



# Corporate Parenting Board

12 March 2014

**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 (3<sup>rd</sup> floor)

## Membership

**Chair** Cllr Val Gibson (Lab)

### Labour

Cllr Paula Brookfield  
Cllr Dr Michael 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

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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 (27 November 2013)**  
[For approval]
4.            **Matters arising**  
[To consider any matters arising from the minutes]
5.            **Health Care Service Annual Report**  
[To receive the Health Care Service Annual report]
6.            **Future Aspirations for Education of Looked after Children in the City**  
[to consider details of proposed improvements to education support for the Council's Looked after Children (LAC)]
7.            **Performance Monitoring – Looked After Children (LAC)**  
[To receive a report on Performance Monitoring for Looked After Children] **[TO BE CIRCULATED ELECTRONICALLY IN ADVANCE OF THE MEETING]**

### EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

8.            **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>
9.	<b>Members Visits to Establishments</b> [To receive details of any visits to establishments undertaken since the last meeting]	Information relating to any individual	1



# Corporate Parenting Board Minutes – 27 November 2013

## Attendance

### Members

Cllr Val Gibson (Chair)  
Cllr Dr Michael Hardacre  
Cllr Julie Hodgkiss  
Cllr Mrs Christine Mills  
Cllr Mrs Patricia Patten  
Cllr Paul Singh  
Cllr Rita Potter  
Cllr Martin Waite

### Employees

Daphne Atkinson	Fostering Team Manager - Community
Steve Cox	Interim Head of Looked After Children – Community
Anne Foster	Acting LACE Team Manager
John Welsby	Assistant Director, Children and Families - Community
Dawn Williams	Head of Service, Safeguarding Children & Young People
John Wright	Democratic Support Manager

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## Part 1 – items open to the press and public

*Item No.*      *Title*

- 1. Apologies for absence**  
Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Philip Page.
- 2. Declarations of interest**  
No declarations of interest were made in relation to items under consideration at the meeting.
- 3. Minutes of the previous meeting**  
Resolved:  
That the minutes of the meeting held on 25 September 2013 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

4. **Matters arising**

- Wolverhampton LAC Transitions Team Annual Report – April 2012 – March 2013

Councillor Potter reported that it had been suggested to her that a large proportion of offenders had been in residential care. She also gave details of the Wild Wood project in Shropshire which apparently had a good track record of preventing reoffending. The Board was informed that this Council had a good track record of keeping in contact with young people and worked closely with the Youth Offending team. It was noted that all young offenders who were remanded by the Courts automatically became Looked After Children.

It was felt that all members of the Board should receive information the offending rates of the City's Looked After Children so that they would be in a position to respond to questions about whether or not Looked After Children were involved in offending.

Agreed

That a briefing note be circulated to Board members giving comparative details of the offending rates of Looked After Children in the City, offending rates of young people generally and the numbers of young people who maintain contact with the Council once they had left care.

5. **Performance Monitoring – Looked After Children**

The Board received performance monitoring information on Looked After Children. There were currently 724 Looked After Children which was one of the highest numbers in the country. There had been an increase in the number of Looked After Children since the summer though it was noted that half the number of children coming in to care in September had come from two families.

The target was to reduce the numbers to within 10% of the average number of similar sized councils, which would mean a reduction to around 600. The target for the number of adoptions to match the average for councils across England.

Councillors felt that it would be useful to compare the numbers of looked after children across different councils with the rates at which Jobseeker Allowance was paid. It was anticipated that there would be a direct relationship.

The Board agreed that ensuring each child had the best possible placement was more important than meeting deadlines.

The Board requested details of the numbers of children who were returned home and asked that the information show those who the Council had returned home and those who had left care through their own choice. The

Board requested that the requested information be included in future score cards.

It was noted that, in comparison to the rest of the country, the Council had a good record of placing siblings together. Councillors requested that information on the placement of siblings be included in the annual score card.

Resolved

1. That a briefing note be circulated to the Board on the numbers of looked after children who are returned home.
2. That information on the placement of siblings be included in the annual score card

6. **The Role of Foster Carers' in the Development of Skills of the Fostering Service**

Consideration was given to a report on the details of development and training for foster carers approved by Wolverhampton City Council

It was confirmed that now that recruitment was no longer handled by an external organisation the numbers of potential foster carers was increasing. There had been 96 initial enquiries since March. However the conversion rate from inquiries to approved carers was not as high as had been hoped. The target of recruiting 25 new carers was likely to be achieved. It was recognised that there was a need to ensure that the right calibre of carers were recruited.

Work was on going to increase the number of inquiries received. The Fostering Team were running a series of drop in centres. It was recognised that working closely with the Communications Team had improved the profile of fostering within the City. A copy of the "It's a myth" leaflet was circulated and it was agreed that a copy would be sent to each member of the Board

It was noted that the information contained in the equalities section of the report was not adequate and in future should contain a breakdown of the ethnic origins and gender of foster carers and looked after children. It was felt that a full equalities analysis should be carried out.

Resolved

1. That the report be received.
2. That a copy of the Fostering recruitment leaflet be sent to each member of the Board.
3. That a full equalities analysis be carried out and in future the equalities section of the report should contain a breakdown of the ethnic origins and gender of foster carers and looked after children.

7. **Virtual School - Looked After Children Education Team Annual Report**

Consideration was given to a report on the Looked After Children Education Team Annual Report for 2012/2013. The Board noted the main achievements during the year including the appointment of a Virtual Headteacher and the production of a newsletter sent to schools, MAST Teams, LAC Teams and Locality Teams.

