We have tried to mitigate against this by applying thorough pragmatic strategic focus and direction. There are co-ordinated multi agency strategies to carefully manage the child's pathway into care. We have also been able to provide an increase in our internal Residential placements to support placement planning.

Amongst other things, we have transformed the quality of our in house placements as well as improving the experience for children and young people by the range of support provided, which has helped to prevent placement disruption and the need to place externally.

We continue to adopt practical approaches by extending and changing foster carer's approval category, therefore helping to assist in flexible placements options and choices for looked after children. The new in house recruitment strategy is seeking to have a wider approval category, thus providing a greater range of placement options and choices.

This will further be enhanced as we see more take up of Family and Friends assessments and applications for conversion into Special Guardianship and Residence Orders. Carers who want to, and express a wish to offer looked after children a permanent home are actively encouraged to do so. This is an area of work which is attracting a more focused rigor under Performance Management.

On the 31st March there were 334 approved placements as follows:-

Temporary	246
Permanent	26
Short breaks	02
Family and Friends	57
Private Fostering	03

Ethnic breakdown of carers is as follows (this includes the main carers and their partners):-

Asian / Brit - Indian	16
Asian / Brit - Pakistani	3
Asian / Brit -Other Asian	2
Black / Brit - Caribbean	28
Black / Brit - Other black	7
Mixed - White/Black Carib	3
Other ethnic group	1
White - Other	1
White British	272
White Irish	1
Grand Total	334

10. Number of De –Registration

There were 4 households lost in 2012/13 This is an improvement upon 2011-12 figures when 7 households were lost .

The reasons for de-registration were :

- Young person now 18 years 2
- Retired 1
- Child care concerns 1

11. Supervision, Support and Reviewing

All Foster carers are required to meet the Children's Workforce Development Council [CWDC] Training, Support and Development Standards. These standards set out the framework for the development of carers over the first 2 years of approval and for Continuing Professional Development. All carers complete Pre Approval training (Skills to Foster) in order to help them meet the initial challenges of Fostering.

11.1 Post Approval

The Children's Workforce Development Council (CWDC) Training Support and Development Standards for Foster carers is firmly in situ and now managed through yearly reviews of foster carers Personal Development Plans which are carried out by their Supervising Social Workers. Foster Carers have given valuable support in acting as mentors to less confident and experienced foster carers. To date we have over 230 carers who have successfully completed their workbooks.

Upon approval all Wolverhampton foster carers have access to the following support:-

- A written foster care agreement, between Wolverhampton City Council and the carer.
- An allocated Supervising Social worker who visits weekly for up to six weeks and then every 6 weeks to assist with their training and development needs, to monitor the placement and to provide practical day-to-day advice on caring issues, behaviour management, or difficult situations in the placement contact is maintained between planned visits.
- A foster carer handbook summarising policies, procedures, and practical information relevant to the fostering task.
- Information on the Wolverhampton payment scheme.
- A recording folder to maintain records and documents pertaining to the children placed
- Wolverhampton's Foster Care Support Centre provides a monthly newsletter (Fostering News) which goes out to all foster carers. The department also pays the annual subscription fee to Fostering Network, which is the national representative body for fostering.
- A Safe Caring policy, which is intended to safeguard both the looked after child and the foster carer household.
- Access to fostering duty social worker 5 days each week to help in resolving matters in the absence of their social worker.
- Access to Placement Care Support to support children in placements.
- Access to Practice Managers to help resolve more complex matters or in the absence of their supervising worker
- Wolverhampton Fostering service also provides 24 hour support via Wolverhampton Foster Care Support Centre and the departmental evening and weekend Emergency Duty Team, which aims to compliment the Service provided by the fostering team.
- Support groups held at the centre and social events.

- Currently foster carers are involved in the delivery of training for other carers, and we involve young people who have been looked after and birth children of foster carers in training.

The birth children of foster carers are recognised as playing a crucial role in the success of Wolverhampton's fostering service.

12. Fostering payments

The Fostering Service has a comprehensive payments structure in place for foster carers. Foster carers are paid fostering allowances for the child in placement and Recruitment, and Retention (R&R). Recruitment and Retention payments is a fee which is based on the length of time carers have been an approved carer for Wolverhampton City Council, and the fostering allowances are based on the age of child/children in the particular placement at the time.

The fostering allowances are reviewed annually in April and are increased in line with the allowances recommended by the Fostering Network.

13. Fostering Allowances 2012-13

Age of Child	Weekly Allowances
0-4	137.18
5-10	156.26
11-15	194.53
16+	236.64

14. Recruitment and Retention 2012 - 13

Years as a Wolverhampton Foster Carer	Weekly payment
0-2 YEARS	£170.57
2+	£181.23
3+	£191.89
4+	£202.55
5+	£213.21
6+	£223.88
7+	£234.53

8+	£245.19
9+	£255.88

15. Annual Review of Foster Carers

Foster carers are reviewed on an annual basis by Independent Reviewing Officers. Social workers and children are given the opportunity to have an input into this process. This will involve the carer meeting with the independent reviewing officer. The reviewing officer will discuss the activity of a foster carer to ensure the carer continues to be suitable to act as a foster carer, and the household is a suitable premise. The reviewing officer will seek the views of the foster carer, the foster child (subject to the child's age and understanding) the child's social worker, the Supervising Social Worker, the Workforce Development Officer and any other relevant and appropriate person. The review is also an opportunity for the carer to review the service and support given to them. The reviewing officer, on conclusion of the review will provide a written report. The report sets out whether the carer continues to be suitable to act as a foster carer and the household continues to be suitable, and that the terms of the carer's approval continue to be appropriate. A foster home review may be more frequent if, for example, carers have moved home or there is some significant change in their household. The Foster Home Review takes into account the foster carers training and development needs. The fostering panel receives a written report from the first review and makes recommendations which are sent to the decision maker. Written confirmation of the discussion and decision of the fostering panel is then forwarded to the carer.

