

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
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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 | Apologies for absence |
| 2 | Declarations of interests |
| 3 | Minutes of the meeting held on 18 July 2019 (Pages 3 - 10)
[To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 18 July 2019 as a correct record.] |
| 4 | Matters arising
[To consider any matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 18 July 2019.] |
| 5 | Schedule of outstanding matters (Pages 11 - 14)
[To receive the Schedule of Outstanding Matters.] |
| 6 | Wolverhampton Sufficiency Strategy 2017-2020: 2018-2019 Implementation Plan End of Year Report (Pages 15 - 34)
[To receive the Wolverhampton Sufficiency Strategy 2017-2020: 2018-2019 Implementation Plan End of Year Report.] |
| 7 | Independent Reviewing Officer [IRO] Annual Report 2018-2019 (Pages 35 - 52)
[To endorse the Independent Reviewing Officer Annual Report 2018 – 2019.] |
| 8 | Care Leaver Offer Review
[To receive an update on the Care Leaver Offer Review.] |
| 9 | Performance Monitoring Information (Pages 53 - 64)
[To receive the Performance Monitoring Information Report] |
| 10 | Exclusion of the Press and Public
[That in accordance with section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business as they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information falling within paragraph 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972] |

PART 2 - ITEMS NOT OPEN TO THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

- | | |
|----|--|
| 11 | Councillor Visits to Establishments - Schedule of Visits
[To receive verbal feedback on any visits to establishments undertaken by Councillors since the last meeting] |
|----|--|

Attendance

Chair Cllr John Reynolds (Lab)

Labour

Cllr Paul Sweet
Cllr Martin Waite

Cllr Paula Brookfield
Cllr Rashpal Kaur

Cllr Rita Potter
Cllr Zee Russell

Conservative

Cllr Paul Appleby

Employees

Fiona Brennan
Vanessa Graham
Alison Hinds
Shelley Humphries
Alice Vickers
Lisa Whelan

Designated Nurse, Children and Young People in Care
Family Support Worker
Head of Children and Young People in Care
Democratic Services Officer
Corporate Parenting Officer
Service Manager

Item No. *Title*

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Caroline Siarkiewicz, Councillor Udey Singh and Emma Bennett.

2 Declarations of interests

There were no declarations of interest made.

3 Minutes of the meeting held on 13 June 2019

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 13 June 2019 be confirmed as 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 be noted.

6 Adoption Annual Report

Alison Hinds, Head of Children and Young People presented the Adoption Annual Report and highlighted salient points. The report outlined adoption performance from April 2018 – March 2019 and provided an update on the work carried out by the Adoption Team throughout this period. It also included an update on the progress made towards the Regional Adoption Agency (RAA).

It was noted that this would be the last Adoption Annual Report that would come solely from City of Wolverhampton Council. Future submissions would be worked on jointly by the authorities making up the regional adoption agency (RAA) and an interim report was to be provided in the next six months.

It was highlighted that the focus remained on early permanence, meaning ensuring children were settled in long-term or permanent placements at the earliest opportunity.

It was noted that Wolverhampton had performed well by achieving more placements than other neighbouring authorities; 43 adoption orders and six permanent placements had been secured last year.

It was highlighted that although national targets were high, Wolverhampton were performing strongly towards meeting these.

It was queried what the greatest barriers to increasing the number of permanent placements were. In response to this, it was noted that the main barriers were low numbers of people coming forward to adopt and the rise in children needing adoption, although these were not just local but national issues. To make a difference regionally, it was hoped to use the RAA to recruit more adopters.

It was suggested that the Authority could explore other successful adoption processes followed internationally to determine if further inspiration could be drawn from models overseas.

It was noted that a large number of authorities had come together to form similar adoption agencies to Adoption@heart and 19 such agencies existed across the country. It was thought this formed more manageable groups and issues around adoption could be tackled jointly.

It was suggested that, although there were targets for timeliness of adoption, it was more important to take time to ensure placements were of greatest benefit for the children, particularly in cases of keeping sibling groups together or placing hard-to-place children.

In response to a query regarding the matching process, it was clarified that the service was led primarily by the needs of the child and assessment of adopters. It was clarified that a holistic approach was used and time taken to ensure the best match possible.

Resolved:

That the Adoption Annual Report April 2018 – March 2019 be received.

7 **Annual Fostering Report 2018-2019**

Lisa Whelan, Service Manager presented the Annual Fostering Report 2018 – 2019 and highlighted salient points. The report provided an update on the developments, progress and future objectives of the fostering service. It was outlined that the fostering service was responsible for recruiting, supporting and developing foster carers to care for and support vulnerable children placed in their care.

A concern was raised around the potential for foster carers losing enthusiasm for the role after several years and it was queried what was being done to mitigate this. It was recognised that sometimes carers naturally retired upon reaching a certain age or moved away to continue their caring career in another region, but often further training rekindled enthusiasm before it started to wane. It was noted that the training had been rebranded and carers' training was continually updated to keep their skills current.

The Board was also advised that opportunities were available to move to another level of care, subject to approval from a dedicated panel, for which carers would receive a higher income. Experienced carers were encouraged to pair up with new carers to share their knowledge and experience. Foster Families United had also been working to generate interest in foster caring.

Queries were raised around how much need there was for respite care and whether dormant carers were utilised to provide this support. It was confirmed that there had

been some requests for respite care and there were different ways of approaching this. Some carers had their own arrangements with friends or family, sometimes availability of other carers would be explored or caring support could be shared among teams of carers. In terms of holidays, it was advised that it would generally be expected that a cared for child would be included in holidays as part of the family.

A query was raised around separating sibling groups if a good match was made for just one child. It was clarified that separation would only ever be considered for legal reasons or if keeping them apart was in the best interests of the children, otherwise families were encouraged to take all siblings together. It was highlighted that the service had even successfully placed a sibling group of seven children together and this achievement was commended by the Board.

The 28 key achievements as outlined in the report were also commended.

Resolved:

That the Annual Fostering Report 2018 – 2019 be approved.

8 **Wolverhampton Clinical Commissioning Group (WCCG) Health Summary January 2019 - March 2019**

Fiona Brennan, Designated Nurse for Children and Young People in Care (DNCYPiC) presented the Wolverhampton Clinical Commissioning Group (WCCG) Health Summary January 2019 – March 2019. The report provided an interim update on the CYPiC and WCCG's priorities moving forward. It was noted that the update brought reporting to Corporate Parenting Board in line with the WCCG's timeline.

It was highlighted that the main focus had been on challenges around out of city children in Wolverhampton placements. It was reported that work had been undertaken to improve the notification process and channels of communication had been opened with Clinical Commissioning Groups and Designated CYPiC nurses from placing authorities.

It was reported that there had been occasions when Wolverhampton had been unaware that an out of city child had been placed until the child gained access to local services. It was clarified that it was the responsibility of the placing authority to advise Wolverhampton of the placement in advance, however it was noted that there was not always time for advance notification if a child was placed in an emergency situation.

It was noted that on occasion, it had been necessary to utilise unregulated accommodation to place young people between 16 – 25, however it was also reported that central government and Ofsted were investigating ways to tighten regulations on accommodation.

Resolved:

That the Wolverhampton Clinical Commissioning Group (WCCG) Health Summary January 2019 - March 2019 report be received.

9 **Foster Carers' Forum**

Vanessa Graham, Family Support Worker provided a verbal update on the activities of the foster carers. The Board also welcomed four foster carers as guests.

It was noted that foster caring in Wolverhampton had been rebranded and carer practice was being tied into national practice with restorative practice built in.

It was reported that a specialist scheme called Foster Families United had been introduced. New enhanced workshops and training opportunities were being offered to prepare new carers and refresh skills for existing carers. This included training and advice to enable carers to support children in transracial placements or children with autism and/or learning disabilities. A therapeutic course was also being offered.

It was reported that a buddy support system had been introduced with experienced carers offering support to newly approved carers.

The Foster Carer Conference event was highlighted, which had brought together carers and professionals to focus on fostering relationships. The theme was 'Stand by Me' and focused on supporting sibling placements and transracial placements.

It was reported that scheme had been developed known as Sons and Daughters which aimed to offer support to biological children of foster carers so they felt included and involved in welcoming and supporting a child placed with their family.

It was noted that a website had been developed known as Online Britannia which offered access to education and training to children and young people.

The main goal was to raise the profile of fostering in Wolverhampton and ensure carers were well equipped to manage diverse placements.

In response to a question around access to social workers, the carers present at the meeting stated that they thought their social workers were very good and they felt well supported. In one instance, it was stated that if their social worker was not immediately available, answerphone messages were always responded to promptly. It was reported that there was also a single number to call meaning someone was always available.

It was felt by the foster carers that although foster caring could seem daunting at first, initial training was particularly good and helped them feel prepared for the role. One carer reported that the experience was extremely rewarding and enjoyed looking after the child placed with them.

It was clarified that out of hours support was available and a list of numbers had been provided to carers, although none of those present had used the service as yet.

It was noted that autonomy to resolve any issues or disputes within the family in the first instance was encouraged. Emergency services were offered however few families had needed to use them. The scheme Foster Families United also provided peer to peer support for carers.

Board members took the opportunity to commend the foster carers present and Wolverhampton foster carers as a whole for the significant difference they made to provide children and young people of Wolverhampton with continuity and stability.

Resolved:

That the Foster Carers' Forum update be received.

10 **Participation of Children and Young People Annual Report 2018-2019**

Alice Vickers, Corporate Parenting Officer presented the Participation of Children and Young People Annual Report 2018 – 2019. The report provided an overview of the 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. It was also outlined that the strategy was due to be reviewed to consider the participation plans for 2019 onwards.

It was highlighted that the Wolverhampton Care Leaver Offer, which had been worked on in consultation with Wolverhampton's care leavers, was considered one of the best nationally and the care leavers felt immensely proud to have been involved in this.

It was also noted that a Co-production Charter was being developed in conjunction with the Children and Families Together Board.

It was highlighted that a member of the Children in Care Council had been awarded Wolverhampton Young Citizen of the Year 2019 for his work as a member of the Children in Care Council and Youth Council. It was noted that he had been heavily involved in producing an informative video on combatting climate change that was screened at a meeting of Full Council on 17 July 2019 in support of a motion to declare a state of climate emergency in Wolverhampton.

It was noted that members of the Children in Care Council had also been involved in and delivered Total Respect training to various bodies.

Resolved:

1. That the Participation of Children and Young People Annual Report 2018 – 2019 be approved.
2. That the City's continued commitment to children and young people having influence over decisions that affect them and involvement in co-producing services in the City be endorsed.

11 **Performance Monitoring Information**

Alison Hinds, Head of Children and Young People in Care presented the Performance Monitoring Information Report and highlighted salient points. It was noted that the dashboard at Appendix 1 had been updated with data as at 31 May 2019 and that the number of children in care had reduced over the year to date from 624 to 613.

It was highlighted that there are now more children placed with internal foster carers than agency carers for the first time. This was commended as a great success and

attributed to the work undertaken as part of the Family Values Project to reduce reliance on agency staff.

In respect of social worker caseloads, the average was 21.3 cases however work was being undertaken to reduce this to a target of 15.

It was noted that the key stage 2 and 4 attainment information requested at the last meeting had now been added under the Education heading.

It was noted that the number of up to date dental checks had reduced again and it requested that the figures be checked to ascertain whether it was a recording error rather than an actual reduction.

It was also highlighted that 11 adoptions had taken place this year.

Resolved:

1. That the Performance Monitoring Information Report be received.
2. That the reduction in the number of dental checks for children and young people in care be investigated.

12 **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 item of business as it involved 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.

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

Councillor John Reynolds provided an exempt verbal update on a visit undertaken to the new Key 2 Inspiration (K2I) facility.

Resolved:

That the Councillor Visits to Establishments – Schedule of Visits update be received.

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CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL	Corporate Parenting Board 26 September 2019
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Report title	Schedule of Outstanding Matters	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor John Reynolds Children and Young People	
Wards affected	All wards	
Accountable director	Emma Bennett, Director of Children's Services	
Originating service	Governance	
Accountable employee	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.

Date of Meeting	Subject	Lead Member / Officer	Current Position
18 July 2019	To investigate the reduction in recorded dental checks for Children and Young People in Care.	Alison Hinds, Head of Children and Young People in Care	In progress

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 Climate Change and Environmental implications

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

6.2 The climate change and 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 There are no direct health and wellbeing implications arising from this report.