The report detailed the examination results for the 2012/13 academic year. The results for key Stage 2 / year 6 for English were not good. A literacy project had been started to help reading levels. It was run by Beanstalk which was a national organisation.

Councillors expressed concern at the levels of attainment of looked after children and requested that comparative information be made available on the attainment levels nationally of looked after children, local attainment of looked after children for the population as a whole. It was also felt that there was a need to consider the progress measures used by Ofsted to measure the progress made by each child.

Resolved

1. That details of how people could volunteer for the literacy project run by Beanstalk be circulated to all members of the Board
2. That comparative information be circulated to the Board on the attainment levels nationally of looked after children, local attainment of looked after children for the population as a whole

#### 8. **Annual Report Safeguarding Service Looked After Children 2012- 2013**

Consideration was given to the annual report of the Safeguarding Service on Looked After Children for 2012- 2013. The report had been based on national guidance and aimed to highlight areas of good practice and areas which required improvement, identified emerging themes and trends, described areas of work which the service had prioritised during the year, and would prioritise in the forthcoming year.

The report detailed changes in personnel within the team and the role of the Safeguarding Review Managers.

It was noted that there had been a high number of care orders during the year.

Details of the timescales for the review of a child's case were considered and it was recognised that information was shared more readily than had been the case in the past. 88% of cases were reviewed within the timescale and this

was improving. It was noted that children aged 7 and over received a written invitation to their review meeting along with the consultation document inviting their contribution to the review. Each of Independent Reviewing Officers had Blackberries which ensured that they were contactable by the young people.

The Board was informed that from July 2013, more detailed quality assurance information had been collected on CareFirst. This would enable improvements to be made in the reporting and recording of information.

The Board were informed of the areas for improvement in the forthcoming year.

Resolved

That the report be noted

9. **Exclusion of the press and public**

Resolved:

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 contained in paragraph 1 of the Act, namely information relating to any individual.

10. **Councillors Visits to Establishments**

Councillor Hardacre reported on a visit to Stafford Road.

Councillor Waite reported on a visit to Red Gables.



WOLVERHAMPTON CITY CLINICAL COMMISSIONING GROUP

**Meeting:** Corporate Parenting Panel

**Subject:** Health Services for Looked After Children Annual Report  
September 2012-August 2013

**Report of:** Lorraine Millard Designated Senior Nurse Safeguarding and  
Looked After Children  
November 2013

**1. Purpose of report**

This report aims to summarise the key areas of development and outcomes achieved by local health service providers during the identified time frame.

**2. Recommendation**

1. The report be received and noted.

**3. Detail**

- 3.1 Looked after children and young people share many of the same health risks and problems as their peers, but often to a greater degree. They often enter care with a worse level of health than their peers in part due to the impact of poverty, abuse and neglect. Longer term outcomes for looked after children remain worse than their peers.
- 3.2 The roles and responsibilities of the NHS regarding service provision for children and young people in care are defined in key legislation and statutory guidance. The NHS contributes to meeting the health needs of looked after children by;
- Commissioning effective services
  - Delivery through provider organisations
  - Individual practitioners providing co-ordinated care for each child, young person and carer
- 3.3 Legislation, national directives and local needs and priorities determine the work of the Looked After Children Health Steering group, which operates as a multi-agency business forum to monitor and review the on-going provision of local health care services for children and young people in care and has established links with the Children In Care Council.

**Wolverhampton City  
Clinical Commissioning Group**

- 3.4 The Looked After Children (LAC) Health Team is made up of the Designated Doctor, LAC Named Nurse and LAC administration officer. Their work programmes and activities are fundamental to influencing local health service provision for children and young people in care, and for the facilitation of health care delivery for individuals who are placed out of the city. Partnership working between the LAC Health Team and the Local Authority is well established at both an operational and strategic level.
- 3.5 Health care services engage in the Corporate Parenting agenda via membership of the Corporate Parenting Executive Group and via attendance at the Corporate Parenting Panel.
- 3.6 Since April 2013 the Designated Senior Nurse for Safeguarding Children (DSNSC) is employed by Wolverhampton Clinical Commissioning Group in line with Statutory Guidance Working Together to Safeguard Children: A guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children (2013). The current post holder commenced in post early September 2013 and takes a strategic specialist role with the regard to the commissioning of services for Looked After Children and young people.
- 3.7 The report includes information on current and future work activities but does not include the activities of CAMHS.
- 3.8 Work activities competed during 2012/early 2013

The overall work programme objectives continue to be underpinned by the following principles:

- The health and wellbeing of children and young people are maximised
- Inequalities in health status are minimised
- Children and young people receive timely and appropriate health care provision according to need
- Care planning and health care service developments are informed by children and young people.

3.8.1 The key areas of work activity and outcomes in accordance with the 2012/13 Corporate Parenting Action Plan has been as follows:

TABLE 1

Work Activity	Outcome
1 Improve the sexual health behaviours of Looked After Children and Care Leavers.	Reduced conception rates regarding LAC and Care Leavers under 18yrs.
2 Improve the awareness of sexual health service availability and further develop ease of access to	Increased engagement of LAC and Care Leavers with sexual health services to support their sexual health and relationship needs.

services for Looked After Children and Care Leavers.	
3 Improve liaison and information exchange systems between partner agency sites for Looked After Children and Care Leavers as residents of secure units.	Collaborative working between the LAC Name Nurse and YOT has improved liaison and information sharing for Looked After Children and Care Leavers as residents of secure units.
4 Continue to develop systems and services which enable timely and effective health care service delivery to children placed out of the city.	Wolverhampton CCG are working with the LAC team to develop an appropriate process to ensure Looked After children and young people receive timely and effective health service provision. In addition Wolverhampton CCG are recommending the expertise of the Designated Doctor for LAC is embedded in the CCG through a Service Level Agreement.
5 Further strengthen partnership working between local services to support the mental health needs of individual Looked After Children.	Improved access to regular and timely advice and guidance to support the mental health needs of LAC and Care Leavers.
6 Produce annual health reports which inform on health matters relating to Looked After Children.	Reports presented support an increased understanding of the health needs of LAC and Care Leavers and the services required to improve health outcomes.

