

**Time** 5.30 pm **Public Meeting?** YES **Type of meeting** Oversight

**Venue** Committee Room 5 - Civic Centre, St Peter's Square, Wolverhampton WV1 1SH

## Membership

**Chair** Cllr John Reynolds (Lab)

### Labour

Cllr Caroline Siarkiewicz  
Cllr Paul Sweet  
Cllr Martin Waite  
Cllr Paula Brookfield  
Cllr Rashpal Kaur  
Cllr Rita Potter  
Cllr Zee Russell

### Conservative

Cllr Paul Appleby  
Cllr Udey Singh

Quorum for this meeting is three Councillors.

## Information for the Public

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

**Contact** Shelley Humphries  
**Tel/Email** Tel: 01902 554070 or [shelley.humphries@wolverhampton.gov.uk](mailto:shelley.humphries@wolverhampton.gov.uk)  
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Wolverhampton WV1 1RL

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Some items are discussed in private because of their confidential or commercial nature. These reports are not available to the public.

# Agenda

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

- | <i>Item No.</i> | <i>Title</i>   |
|-----------------|--|
| 1               | <b>Apologies for absence</b>   |
| 2               | <b>Declarations of interests</b>   |
| 3               | <b>Minutes of the meeting held on 13 June 2019</b> (Pages 5 - 16)<br>[To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 13 June 2019 as a correct record.]   |
| 4               | <b>Matters arising</b><br>[To consider any matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 13 June 2019.]  |
| 5               | <b>Schedule of outstanding matters</b> (Pages 17 - 20)<br>[To receive the Schedule of Outstanding Matters]   |
| 6               | <b>Adoption Annual Report (To Follow)</b><br>[To receive the Annual Adoption Report.]  |
| 7               | <b>Annual Fostering Report 2018-2019 (To Follow)</b><br>[To receive the Annual Fostering Report 2018-2019 for approval.]   |
| 8               | <b>Wolverhampton Clinical Commissioning Group (WCCG) Health Summary January 2019 - March 2019</b> (Pages 21 - 22)<br>[To receive an update on the activities of the Children and Young People in Care Health Team.]  |
| 9               | <b>Foster Carers' Forum</b><br>[To receive a verbal update on the work of the Foster Carers.]  |
| 10              | <b>Participation of Children and Young People Annual Report 2018-2019</b> (Pages 23 - 30)<br>[To receive the Participation of Children and Young People Annual Report 2018 – 2019 for approval.]   |
| 11              | <b>Performance Monitoring Information (To Follow)</b><br>[To receive the Performance Monitoring Information Report.]   |
| 12              | <b>Exclusion of the Press and Public</b><br>[That in accordance with section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business as they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information falling within paragraph 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972] |

**PART 2 - ITEMS NOT OPEN TO THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

- 13      **Councillor Visits to Establishments - Schedule of Visits**  
[To receive verbal feedback on any visits to establishments undertaken by Councillors since the last meeting]

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**Attendance**

**Chair** Cllr John Reynolds (Lab)

**Labour**

Cllr Caroline Siarkiewicz  
Cllr Martin Waite

Cllr Rashpal Kaur  
Cllr Rita Potter

**Conservative**

Cllr Paul Appleby

Cllr Udey Singh

**Employees**

Emma Bennett  
Fiona Brennan  
Alison Hinds  
Shelley Humphries  
Alice Vickers  
Mandy Lee  
Andrew Scragg  
Shaquille Spence

Director of Children's Services  
Designated Nurse, Children and Young People in Care  
Head of Children and Young People in Care  
Democratic Services Officer  
Corporate Parenting Officer  
Safeguarding Manager for Children  
Young People Engagement Coordinator  
Participation Officer

*Item No. Title*

**1 Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Paul Sweet, Councillor Paula Brookfield and Councillor Zee Russell.

**2 Declarations of interests**

There were no declarations of interest made relative to the items under consideration at the meeting.

**3 Minutes of the meeting held on 28 March 2019**

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 28 March 2019 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

**4 Matters arising**

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

**5 Schedule of Outstanding Matters**

Resolved:

That the Schedule of Outstanding Matters report be received.