9.2 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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Corporate Parenting Board
26 September 2019

Report title	Wolverhampton Sufficiency Strategy 2017-2020: 2018-2019 Implementation Plan End of Year Report	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor John Reynolds Children and Young People	
Wards affected	All wards	
Accountable director	Emma Bennett, Director of Children's Services	
Originating service	People Commissioning Team	
Accountable employee	Nick Price	Commissioning Officer
	Tel	01902 551961
	Email	nick.price@wolverhampton.gov.uk

Recommendation for action:

The Corporate Parenting Board is recommended to:

1. Receive Wolverhampton Sufficiency Strategy 2017-2020: 2018-2019 Implementation Plan End of Year Report.

1.0 Purpose

1.1 The report provides information on the position at the end of the Strategy Implementation Plan period (2018-2019) and performance in relation to the Implementation Plan 2018-2019 priorities. It also includes proposals for changing the way that the Sufficiency Challenge element of the work is organised.

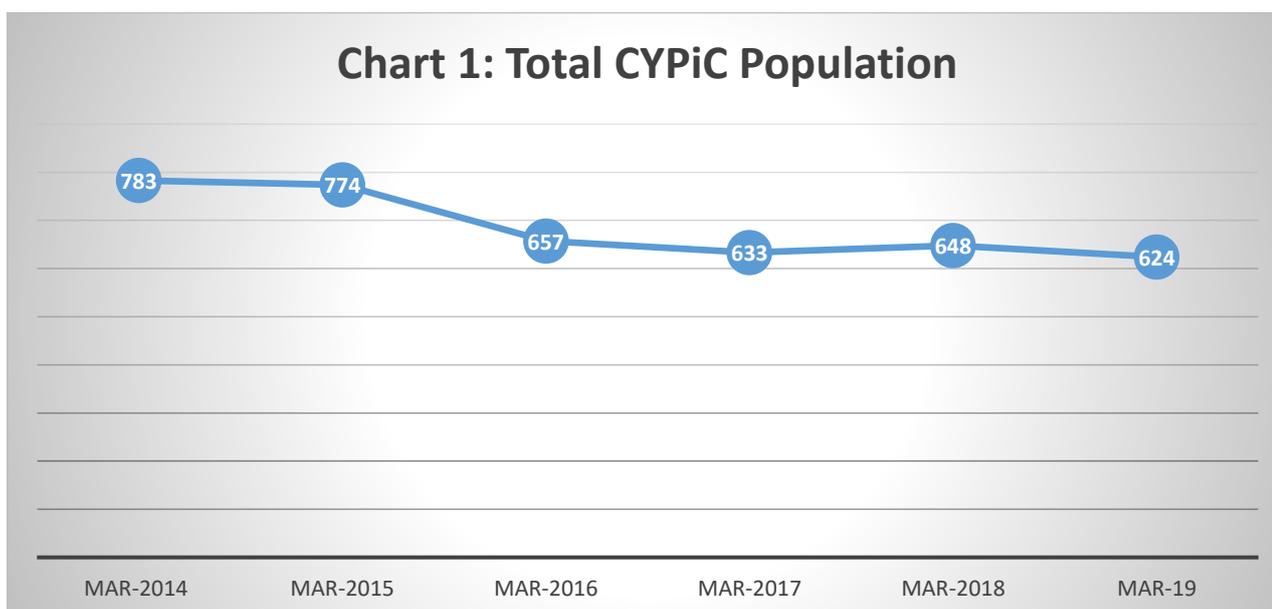
2.0 Background

- 2.1 This year has seen a number of developments with regard to the implementation and monitoring of the Sufficiency Strategy. During the year, the Sufficiency Challenge Group has been established to provide strategic oversight of the Sufficiency Strategy and Implementation Plan. In addition, a new tool was introduced to monitor performance in the shape of the Sufficiency Dashboard which provides both contextual and performance data.
- 2.2 The report and the RAG ratings against performance indicators proposed by the Operational Leads were reviewed at the inaugural meeting of the Sufficiency Challenge Group meeting. The Sufficiency Challenge Group has been established to provide strategic oversight of the Sufficiency Strategy and Implementation and to provide a strategic commentary and challenge to ensure that synergy is achieved across the various elements of the Implementation Plan. The Group decided to structure its strategic review and challenge process around the life journey of vulnerable children and young people both in and out of care. The strategic commentary provided in this report has been led by the Challenge Group.
- 2.3 Of the 20 performance indicators, 14 (70%) are green, six (30%) are amber.

3.0 Contextual Information

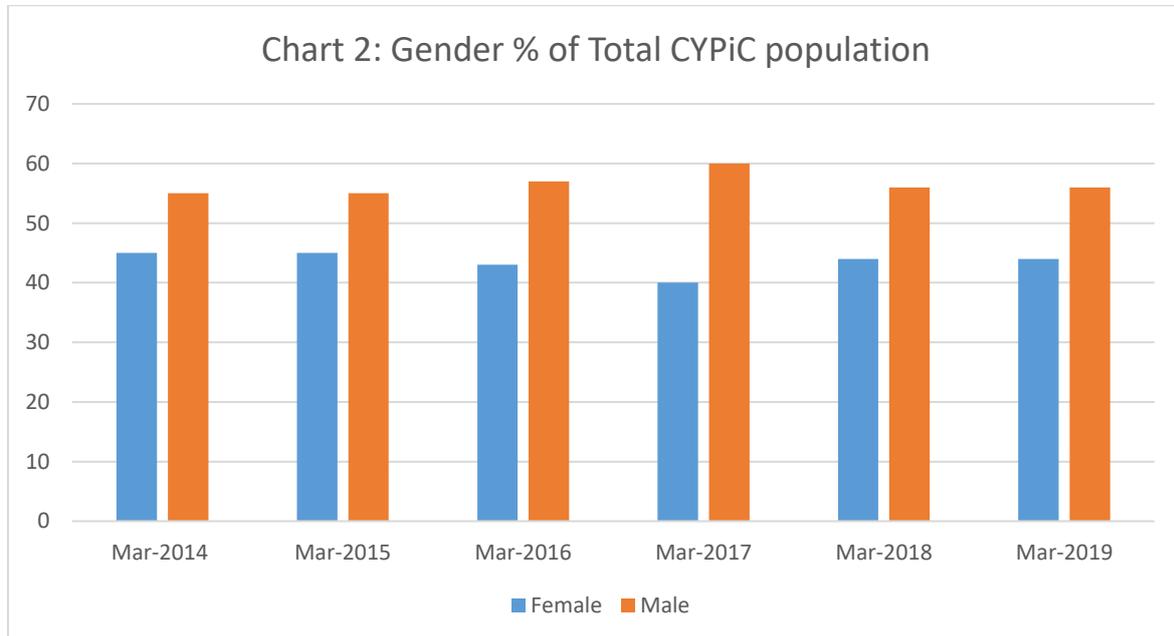
Total Children and Young People in Care (CYPiC) Population

- 3.1 Since 31 March 2014 the total CYPiC population has decreased by 20.3% (783-624) compared to the same date in 2019.
- 3.2 During 2018-2019 there has been a 3.7% reduction in the CYPiC population. The chart below shows this:



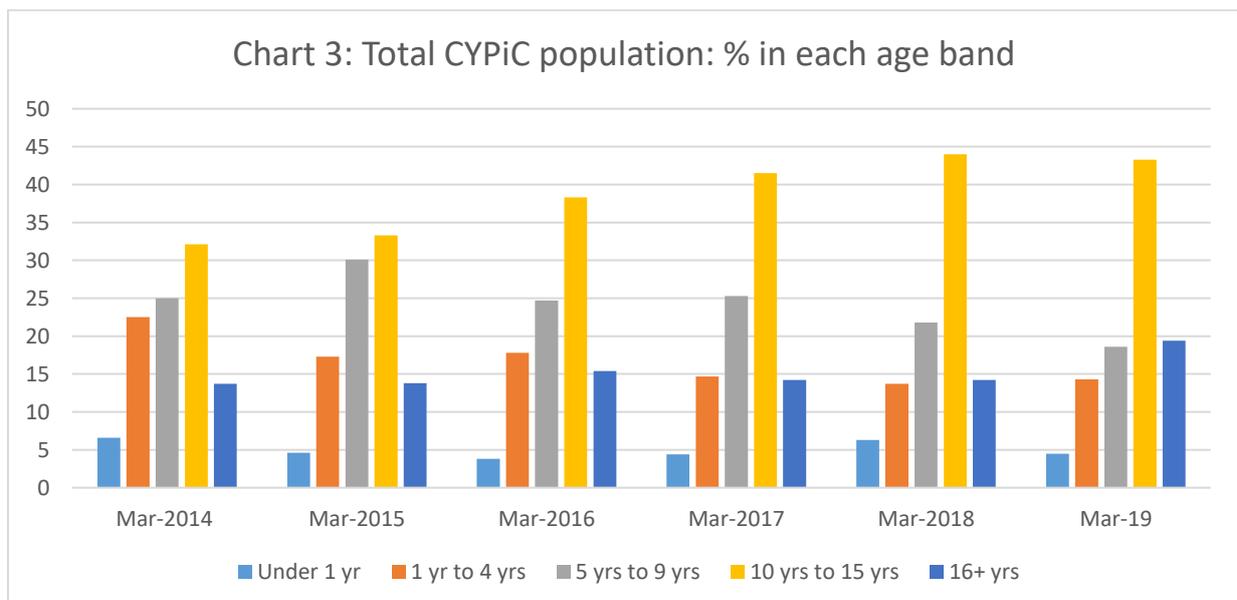
Gender

3.3 Over the last six years the gender balance has remained relatively constant at around 45% female and 55% male. The chart below shows this:



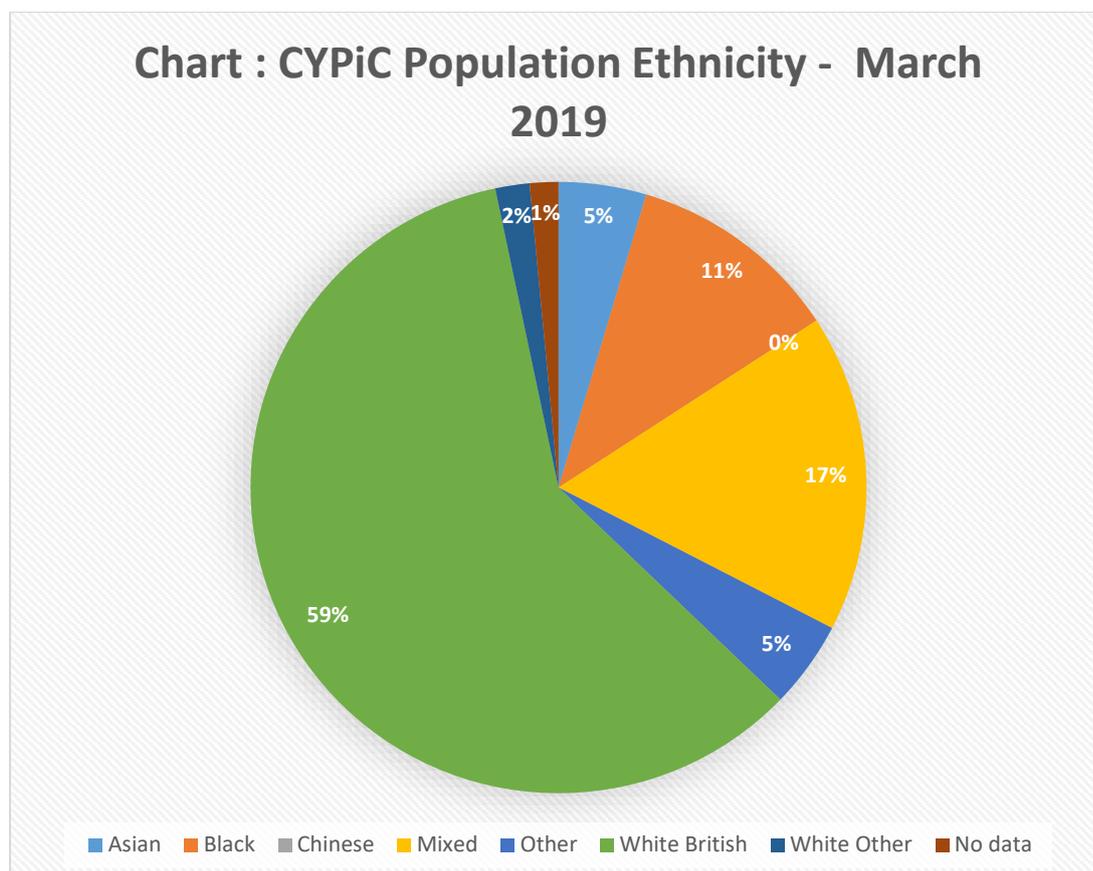
Age

3.4 Over the six-year period there have been significant changes with regard to the age profile of the overall CYPiC population. The last six years has seen a general downward trend for the three younger age groups covering zero – nine years (54% to 37.5%) whilst the older age groups covering 10+ years have increased (46% to 62.5%). This is shown in the chart below:



Ethnicity

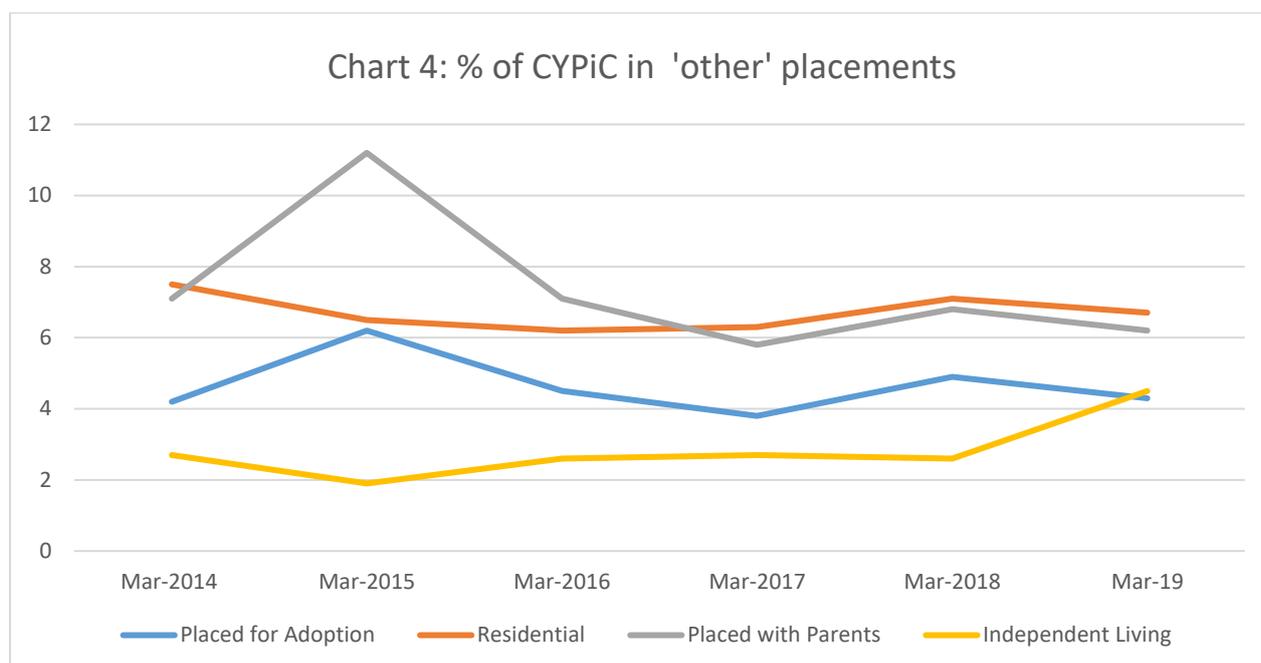
- 3.5 Overall there have not been any major changes in the ethnic make-up of the CYPiC population over the last six years. The largest proportion are in the White British category (59.5%) followed by those in the Dual Heritage category (16.8%). These two categories have seen the biggest changes over the last six years with Dual Heritage rising from 14.% to 16.8% of the total population and White British falling from 63.5% to 59.5%. The chart below shows this:



Placements

- 3.6 Whilst there have been fluctuations in the proportion of CYPiC in other types of home settings other than fostering over the last six years there has, overall, been relatively little change. CYPiC placed with Parents reached a peak in 2014-2015 but then saw a significant reduction in 2015-2016 and 2016-2017. The last 12 months has seen a significant increase in the proportion of CYPiC in Independent Living and this may reflect to some extent the increasing age profile.
- 3.7 Overall there has been an increase in the proportion of CYPiC placed in fostering placements. In March 2014 73% of CYPiC were fostered compared to 76.9% at the end of September 2018. In terms of other placement types, after an initial rise in CYPiC Placed with Parents, there has been an overall decrease since March 2015 (11.2% to 6.3%).

There has been a marginal decrease in 2018-2019. The chart below shows this:

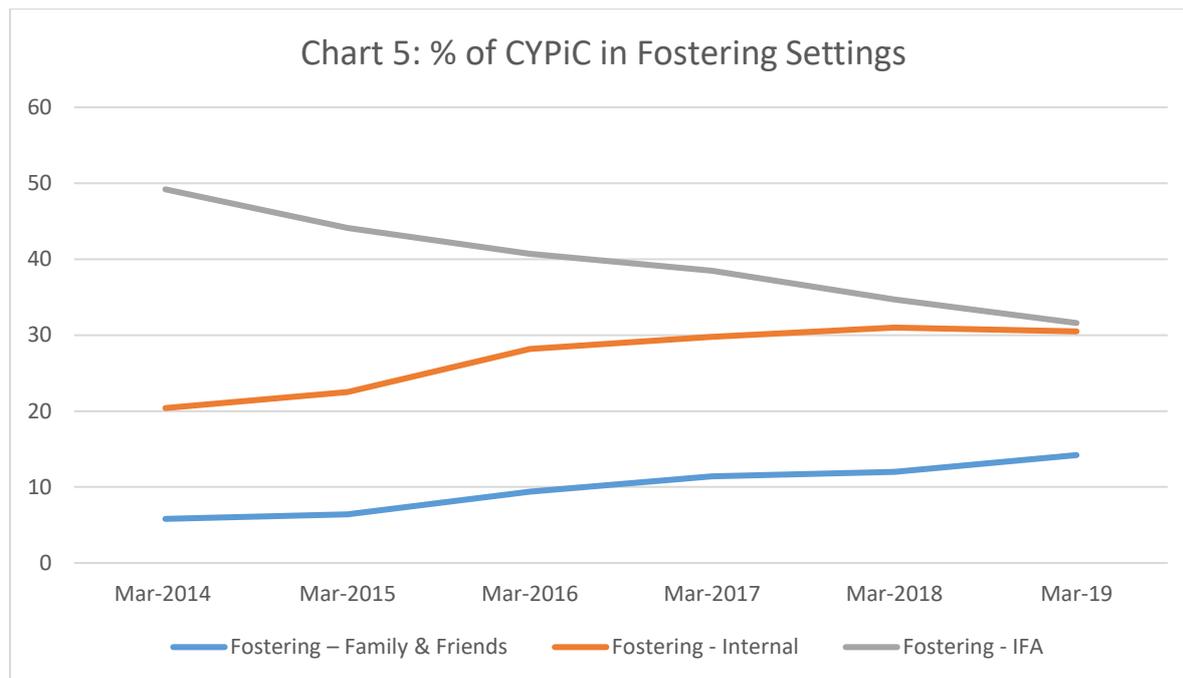


- 3.8 In terms of “geographical sufficiency”, at the end of March 2019 just over half (51.4%) of placements were within the City boundaries. A further 35.1% were within 20 miles, leaving 13.4% more than 20 miles away.
- 3.9 The table below provides a partial comparison with the national (England only) position in relation to placements over 20 miles from the home local authority. It is partial because the national data relates to the position at 31 March 2018 rather than 2019 as the data is not usually published until the following November or December.
- 3.10 The figures in the table indicate that overall there is nationally a higher proportion of placements over 20 miles away from the home local authority compared to Wolverhampton. This position is reflected in the Foster Care Placement category, which is numerically the largest. The reverse is true in terms of Independent Living and children and young people placed with parents. The table below shows this:

Table 1: Proportion of Children and Young People in Care placed more than 20 miles away from home		
Type	Wolverhampton %	England %
Placed for Adoption	47	45
Other	100	50
Residential	40	41
Independent Living	16	11
Foster Care	9	16
Placed with Parents	10.5	7
TOTAL	13	19

Foster Care Placements

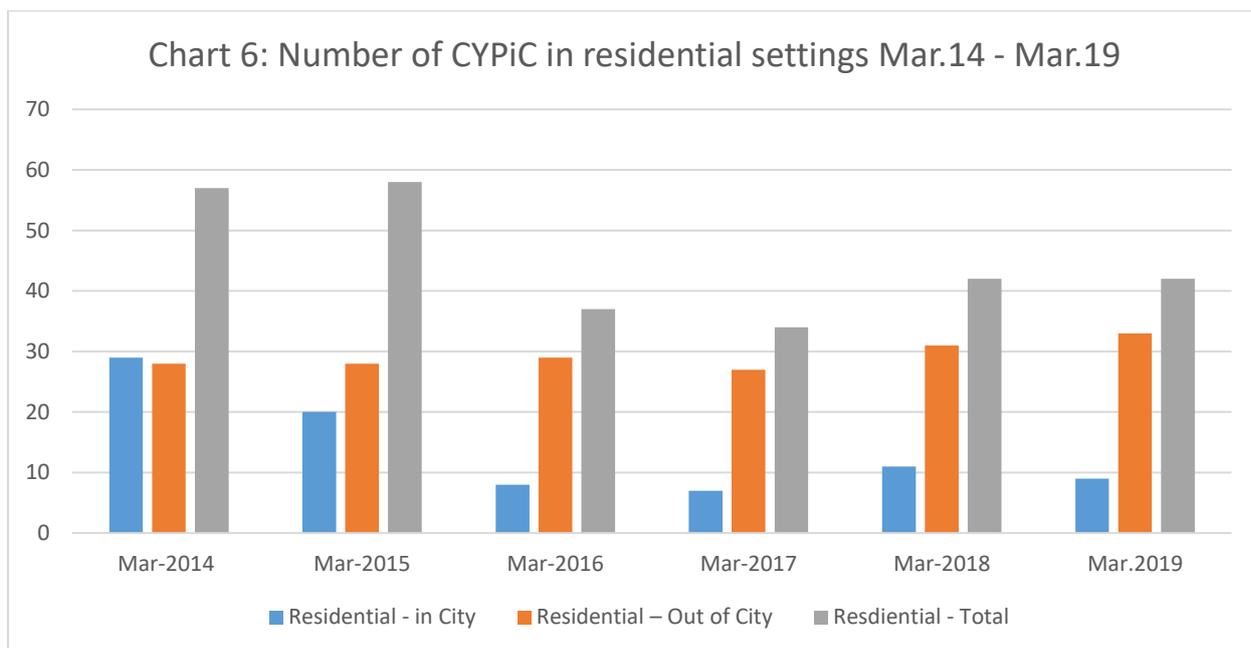
3.11 Fostering continues to be biggest placement type and there have been significant changes in the various types of fostering placement. There has been a steady increase in the proportion of Family & Friends placements (5.8% to 14.3%) and a steady increase in the proportion of children and young people placed with internal foster carers (20.4% to 30.5%), although the “in-year” trend is downwards. This increase has been matched by a similar rate of decrease in the use of independent fostering placements (44.1% to 31.6%). In March 2014 the majority of foster care settings were provided by Independent Fostering Agencies (65.3%) but by the end of March 2019 this had reduced to 41.3%. The table below shows this:



Residential Placements

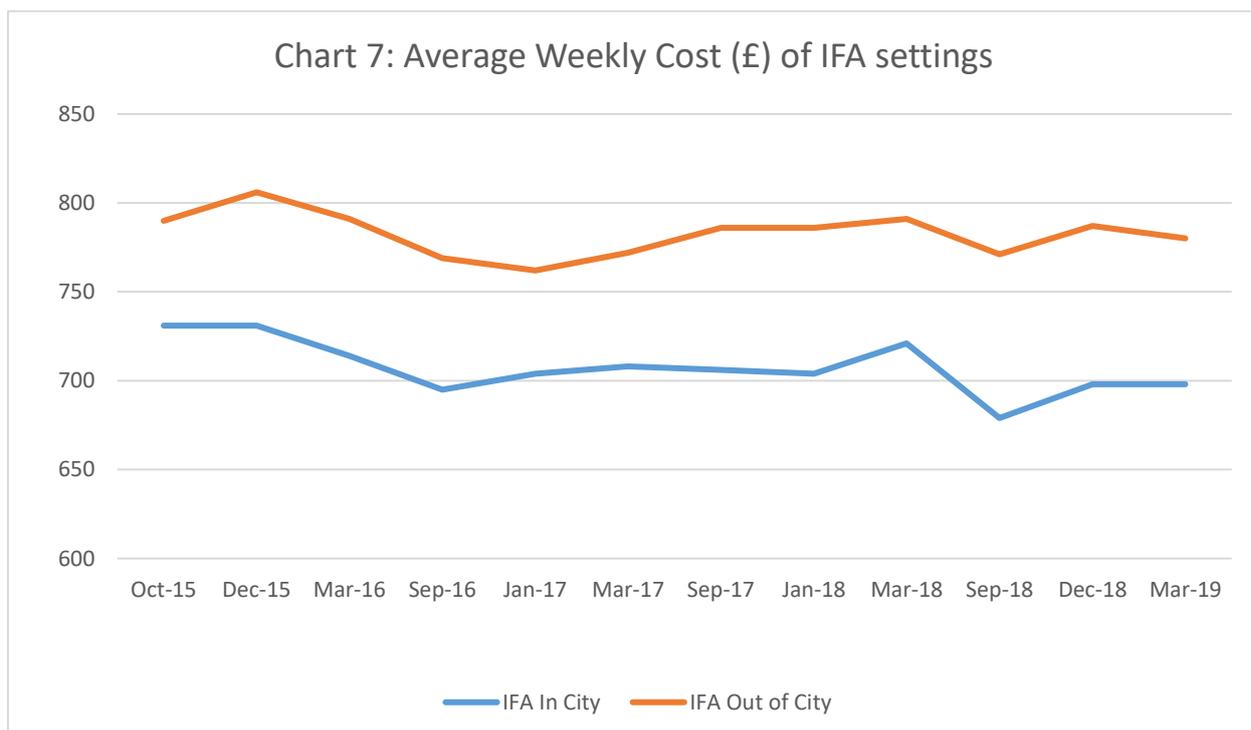
3.12 Over the six-year period there has been a significant reduction in the number of residential placements “in City” (29 to 9). This is partly explained by the closure of Council owned homes and the termination of block contracts during that period. In March “in City” residential placements accounted for 1.4% of all placements. “Out of City residential placements changed a little numerically over the six-year period (28 to 33). Given the reduced size of the overall population this means that the proportion of young people placed in residential settings outside the City has increased from 3.6% to 5.3%.

The chart below shows this:



Fostering Costs

3.13 Due to the decrease in the number of CYPiC in foster care with Independent Fostering Agencies (IFAs) there has been a reduction in weekly spend over the last three years. In City IFA placement spend has decreased by 48% and Out of City IFA placement spend has decreased 28%, making an overall decrease of 32%. In terms of the average weekly cost of IFA settings, this has also decreased. From January 2017 there was an upward trend but this has been reversed over the last six months. At 31 March 2019 the average weekly cost of an IFA placement “in City” was £698 compared to £780 for an “out of City” IFA placement. A recent review identified an average weekly cost for internal fostering placements (including Family and Friends) of £358.10. The chart below shows this:



Residential Costs

- 3.14 Unlike fostering costs, over the last five years there has been a steady increase in the average weekly costs of residential placements both in City (+41%) and out of the City (+5%) as set out in Chart Eight. This has led to a position at the end of March 2019 where average weekly costs in City (£3,594) are slightly higher than out of City (£3,499).
- 3.15 The data presented below shows how the proportions of residential settings in the different price bands have changed. Since September 2017 “in City” residential settings in the higher price bands have exceeded those in the lower. In March 2019 the lowest price band for out of City residential settings accounted for only 23% compared to 41% at its height in 2016.

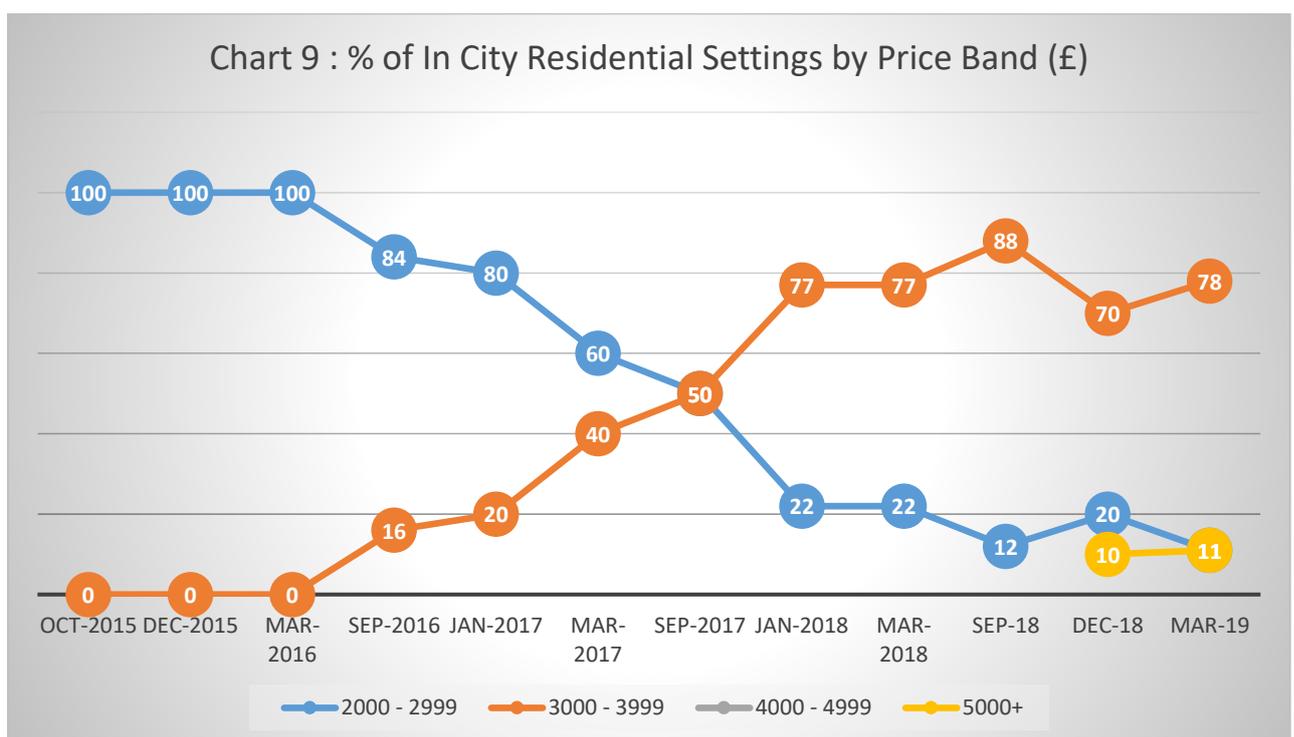
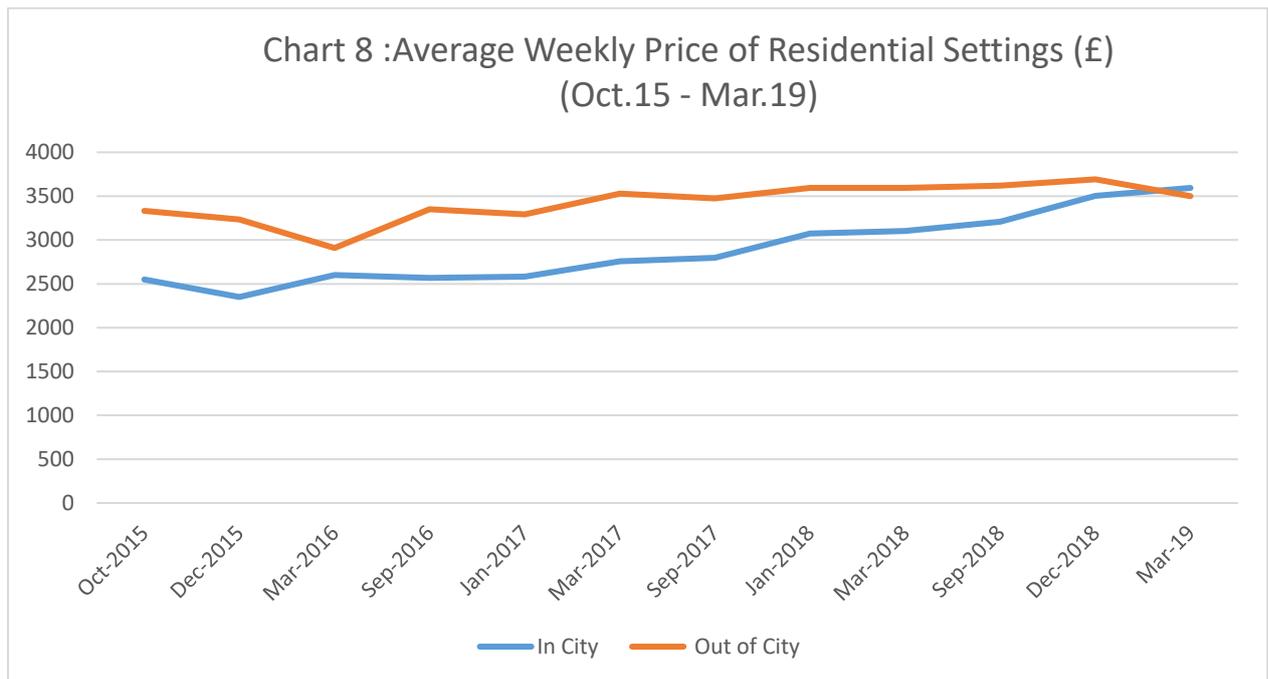
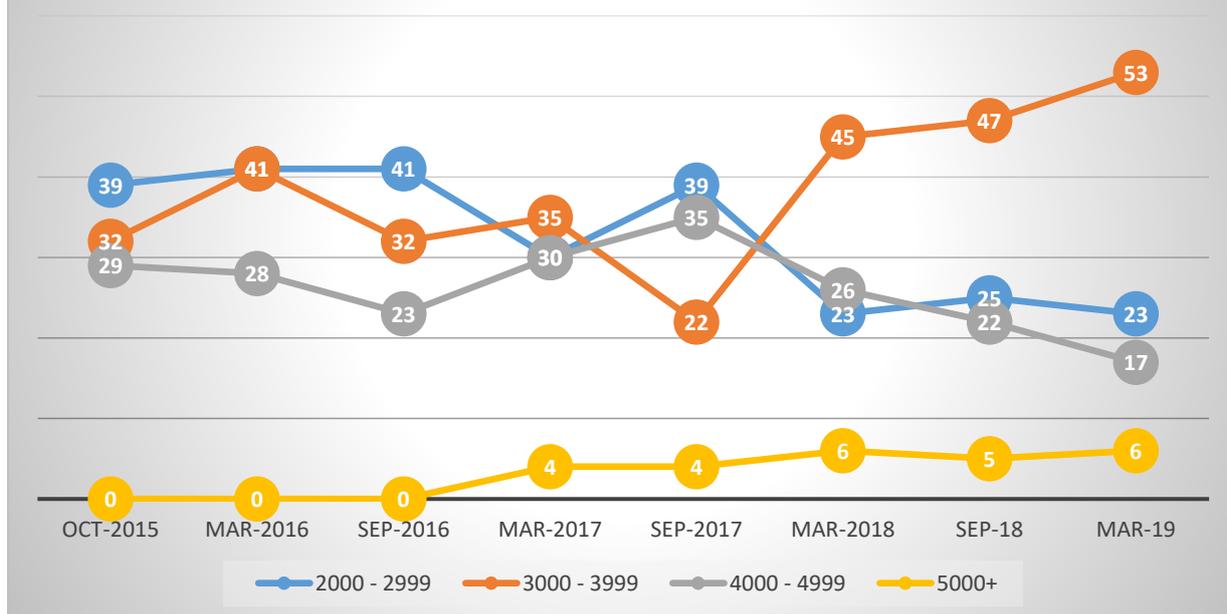


Chart 10 : % of Out of City Residential Settings by Price Band



4.0 Strategic Overview

4.1 The strategic overview set out below has been compiled by the Sufficiency Challenge Group and summarises the position at the end of the year and outlines the challenges in terms of sufficiency that will need to be addressed in the final year of the current strategy period.

4.2 Challenge One:

Challenge One: The need for effective support and practice to ensure that as many children as possible are able to remain living at home with their families.

Key Issues:

To ensure we have access to sufficient appropriate services to support children and young people, especially those on the edge of care, to remain with their family where possible.

Emerging Issues: None

What is working well?

Edge of Care (EoC) services continue to have a high level of success in supporting families to stay together and look after their own children. Of those that have benefitted from EoC services (Intensive Family Support, Upper Pendeford Farm Short Breaks Facility, Family Group Conferencing) 85-90% remain at home.

What more needs to be done?

There are plans to further develop Family Group Conferencing as an alternative to the initial case conference for children at risk of significant harm.

The introduction of a Young Persons Team will provide more opportunities to engage with vulnerable young people and their families to improve resilience and increase the chances of keeping families together.