### 3.8.2 Performance Activity-Statutory Health Assessments.

The production of monthly activity reports enables health care services to monitor the on-going performance of statutory health assessment activities and informs the business of the Looked After Children Health Steering group. To note: Initial Health Assessment should be completed within 28 days of the child or young person entering into care. Review Health Assessments take place six monthly for children under 5 years and annually thereafter. Chart 1 indicates the number of referrals received for completion of Statutory Health Assessments September 2012 to August 2013. Chart 2a & 2b indicates timescales for completion of the requested Statutory Health Assessments.

Chart 1

Referrals received

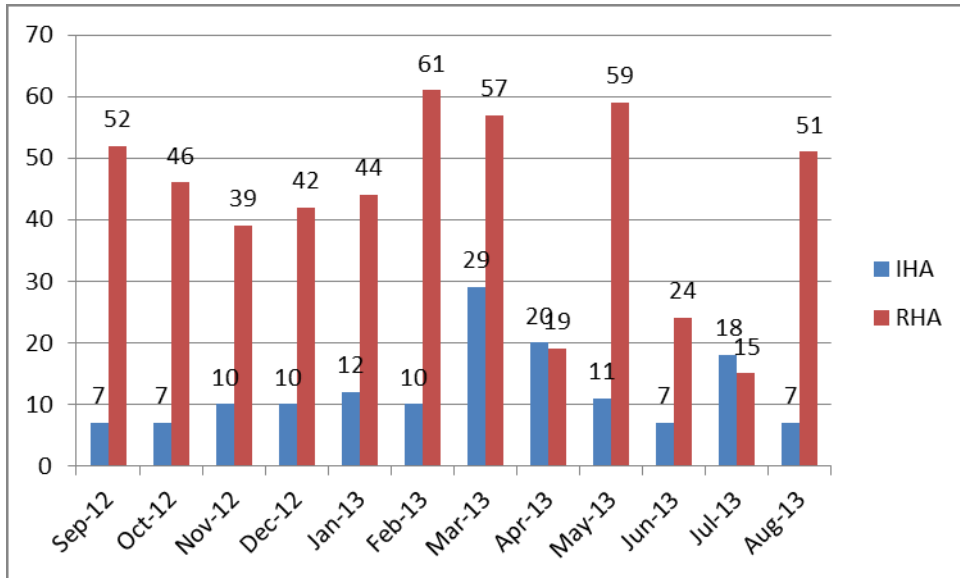


Chart 2a

Completion of Initial Health Assessments

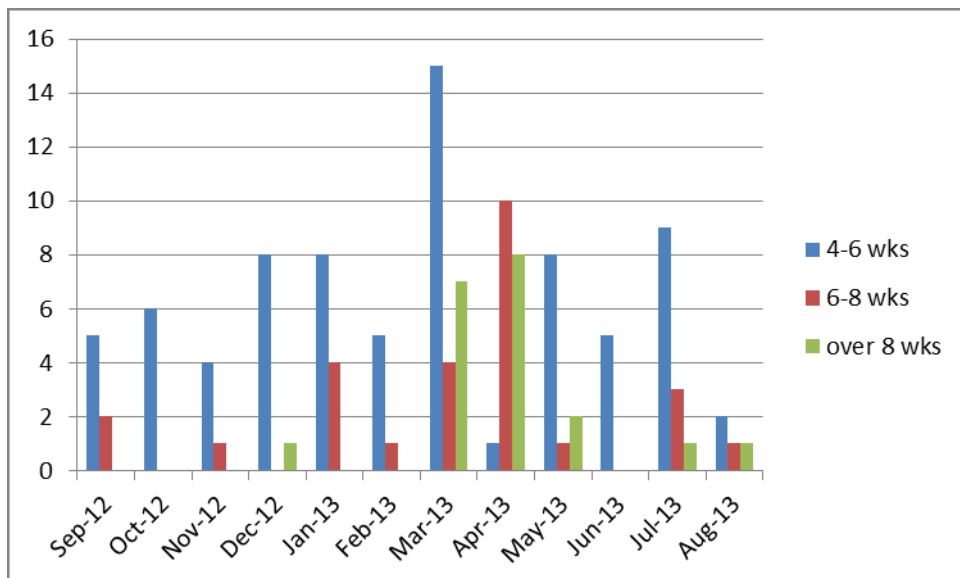
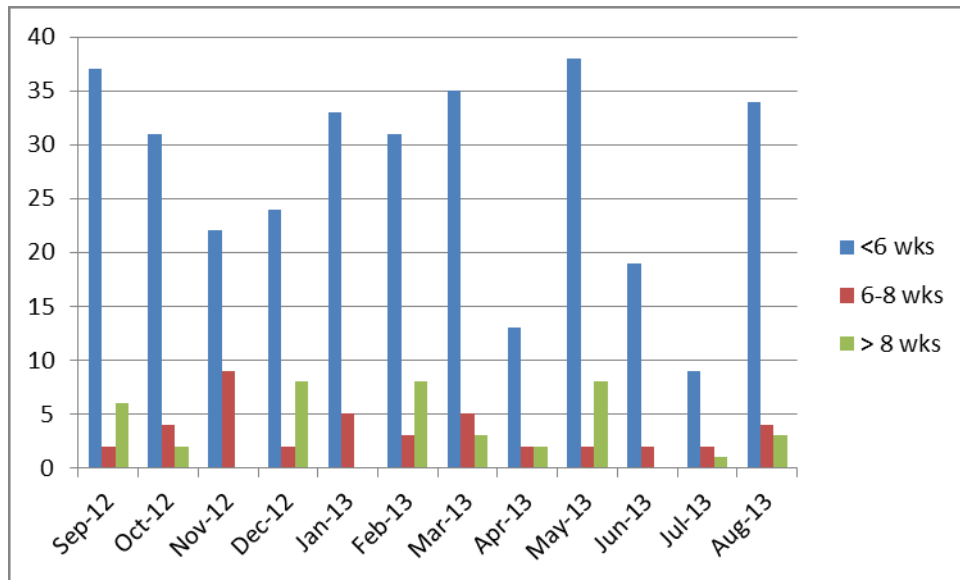