All carers are expected to commit to working to continuous development. This involves a training and development plan which is reviewed and updated each year. Carers undertake any development training identified under their Individual Development Plan, this might comprise of both mandatory, optional and refresher modules. The Service provides in house NVQ Level 2 - 3 training via the fostering services designated training officer.

16. Fostering Panel

16.1 Current Panel membership:

Chair - Independent	Di Brady
Vice Chair – Independent	Gloria Saunders
Panel Adviser	Daphne Atkinson
Legal Adviser	Tracey Christie
Panel Administrator	Sarbjit Singh
Education Representative	Anne Foster
Independent Member	Sue Partoon (Independent Foster Carer)
Multi Agency Support Team	Ros Simpson
Social Work representative	Jo Roberts
Independent Member	Annette Richards

Council Member - Under the new fostering regulations there is not a requirement for an Elected Member to be a panel member. However it is recognised that as part of their role as corporate parents, they may make a valuable contribution as panel members.

16.2 Panel Member vacancies

The new Fostering Regulations and National Minimum Standards 2011 dictate that panel is now quorate with 5 members which we currently have. However, it states that the Fostering Service should operate a central list of members in order to fulfil its role and responsibilities, and to prevent disruption to the care planning process. Fostering Panel now operates a central list of members which fulfils the requirements under these regulations. Recently we have received 15 referrals from workers expressing an interest in becoming panel members. These will be processed over the next few weeks.

16.3 Panel workload

Business Activity from 1st April 2012 – March 2013

The work of the Panel included:

New mainstream foster carers approval	05
New Family and Friends approval	13
Foster home Reviews	16
Approval of long term foster care plans for children	45
Request for changes to the foster care approval	09
Matches of permanency for children with foster carers.	13
Allegations, complaints and issues of serious concerns relating to foster carers	01
Deregistration	04
Assessments not approved	05

The Fostering Panel continues to meet twice monthly and heard a total 110 cases.

16.4 Panel training

Panel members receive briefings and trainings. They are due to undertake training in respect to concurrent planning in June 2013, Adoption changes, Care Planning and court process in October 2013.

16.5 Fostering Panel appraisals

All Fostering Panel members received appraisals once each year. The Chair's appraisal is carried out by the Agency Decision Maker.

17. Wolverhampton Foster Care Support Services (Heantun Child Care)

Foster Carers Support Contract

17.1 The new foster carer support contract Heantun Child Care, began on the 1st June 2012. The project is located at the Children's Centre in Bushbury, Low Hill. Their aim is to provide a range of high quality supportive services to foster carers which include:

- 24/7 Telephone support help line
- A Buddy scheme
- foster carers forum
- initial visits to all new carers
- crèche facilities
- training facilities
- support with recruitment
- Thematic Groups
- Text contact to carers
- participates with the service in developing and reviewing policies and procedures

Total number of training groups held up to March 2013	38
Total number of carers utilising the service up to March 2013	120
Total hours of support offered up to March 2013	100hrs
Total numbers of children utilising the service up to March 2013	25

The Fostering Service manager meets with Heantun manager on a monthly basis and attends the foster carers forums every 3 months, or more often if requested. This is to listen to the voice of carers and to provide updates on new initiatives or changes within the service.

Additionally, the Senior Managers Group meets with the Foster Support Centre management team every quarter. This is primarily to monitor the Foster Care contract to ensure it is working in the interest of foster carers.

18. Policies and procedures

The Fostering Statement of Purpose is currently under review, this is to reflect the changes within revised statutory guidance and regulations and service changes. Policies are regularly updated in line with new guidance.

19. Allegations and Complaints

During this period there were 12 allegations against foster carers which were investigated in line with Safeguarding Procedures.

20. Complaints against the Service

During this period there were 5 complaints against the service which were investigated within timescales. These complaints were largely regarding fostering team processes. Resulting from these complaints we have reviewed and amended fostering handbook and policy and procedures.

21. Ofsted Inspection

The last Fostering Inspection was carried out in February 2012. The service received a rating of good in all areas. There were no actions under the notice of 'Requirement to Improve', there were however three recommendations.

"Continue to implement an effective strategy to ensure sufficient foster carers to be responsive to current and predicated future demands on the service, including short breaks foster carers for disabled children".

Our recruitment strategy and Inspection Improvement plans sets out our proposals for recruiting foster carers over the next year. This will be closely monitored by Children's Senior Management group to ensure targets are met.

"Ensure each foster carer maintain training and development portfolios, which demonstrate how they are meeting the skills required of them, with regards to each foster carer in each in each household".

We provide training for all foster carers and this is now identified on their Personal Development Plan, which is reviewed every six months.

"Undertake at least one unannounced visit a year to each foster carer".

Our unannounced visits rate have greatly improved to a completion rate of 85 per cent. However we continue to strive to increase this even further.

22. Regional Developments

Wolverhampton continues to be a member of the West Midlands Regional Family Placement Consortium (WMRFPC), along with 13 other West Midlands Local Authorities and voluntary agencies. The Consortium meets bi-monthly. The Team Manager for Fostering Service attends. Discussions have centred on development of

policy, procedural and practice issues, for example, the new connected persons assessments, fostering allowances, recruitment, developing a common assessment framework, and more recently, development of a Black Country collaboration for recruitment, similar to the ABC project.