4.3 Challenge Two:

Challenge Two: Provision of effective support and availability of suitable accommodation to meet the needs of care leavers
Key Issues: To ensure that we respond positively to increasing and changing needs in the CYPiC population (especially in terms of older CYPiC and care leavers up to 18 years of age and beyond)
Emerging Issues: None
What is working well?
This year saw the launch of the Care Leavers' Offer
What more needs to be done?
The aging nature of the care population will present increasing challenges going forward. There is a need to ensure that there is sufficient accommodation available and this needs to offer a wide range of choices for those young people working towards leaving care.

4.4 Challenge Three:

Challenge Three: Access to high quality placements that support children in care to have stability and to achieve positive outcomes.
Key Issues: To increase the proportion of children and young people in care placed in family settings and ensure that only those CYPiC with complex needs who are assessed as needing a residential placement are placed in residential settings To increase the size of the pool of internal foster carers and ensure that there are placement options for CYPiC of all ages and levels of complexity. To continue to improve our understanding of which types of need we have not been able to meet through "internal" placements in order to change the profile of the internal carer population so that we have sufficient internal carers to meet need (less reliance on external providers).
Emerging Issues: Use (inappropriate use) of unregistered supported accommodation when the markets (internal and external) fail to offer suitable/any placement offers.
What is working well?
Assessing Needs There is a process in place within a partnership setting for robust and regular (quarterly) assessment, monitoring and review of the needs of children and young people with complex needs. A new in-house residential home has been developed to provide a residential assessment service. This is an example of how residential care can be used more purposefully – i.e. with a specific short-term role rather than as a long term solution or an emergency/"placement of last resort" option.

Improving placement matching and stability

Internal foster carer profiles have been completed and filed on both carers' records and on the foster carers register which supports the placement team when identifying placements and advising social workers of the carer's details.

A Foster Carers Level three and four Panel has been set up which meets on a quarterly basis. The Panel considers applications from foster carers (supported by their supervising social worker) to be considered for escalation from level two to level three or level three to level four. Two panels have been held so far with four carers to progress from level to three agreed.

Foster Carer Skills and Resilience

A Therapeutic Training Programme has been delivered throughout the year which gives foster carers insight in how to provide care to children and young people considering their experiences prior to foster care. This is upskilling carers and supporting resilience and is seeing significant improvement in placement stability.

The buddying scheme was revised during the year and training offered to all level three carers in providing buddy support to newly approved or less experienced foster carers. 35 foster carers were trained as buddies with 15 to date paired up with foster carers. All newly approved foster carers receive weekly visits for six weeks following approval at panel.

What more needs to be done?

Auditing specific groups of children and young people (e.g. potential special guardianships, adoptions, children with several placement moves, residential care) on a consistent and regular basis.

Successful implementation of the Key to Inspiration residential provision to enable children to move to appropriate care provision and reduce the need for lengthy residential care placements.

There is a priority to ensure that only those young people who need to be in residential care are actually placed in children's homes.

4.5 Challenge Four:

Challenge Four: Quality of practice and support to meet the needs of children in care, improving their experience of care and achieving permanence.

Key Issues:

To achieve permanence for CYPiC as early as possible.

Emerging Issues: None

What is working well?

Looking at all possibilities to achieving permanence for example the active promotion of Special Guardianship Orders particularly with Connected Carers has proved successful.

What more needs to be done?

There is a need to focus on auditing specifically identified cohorts of Children and Young People in Care (e.g. potential special guardianships, adoptions, revocations, children with several placement moves, residential care and care proceedings) on a monthly basis and meeting with managers to drive forward progress.

5.0 End of Year (2018-2019) Performance Monitoring

5.1 This section of the report provides an overview of performance in relation to each strategic priority and its related performance indicators.

Priority One: To ensure we have access to sufficient appropriate services to support children and young people, especially those on the edge of care, to remain with their family where possible.

Responsible Officer: Rachel King – Head of Specialist Support Services

Performance Indicator	2018-2019 Target	2018-2019 Out turn
<p>1a: Percentage of planned cases who have been supported by Upper Pendeford Farm where placements have not broken down.</p> <p>(Baseline 2017-2018: 89%)</p> <p>Operational Lead (Rachel King) Comment: This indicator refers to a service area covering relatively small numbers. Thus, there is room for slight fluctuations in performance to have apparently large impacts statistically. For example, during 2018-2019 there have only been 13 cases closed.</p>	90%	70%
<p>1b: Percentage of CYP who at the point that Specialist Support Services casework ends have not been admitted to care.</p> <p>(Baseline 2016-2017: 91%)</p> <p>Operational Lead (Rachel King) Comment: Data shows those that did go into care, did so within six weeks of referral to specialist support services, this highlights some cases are referred too late.</p>	95%	89%
<p>1c: Percentage of CYPiC with a “return home” plan who have been successfully reunified with their families.</p> <p>(Baseline 2016-2017: 78%)</p>	80%	74%

Operational Lead (Rachel King) Comment: This indicator refers to a service area covering relatively small numbers. Thus, there is room for slight fluctuations in performance to have apparently large impacts statistically. For example, during 2018-2019 there have only been 23 cases closed.

5.2 There are plans being developed to expand the scope of the performance monitoring prevention of admission to care to include longitudinal studies which will enable the longer-term impact to be assessed.

Priority Two: To increase the proportion of children and young people in care placed in family settings and ensure that only those CYPiC with complex needs who are assessed as needing a residential placement are placed in residential settings

Responsible Officer: Alison Hinds – Head of Children and Young People in Care

Performance Indicator	2018-2019 Target	2018-2019 Out turn
<p>2a: Proportion of the total CYPiC population in a family led environment or independent living placement.</p> <p>(Baseline: 31 March 2017: 94.9%)</p> <p>Operational Lead (Alison Hinds) Comment:</p> <p>The proportion of CYPiC in foster care placements is below the baseline position and this reflects the lack of availability of both internal and external placement opportunities.</p>	95%	92%
<p>2b: Proportion of CYPiC in residential placements who have a current care plan for residential care</p> <p>Operational Lead (Alison Hinds) Comment:</p> <p>The nature of some placement referrals (e.g. emergency situations) mean that CYPiC are placed in residential as an interim measure.</p>	100%	An audit has been undertaken and a number of cases identified of CYPiC with plans for foster care were in residential placements
<p>2c: Percentage of CYPiC assessed as needing a residential setting are systematically scrutinised on a six-monthly basis</p> <p>Operational Lead (Alison Hinds) Comment:</p> <p>All residential placements, not just those assessed as needing residential, all systematically scrutinised either through the EPR</p>	100%	100%

process (three & six monthly) and the EPP process (three monthly).		
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Priority Three: To increase the size of the pool of internal foster carers and ensure that there are placement options for CYPiC of all ages and levels of complexity.

Responsible Officer: Alison Hinds – Head of Children and Young People in Care

Performance Indicator	2018-2019 Target	2018-2019 Out turn
<p>3a: Number of available internal foster carers (Baseline 31 March 2018: 147)</p> <p>Operational Lead (Lisa Whelan) Comment: This has been a successful year for recruitment with 24 approvals of mainstream foster carers in the year. Compared to last year there were only 10 de-registrations and therefore there has been a net gain of 14 mainstream internal foster carers.</p>	Net gain of 26	Net gain of 14 168
<p>3b: Percentage of Children and Young People in Care who on entering care have a first placement with connected carers. (Baseline 31 March 2018: 70)</p> <p>Operational Lead (Lisa Whelan) Comment: During 2018-2019 23 connected carers were approved however four Special Guardianship Orders (SGO's) were made to connected carers and 14 children were adopted by their foster carers which affects net gain of connected carers however increases SGO orders.</p> <p>There is a strategic drive to convert as many Connected Carer placements to SGOs as soon as circumstances are right. This may have an impact on the achievement of this target, but this will be offset by better performance in relation to Target 5b.</p>	By 31 March 2019 increase the number of looked after children in connected persons placements to 100	95 Children & Young People in Care in 53 Connected Persons placements

Priority Four: To continue to improve our understanding of which types of need we have not been able to meet through “internal” placements in order to change the profile of the internal carer population so that we have sufficient internal carers to meet need (less reliance on external providers).

Responsible Officer: Alison Hinds – Head of Children and Young People in Care

Performance Indicator	2018-2019 Target	2018-2019 Out turn
4a: Number of Foster Families United fostering clusters introduced	At 31 March 2019: 1	Completed

<p>(Baseline: 31 March 2018 = 0)</p> <p>Operational Lead (Lisa Whelan) Comment: Proposals detailing an In-House Fostering Model like Mockingbird were agreed by CLT and currently the model is being implemented – Foster Families United.</p> <p>This project is being launched during Fostering Fortnight in May 2019 with brochures printed and press releases to coincide. A Pilot project consisting of one hub carer and three carers commenced on 1 April 2019 and will be reviewed through a work stream reporting to the Family Values Steering Group.</p>		
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Priority Five: To achieve permanence for CYPiC as early as possible.

Responsible Officer: Alison Hinds – Head of Children and Young People in Care

Performance Indicator	2018-2019 Target	2018-2019 Out turn
<p>5a: Number of early permanence placements</p> <p>(Baseline: 2017-18 - 3)</p> <p>Operational Lead (Dawn Deans) Comment: We were able to achieve more than the target set which is a good performance</p>	6	7
<p>5b: Number and percentage of Family and Friends placements which lead to Special Guardianship Orders or adoption.</p> <p>Operational Lead (Lisa Whelan) Comment: Four of the SGO orders were to family and friends carers.</p>	15	20
<p>5c: Number of Adoption Orders granted.</p> <p>Operational Lead (Dawn Deans) Comment: Performance on target.</p> <p>Operational Lead assessment of issues which may affect future performance: In 2017-2018 we achieved 40, we set a target of 46 and achieved 43.</p> <p>There was delay on one case due to issues related to the prospective adopter, one case the lodging of the adoption order application was delayed due to the annex not being completed and a further case the adopters delayed applying for the adoption order. All three cases were due to be achieved AO in April.</p>	46	43

<p>5d: The average time between receiving a placement order and a match to an adoptive family being decided</p> <p>(Baseline: National average 220 days)</p> <p>Operational Lead (Dawn Deans) Comment: The Department for Education target is 121 however the national average is 220. This is a very good performance and the lowest City of Wolverhampton Adoption Service yet has achieved.</p>	220 days	152 days
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Priority Six: To ensure that we have access to sufficient appropriate services, accommodation and types of placement to prevent admission to care and respond positively to increasing and changing needs in the CYPiC population (especially in terms of older CYPiC and care leavers up to 18 years of age and beyond)

Responsible Officer: Alison Hinds – Head of Children and Young People in Care

Performance Indicator	2018-2019 Target	2018-2019 Out turn
<p>6a: NI62 - Percentage of Children and Young People in Care at 31 March each year with three or more placements during the year.</p> <p>Operational Lead (Alison Hinds) Comment:</p>	National target 16%	15%
<p>6b: NI63 - Percentage of Children and Young People in Care aged 16 and under who had been in care for 2.5 years in the same placement.</p> <p>(Baseline 31 March 2018 - 69%)</p> <p>Operational Lead (Alison Hinds) Comment:</p>	Year on year improvement (increase)	67%
<p>6c: Percentage of care leavers who self-report feeling safe and supported in their accommodation.</p> <p>(Baseline: 2016-2017 = 90%)</p> <p>Operational Lead (Julia Tompson) comment: Of the 10 young people surveyed in 2018-2019 – one reported not feeling safe due to neighbour issues – this was managed via Anti-Social Behaviour Team.</p> <p>Survey undertaken annually so data quoted relates to the 2017-2018 survey.</p>	100%	90%
<p>6d: Percentage of care leavers who have sustained their own tenancies in Council owned flats for six months post 18.</p> <p>Operational Lead (Julia Tompson) comment: Figures based on the 22 Care Leavers who moved into</p>	87%	95%

independence during 2018, 21 are maintaining their tenancy six months on.		
6e: NI 147- Percentage of care leavers in suitable accommodation. (Baseline: 31 March 2018 – 82%) Operational Lead (Julia Tompson) comment: No comments	Year on year improvement (increase)	91% (Early Sept.18)
6f: Performance Management Framework for “Key to Inspiration” K2I Assessment Residential Home is in place. Operational Lead (Rachel King) Comment: K2I should be opening by the end of May 2019. Performance data will be collected once open. The indicators that will be specifically monitored in relation to the sufficiency strategy have been agreed.	(Milestone) – In place September 2018	Completed

Priority Seven: To ensure that a Market Position Statement is developed and published as part of a cross Directorate approach to developing closer working relationships with providers (internal and external) in order to improve choice, quality, quantity and availability of services to closely match needs of children and young people on the edge of care and in care.