Chart 2b

Completion of Review Health Assessments



From September to December 2012 delays in completion of assessments were attributed to capacity at times with the Health Visiting and School Nurse service but predominantly difficulties arose for those placed out of the City. This has continued to be problematic to date. Wolverhampton Clinical Commissioning Group is due to meet with the LAC health team to formulate a pathway to ensure out of area health assessments are not delayed due to commissioning arrangements. Currently when new referrals for out of area are received by the LAC team the Designated Senior Nurse is informed for immediate action to be taken on a case by case basis. Within the same timeframe there was a discrepancy between the numbers of expected referrals for Initial Health Assessments and those received by the LAC Health team. This was reported through the Local Authority Service Leads and Lead officers within RWT for the appropriate action to be taken.

Since February 2013 a high number of referrals were received by the team resulting in additional clinics being provided to accommodate the high referral rate. Medical staff carry out 3 clinics per month and Advanced Nurse Practitioners (ANP) carry out weekly clinics, all continue to be running at full capacity. In addition the Named Nurse for LAC carried out additional clinics. The increasing trend of high referral numbers exceeding the capacity of the LAC Health team was compounded by the long term absence of a member of the team. The issues and risk was reviewed with the service manager and subsequently progressed by the clinical director.

### 3.8.3 Performance Activity- Dental checks and Immunisations.

The performance of local areas in meeting the health needs of Looked After Children is monitored in a number of ways. The DfE publish annual statistics on a number of key indicators. The LAC Named Nurse supports the Local Authority with this data by providing information detailing the numbers of up to date health assessments, dental checks and immunisations, and health surveillance checks for the under 5's.

#### Up-take rates for statutory Health Assessments and Dental Checks

Health Assessments	365:390	93.5% up to date
Dental Checks	365:390	93.5% up to date
Immunisations	370:390	95% up to date
Health surveillance Checks for under 5's	130:130	100% up to date – increase by 1% from last year

### 3.9 Additional Information

#### 3.9.1 Understanding and learning from the views and experiences of children and young people.

There is currently a consultation underway with children and young people regarding how they feel about their LAC health assessment. Completion date is due the end of October 2013. The findings will be acted upon and reported in subsequent meetings. The Named Nurse LAC attends the Children in Care Council meetings where the Children and young people report to be happy with the service they receive from health professionals.

#### 3.9.2 Supporting young people as they leave care.

The Named Nurse for LAC continues to provide weekly drop in sessions. The named nurse undertakes an exit health interview as the children leave care to provide them with the necessary information on their health needs and on general wellbeing. A leaflet has been developed in consultation with young people to provide Care Leavers with information and guidance. Action is being taken to ensure the leaflet is ratified by the appropriate governance department with the Royal Wolverhampton Trust to ensure its distribution can commence.

### 3.9.3 Accountability Framework NHS Commissioning Board

Wolverhampton Clinical Commissioning Group (WCCG) are statutorily responsible for ensuring the organisations from which they commission services provide a safe system that safeguards children and adults at risk of abuse or neglect. This includes specific responsibilities for looked after children. The Health and Social Care Act 2012 introduces a new framework for the NHS which took effect from April 2013. It also sets out a new responsibility for NICE to develop quality standards and other guidance for social care in England. Under this Act WCCG will be responsible for commissioning most health services for LAC, including co-operating with local authorities to commission statutory health assessments and reviews. The Designated Senior Nurse for Safeguarding Children with a strategic specialist role for Looked After Children is employed by the CCG as a source of advice and is expected to be embedded in the clinical decision making of the organisation. Discussions are underway regarding the development of a Service Level Agreement with the Designated Doctor, in order to secure the expertise of the Designated Doctor for Looked After Children.

### 3.9.4 Strengthening overall service provision

Since commencing in post the Designated Senior Nurse has raised the profile of LAC within WCCG in order to raise the awareness of the needs of LAC in order to ensure appropriate provision of services.

### 3.10 Current and future work activities.

The current Corporate Action Plan 2012/2013, will continue to be progressed until the formulation of an new Action Plan 2013/14.

In addition the Designated Senior Nurse Safeguarding Children and the Designated Doctor will be working with both WCCG and LAC Health team to ensure;

1. A pathway for out of city LAC Health assessments is in place.
2. Arrangements are in place to ensure the timescales for the completion of LAC Health Assessments are met.
3. LAC the knowledge, skills and competencies of health care staff are met through the review of the training programme delivered to all health care staff.
4. The LAC Health team have the appropriate processes/systems in place to support their function.