23. Future Developments

- Reduce the reliance on external fostering service providers by increasing internal local capacity, through an effective partnership with the Form F framework providers .
- Continue to support carers to acquire accreditation in relation to the CWDC induction standards.
- Under the corporate parenting initiative we have the opportunity to have an Apprentice in the service .This will be to support and mentor foster children in education and other practical aspect of their lives.
- Continue to develop partnership arrangements with Black Country colleagues to share best practice, and to realise other initiatives.
- Progress the New operating Model when this is implemented within LAC.
- Work in partnership with Adoption colleagues to implement the new Adoption changes in respect to Concurrent Planning, and Foster to Adopt.

**Daphne Atkinson
Team Manager
Fostering Service**

Wolverhampton City Council

OPEN DECISION ITEMCorporate Parenting BoardDate: **26 JUNE 2013****Originating Service Group(s) LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN****Contact Officer(s)/
Telephone Number(s) LORNA TULL
Ext 3887****Title: CORPORATE PARENTING ACTION PLAN 2012/13 AND 2013/14**

SUMMARY**1 PURPOSE**

- 1.1 To share with the Corporate Parenting Board the update of the Corporate Parenting Strategic action plan 2012/13.
- 1.2 The attached Corporate Parenting Action Plan details in full progress made against the agreed actions, those not achieved in 2012/13 will be carried over to the 2013/14 action plan.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Corporate Parenting Action Plan for 2012/13 is received and noted and key actions not achieved are rolled over to the 2013/14 action plan.
- 2.2 That the Corporate Parenting Action Plan for 2013/14 be approved.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The Corporate Parenting Strategy is funded through the Care Matters Budget. The approved budget allocation for 2012/13 was £221,000; all costs incurred during the financial year were contained from within the budget.
- 3.2 The approved budget for Care Matters for 2013/14 is £177,000.
- 3.3 Any costs associated with implementing the Corporate Parenting Action Plan for 2013/14 will be contained within the approved budget for 2013/14.
- 3.4 The budget allows for a number of Corporate Parenting associated posts to be employed together with organising corporate parenting events and participation that includes Children in Care Council. [MA/20062013/J]

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Wolverhampton City Council as a whole has a legal responsibility and duty to act as a 'corporate parent' by co-operating in promoting welfare for all looked after children and young people. These duties and responsibilities are set out in statutory guidance, the Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000 and the duties to promote the welfare of Looked after

5. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The national outcomes for looked after children and care leavers are below their peers, the action plan is designed to have a positive and beneficial impact on some of the most disadvantaged and deprived children and young people within the city. The implementation of the action plan will significantly contribute towards improving and enhancing the outcomes and life chances of looked after children and young people.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no environment implications.

Completed/progressing in timescale

Not completed in timescale/not on target

Not started yet – within timescale

Action Plan 2013-14

<p>Outcome (what is to be achieved)</p> <p>A Corporate Strategic Commitment</p>	<p>Target and timescale</p> <p>By March 2014:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raised awareness of Looked after Children and Corporate Parenting responsibilities across authority and partners. • To embed Corporate Parenting across the authority and partners. 	<p>Lead Officer accountable</p> <p>Emma Bennett / Lorna Tull</p> <hr/> <p>Assistant Director accountable</p> <p>John Welsby</p>	
<p>Key actions to achieve outcome (what)</p>	<p>Who</p>	<p>By when</p>	<p>Six month update</p>
<p>Implement Council Policy to offer extended paid and unpaid leave to employees and Members who become approved as Foster Carers or prospective adopters for the Council.</p>	<p>LAC service Human Resources</p> <p>Sue Davies HOS</p>	<p>August 2013</p>	<p>Policy in draft form, awaiting approval</p>
<p>Implement new programme of raising awareness of Corporate Parenting responsibilities for all council staff and partner agencies through training and communication activities</p>	<p>Lorna Tull</p>	<p>March 2014</p>	<p>Further events are planned for over the next 6 months</p>

<p>Outcome (what is to be achieved)</p> <p>Ensure the Positive Active Participation and involvement of all LAC and Care Leavers.</p>	<p>Target and timescale</p> <p>By March 2014:</p> <p>Increase access to participation opportunities</p>	<p>Lead Officer accountable</p> <p>Emma Bennett / Lorna Tull</p>	
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	<p>specifically for Looked after Children.</p> <p>Facilitate Looked After Children's access to wider participation opportunities</p> <p>Ensure Looked after Children are involved in the training and recruitment & selection of staff.</p>	<p>Assistant Director accountable</p> <p>John Welsby</p>
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Key actions to achieve outcome (what)	Who	By when	Six month update
Establish 3 focus groups to ascertain the views and experience of parents of looked after children and young people.	<p>LAC service</p> <p>Lorna Tull</p>	March 2014	
Key actions to achieve outcome (what)	Who	By when	Six month update
Robust links to be developed with the Local Neighbourhood Partnership to ensure LAC and CL's participation in localised decision making.	<p>LAC service</p> <p>Local Neighbourhood partnership</p> <p>Lorna Tull</p>	March 2014	
Increase the number of children and young people involved in corporate parenting activities and events by organising two 2 road shows to promote participation and engagement.	Lorna Tull	December 2013	

Deliver Participation and Engagement Road shows for staff across Children, Young People's and Families services.	Lorna Tull	February 2013	
To hold and deliver 4 Total Respect training events for multi-agency partners.	Lorna Tull	March 2013	