**6 Children in Care Council (CiCC) and Care Leavers' Forum Workshops**

Representatives from the Children in Care Council were welcomed by the Corporate Parenting Board and the young people led Councillors in an interview-style group activity called 'My New Friend' to get to know each other.

The young people also provided an overview of the activities they had participated in throughout the year.

August Interviews

It was reported that the young people had taken part in interviewing social workers to offer their insight on the service from the perspective of a young person in care.

Delivering Total Respect Training

It was noted that the Total Respect was designed to raise awareness of the experiences of children and young people in care which would also help in delivery of the service. The young people deliver face-to-face training and lead workshop-style exercises and it was agreed that training could be arranged for members of the Corporate Parenting Board and Children, Young People and Families Scrutiny Panel. This would need to be delivered during the holidays or outside of school hours. It was noted that the training was also available on the Learning Hub.

### Residential Days

It was reported that the last event was held at the Pioneer Centre and was enjoyed by all the children and young people. Other events had been arranged such as a tour of the Molineux.

### I Awards

The young people enjoyed the I Award event and one representative in particular enjoyed delivering a presentation on their experiences and achievements in care.

### Resolved:

1. That the Children in Care Council and Care Leavers' Forum workshops be noted.
2. That Total Respect Training be delivered to members of the Corporate Parenting Board.

## 7 **Corporate Parenting Board Work Plan 2019 - 2020**

Alice Vickers, Corporate Parenting Officer presented the Corporate Parenting Board Work Plan 2019 – 2020 for approval. It was outlined that the purpose of plan was to set out agenda items for the coming municipal year. It was noted that although it was to be approved at this meeting, additional items could be submitted throughout the year as required.

In response to a particular query on the Virtual School Report, an outline was provided on the statutory role of the Virtual School Head and it was clarified that the purpose of the Virtual School Report was to provide information on the attainments of children and young people in care.

It was worth noting that the attainment of the early years and foundation stage cohort was found to be excellent and that the Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 were achieving figures above national average. It was clarified that a significant number of children and young people in care went on to higher education and university.

### Resolved:

That the Corporate Parenting Board Work Plan 2019 – 2020 be approved.

## 8 **Children living in Wolverhampton who are in the care of other Local Authorities**

Mandy Lee, Safeguarding Manager for Children presented the Children Living in Wolverhampton Who are in the Care of other Local Authorities report and highlighted salient points. The report was intended to provide assurance that children and young people placed in Wolverhampton were appropriately safeguarded. An outline of the process and reasons for placing children from other authorities in Wolverhampton and the responsibilities of each party was provided. Children and young people would still have access to services as if they were residing in their own local area.

In response to a query around who initiated the decision to stay with a connected person, it was clarified that a child's placement followed fostering regulations under friends and family. It was also clarified that Wolverhampton could not refuse to allow other local authorities to place a child.

It was noted that notice prior to placement was preferable as best practice however, under emergency circumstances, a child may be placed and notification given to Wolverhampton after the placement. The notification allows the Emergency Duty Team to know who to contact if a child in the care of another local authority comes to attention out of hours.

In respect of the funding provided from the placing local authority, it was noted that the care package would be funded in terms of the fostering/residential care placement Healthcare was provided by Wolverhampton and an invoice for the placing authority would be raised. Pupil Premiums would be specifically allocated.

It was agreed that the report provided assurance that appropriate child safeguarding was in place.

Resolved:

That the Children Living in Wolverhampton Who are in the Care of other Local Authorities report be received.

## 9 **Accommodation for 16 and 17-year-old Young People in Care and Care Leavers**

Alison Hinds, Head of Children and Young People in Care presented the Accommodation for 16 and 17-year-old Young People and Care Leavers report. It was outlined that a letter had been received from Nadhim Zawahi MP, Parliament Under-Secretary of State for Children and Families, which had been sent to all Directors of Children's Services and Chairs of Local Safeguarding Children's Boards. It was reported that the letter, attached as Appendix 1 to the report, highlighted the challenges faced by local authorities in relation to these services and that there was currently no regulating body.