**4. Key Risks**

- 4.1 Due to the current lack of pathways regarding the commissioning of out of area health assessments, children and young people have not always received their health assessments in a timely manner with the potential for non-compliance with statutory timescales, inequality in access to services and the quality of services provided. Current short term arrangements are in place to address this issue until a long term solution can be reached.
- 4.2 The increasing trend of high referral numbers exceeds the capacity of the LAC health team. The issues and risk has been progressed by the clinical director through the appropriate channels within RWT, resulting in a business case to be presented in order to increase staffing and therefore the capacity to meet the needs of the local LAC population.





# Corporate Parenting Board

12 March 2014

<b>Report title</b>	Future Aspirations for the Education of Wolverhampton's Looked after Children
<b>Cabinet member with lead responsibility</b>	Councillor Val Gibson Children and Families
<b>Wards affected</b>	All
<b>Accountable director</b>	Sarah Norman, Community
<b>Originating service</b>	Looked after Children's Service
<b>Accountable employee(s)</b>	Darren Martindale 01902 551039
<b>Report to be/has been considered by</b>	Steve Cox Head of LAC Service

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## Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The Corporate Parenting Board is recommended to:

1. Consider proposals for future education support for Wolverhampton's Looked after Children and approve the formation of a Board of Governors for the Virtual School.

## 1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 To inform the Board of proposed improvements to education support for the Council's Looked after Children (LAC), and for approval of items.

## 2.0 Background

- 2.1 The Council has responded to its statutory duty to support the education of LAC with a restructure of the Looked after Children's Education (LACE) Team to form the new Corporate Parenting & Education (COPE) Team, bringing remaining LACE members together with colleagues in Corporate Parenting and Participation to form a multi-disciplinary team. The report originator has taken up the previously vacant post of Team Manager and Virtual School Head (VSH) for LAC (soon to be made a statutory post), and has identified several opportunities for service improvement under the new structures. The educational elements have been realigned to priorities outlined in the 2013-14 LACE improvement plan.

## 3.0 Progress, options, discussion, etc.

### 3.1

Priority	Action	Desired Outcome
Improve support ( <i>and challenge</i> ) to schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve links with School Improvement Officers to share knowledge and best practice</li> <li>• VSH to manage pupil premium for LAC</li> <li>• Re-brand Designated Teacher's termly training as a network forum, significantly increase participation and attendance – DM to lead</li> <li>• Increase training on LAC and attachment/trauma for school staff – DM to discuss with MAST managers</li> <li>• Re-brand and re-launch the COPE Team:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Refresh COPE newsletter format and relaunch</li> <li>2. Standard format needed for school visits, reports and recording attainment and progress</li> <li>3. Clarify processes for referral, prioritisation and assessment of outcomes</li> </ol> </li> <li>• Improve joined-up working between local authority and schools –WSIP</li> </ul>	<p>COPE working closely with School Improvement</p> <p>Premium better used to support attainment of LAC Increased attendance and engagement from DTs Strengthened status of the role of Designated Teacher (DT) School staff better able to support vulnerable LAC in schools COPE Team to be better known and better used by schools and social care teams</p> <p>Improved clarity about the role and functions of COPE</p> <p>VSH recognised as a head teacher within</p>

	<p>meetings as the starting point</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DM to attend head teacher's conference and write to all HTs</li> <li>• Establish a Board of Governors for the Virtual School</li> <li>• Improve support for nominated school governors for LAC</li> <li>• Establish VSH involvement in Ofsted inspections of Wolverhampton schools</li> </ul>	<p>Wolverhampton, improving awareness of LAC, better joint working with, and between, schools</p> <p>Increased awareness and improved scrutiny and support for LAC in schools</p>
<p>Improve attainment and progress</p> <p>Improve attendance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase targetted support by COPE to under-achieving LAC</li> <li>• COPE, PRU managers and residential managers to meet termly to address attendance issues</li> <li>• Promote EPS monthly clinic for carers</li> <li>• Improve educational training for carers &amp; residential staff, increase attendance and renew focus on raising aspirations (e.g applying to universities etc)</li> <li>• Establish a more efficient system for monitoring of attainment &amp; attendance of LAC –processes to be streamlined and clarified to allow for efficient monitoring of educational progress of all LAC</li> <li>• Improve monitoring of OLA education placements</li> <li>• Increase and embed COPE OSHL offer, e.g. homework clubs, outdoor education days</li> <li>• Increase use of state-funded boarding school project</li> <li>• LAC literacy strategy: maintain current projects and build new initiatives to improve literacy levels for LAC at Key Stage 1 and 2</li> </ul>	<p>Stronger working relationships with schools leading to improved progress and engagement of most vulnerable LAC</p> <p>Carers better enabled to support LAC in both care and education. Stronger culture of educational engagement in residential homes.</p> <p>Improved progress monitoring to ensure SMART interventions, best value and improved educational outcomes</p> <p>Improved literacy levels for LAC at Key Stage 1 and 2, leading to improved educational outcomes more widely</p>
<p>Improve quantity and quality of PEPs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Detailed audit and breakdown of PEP quality and performance</li> <li>• Re-design (simplify) PEP form and process, update PEP policy and procedure, PEP targets clearly linked to pupil premium funding</li> <li>• Compulsory PEP / educational training for social work teams and IROs, more training for designated</li> </ul>	<p>Improve PEP quantity &amp; quality – more intelligent use of attainment data to support SMART target-setting, fuller engagement of key partners and involvement of LAC, leading to improved educational outcomes</p>