Outcome (what is to be achieved) Improved access to universal services for all LAC and care-leavers.	Target and timescale By March 2014: Raised awareness of services available and the value of services to LAC/CLs and Carers. Increase number of LAC and CL currently accessing universal services. Increase level of support given to WCC Foster Carers and prospective adopters by universal services	Lead Officer accountable Emma Bennett / Lorna Tull	
		Assistant Director accountable John Welsby	
Key actions to achieve outcome (what)	Who	By when	Six month update

Negotiate for a proportion of tickets for council organised events to be ring fenced for looked after children and young people	Lorna Tull	December 2013	
Leisure Pass for LAC and CL to be approved by Leisure Services	Leisure Services Tina Clarke	October 2013	
Establish links with Regeneration and Environment services to explore the availability of alternative support package for Foster Carers and prospective adopters	LAC service Regeneration and Environment	December 2013	
Increase engagement with third sector organisations in relation to Corporate Parenting	LAC service Third Sector Lorna Tull	March 2014	

Outcome (what is to be achieved) Improve outcomes for Looked after Children in Health, Education, Placements and Transitions	Target and timescale By March 2014: An increase in placement availability and stability. Improved education attainment for LAC. Improved health outcomes for Lac and CLs. Improved transitions for CLs into independence	Lead Officer accountable Emma Bennett / Lorna Tull	
		Assistant Director accountable John Welsby	
Key actions to achieve outcome (what)	Who	By when	Six month update
Promote understanding of looked after children for all school staff through delivering Total Respect Training	Lorna Tull		

Promote and increase opportunities for Looked after Children to engage with Further Education/University	LAC service Anne Foster 01902 556951 Sharon Green 01902553001	January 2014	
Key actions to achieve outcome (what)	Who	By when	Six month update
Improved transitions for CLs into independence			
Ensure that LAC apprenticeship's have access to Council to appropriate internal training courses and professional development.	LAC Service Workforce Development Sue Davies 01902 554056 Lorna Tull	January 2013	

Completed/progressing in timescale

Not completed in timescale/not on target

Not started yet – within timescale

<p>Outcome (what is to be achieved)</p> <p>A Corporate Strategic Commitment</p>	<p>Target and timescale</p> <p>By March 2012:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raised awareness of Looked after Children and Corporate Parenting responsibilities across authority and partners. • To embed Corporate Parenting across the authority and partners. 		<p>Lead Officer accountable</p> <p>Emma Bennett / Lorna Tull</p>
<p>Key actions to achieve outcome (what)</p>	<p>Who</p>	<p>By when</p>	<p>Six month update</p>
<p>Communication strategy in relation to Corporate Parenting and Looked after Children/Care Leavers to be continued</p>	<p>Communications</p> <p>Helen Heywood Marketing Manager 01902 555496</p> <p>Mel Potter- Marketing Comm Officer 01902 552456</p>	<p>March 2013</p>	<p>Corporate Parenting radio advert created and to be rolled out first week of Sept on Free Radio</p> <p>On-going internal and external good news stories including use of council facebook and twitter</p>

Total Respect training rolled out to CFMT staff, CPP and CPSG	LAC service Workforce Development Sue Davies HOS 01902 554056	September 2012	CPP trained 25 th August CPSG trained 6 th August Staff from C&F staff x 4 training sessions – approx. 60 staff
Implement Council Policy to offer extended paid and unpaid leave to employees and Members who become approved as Foster Carers or prospective adopters for the Council.	LAC service Human Resources Sue Davies HOS 01902 554056	September 2012	Still awaiting Human Resources to update
Corporate Parenting responsibilities to be included in all new job descriptions for Wolverhampton City Council employees.	Human Resources Sue Davies HOS 01902 554056	September 2012	This has been agreed for all new Job Descriptions and rolled out across the council
Raise agenda of Corporate Parenting at strategic level	LAC service Emma Bennett 01902 553035	March 2013	Presentations/report given at scrutiny 5 th Sept and Directions conference 7 th Sept
Implement and evaluate pilot of Role Model scheme	LAC service Anne Foster 01902 556951	September 2012	Role Model programme being piloted, 5 LAC been linked and accessing programme
Extend membership of Corporate Parenting Strategic group	LAC service CPSG Lorna Tull 01902 553887	September 2012	Following presentation at Direction Conference a number of HOS have expressed an interest in joining the group.
Establish a Corporate Parenting week	LAC service Communications	September 2012	Wolverhampton Corporate Parenting week – 3 – 7 th Sept, to include radio campaigns, exhibition in civic, conference etc.

<p>Outcome (what is to be achieved)</p> <p>Ensure the Positive Active Participation and involvement of all LAC and Care Leavers.</p>	<p>Target and timescale</p> <p>By March 2013:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase access to participation opportunities specifically for Looked after Children. • Facilitate Looked After Children's access to wider participation opportunities • Ensure Looked after Children are involved in the training and recruitment & selection of staff. 	<p>Lead Officer accountable</p> <p>Emma Bennett / Jenny Cockcroft</p>	<p>Assistant Director accountable</p> <p>John Welsby</p>
Key actions to achieve outcome (what)	Who	By when	Six month update
Implement Children in Care Council action plan	LAC service CICC	March 2013	2011-12 action plan met. CICC developed action plan for 2012-13.
Strengthen links with Youth Council and other participation forums	LAC service CICC	September 2012	Agreed that Youth Council and CICC have two annual away days. Chair of both councils to present a report of their work at the other council annually. First away day August 2012
Roll out and evaluate effectiveness of LAC website	LAC service	September 2012	Website ready for consultation with LAC and staff
Implement LILAC action plan / recommendations	CFMT Steve Cox Deputy Head of LAC Service 01902553832	March 2013	Draft report received from LILAC, met 5 out of 7 standards. Action plan to be developed once received final report.
Provision of training for LAC in chairing their own reviews/increasing confidence in meetings	LAC service Safeguarding	March 2013	CICC identified as action in their plan for 2012-13.