The report provided an overview of the City of Wolverhampton Council's approach and assure the Corporate Parenting Board of the procedures in place when placing 16 – 17-year-old young people in accommodation such as semi-independent units, supported accommodation, hostels, foyers and supported lodgings.

It was noted that extensive work had been undertaken to ensure City of Wolverhampton were following safeguarding processes and providing appropriate placements of the right quality.

It was clarified that financial support was offered as part of the service to young people in the accommodation provided as well as budget management support to enable young people to manage their money effectively.

In a response to a query regarding young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), it was clarified that as part of their pathway plan, their needs would be assessed to determine if the accommodation was appropriate. The Pathway Plan would then be reviewed every six months or fewer if required.

In response to a query regarding access to higher education, it was noted that whilst tuition fees were not waived by universities, the local authority could provide bursaries to cover costs for necessities such as travel, books and equipment.

It was clarified that Wolverhampton Homes owned some of the properties used and that spot purchasing was being explored. Reassurance was offered in respect of quality of units and appropriateness for young care leavers.

It was noted that a training flat was in use to offer young people the chance to trial the experience of living independently. It was outlined that their stay in the flat could be graduated from a few hours to a few days until they felt ready to have a home of their own. It was agreed that a video of the training flat would be shared and Councillors were invited to undertake a visit at a time when it was not in use.

Resolved:

1. That the Accommodation for 16 and 17-year-old Young People and Care Leavers report be received.
2. The arrangements in place to ensure the support and quality of care for 16-17-year-old young people in care living in supported accommodation be noted.
3. That a video of the training flat be shared with the Board.
4. That a visit to the training flat be arranged for Board members if required.

## 10 **Performance Monitoring Information Report**

Emma Bennett, Director of Children's Services presented the Performance Monitoring Report and highlighted salient points. The dashboard at appendix 1 had been updated with data as at 31 March 2019.

It was highlighted that since 2013, the number of children and young people in care had seen its highest peak of 807 but had decreased over time. The number as at 31 March 2019 had settled at 624. In respect of the 10 – 18 cohort, it was reported that a legacy spike was moving out of the system. Extensive work had been undertaken to reduce the numbers of children and young people in care and length of time spent in care.

In respect of the analysis of placements for children and young people in care, it was clarified that external placements remained the higher cost pressures. It was noted that internal placements were less expensive and of better quality and it was positive that friends and family placements had shown a significant increase. A consistently good performance in short-term and long-term placement stability was highlighted and it was noted that work was constantly being undertaken to improve upon this. It was also highlighted that Ofsted registration for the new Key to Inspiration home had now been achieved

It was requested that indicators be added to trend placement stability over time and map average caseload over time.

In respect of education and attainment, it was agreed that for the benefit of new members, last year's Virtual School Annual Report would be shared with the Board to inform them of the achievements of children and young people in care and work done by Wolverhampton to support them.

It was requested that numbers be expressed as a median figure for the A1 adoption timescale indicator.

Resolved:

1. That the Performance Monitoring Report be received.
2. That the Virtual School Annual Report 2018 be shared with members of Corporate Parenting Board.

**11 Exclusion of the Press and Public**

Resolved:

That in accordance with Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business as they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information contained in paragraph 2 of the Act, namely information that is likely to reveal the identity to an individual.

**12 Councillor Visits to Establishments - Schedule of Visits**

Excluded as per above.