	<p>teachers / nominated governors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issue revised PEPs guidance to schools, carers, IROs and S/Ws</li> <li>• Improve recording of PEPs on Carefirst</li> <li>• Discuss PEP issues with Children in Care Council</li> </ul>	
Improve transition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LACE staff to meet termly to review progress of LAC at transitional stages and to identify necessary interventions</li> <li>• Termly strategic meetings between LACE/transitions/Careers</li> <li>• 16+ PEP to be established as standard practice</li> <li>• Review EET Action Plan with a focus on early intervention</li> <li>• VSH to be consulted before any change to a school placement for a LAC – DM to discuss with LAC managers</li> </ul>	More proactive and targeted support to LAC at transitional stages School / placement changes conducted in a planned way which prioritises educational stability
<b>Regional / national strategic work</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chair West Midlands Virtual Schools Network</li> <li>• Represent the above at National VSH Steering Group meetings and National VSH Conference</li> </ul> <p>Note: the statutory status of the VSH role will receive royal assent on 21 March 2014</p>	Mutual support, challenge sharing of best practice between Virtual Heads, improvement of policy and procedure relating to LAC
Work with Ofsted to raise profile of VSH/LAC in school inspections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attend regional Ofsted conference and meetings to deliver training around LAC</li> <li>• VSH to be involved in school inspections for all Wolverhampton schools</li> <li>• Assess the advantages of VSH becoming an Attached Ofsted Inspector</li> </ul>	Increase and Improve Ofsted's scrutiny of schools' support for LAC
Establish national protocol / guidance for out-of-authority placements & notifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft protocol to be agreed at spring meetings of regional network and national steering group, then taken to the Association of Directors of Children's Services (ADCS) to be agreed</li> </ul>	School / placement changes conducted in a planned way which prioritises educational stability, leading to improved outcomes for LAC placed out-of-authority

#### **4.0 Financial implications**

- 4.1 The approved revenue budget for 2013/14 for the Looked after Childrens' Education Team (LACE) is £461,000.
- 4.2 Any costs associated with the proposed developments in section 3 of the report will be met from within existing resources.

[NM/03042014/D]

#### **5.0 Legal implications**

- 5.1 There are no legal implications to this report. [RB/04032014/E]

#### **6.0 Equalities implications**

- 6.1 The work of the LACE Team supports some of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged children in their education. Looked after Children, statistically, do not achieve as highly as their peers. There is an expectation that Wolverhampton City Council will contribute to raising standards of educational opportunities for LAC, therefore this plan aims to improve equality of opportunity for this very disadvantaged group. No other groups will experience any loss of opportunity as a result of this plan, and mechanisms for impact assessment are built in to the processes described.

#### **7.0 Environmental implications**

- 7.1 There are no environmental implications.

#### **8.0 Human resources implications**

- 8.1 There are no identified Human Resource implications.

#### **9.0 Corporate landlord implications**

- 9.1 There are no corporate landlord implications.

#### **10.0 Schedule of background papers**

- 10.1 LACE Action Plan 2013-14: attached

# Performance Reporting

December 2013



Community Directorate  
Children's Social Care Balanced Scorecard

4 Children in Need / Child Protection					Target	RAG
	2012/13 similar Councils	2012/13 Wolverhampton	December 2013 Result	Target		
CH11a Percentage of LAC Statutory Visits Completed on Time (KPI)	-	76%	76%	100%		R →
CH11b Percentage of CP Statutory Visits Completed on Time (KPI)	-	85%	93%	100%		A ↑

**CH11a: % of LAC Statutory Visits Completed on Time**

Month	Percentage
Apr 2013	76%
May 2013	77%
Jun 2013	74%
Jul 2013	74%
Aug 2013	72%
Sep 2013	73%
Oct 2013	84%
Nov 2013	85%
Dec 2013	81%
Jan 2014	76%
Feb 2014	-
Mar 2014	-

**CH11b: % of CP Statutory Visits Completed on Time**

Month	Percentage
Apr 2013	85%
May 2013	77%
Jun 2013	92%
Jul 2013	86%
Aug 2013	86%
Sep 2013	82%
Oct 2013	89%
Nov 2013	95%
Dec 2013	97%
Jan 2014	93%
Feb 2014	-
Mar 2014	-

**Analysis:**

Timeliness of LAC visits (76% on time) was a decline from the last four months, below target and flatline with last year outturn. Timeliness of CP visits also shown a slight decline compare to Oct, Nov but still within 10% of the target and better than last year's out-turn.