Establish consultation forum with parents of Looked after Children	LAC service Lorna Tull	March 2013	This action will be revised and rolled over to action plan for 2013/14
Develop a programme of intergenerational work for LAC and CLS	LAC service	March 2013	This action will be revised and rolled over to the action plan for 2013/14
Increase Looked after Children's involvement in the recruitment and training of Foster Carers and Adopters	LAC service Fiver Rivers ABC Daphe Atkinson Fostering Team Manager 01902 553068	March 2013	Recruitment and STF have now returned to our internal resource, the arrangement will be reviewed April 2014. We will explore with CICC how they can be involved in the review and support these initiatives.
Robust links to be developed with the Local Neighbourhood Partnership to ensure LAC and CL's participation in localised decision making.	LAC service Local Neighbourhood partnership Lorna Tull Steve Cox Deputy Head of LAC Service 01902553832	March 2013	This action will be revised and rolled over to action plan for 2013/14

<p>Outcome (what is to be achieved)</p> <p>Improved access to universal services for all LAC and care-leavers.</p>	<p>Target and timescale</p> <p>By March 2013:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raised awareness of services available and the value of services to LAC/CLs and Carers. • Increase number of LAC and CL currently accessing universal services. • Increase level of support given to WCC Foster Carers and prospective adopters by universal services 		<p>Lead Officer accountable</p> <p>Emma Bennett / Jenny Cockcroft</p> <hr/> <p>Assistant Director accountable</p> <p>John Welsby</p>
<p>Key actions to achieve outcome (what)</p>	<p>Who</p>	<p>By when</p>	<p>Six month update</p>
<p>Increase LAC access of Council delivered services involved with provision of positive activities through targeted work, training opportunities, fun days, advertisement etc</p>	<p>Youth Service Play Service Arts & Museums Library Service Leisure Service</p>	<p>March 2013</p>	<p>Multi-agency training delivered to foster carers, April 2012. Over 150 carers and LAC attended fun day. All LAC 8 years + have library card. Joint project work with art service Adventure playgrounds being accessed as contact venue</p>
<p>Leisure Pass for LAC and CL to be approved by Leisure Trust</p>	<p>Leisure Trust Ian Bosworth Partnership Manager 01902555113</p>	<p>September 2012</p>	<p>This action will be revised and rolled over to action plan for 2013/14</p>
<p>Regeneration and Environment make clear a support package for Foster Carers and prospective adopters</p>	<p>LAC service Regeneration and Environment</p>	<p>September 2012</p>	<p>This action will be revised and rolled over to action plan for 2013/14</p>

Raised awareness of Corporate Parenting responsibility of Wolverhampton Homes	Wolverhampton Homes LAC service	March 2013	Allocation policy amended to allow care leavers to remain in their property Wolverhampton Homes representation now on CPSG Wolverhampton Homes to offer training to Care Leavers on maintain property
Ensure appropriate take up of Two year offer for LAC.	Early Years	March 2013	Promotional material being developed and distributed in Sept 2012
Universal Services working group to explore joint funding opportunities for LAC	Universal services working group	March 2013	Sibling camp & young parents project funded through PAYP Art Service joint funded Same as Me – Simon's Story film
Training for wider workforce on issues relating to LAC/CLs	LAC service	September 2012	Corporate Parenting conference, Sept 2012 Total Respect training
Increase engagement with third sector organisations in relation to Corporate Parenting	LAC service Third Sector	March 2013	This action will be revised and rolled over to action plan for 2013/14

<p>Outcome (what is to be achieved)</p> <p>Improve outcomes for Looked after Children in Health, Education, Placements and Transitions</p>	<p>Target and timescale</p> <p>By March 2012:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An increase in placement availability and stability. • Improved education attainment for LAC. • Improved health outcomes for Lac and CLs. • Improved transitions for CLs into independence 		<p>Lead Officer accountable</p> <p>Emma Bennett / Jenny Cockcroft</p>
		<p>Assistant Director accountable</p> <p>John Welsby</p>	
<p>Key actions to achieve outcome (what)</p>	<p>Who</p>	<p>By when</p>	<p>Six month update</p>
<p>Placement availability and stability</p>			
<p>Develop Council and Partner contact venues and create links with external organisations for contact activities</p>	<p>LAC service Council wide</p>	<p>September 2012</p>	<p>MAX cards ordered for all LAC aged 4 years and over. Will allow LAC and another child and two carers free access to a variety of venues. 2 cards ordered per team for contact.</p>
<p>Deliver KEEP programme to internal foster carers</p>	<p>LAC service Daphe Atkinson Fostering Team Manager</p>	<p>March 2013</p>	<p>We have successfully delivered three KEEP training and currently onto our fourth group. All carers have been very enthusiastic and reported more stable placements, The facilitators have reported a decrease in disruption meetings, We have also started KEEP support group which is supported by a psychologist.</p>