Responsible Officer: Andrew Wolverson – Head of Service

Performance Indicator	2018-2019 Target	2018-2019 Out turn
7a: The Market Position Statement document is in place, is up to date and is readily available to those who need it. Operational Lead (Adam Cooper) Comment: The aim of this document is to open a dialogue with the wider community stakeholders by providing them with the current picture of care and support delivery, including demand and finance. Operational Lead assessment of issues which may affect future performance: Document is current on track for completion	December 2018 - January 2019	Draft document has been completed
7b: Market Position Statement is fit for purpose (according to provider/partner organisation feedback) Operational Lead (Adam Cooper) Comment: Operational Lead assessment of issues which may affect future performance:	December 2018 - January 2019	

Document is current on track for completion. Feedback will not be obtained until it is formally published.		
<p>7c: A programme of provider engagement events/opportunities is in place</p> <p>Operational Lead (Adam Cooper) Comment:</p> <p>“Market warming” programmes and events form part of the pre-tendering phase for any contracts/framework agreements which come forward for tendering.</p> <p>Operational Lead assessment of issues which may affect future performance:</p> <p>None</p>	<p>Four meetings a year</p> <p>TBC</p>	<p>Events have been held with residential providers</p>

6.0 Proposals for new Sufficiency Challenge arrangements

- 6.1 The current arrangements for the Sufficiency Challenge Group have only been operating for a short time but during a recent discussion at a Group meeting it was felt that there is a need to have a strategic discussion about sufficiency more regularly and that this review should be more central to the mainstream strategic and operational business of Children and Young People’s Services.
- 6.2 In order to achieve this it is proposed that the Sufficiency Challenge Group meeting be replaced by a timetable of four annual (quarterly) agenda items for the Children’s Leadership Team Strategic meetings. Each of the four meetings would receive a general overview of Sufficiency and also have a specific focussed discussion around one of the four existing Challenge Themes or whatever new challenges emerge from the Strategy renewal process which will be carried out this year.

7.0 Financial implications

- 7.1 The breadth of the response to meeting the sufficiency duty impacts across the whole of Children and Young People’s Services which had an approved budget of £49.6 million for 2018-2019.
- 7.2 Any costs relating to the future implementation of the Strategy will be met from within the 2019-2020 approved budget of £51.8 million.
- 7.3 The delivery of the 2018-2019 Implementation Plan made a contribution to cost avoidance. In terms of reducing the overall population of Children and Young People in Care, 89% of children and young people who at the point that Specialist Support Services casework ended had not been admitted to care. In addition, there were significant improvements in using less expensive placements, for example, 95 Children & Young People in Care were in Connected Persons placements and the balance of foster care placements changed from the majority being in foster homes provided by Independent Fostering Agencies to a majority living with internal provided carers.

[NM/03072019/E]

8.0 Legal implications

8.1 The production of the Strategy fulfils the Sufficiency Duty placed on local authorities in Section 22G of the Children Act 1989 which has subsequently been reinforced by the Statutory Guidance Securing Sufficient Accommodation for Looked After Children (published 30 March 2010)

[SB/02072019/H]

9.0 Equalities implications

9.1 There are no equalities issues to this report as the needs of all Children and Young People in Care and those on the edge of care are specifically addressed through the existing processes that are in place.

10.0 Climate Change and Environmental implications

10.1 There are no direct climate change and environmental implications as a result of this report or the implementation of the Sufficiency Strategy over the next three years.

11.0 Project Implications

11.1 Project management support has been identified to assist in the process of agreeing and completing the Implementation Plan particularly in relation to the 2018-2019 Implementation Plan.

12.0 Human resources implications

12.1 There are no direct human resources implications as a result of this report.

13.0 Corporate Landlord implications

13.1 There are no direct Corporate Landlord implications arising from this report.

14.0 Schedule of background papers

14.1 Sufficiency: Statutory guidance on securing sufficient accommodation for looked after children – DCSF 2010

14.2 Wolverhampton Sufficiency Strategy 2014-2017

14.3 Report to Children & Young People Management Team 26 January 2017

14.4 Report to Children & Young People Management Team 23 March 2017

14.5 Report to Transforming Children's Services Programme Board 21 March 2018

14.6 Report to Transforming Children's Services Programme Board 12 June 2018

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CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL	Corporate Parenting Board 26 September 2019
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Report title	Annual Report of the Independent Reviewing Officer Service 2018-2019	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor John Reynolds Children and Young People	
Wards affected	All wards	
Accountable director	Emma Bennett, Director of Children's Services	
Originating service	Safeguarding	
Accountable employees	Dawn Williams	Head of Service – Safeguarding
	Tel	01902 550655
	Email	Dawn.williams@wolverhampton.gov.uk
	Mandy Lee	Safeguarding Manager-Children
	Tel	01902 550654
	E-mail	Mandy.lee@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report has been considered by	Children in Care Council	21 August 2019
	Children and Young People Management Team	22 August 2019

Recommendation for decision:

The Corporate Parenting Board is recommended to:

1. Endorse the Annual Report of the Independent Reviewing Officer Service 2018–2019.

1.0 Purpose

1.1 Wolverhampton Safeguarding Service has statutory responsibility for overseeing and ratifying the care plans for Children and Young People in Care via the activity of the Independent Reviewing Officers. As a result, the service is duty bound to provide the Corporate Parenting Board with an annual report that outlines the activity of the service, the impact for children and recommendations for service improvement that will enhance young people's experiences.

2.0 Background

2.1 The Children and Young Persons Act 2008 reinforced and strengthened the role of the Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO), enabling more effective independent oversight and scrutiny of the child's case. It has ensured that the child is able to meaningfully participate in planning for their own care and that the care plan that the local authority prepares for them is based on a thorough assessment of the individual child's needs.

2.2 In March 2010 the Government issued statutory guidance, The IRO Handbook, for Local Authorities and IROs on care planning and reviewing arrangements. The IRO Handbook states that the statutory duties of the IRO are to:

- monitor the Local Authority's performance of their functions in relation to the child's case;
- participate in any review of the child's case;
- ensure any ascertained wishes and feelings of the child concerning the case are given due consideration by the appropriate authority;
- perform any other function which is prescribed in regulations.

2.3 All children and young people in care, including children who are in an adoptive placement prior to an Adoption Order, are covered by the legislation. This applies to all children who are the subject of a care order (under section 31 of the Children Act 1989), or who are voluntarily accommodated for a period of more than 24 hours (section 20 of the Children Act 1989), including those described in this report as in Short Break Care, or who are placed for adoption under the Adoption and Children Act 2002. It also covers those who are compulsorily looked after, such as those remanded by the court to local authority accommodation. Since the publication of the Legal Aid Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act (LASPO) in December 2012, it has been the responsibility of the Local Authority to look after all young people who are remanded into custody. These young people require an allocated IRO and reviews in their place of custody.

3.0 Progress

3.1 The annual report provides an outline of activity covering the period 2018-2019 and determines actions to be progressed in 2019-2020.

- 3.2 The IRO service has remained stable, with an experienced and capable staff team. The Ofsted Inspection of 2017 found that 'Independent reviewing officers (IROs) are effective in driving improvements in practice and performance, leading to better outcomes for children looked after. A stable and experienced team of IROs has been given additional resources, to ensure that IROs are able to continue to deliver a high-quality service'.
- 3.3 Caseloads for IROs have been manageable, which has enabled the team to be more effective in driving improvements and to spend more time seeing children.
- 3.4 The report shows that, overall, the service has been effective in terms of the timeliness of reviews and the participation of children in reviews, but there is still room for improvement. This is reflected in the plans for 2019-2020.
- 3.5 There has been improvement in how the team demonstrates effectiveness in parental participation and in escalating concerns when this is needed.
- 3.6 The team has piloted a more child friendly approach to reviews which has helped improve the quality of participation. This is to be rolled out in the coming year.

4.0 Financial implications

- 4.1 The approved budget for 2019-2020 for IROs is £933,000 and is held within the Safeguarding Service.
- 4.2 Any costs associated with the IROs Service will be funded from within the above allocation.
[NM/16092019/M]

5.0 Legal implications

- 5.1 The relevant legislation is contained within the body of the report. There are no direct legal implications arising from the report.
[TC/11092019/C]

6.0 Equalities implications

- 6.1 The Annual report recognises issues of equality for Children who access the safeguarding service and how equality is represented within the service.

7.0 Climate Change and Environmental implications

- 7.1 None arising directly from this report.

8.0 Human resources implications

8.1 None arising directly from this report.

9.0 Corporate Landlord implications

9.1 None arising directly from this report.

10.0 Schedule of background papers

10.1 The annual report for 2018 - 2019 is attached. The Corporate Parenting Board has received Annual reports in preceding years.

**CITY OF
WOLVERHAMPTON
COUNCIL**

**Independent Reviewing Officer Service
Annual report**

2018 - 2019

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The IRO Handbook (2010) is the statutory guidance for Independent Reviewing Officers (IRO) and local authorities on their functions in relation to case management and review of children and young people in care. It states that the IRO Manager (known as the Safeguarding Manager – Children, in Wolverhampton) should be responsible for the production of an annual report for the scrutiny of the members of the Corporate Parenting Board. It should also be available to the public on the Council website.
- 1.2 This report covers the period from April 2018 – March 2019. This is the ninth annual report.
- 1.3 The Safeguarding Service is based at the Priory Green Building in Pendeford, Wolverhampton.
- 1.4 Dawn Williams is the Head of Safeguarding (HOS) and has overall responsibility for the IRO functions and ensures independence from the line management of cases and the allocation of resources within Children and Families Services. Mandy Lee is the Safeguarding Manager-Children. The management of the IRO team involves the provision of supervision to the IROs and responsibility for the team including ensuring that reviews are held on time and that they are correctly administered. The Safeguarding Manager also manages an IRO who undertakes foster home reviews.
- 1.5 As prescribed by the National IRO Managers Group, this report will endeavour to ‘highlight areas of good practice and areas which require improvement, identify emerging themes and trends, describe areas of work which the service has prioritised during the year, and will prioritise in the coming year.’
- 1.7 The IROs have a key role in assuring the quality of the case planning for those children and young people in care in Wolverhampton. The purpose of this report is to provide information on the work undertaken by the IROs in 2018 – 19 and to outline the priorities for the next year.

2.0 Purpose of service and legal context

- 2.1 The arrangements for the statutory reviews of children and young people in care in Wolverhampton, were amended and updated by Section 118 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002. Legislation for the reviewing of cases is supported by detailed guidance which has been taken into account in making arrangements in Wolverhampton. The guidance includes Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (England) Regulations 2010 and the IRO Handbook.
- 2.2 The IRO Handbook states that the statutory duties of the IRO are to:
 - monitor the Local Authority’s performance of their functions in relation to the child’s case;
 - participate in any review of the child’s case;
 - ensure any ascertained wishes and feelings of the child concerning the case are given due consideration by the appropriate authority;

- 2.3 The IRO service has an important quality assurance role as outlined in the IRO Handbook: 'As part of the monitoring function, the IRO also has a duty to monitor the performance of the local authority's function as a corporate parent and to identify any areas of poor practice. This should include identifying patterns of concern emerging not just around individual children but also more generally in relation to the collective experience of its looked after children of the services they receive. Where IROs identify more general concerns around the quality of the authority's services to its looked after children, the IRO should immediately alert senior managers about these. Equally important, the IRO should recognise and report on good practice'
- 2.4 All children and young people in care(CAYPIC), including children who are in an adoptive placement prior to an adoption order, are covered by the legislation. This applies to all children who are the subject of a Care Order (under section 31 of the Children Act 1989), or who are voluntarily accommodated for a period of more than 24 hours (section 20 of the Children Act 1989), including those described in this report as in Short Break Care, or who are placed for adoption under the Adoption and Children Act 2002. It also covers those who are compulsorily looked after such as those remanded by the court to local authority accommodation. Since the publication of the Legal Aid Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act (LASPO) in December 2012, it has been the responsibility of the Local Authority to look after all young people who are remanded into custody. These young people now require an allocated IRO and reviews in their place of custody.