**Targets need to be considered as they are not in line with the Corporate Targets for these indicators.**

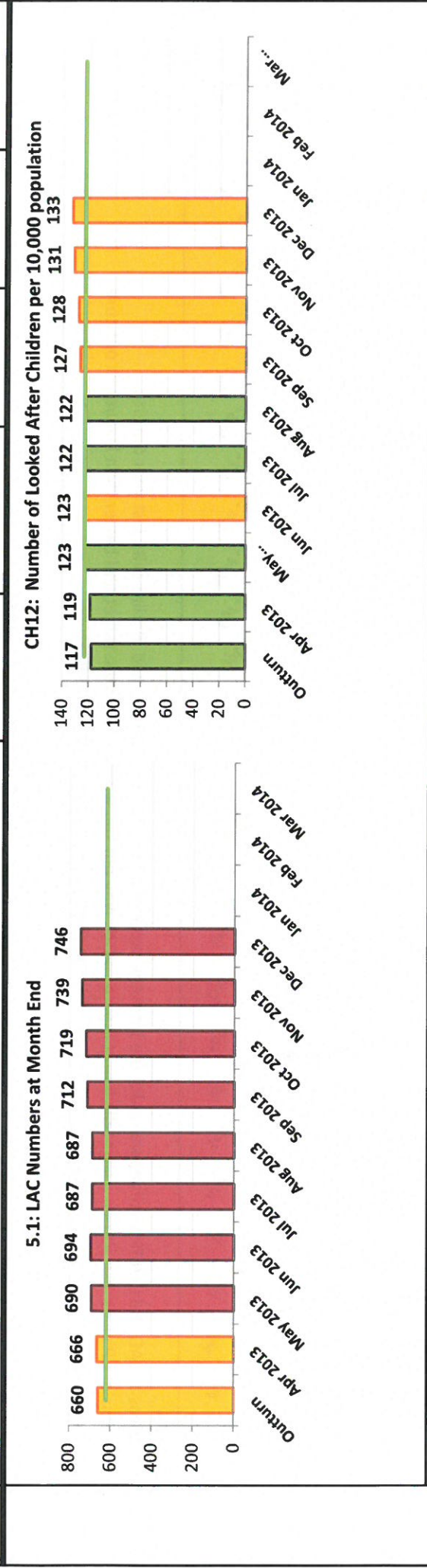
**Management Comments:**

The Teams were pleased to see some improvement but it was generally felt that this is not yet good enough. LAC Managers felt that the decrease in performance may be linked to daily reports not being received due to technical issues.



Community Directorate  
Children's Social Care Balanced Scorecard

<b>5 LAC</b>			<b>2012/13 similar Councils</b>	<b>2012/13 Wolverhampton</b>	<b>December 2013 Result</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>RAG</b>
<b>CH12</b>	<b>Number of Looked After Children per 10,000 population (KPI)</b>		-	117	133	123	A ↓



**Analysis:**

The number of Looked After Children at the end of December stood at 746, an equivalent of 133 Looked After Children for every ten-thousand CYP in the overall Wolverhampton population of 56200. The numbers of Looked after children at month end have gradually increased month on month for the previous 4 months. However, throughout the year to date the numbers starting care exceeded those ending care giving a nett rise in the number of Looked After Children for every month except July and August. In the reporting year to date, 230 children entered care and 141 children left care. The nett LAC population has risen by 89

**To achieve the target the numbers of Looked After Children need to be at or below 620.**

**Management Comments:**

Management requested a list of all Section 20 cases for scrutiny to see whether all options to re-unite the children with their families have been exhausted. There is some concern over data quality after a recent exercise revealed 5 children recorded as LAC who were no longer LAC out of a sample of 54. It has been suggested that a one off DQ exercise is carried out on the LAC co-hort to ensure that it is accurate.

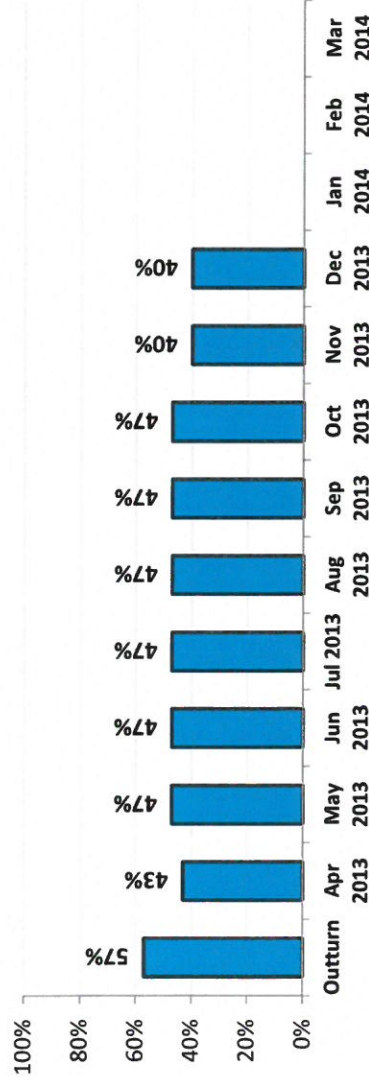
Community Directorate  
Children's Social Care Balanced Scorecard