Implement Multi-Dimensional Treatment Foster Care programme	LAC Service Black Country partnership Alison Hinds Team Manager 01902 556180	March 2013	Planned for first MTFC placement in Jan 2012
Develop plan for the provision of fostering RITA post March 2013 and explore further marketing opportunities	LAC service Daphe Atkinson Team Manager 01902 553068	March 2013	October 2012, LAC Commissioning panel approved plan of mixed economy for assessments. We have now secured a framework arrangement with named providers to deliver 25 form F assessments each year.
To pilot KEEP training for adopters	LAC Service ABC Alison Hinds Team Manager 01902 556180	March 2013	Stakeholders events and awareness sessions in September. Training to be rolled out in Jan 2013.
Review the recruitment and assessment process and resourcing for adopters	LAC Service Commissioning	March 2013	Review now started. To be completed by November 2012. Grant secured and process in place.
Establish and progress a working group to embed recommendations of DfE in relation to adoption	LAC Service Alison Hinds Team Manager 01902 556180	March 2013	First meeting of Working Group took place on 8.8.12. Agreed to be Task and Finish Group, with work completed by Dec 2012.

Embed Merridale Street West during first year of implementation	LAC Service	March 2013	<p>Currently 3 young people in placement, full occupancy planned for end of August</p> <p>Steering group established and meeting monthly.</p>
Explore development of satellite 3 bedded unit for younger children	<p>LAC Service Commissioning</p> <p>Yvonne Nelson Brown Residential Operational Development Manager 01902 550182</p>	March 2013	<p>Offer made for purchase of existing private Children's Home in Wolverhampton. Report to be presented to LAC Commissioning Group in September regarding plans for implementation. A decision has been made not to proceed with another at this stage.</p>
Implement recommendations of Short Break Unit review.	<p>LAC Service Commissioning</p> <p>Yvonne Nelson Brown Residential Operational Development Manager 01902 550182</p>	March 2013	<p>Final Recommendations to be presented to LAC Commissioning Group in September 2012. Decision of review changed to include the other aspects of Disabled Children's Service and is now being led by commissioning. Completion date May 2013</p>

Improved education attainment for LAC.			
Implement restructure of LACE service following review recommendations	LAC service Emma Bennett Head of LAC Service 01902 553130	September 2012	LACE review completed. Draft report currently being finalised. Consultation with team and schools in September 2012.
Develop policy between WCC and Schools about processes prior to and following educational disruption	LAC Service Virtual School steering group Anne Foster 01902 556951	January 2013	This action will be revised and rolled over to action plan for 2013/14
Promote opportunities for Looked after Children to engage with Further Education/University	LAC service Anne Foster 01902 556951 Sharon Green 01902553001	January 2013	This action will be revised and rolled over to action plan for 2013/14
Improve links with Designated Teachers and Governors including training, forum and Virtual School steering group	LAC Service Schools Anne Foster 01902 556951	March 2013	Virtual school group established and Head teacher steering group meets termly. Each school has a LACE link
Improve quality and timeliness of PEPs	LAC Service Localities Schools Anne Foster 01902 556951 Shashi Sharama 01902 553957 Mike Williams 01902 553025	March 2013	PEPs P&P now approved. New forms to be launched and implemented in September 2012. QA work to begin September 2012. Current PEP Improvement plan in place and monitored via LAC Managers meeting.

Review LAC/CLs Connexions partnership agreement.	LAC Connexions Rosemary Robbins	January 2013	Completed February 2013
Re-develop policy and procedure and monitor Pupil Premium	LAC Service Anne Foster 01902 556951	January 2013	New policy has been approved. All PPG is distributed by LACE
Ensure that LAC have access to impartial IAG support during sixth form/FE and that progression plans are monitored and supported	Connexions LACE Rosemary Robbins Anne Foster 01902 556951	March 2013	All LAC in Post 16 have an assigned Personal Advisor. Progress report delayed due to redundancy programme with Connexions will be completed June 2013
Improved health outcomes for Lac and CLs			
Improve the sexual health behaviours of Looked After Children and Care Leavers	LAC Health Service/ Prevention Co-ordinator Young People's Sexual Health Services/ LAC Service	December 2012	20 drop in surgeries completed by LAC Nurse at Beldray over 6 months with 42 attendees. Drop In service to continue although room choice needs attention to be more yp friendly and confidential. LAC pregnancy group meetings continue. Joint training delivery from SA

			and LB detailed below. Pregnancy rate within LAC population remains low. AC Nurse and teen midwife working with LA Transitions Team to produce guidance for LA on supporting young LAC Mums and Dads to be.
Improve the awareness of sexual health service availability and further develop ease of access to services for Looked After Children and Care Leavers	LAC Health Service/ Prevention Co-ordinator Young People's Sexual Health Services/ LAC Service	December 2012	CAMHS service bespoke training delivered January 2013. LAC Transitions Team training planned April 2013. No uptake of training offers from LAC 1 and 2.
Ensure that key details of health services' involvement are identifiable on central records of individual Looked After Children and Care Leavers	LAC Service	December 2012	Will be part of carefirst review
Continue to develop systems and services which enable timely and effective health care service delivery to children placed out of city.	LAC Service LAC Health Service CAMHS Commissioning Services Mandy Viggers and Fiona Ellis	On-going Review December 2012	More challenging in 2013 due to commissioning changes