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<b>CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL</b>	<b>Corporate Parenting Board</b> <b>18 July 2019</b>
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<b>Report title</b>	Schedule of Outstanding Matters	
<b>Cabinet member with lead responsibility</b>	Councillor John Reynolds Children and Young People	
<b>Wards affected</b>	All wards	
<b>Accountable director</b>	Emma Bennett, Director of Children's Services	
<b>Originating service</b>	Governance	
<b>Accountable employee</b>	Shelley Humphries	Democratic Services Officer
	Tel	01902 554070
	Email	shelley.humphries@wolverhampton.gov.uk

**Recommendation for action:**

The Corporate Parenting Board is recommended to:

1. Receive and comment on the Schedule of Outstanding Matters.

## 1.0 Purpose

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

## 2.0 Background

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

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Lead Member / Officer</b>	<b>Current Position</b>
13 June 2019	Corporate Parenting Board members to be invited to Total Respect	Alice Vickers, Corporate Parenting Officer and Shelley Humphries, Democratic Services Officer	Information has been shared with Councillors to book on one of two sessions running on 25 July 2019 and 8 August 2019.
13 June 2019	Virtual School Head Annual Report to be shared with members of the Corporate Parenting Board for information.	Shelley Humphries, Democratic Services Officer	The report has been circulated via email outside of the meeting.

## 3.0 Financial implications

3.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

3.2 The financial implications of each matter will be detailed in the individual report submitted to the Board.

## 4.0 Legal implications

4.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

4.2 The legal implications of each matter will be detailed in the individual report submitted to the Board.

## **5.0 Equalities implications**

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

## **6.0 Environmental implications**

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

## **7.0 Human resources implications**

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

## **8.0 Corporate Landlord implications**

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

## **9.0 Health and Wellbeing implications**

- 9.1 The Health and Wellbeing implications of each matter will be detailed in the individual report submitted to the Board.

## **10.0 Schedule of background papers**

- 10.1 Minutes of previous meetings of the Board and associates.

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## Wolverhampton Clinical Commissioning Group (WCCG) Health Summary for Corporate Parenting Board, Jan 2019 – March 2019

### CYPiC Health Team Update and Outstanding Issues – Royal Wolverhampton Hospital

- The Named Nurses travel to undertake statutory health assessments to all children placed outside of Wolverhampton, within 50 miles. 100% are quality assured by the Designated Nurse for Children and Young People in Care (DNCYPiC) before being sent back to the local authority.
- The new database continues to be run concurrently with the existing spreadsheet and data has been cross referenced monthly for assurances of accuracy. Any discrepancies in data are discussed with the local authority during the bi-monthly health steering group.
- The current non-attendance rate remains a concern for the service. It fell to 50% in March 2019, for Review Health Assessments booked in clinic.

To mitigate:

- All non-attendance is shared with allocated social worker to address with the child / carer;
  - If a 2<sup>nd</sup> appointment is not attended, the social worker is again informed. Named Nurses for CYPiC will arrange a home visit if applicable;
  - Royal Wolverhampton Trust are implementing a text message reminder service and have amended the appointment letters to ensure clarity of purpose and importance of attending;
  - Unresolved concerns are escalated to the Designated Nurse CYPiC.
- The CYPiC Named Nurses continue to attend Priory Green LA Building every Tuesday for a health drop-in which has been very positively received and accessed by social workers.
  - Issues relating to nursing capacity to be discussed at Directorate Governance meeting on 26 April 2019. Business case to be submitted for additional resource within the CYPiC team.

### CCG - Priorities Moving Forward

- **Generic health consent;** The DNCYPiC continues to work with NHSE to confirm the implementation of generic consent for statutory health assessments. This will see birth parents signing one-off consent at the time children become looked-after, which will cover all health assessments throughout their time in care. This will enable a smoother and more timely service.
- **Children placed here from other areas;** work needs to be done around strengthening oversight of children placed into Wolverhampton from other areas.