6 Adoptions		2012/13 similar Councils	2012/13 Wolverhampton	December 2013 Result	Target	RAG																																																										
CH13a	Timeliness of Adoptions A1 Proxy (KPI)	-	876	865	640	R ↑																																																										
CH13b	Timeliness of Adoptions A10 Proxy (KPI)	-	448	865	640	R ↓																																																										
<p><b>CH13a: Timeliness of Adoptions A1 Proxy</b></p> <table border="1"> <caption>CH13a: Timeliness of Adoptions A1 Proxy</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Month</th> <th>Value</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>2012-13...</td><td>876</td></tr> <tr><td>Apr 2013</td><td>853</td></tr> <tr><td>May 2013</td><td>876</td></tr> <tr><td>Jun 2013</td><td>696</td></tr> <tr><td>Jul 2013</td><td>929</td></tr> <tr><td>Aug 2013</td><td>993</td></tr> <tr><td>Sep 2013</td><td>749</td></tr> <tr><td>Oct 2013</td><td>262</td></tr> <tr><td>Nov 2013</td><td>850</td></tr> <tr><td>Dec 2013</td><td>865</td></tr> <tr><td>Jan 2014</td><td>865</td></tr> <tr><td>Feb 2014</td><td>865</td></tr> <tr><td>Mar 2014</td><td>865</td></tr> <tr><td>Average</td><td>865</td></tr> </tbody> </table>		Month	Value	2012-13...	876	Apr 2013	853	May 2013	876	Jun 2013	696	Jul 2013	929	Aug 2013	993	Sep 2013	749	Oct 2013	262	Nov 2013	850	Dec 2013	865	Jan 2014	865	Feb 2014	865	Mar 2014	865	Average	865	<p><b>CH13b: Timeliness of Adoptions A10 Proxy</b></p> <table border="1"> <caption>CH13b: Timeliness of Adoptions A10 Proxy</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Month</th> <th>Value</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Apr 2013</td><td>448</td></tr> <tr><td>May 2013</td><td>509</td></tr> <tr><td>Jun 2013</td><td>692</td></tr> <tr><td>Jul 2013</td><td>722</td></tr> <tr><td>Aug 2013</td><td>800</td></tr> <tr><td>Sep 2013</td><td>414</td></tr> <tr><td>Oct 2013</td><td>262</td></tr> <tr><td>Nov 2013</td><td>545</td></tr> <tr><td>Dec 2013</td><td>865</td></tr> <tr><td>Jan 2014</td><td>865</td></tr> <tr><td>Feb 2014</td><td>865</td></tr> <tr><td>Mar 2014</td><td>865</td></tr> <tr><td>Average</td><td>865</td></tr> </tbody> </table>					Month	Value	Apr 2013	448	May 2013	509	Jun 2013	692	Jul 2013	722	Aug 2013	800	Sep 2013	414	Oct 2013	262	Nov 2013	545	Dec 2013	865	Jan 2014	865	Feb 2014	865	Mar 2014	865	Average	865
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<p><i>A detail explanation of A1 and A10 and other adoptions related date are available in the appendix</i></p> <p><b>Analysis:</b></p> <p><b>A1:</b> 27 children have been adopted in the year to date. The average time from entering care to being placed for adoption was 765 days. This exceeds the target of 21 months (640 days) but is better than last year's average of 876 days as illustrated in the chart above. However, of these 27 children adopted in the year to date, 11 children representing 41% were placed for adoption on time - within 640 days or 21 months. Care has to be taken in viewing percentages out of numerical context. Very small numbers are involved and so, for example, a score of 100% in April applies to a single child who was placed for adoption within 21 months.</p> <p><b>A10:</b> The same 27 children are the adoption cohort in the year to date for both A1 and A10. The average time from entering care to moving to live with their adopters was 534 days - less than the 21 month (640 days) threshold but higher than last year's average of 448 days as illustrated in the chart above. Of 27 adopted in the year to date figure, 15 of these children representing 56% "moved in with their adopters" within 640 days or 21 months.</p> <p><b>Management Comments:</b></p>																																																																

Community Directorate  
Children's Social Care Balanced Scorecard

<b>7 After Care</b>		<b>2012/13 similar Councils</b>	<b>2012/13 Wolverhampton</b>	<b>December 2013 Result</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>RAG</b>
<b>CH14a</b>	<b>Vulnerable Young People in Education, Employment or Training - care leavers</b>	-	57%	40%	-	↓

CH14a: Vulnerable Young People in Education, Employment or Training - care leavers



Activity

EET F1 Full-time Higher	Nov	1
EET F2 - Full-time Not Higher		5
EET F3 - Full-time		3
EET G4 NALM - Illness / Disability		2
EET G5 NEET - Other Reasons		14
EET P3 - Part-time		3
NALM G6 - Pregnant or young		1
NALM G7 - Custody		2
<b>Cohort Total</b>		<b>31</b>

**Analysis:**

This is a new cohort of young people. Last year the cohort consisted of 23 Young people. This year the cohort is 30 young people. The current month figures indicate that 12 out of a cohort of 30 young people, an equivalent of 40% are in Education, Employment, or Training (EET) which indicates a decrease in relation to last year out-turn as well as the previous months. The table gives breakdown of the cohort by their actual activity.

**Management Comments:**

8 Youth Offending Team		2012/13 similar Councils	2012/13 Wolverhampton	December 2013 Result	Target	RAG												
CH14b	Vulnerable Young People in Education, Employment or Training - Young Offenders	-	57%	-	-	0												
<p><b>CH14b: Vulnerable Young People in Education, Employment or Training - Young Offenders</b></p> <table border="1"> <caption>CH14b: Vulnerable Young People in Education, Employment or Training - Young Offenders</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Period</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2012/13 Outturn</td> <td>57%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q1 2013/14</td> <td>57%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q2 2013/14</td> <td>56%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q3 2013/14</td> <td>0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q4 2013/14</td> <td>0%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><b>Analysis:</b> The performance for the first and second quarters remained relatively static. The percentage participating full time either 25 hrs for school or 16 hrs post school of all 32 cases closed in the second quarter was 56%. This can be broken down as follows : The percentage participating full time at the beginning of order for this quarter was 41%. Biggest gain made is in post school where only 23% were engaged at the start, which moved to 55%. School dropped from 80% to 60%. Overall, however, we have added 15% value in terms of full time participation as a result of YOT intervention work for second quarter and this increase reflects the value added for each of the previous 5 quarters.</p> <p><b>Management Comments:</b> For the past twelve months the YOT has been recording the participation of all young people at the start of their order, in addition to the prescribed counting rule. Whilst there is no complacency about the level of out-turn, these figures have served to show that the YOT multiagency interventions are assisting outcomes. To track cases further, the YOT has developed a Purpose Specific Information Sharing Agreement with Prospects (Connexions provider) so that YOT cases can be tracked for three months or more after their order has ended. In this way the efficacy of interventions can be further measured. For school age children, the YOT has access to the ONE database in-house</p>							Period	Percentage	2012/13 Outturn	57%	Q1 2013/14	57%	Q2 2013/14	56%	Q3 2013/14	0%	Q4 2013/14	0%
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