3.0 Quantitative information about the service

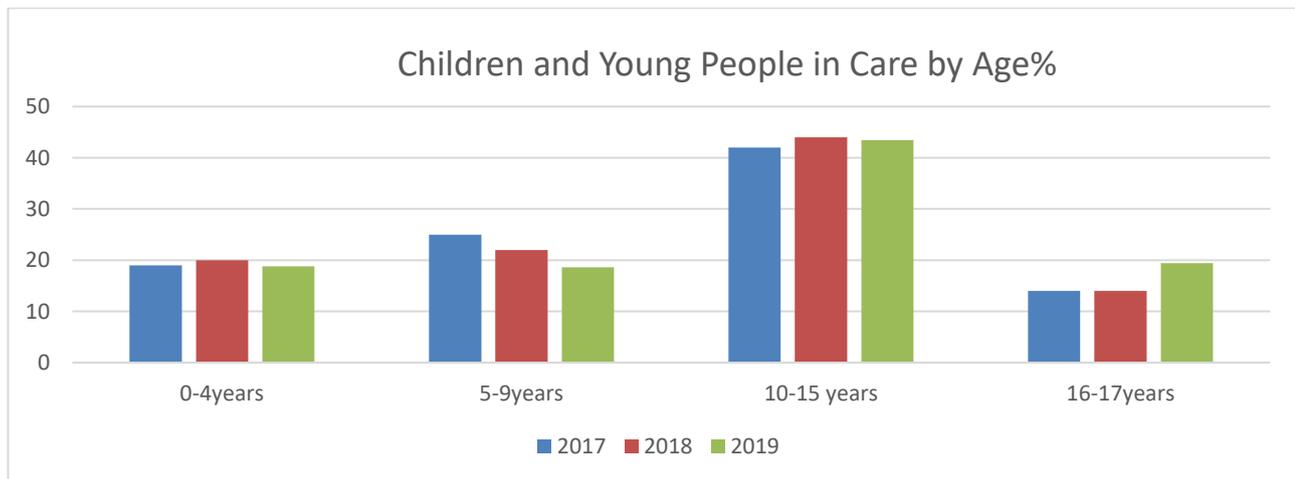
- 3.1 The Service has an establishment of 11 FTE IRO's. The team has been fully staffed since January 2018. The team has no temporary or agency workers. The Safeguarding Manager-Children is supported by a 0.5 Principal IRO.
- 3.2 The team has remained stable and the Team is increasingly experienced; some of whom have worked for Wolverhampton for many years, meaning some IROs have been consistently involved with the same young people for 10 years or more. The majority of the team have a mixed caseload of CAYPIC and Child Protection. Three of the permanent IROs only hold CAYPIC cases. The makeup of caseloads is regularly reviewed.
- 3.3 The IRO Handbook recommends IRO caseloads of 50 – 70 children per IRO. The average caseload including children and young people in care, children on a CP plan, and those receiving care through short breaks (S20) on 31 March 2019 was 87 children. This compares to 92 at March 2018. Caseloads have slightly reduced, in line with the general reduction in the numbers of children and young people in care.
- 3.4 The team is made up of 3 men and 10 women. The team is made up of IROs from different ethnic backgrounds. (3 black/Asian, 1 black Afro/Caribbean/mixed heritage and 9 white British.) This adequately reflects the children we are serving. The looked after children of Wolverhampton were from the following backgrounds on 31.3.19: 59.5% white British, 4.6%

Asian, 9.9% black/British/African/Caribbean, 11.6% mixed white/blackAfrican/Caribbean, 2.2% mixed white/Asian, 9.9% other.

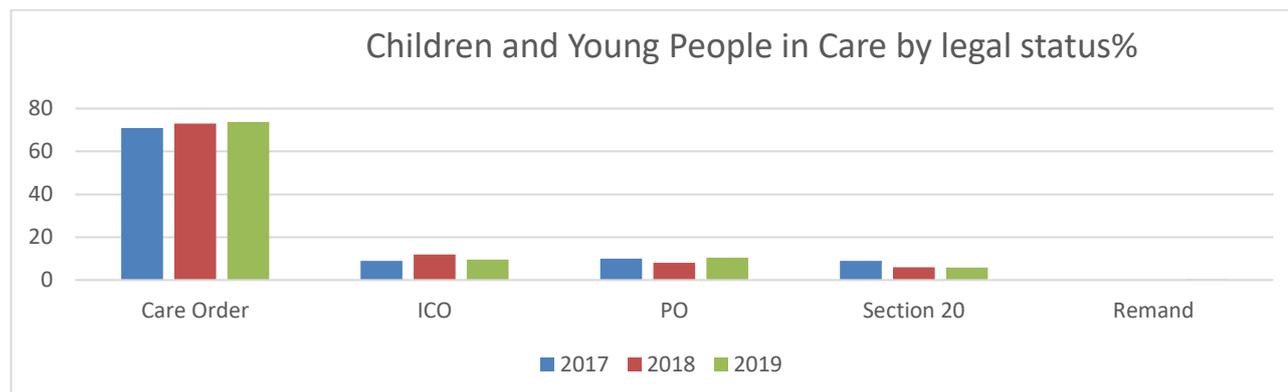
3.5 The service also has 1 Independent Foster Home Reviewing Officer who is responsible for chairing Foster Home reviews.

4.0 Quantative information regarding the Children and Young People in Care population.

4.1 There were 624 children and young people in care at 31.3.19, compared to 648 in 2018. Of these 276/44.2% were female (287/44% in 2018) and 348/55.8% were male (361/56% in 2018). The charts below show the percentage of children in care by age and legal status. The data shows a slight decrease in the numbers of young children in care, whilst the proportion of older children has increased. This may be the result of effective plans to move young children on to permanence, whilst there is remaining legacy of older young people who will not leave care until adulthood.



4.2 In relation to legal status, the chart below shows the percentage of all children remaining subject to Care Orders has increased slightly. The proportion currently subject to care proceedings, subject to Interim Care Orders has slightly decreased, which reflects the reduction in overall children in Care and the percentage subject to section 20 has fallen slightly. This is in line with case law which has provided greater clarity about the appropriate use of section 20. The number subject to Placement Orders has increased slightly, suggesting more children are achieving permanence through adoption. The figures for remand Reviews are low, and accounts for a small percentage (0.3%) the Children in Care population.



5.0 Qualitative information about the IRO service

5.1 Under the provisions of the *Review of Children's Cases Regulations (1991)*³ local authorities are required to review the case of any child or young person who is in care or provided with accommodation as follows:

- First review must take place within 28 days of the date upon which the child begins to be looked after or provided with accommodation;
- Second review must be carried out no later than 3 months after the first review; and
- Subsequent reviews shall be carried out not more than 6 months after the date of the previous review.

5.2 The date of the next review should be brought forward:

- If there is an unplanned change of placement or other substantial changes to the care plan.
- If the IRO has specific concerns about a child and directs that the review be brought forward.
- Any request from the child or parent(s) for a review to be brought forward should be given serious consideration.

5.3 90% of all children and young people in care in 2018/19 were reviewed in line with statutory timescales (92% in 2017/18). This shows a slight decrease of performance from the previous year however continues to represent good performance.

5.4 An IRO is allocated to all children and young people in care within 24 hours of the Safeguarding Service being informed of that child's entry into care. Written information about the IRO and the reviewing service is shared with the child prior to their first review, in the form of child friendly postcard type information booklets. Further work is being undertaken to provide children with more choices about how they communicate with their IRO, including consideration of an electronic system similar to the Mind of My Own website. New consultation leaflets are being designed, with versions for younger and older children, following consultation with the Children in Care Council. Plans are also underway to develop consultation tools that would be more suitable for children with disabilities. Children can make direct contact with their IRO by calling, by text or by email.

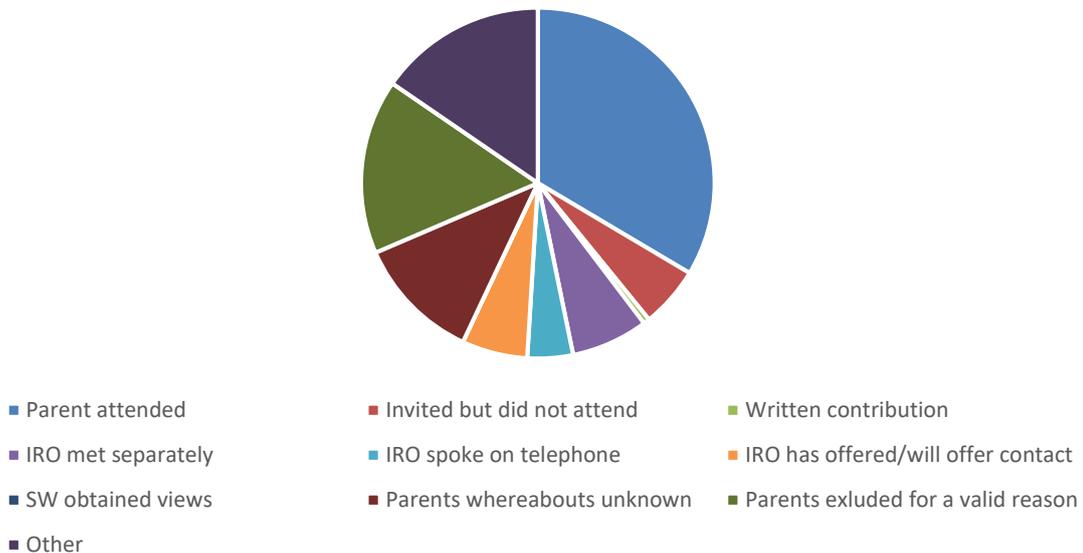
- 5.5 The majority of sibling groups, whether placed together or not, are allocated to the same IRO. This ensures consistency of information exchange, oversight of care planning and decision-making, including sibling contact, and is particularly of benefit when children have different social workers.
- 5.6 The involvement of children in their own reviews is regarded as an essential part of the process. *'A key task for the IRO will be to ensure that the review processes, and particularly review meetings, remain child and family centred'* (IRO Guidance, Adoption and Children Act 2002.) The IRO has an important role in ensuring that the child:
- can make a meaningful contribution to their review;
 - speaks for themselves if they are able and willing to do so; and where this is not possible that their views are conveyed by someone else on their behalf or by an appropriate medium; and
 - has been given the opportunity to make a written contribution to the meeting, particularly if they have chosen not to attend or are unable to attend for some other reason.
- 5.7 The recorded achievement in this area of activity is also a measure of local authority performance, although no longer a national performance indicator. At 31 March 2019, 94% of children participated in their reviews. This is a slight decrease from 2018 (95%). There will always be a proportion of children who do not want to participate or for a variety of reasons, do not make themselves available to the IRO and do not take up other forms of consultation. IROs make efforts to offer children a number of ways of participating, which has been a focus over the last year in line with the Review Project which was piloted during November 2018.
- 5.8 Children aged 7 and over receive a written invitation to their review meeting along with the consultation document inviting their contribution to the review. The IRO is required to speak with the child alone prior to the first review and before every subsequent review (regulation 36). The requirement for direct contact with the child extends to observation of babies and younger children.
- 5.9 The Independent Reviewing Officers Guidance, Adoption and Children Act 2002, states that *'The IRO has an important role in ensuring that all parties to the review are able to make an effective contribution.'* In order to assist in this aim, age appropriate consultation papers continue to be sent to the child/young person, and carers, prior to a review. The child's consultation paper provides the IRO with an overview of the child's feelings about the various aspects of their care and the services he/she is receiving, and assists the IRO in ensuring the child's voice is heard. Work has been undertaken to introduce giving children choices about how to prepare and participate in their Reviews and this approach has been piloted with a selected number of children. The feedback from this pilot was encouraging; when children chose to lead their Review or use an activity to enhance their participation, this was successful.

Case example, Children's Participation:

The following child's Review was chosen as part of the Pilot for a Review Project to increase meaningful participation of children and ensure they are given choices about how their meeting will work. Child M is aged 9 and has a Care Plan of Long-term Fostering. Child M's Review was selected and the Social Worker visited the child to discuss options for how the Review should be undertaken. Child M chose to use a consultation tool, a type of Review board game, to shape the Review discussion. Child M also chose who should attend, where the Review was held (at her home) and prepared in advance what she wanted to discuss using the Consultation Booklet. The Social Worker and IRO discussed Child M's choices in advance and the Review was arranged according to her wishes. The IRO reported that Child M participated well, using the game as a way of getting her views across. The IRO felt that Child M seemed more confident and empowered to ask about the things that were important to her, in this Review asking if she could have a pet to look after at home. The Social Worker also fed back that the Review was more child focused and had a celebratory feel, drawing attention to the child's achievements. The child also took ownership of her own Review; being in control of who attended and welcomed them by making cupcakes for the Review (with the help of her Foster Carer). The outcome was that the child's views were given due consideration, she felt listened to and knows that her opinions are taken seriously.