- Whilst they remain the responsibility of the originating authority, it is crucial we work together to manage the health needs of these vulnerable children and young people, particularly when placed in unregulated placements. During the 3 months reporting period, concerns around 3 CYPiC were brought to the attention of the DNCYPiC.
- **Private Children's Residential Homes;** we recognise that there are number of Private Residential Homes in Wolverhampton and whilst we have assurance that all homes will be Ofsted and/or Care Quality Commission inspected and registered with the local authority, we are not always aware of details of out of area children placed there.
- The new Working Together Document outlines that care homes on our footprint form part of the City's Safeguarding arrangements. Further discussion therefore within the CCG needs to take place to strengthen risk and assurance arrangements, in particular around their links with Primary Care services.
- This has been added to the agenda for further discussion at the next regional CYPiC forum, and escalated as required within the WCCG Safeguarding Team at our Quality and Safety Committee
- **CAMHS referral when children placed out of City;** Challenges continue around smooth and timely referral/transfer when our CYPiC move.
- DNCYPiC continues to work with other Designated Professionals and Local Authorities to ensure children are receiving quality and timely therapeutic support, wherever they are placed.
- We have identified specific areas where differing commissioning arrangements and capacity issues are resulting in challenges in getting the CYP seen. WCCG are working with health counterparts in hosting area's to seek resolve.
- This has been identified as a priority for CYPiC within the Sustainability and Transformation Partnership work stream (Wolverhampton, Sandwell, Dudley and Walsall), to strengthen regional processes and reduce variation in commissioning arrangements. It is hoped that key areas of good practice will be shared at the National forum to ensure consistency and understanding across the board. The first meeting was held at the WCCG in February 2019, with clear issues and actions identified.
- **Co-commissioning arrangements with Public Health;** to enable improved data collection around the specific health needs of CYPiC
- **Health of Care Leavers;** Suitable transition arrangements in place to ensure young people's health needs continue to be met when they are no longer in care. This will be explored within the local offer, and discussed within the multi-agency bi-monthly health steering group.

<b>CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL</b>	<b>Corporate Parenting Board</b> <b>18 July 2019</b>
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<b>Report title</b>	Participation of Children and Young People Annual Report 2018-2019	
<b>Cabinet member with lead responsibility</b>	Councillor John Reynolds Children and Young People	
<b>Wards affected</b>	All wards	
<b>Accountable director</b>	Emma Bennett, Director of Children's Services	
<b>Originating service</b>	Children's Services	
<b>Accountable employee</b>	Alice Vickers	Corporate Parenting Officer
	Tel	01902 553010
	Email	Alice.Vickers@wolverhampton.gov.uk
<b>Report has been considered by</b>	Children's Leadership Team	11 July 2019

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**Recommendations for decision:**

The Corporate Parenting Board is recommended to:

1. Approve the annual report and the work of the young people in sharing their views on the services that support them.
2. Endorse the City's continued commitment to children and young people having influence over decisions that affect them and involved in co-producing services in the City.

## **1.0 Purpose**

- 1.1 To provide an overview of the participation activities of children and young people over the past 12 months with the Council and its partners in line with the Participation Strategy 2016-2019.
- 1.2 To provide an outline of the planned activities for 2018-2019 with the addition of the review of the current strategy and co-production of a new revised strategy for 2019.

## **2.0 Background**

- 2.1 In September 2016, Cabinet approved the Council's three-year Participation Strategy for Children and Young People. This year was the final year of this strategy. A review of the effectiveness of the strategy was needed and consideration over the future of participation post 2019 was required.
- 2.2 Part of this review and evaluation included an understanding of the legislation that underpins the Council duty.
- 2.3 Children and Young Persons Act 2008 legislated for the recommendations in the Department for Education and Skills 2007 Care Matters white paper to provide high quality care and services for children in care. This Act laid out the expectation to all local authorities to put in place arrangements for a 'Children in Care Council', with direct links to the Director of Children's Services and Lead Cabinet Member.
- 2.4 The United Nations Council Rights of the Child contains 52 standards that set out the Rights of a Child. Most countries including the United Kingdom have signed up to the convention. Many countries use the standards wholly or in part to promote children and young people's involvement. The standards of most relevance to the participation of service users are:
  - Article 12: Children and young people have the right to say what they think should happen when adults are making decisions that affect them and to have their opinions taken into account.
  - Article 13: Children and young people have the right to get and to share information, as long as the information is not damaging to them or others.
  - Article 17: Children and young people have the right to receive, seek and give information.
  - Article 23: Disabled children and young people have the right to active participation in their community.
  - Article 2: Requires all of the rights in the convention on the Rights of the Child to be implemented for every child, without discrimination.
- 2.5 The City of Wolverhampton Council has a long and impressive history of effective participation of children and young people with the Youth Council (YC), Children in Care Council (CiCC) and Care Leavers Forum (CLF). All the forums and children and young people's participation activities are supported by 1.5 full-time equivalent Participation

Officers and managed by the Corporate Parenting Officer based in the Children and Young People in Care Service.