<p>Further strengthen partnership working between local services to support the mental health needs of individual Looked After Children and Care Leavers</p>	<p>CAMHS LAC Health Service LAC Service</p>	<p>December 2012</p>	<p>LAC Nurse continues to deliver tier 1&2 counselling and support to school age LAC population under CAMHS supervision.</p> <p>The work is proving effective in delivering structured counselling work allowing earlier intervention or prompt escalation to CAMHS as needed.</p> <p>Joint consultation sessions with CAMHS, LAC Nurse and Social Workers on-going</p>
<p>Explore delivery of Pillars of Parenting for Foster Carers</p>	<p>LAC Service CAMHS Social Inclusion Steve Cox Deputy Head of LAC Service 01902553832</p>	<p>March 2013</p>	<p>Foster carers have received KEEP training which more appropriate to the role.</p>
<p>Explore delivery of a consultation group/sessions for Foster Carers</p>	<p>LAC Service CAMHS Social Inclusion Daphe Atkinson Team Manager 01902 553068</p>	<p>January 2013</p>	<p>Throughout 2012 ,Fostering undertook various consultation groups session with F&F and mainstream foster.</p>

			<p>Our support services Heantun Care now hosts monthly forums for all carers ,and outcome issues from these meeting are fed into a committee steering group.</p> <p>Outcome reports are then reviewed at Senior Management group mth on a quarterly basis. .</p>
Produce Annual Health Reports which inform on health matters relating to Looked After Children and Care Leavers	<p>LAC Health Service CAMHS</p> <p>Mandy Viggers</p>	December 2012	<p>x2 Annual Reports presented to Corporate Parenting Panel September 2012 Next due 09.13</p>
Improved transitions for CLs into independence			
Formalise the relationship between recruitment of Foster Carers and Support Lodgings	<p>LAC Service Five Rivers YMCA</p> <p>Daphe Atkinson Team Manager 01902 553068 Sharon Green Team Manager 01902 553001</p>	January 2013	Link now established

Explore the option of a training flat as part of a suite of accommodation for Care Leavers	LAC Service Wolverhampton Homes Sharon Green Team Manager 01902 553001	March 2013	Being considered as part of support accommodation review – review due to be completed end of September.
Council to provide Care Leavers access to appropriate internal training courses	LAC Service Workforce Development Sue Davies 01902 554056	January 2013	This action will be revised and rolled over to action plan for 2013/14
Fully implement 14+ transitions team	LAC Service Sharon Green Team Manager 01902 553001	September 2012	14+ transition team in place
Improve links with Adults social care	LAC Service Adult Social care	March 2013	P&P regarding transition of LAC from Children's to Adults Scoail Care in process of being approved.
Improve numbers of Care Leavers engaged in education, employment and training	LAC Service Connexions	March 2013	41% of care leavers in EET 2 apprentices currently employed by the council EET Improvement Plan in place and monitored via C&FSMT.

Inform and support young people to understand and assume their responsibilities regarding RPA	Connexions LAC service Rosemary Robbins	March 2013	Information publications in place for young people and carers sessions devised for professional delivered in April 2013. Tracking of September Offer in place for all LAC
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Children, Young People and Families



Corporate Parenting Board

Members Visits to Children's
Homes

Wednesday 26th June 2013



Corporate Parenting

- “As the Corporate Parent of Children in care we have a special responsibility for their well being. Like any good parent, it should put it’s own children first. That means being a powerful advocate for them to receive the best of everything and helping them to make a success of their lives” (DCSF)
- The local authority must have the same interest in the progress and attainment of looked after children as a reasonable parent would Have for won children



Role of Elected Members

- All Elected Members are Corporate Parents
- Would this have been good enough for my child?
- Councillors have no greater responsibility than when they as corporate parent
- The Corporate Parenting panel have specific responsibilities



Children's Homes Regulations 2001

Management of Homes-Regulation

33

Where the registered provider is an organisation the home shall be visited in accordance with this regulation

Visits shall take place at least once a month and may be unannounced

The person carrying out the visit shall-

- a) Meet with children accommodated in the home
- b) Inspect the premises of the Children's Home
- c) Prepare a report



Purpose of Regulation 33 Visits

- Improve services for vulnerable children and adults
- Enables visitors to discharge their 'corporate parent' responsibility and be involved in the social care agenda
- Undertaken by Senior Manager of the City Council and members
- To complement the Ofsted inspections
- Providing a sense of what it is like to live in a children's Home



Objectives of Regulation 33 Visits

- Meet statutory requirement under the Children's Homes Regulation (2001)
- To extend the scope of the visit to look at specific issues (themes) in details
- To make a significant contribution to quality residential care for young people
- Monitoring the care provided and informing those responsible of the issues that need to be addressed



Role of the Visitor

- Look at the conduct of the home rather than its implementation of policy and procedure, guidance and regulations
- Eg exploring the culture, atmosphere, experience of living in, feeling, daily life, ambience, mood, spirit, regime, organisation and behaviour
- Report on how it feels to live in that home every day and how well the home is meeting the needs of the young people living there



Role of the Visitor

- They should hold no allegiance to adults who work in the home
- Role is to report on the quality of care
- To ask questions and explore the way the home is run
- The question that needs to be answered about every aspect of life in the Children's Homes is: how does it serve the interests of children and young people?

