

Wolverhampton City Council

OPEN INFORMATION ITEM**Corporate Parenting Board**

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Originating Service Group(s)	LAC SERVICE
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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
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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