### **3.0 Progress**

- 3.1 The CICC membership from April 2018-March 2019 consisted of 23 members with 11 females and 12 males with the meeting being held monthly on the last Wednesday of the month. All members of the group have a two-day induction covering terms of reference, roles of officers, elected members and regional groups, functional roles within the group (chair, etc) and levels of commitment. This induction included a behind the scenes tour of the Molineux organised by the Children's Commissioner Office.
- 3.2 The CiCC meetings are held at Red Lion Street, Youth Council room and the agenda for the meetings include the Corporate Parenting Board planned reports ensuring the young people on CiCC can share their views and opinions of those services delivered to children and young people in care and care leavers. Reports include Corporate Parenting Strategy Annual Review, Fostering Annual Report, Health Report for Children and Young People in Care, Virtual School Headteacher Annual Report, Independent Reviewing Officers Annual report and the Adoption reports.
- 3.3 In addition to these schedule items the CiCC have met with the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People and Director of Children's Services twice through the year. The group at the end of this reporting year also have met the new Managing Director, Tim Johnson.
- 3.4 Throughout this year the CiCC have attend two Corporate Parenting Board meetings. The group helped plan and deliver the Children and Young People in Care I awards 2018 and the planning of 2019 awards planned to be held in early April 2019.
- 3.5 The CICC have heavily been involved with the opening of the Council's new residential assessment centre from choosing a name, Key to Inspiration (K2I) the décor and design of the building and recruiting the staff.
- 3.6 The Care Leavers Forum (CLF) has had nine members in this reporting period, three male and six females. The group meets monthly at the Youth Council offices in Red Lion Street on the first Wednesday of the month.
- 3.7 The group receive reports from services that support them in the same way the CiCC does which forms their year workplan this will also include reports from the Transition Team regarding service development.
- 3.8 In addition, the CLF has met twice in this year with the Corporate Parenting Board to explore issues and challenges of being a care leaver.
- 3.9 With the implementation of the Children and Social Work Act 2017, the CLF co-produced the Local Offer for Care Leavers and supported its launch by having a bake sale to raise funds for an afternoon tea.

- 3.10 The National Care Leavers Covenant was launched this year and, as the City of Wolverhampton Council is a lead Local Authority, the CLF played a vital role in their Communication Strategy, support required and hosted the Launch at Birmingham's ICC.
- 3.11 As a result of the hard work and commitment of the Co-Chair of the CLF, Casey Gavin, won the High Sheriff's Award.
- 3.12 The Youth Council has had 67 young people as members over 2018-2019, 25 males and 42 female members. This group meets monthly and has a two-day induction process following the declaration in November 2018. Schools nominate members on to the YC and all, but three schools are represented.
- 3.13 To generate the interest in schools and community groups represented on the YC, the participation team complete direct work and presentation with staff and young people. In this year twelve groups and schools were supported individually with meetings, assemblies and literature to encourage membership of YC.
- 3.14 The YC has two permanent seats on the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel and assist in the scrutiny of service that support children and young people in the City. The Youth Council have attended Scrutiny Board to update Councillors.
- 3.15 The YC has as part of their induction contributed to the consultation of the Financial Challenge as well as involvement in the development of the new Council Plan 2019-2024.
- 3.16 Members of the Youth Council represented young people of Wolverhampton at the Key Cities Conference with the Leader of the Council, Cabinet member for regeneration, to discuss the future of city centres. They were the only Youth Council present and during the visit met Bill Grimsey - Business Leader and author of the first and second Grimsey Review.
- 3.17 All groups this year participated and contributed to the Take Over Challenge 2018. This year's events included consultation on The Westside Link Project, Knife Crime with the Community Safety Team and Partners and Children Services Practice Week Feedback. The event saw 23 members of the Youth Council, seven members of the CiCC and two members of the CLF attend.
- 3.18 The Westside Link Project which is a major public realm improvement scheme in the City centre and young people learnt about it as the consultation process which has commenced, and it is becoming apparent that the main sectors of the public that are engaging in the consultation are the older population in the City who have specific issues with accessibility. It is envisaged that the project will offer young people an exciting new era for the City centre as a place to meet as well as attracting new activities and events.
- 3.19 The Young People met with the Community Safety Team and Partners in the City to talk about the issues and challenges around knife crime. They completed a Mentimeter exercise capturing their views on Knife Crime in the City and influencing key officers. The