Children, Young People and Families



The Key Points of Regulation 33 Visits and Guidance

- Visits should be monthly (Rota)
- Visits should be unannounced
- A written report of the visit is required
- The visitor should be given access to the Regulation 33 reports and the home's responses
- Visitors should always report on their observations of children/young people



Preparing for Regulations 33 Visit

- Read the statement of Purpose of Children's Home's you visit to get to know the function of the home
- Read previous Regulation 33 reports and Registered Managers' responses to pick up any previous concerns
- Read the previous Ofsted inspection reports
- Note any Ofsted 'significant concerns' or any previous requirements not resolved
- Enquire about progress on these and note accordingly



Preparing for Regulation 33 Visit- continue

- Find out the home's usual routine, so that you can choose a time to visit when the young people are around (eg. What time the young people arrive from school)
- Ensure you carry your identity badge when identifying yourself to staff as the Councillor undertaking a Regulation 33 visit.
- To assist with all preparation issues, allow yourself more time to cover these on your first visit



Areas to Cover at Each Visit

- Physical condition of the house
- Health of the young people
- Education or training of young people
- Positive activities and involvement
- Transitions or leaving care
- Positive activities and involvement
- Complaints
- Staff recruitments, training and support



Do's

- Ask questions of the young people, find out about their education, health, living in the home, whether they get involved in positive activities and being prepared to live independently
- Speak with the staff, find out what it's like to work there, ask about the young people
- Have a look in all the rooms (children's bedroom only with their permission) inspect the physical condition of the home
- Give your feedback to the Manager to complete the report
- Approve the report once received and forward to Corporate Parenting Officer Lorna Tull



Don't

- Be on own with any child or young person
- Don't go into young people's bedroom without their permission
- Worry about it, you will be support at all times.

Elected Member visits to Children's Homes report

Name of establishment	
Address	
Name of registered manager	

Name of Elected Member	
Date and time of visit	
Duration of visit	
Date report sent to Registered Manager	

Name of person in charge at time of visit	
Names of other staff on duty	
Number of staff spoken to.	
Number of young people present at time of visit	
Number of young people spoken to.	
Initials of young people spoken to.	

Has the previous report been viewed? Yes No

It is not envisaged that each area for consideration will be reported on at each visit, however if there were specific actions for an area previously it would be useful to revisit this area.

AREAS FOR CONSIDERATION	THOUGHTS, COMMENTS, SUGGESTED ACTIONS	HAVE ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS REPORT BEEN MET?
<p>Physical condition of the house</p> <p>You could consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What's the general state of the home? • Have children personalised their rooms? • Is there a welcoming area they can entertain visitors? • Are residents able to (with supervision where appropriate) able to use the kitchen to make snacks, drinks, meals etc? • Does it feel like a home, rather than an institution? 		
<p>Health of the young people</p> <p>You could consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How is exercise promoted with the young people? • Are staff being proactive in promoting healthy lifestyles for young people? • Are young people supported to eat healthily? • Are young people given advice and support about relationships and sexual health? • Are young people given advice and support about smoking, alcohol and drugs. • How is young people's emotional health supported? • Do the young people feel enough is being done to keep them healthy? 	<p>Page 91 of 95</p>	

AREAS FOR CONSIDERATION	THOUGHTS, COMMENTS, SUGGESTED ACTIONS	HAVE ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS REPORT BEEN MET?
<p>Education or training of young people</p> <p>You could consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do all young people have a school place? • If a young person isn't attending education for some reason, what is being done to make sure they receive some continuity of education? • What practical arrangements are made for study and homework, are there books available in the home? • How is good performance at school encouraged and rewarded in the school? • Do staff attend open evenings etc where appropriate? • Do staff explore ideas about what young people would like to do when they leave school? • Do staff organise trips out or resources to help with course and school work? • Are the young people encouraged to use the library? 		
<p>Positive activities and involvement</p> <p>You could consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What sorts of activities are available for the young people to access? • What activities do young people currently access? • Do staff take part in activities with the young people? • Are young people supported to engage in life in their local community? • Are the young people supported to get involved in volunteering? • Do the young people take part in participation activities provided by WCC? • Are any of the young people involved with the CiCC • Do all young people attend the young people's meetings? • Do the young people feel they have any barriers to accessing positive activities? 	<p>Page 92 of 95</p>	

AREAS FOR CONSIDERATION	THOUGHTS, COMMENTS, SUGGESTED ACTIONS	HAVE ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS REPORT BEEN MET?
<p style="text-align: center;">Transitions or leaving care</p> <p style="text-align: center;">You could consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have the young people been given support in developing independent living skills? (eg budgeting, cooking, using public transport etc) • Are young people supported to get involved in work experience? • Are young people aware of where to go for help and support after they leave the home? • What support does the home offer the children after they leave? • Are young people supported with preparation for interviews? • How do the young people feel about living independently? • Are the young people feel encouraged and supported to attend further / higher education? 		
<p style="text-align: center;">Positive activities and involvement</p> <p style="text-align: center;">You could consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What sorts of activities are available for the young people to access? • What activities do young people currently access? • Do staff take part in activities with the young people? • Are young people supported to engage in life in their local community? • Are the young people supported to get involved in volunteering? • Do the young people take part in participation activities provided by WCC? • Are any of the young people involved with the CiCC • Do all young people attend the young people's meetings? 	<p>Page 93 of 95</p>	

AREAS FOR CONSIDERATION	THOUGHTS, COMMENTS, SUGGESTED ACTIONS	HAVE ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS REPORT BEEN MET?
<p style="text-align: center;">Complaints</p> <p style="text-align: center;">You could consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do the young people know how to make a complaint? • Do they know how to access the advocacy service? • Do they feel confident in being able to make a complaint? 		
<p>Staff recruitment, training and support.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">You could consider</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there regular team meetings timetabled so that all possible staff can attend? • Do staff feel supported by management? • Do staff have positive and appropriate training opportunities? • Do staff confirm that supervision is regular, structured and valued in the home? 		
<p>Any specific issues raised by young people?</p>		
<p>Any specific issues raised by staff?</p>		

Was there anything on this visit that raised particular concern?	
Was there anything was on this visit that was particularly positive?	
Any further comments?	

Signed

Date.....Page 95 of 95