City's young people have just completed their Make Your Mark Vote and the number one issue they have raised is 'Put an end to Knife crime - Too many young people's lives are lost to knife crime; the Government need to do more to help end the knife crime epidemic'.

- 3.20 Heads of Service from Children Services gave feedback on their findings during the Practice Week in Children's Social Care. They shared their approach in ensuring a more consistent, effective and efficient service that ensure interventions improve outcomes for children and young people. The Director, Heads of Service and Service Managers spent a full week in teams completing audits, observing practice and talking to frontline workers and will use this event to feedback to the young people representing the City's children and young people.
- 3.21 The groups feedback on these areas has been included in the consultation process as part of the developments of the individual service areas, as well as being recorded by the Scrutiny Team.
- 3.22 All Groups have supported the process of interview for frontline and key strategic personnel in the Council including:
- Managing Director of the Council Social Work Unit managers
  - Social Workers
  - Young Person Advisors
  - Looked After Children Nurse
  - Family Support Worker
  - Housing Support Staff
- 3.23 The Youth Voice Groups have been involved in key consultations for the Council, regionally and nationally and this has included:
- Early Help Strategy
  - Young Carers
  - West Side Development
  - The Council Plan
  - Youth Violence Strategy
  - Care Leavers Covenant
  - Library Transformation
  - Sexual Health Curriculum with Public Health
  - Waste and Recycling Services
  - Work Experience and Work Box
  - Mental Health green paper
  - Children's Commissioner report on Neglect
- 3.24 CiCC and CLF members are Total Respect Trained. This training is to enable direct workers with children and young people in care and care leavers to get an insight of what it must be to be in the care of the local authority. This year the young people have delivered training to:
- West Midlands Police (Frontline and specialist teams)

- Staff from Prisons
- Social Work Students from the City of Wolverhampton University
- YMCA
- Social Worker
- Councillors
- Foster Carers (including Family and Friend Carers)

3.25 All groups meet up at events and collectively are called Wolverhampton's Youth Voice and as a collective they have had a joint residential to Condover. Over the past year, this group's successes for Wolverhampton's Youth Voice in 2018-2019 have included:

- Member of the Youth Council has been recognised as Young Citizen of the Year with runner up
- A Care Leaver winning the High Sheriff's Award
- Equalities Inspection work will now be recognised for the next level
- All members of the CiCC and CLF receiving an I-Award.
- A record turnout for Make Your Mark
- A Youth MP in the House of Commons
- Wolverhampton's Youth Council and Children in Care Council have each been recognised as one of the best in the country

#### **4.0 Financial implications**

4.1 There are no direct financial implications as a result of this report.

4.2 The activities and support for the young people were funded through the approved budget for 2018-2019 for Corporate Parenting Service of £150,000.  
[NM/03072019/R]

#### **5.0 Legal implications**

5.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.  
[TC/02072019/W]

#### **6.0 Equalities implications**

6.1 The purpose of this report is to highlight the involvement of children and young people in decisions about them to mitigate against any inequalities.

#### **7.0 Environmental implications**

7.1 There are no environmental implications as a result of this report.

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

8.1 There are no human resource implications as a result of this report.

## **9.0 Corporate Landlord implications**

9.1 There are no Corporate Landlord implications as a result of this report.

## **10.0 Health and Wellbeing implications**

10.1 There are no Health and wellbeing implications as a result of this report.

## **11.0 Schedule of background papers**

11.1 None

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