- 5.10 IROs continue to work hard to involve parents in their children's Reviews, albeit that sometimes this means consultations take place by telephone discussion or separate meetings. The table below shows a break down of how parents have participated in their children's Reviews. In the majority of cases, the parent attended the Review, but participation by some means has been achieved in 72% of all reviews, although in some instances parents have chosen not to take up the offer of attending, speaking or meeting with the IRO. There appears to be low usage of parents contributing by writing and this may be an area of work; to re-introduce the parental consultation leaflet and to ensure Social Workers and IROs are providing this option of participation to parents.

Participation of Parents in Reviews - between April 2018-March 2019



Case example, Parental Participation:

Child P has been the subject of a Care Order since February 2015 and her mother attended her Review for the first time this year. There had been a number of barriers to Child P's mother engaging in the Review process; having felt unfairly treated during the Care Proceedings she had not wished to remain in contact with the Local Authority and will not even disclose her address. The mother's mistrust of the system was further amplified following an unsuccessful application to have the Care Order discharged and the children returned to her care. It is also likely that the parent has undiagnosed Mental Health difficulties which affects her ability to communicate effectively with professionals.

At the previous Review last autumn, Child P asked if her mother could come to the next one, so the IRO found a way of inviting her, and it was held at the Office. The parent met with the IRO before the meeting started and she participated really well in the Review. Child P was really pleased to have her mother there. The parent got a hug off Child P's Foster Carer, and also a previous social worker who happened to be in the building. It was great for Child P to see that all the adults in her life were on cordial terms. The parent had the confidence to call the IRO a couple of weeks later to talk about a minor concern she had following a contact session. Child P's mother seems to have finally accepted that her girls are all doing well in Care, and she can enjoy their successes and her participation in Reviews is a good way of her staying informed about their progress.

- 5.11 One child was reviewed by an IRO under the Short Break Statutory Guidance (Section 20(4) of the Children Act 1989) in 2018/19 (1 in 2017-2018).
- 5.12 10% of the Reviews during 2018/2019 were for children who are subject to Placement Orders and awaiting Adoption. Some of those children are still residing with Foster Carers where an adoptive family has not yet been identified. Others will already be placed with their Prospective Adopters, awaiting further proceedings to obtain an Adoption Order and complete the Adoption process, where the child will cease to be In Care. Post-placement Adoption Reviews have a different feel, but there are clear statutory duties for the IRO to monitor the transition for the child and ensuring the Local Authority's support to the child is in place. A priority for the service was to improve the consultation documents for Prospective Adopters and children, where they are of an age to express their views, although generally children placed for adoption are much younger. A new consultation form is now in place to support Prospective Adopters to prepare for the Review, although often consultation is achieved by discussion with the IRO ahead of the Review.

Case Example, Adoption Review:

The IRO had been involved with Child H, aged 1 and Child J, aged 5 for some considerable time, having also been the IRO for their older siblings. As a plan of adoption was agreed for the children, the IRO played a significant role in sharing information between necessary parties and ensuring the identity needs of the children were met. The IRO had an established relationship with the children's mother and was able to speak to her and ask about the reasons behind choosing the children's names and was also instrumental in ensuring the Adopters and Birth Parent had the opportunity to meet each other, which will be of great importance to the children as they get older. The IRO attended a meeting with the Prospective Adopters and shared information about the children's care journey and history when they lived at home. The IRO met with Child J before she moved to her adoptive family and the Child shared a photo of some of her siblings and discussed this. The IRO noticed that she had not mentioned her eldest sister, who she had not met. The IRO was able to make sure the children had the opportunity to meet their eldest sister before they were adopted and directed that ongoing post adoption contact by letter is arranged and that information is recorded in her Life Story Book about all of their siblings. When the IRO met with Child J to consult with her for the first Review after she had been placed for adoption, the child voluntarily shared information about who was in her family, and mentioned her oldest sister – proving that she now had accurate information about her birth family and these memories could be kept for her future.

- 5.13 The IRO service have received 18 compliments between April 2018-March 2019 from a variety of sources including children, Social Workers, Foster Carers and other professionals. Children have made comments that acknowledge the value of the longevity in the IRO relationship and appreciation for IROs sorting out problems they may have. One child who

was turing 18 said; "I am going to miss my IRO. He used to fix everything for me and did lots for me". Another child wrote to their IRO; "Thank you. I know I can always rely on you, you are a great IRO and you don't mess about which is a good skill to have and that's why I like you, because you always try and help me". Another child wrote to their IRO after returning home; "Thank you for helping me return to my Mom and Dad. I really really appreciate everything you have done for me and my family. It means the world to me that I am back where I belong and I will never forget how you helped me get there". Comments from other professionals and Foster Carers highlight the skill of the IROs in balancing being child focused in Chairing Reviews but also challenging delay in Care Planning in an authoritative manner. One Social Worker commented that; "the IRO was able to pace the Review around the needs of the child and the child felt comfortable to discuss all areas of her life" and a Foster Carer noted that "The IRO is really good in the way she communicates with the children, appears caring, is not intimidating, and does as she promises". One Foster Carer made a general comment that; "The IROs are brilliant, everyone I have worked with have been calm and in control of the Review. They've explained everything really well to the parents and everybody involved. They all have the children's best interests at the forefront during the meetings." There was one complaint about the service and this related to the conduct of a Child Protection Conference.

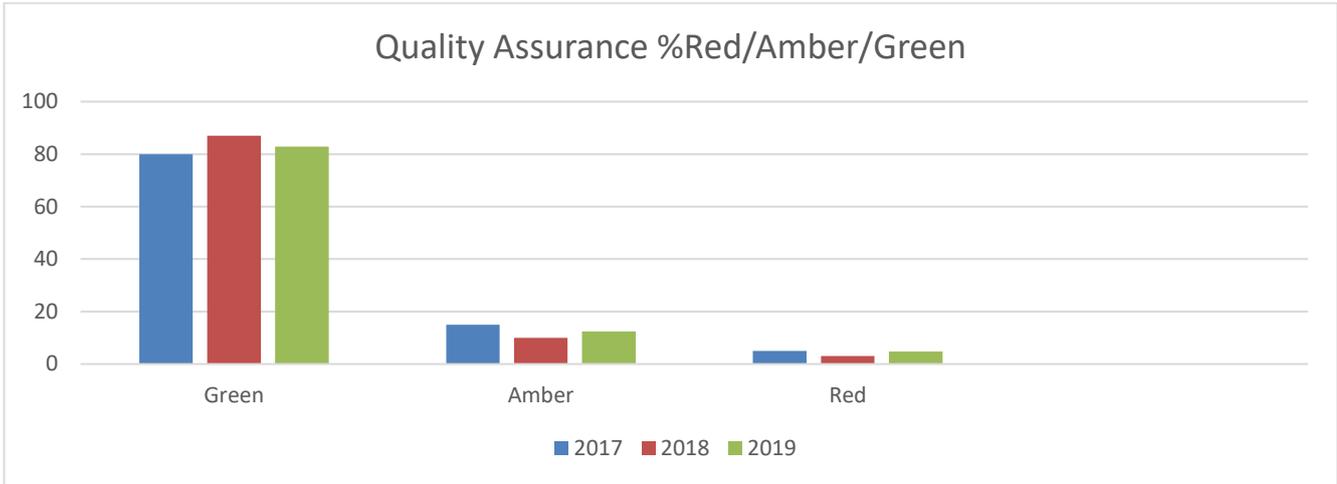
6.0 Conduct of the organisation in relation to the review

6.1 The IROs quality assure each child's case at every review which include the following:

- Quality of preparation for review by social worker, including report preparation, preparation of the child/young person and sign off by manager,
- Quality of care planning, including how up to date the care plan is,
- Quality of contribution by the child/ young person and other attendees, to review,

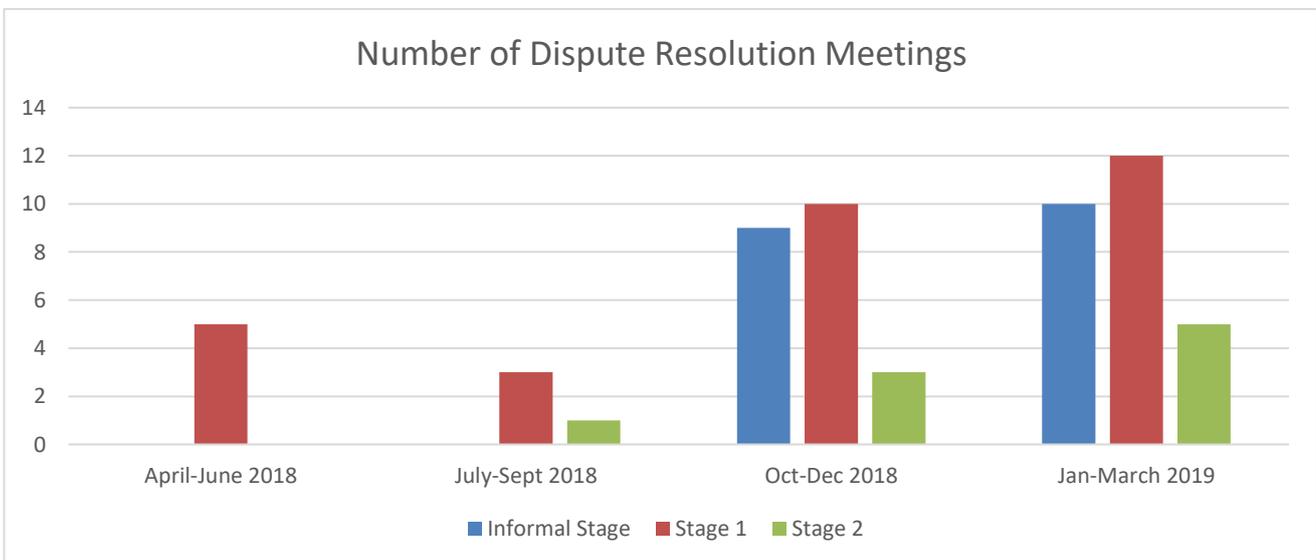
Detailed reports are now available on the findings of this quality assurance work, which means the service is now able to identify trends and patterns of practice and bring them to the attention of Children's Social Care. The Safeguarding Manager-Children provides a report to the Children and Young People's Management Team quarterly, highlighting areas of good practice and areas for concern and action.

6.2 The RAG(Red/Amber/Green) quality rating system, in respect of Reviews, including the progress of plans, preparation for the meeting and the quality of reports has been used consistently in Wolverhampton since August 2014. In 2018-19, RAG ratings were issued in relation to 1618 Reviews (1580 in 2017-18). The chart below compares ratings over the last 3 years. This shows an increase in Amber and Red RAGs being issued, suggesting more concerns around drift in work with children and an increase in serious concerns around Care Planning.



6.3 A notification is automatically sent to the responsible Social Workers and Team Manager, and ensures they are alerted to the status (red, amber or green) of the child’s plan. It identifies any concerns the IRO has about a child or their care plan, and should be a clear and valuable part of the quality assurance of the Local Authority’s work which is provided by the IRO. There is an expectation that the responsible Children’s Team Manager responds to the IRO in all red and amber cases. Where the IRO feels their concern is not being addressed, they would commence the agreed dispute resolution process.

6.4 During 2018-19 a number of formal dispute resolution protocols were implemented in Wolverhampton. This protocol commences when the IRO identifies serious concerns about drift or delay in a child’s case and is unable to resolve the difficulty with the social worker or their manager. Improved data analysis has allowed the ability to capture numbers of informal stage Dispute Resolutions since October 2018, which explains the vast increase in the last 2 quarters. The table below shows the breakdown of the use of dispute resolution and demonstrates that IROs are exerting effective challenge of the Local Authority regarding care planning for children where there is serious concern or delay and that escalation continues to the next stage where matters are not resolved.



Case example, Formal Stage 1 Dispute Resolution:

Child K is aged 17 and had entered Care when he was aged 15. He had not settled in Foster Care or Residential Settings and eventually refused to stay in the placement identified for him and started staying with his Grandmother. This was not agreed as a placement by the Local Authority and was unsuitable for him as a long-term arrangement because of his Grandmother's housing situation and poor health. The IRO became concerned that there had not been a swift response by the Local Authority to assess the situation and find alternative accommodation for Child K and that he was at risk because his parents continued to spend time at the Grandmother's address. The IRO had a number of discussions with the Social Worker and Team Manager but there was still delay in resolving the issue. A Stage 1 Formal Dispute Resolution meeting was held with the Team Manager and Service Manager and actions were agreed; including increasing the visits to Child K to build a relationship so he would trust his Social Worker, and also to assess what accommodation needs would best suit him. There was also a change of allocated Social Worker who managed to engage better with Child K by helping him sort out practical matters such as getting new clothes and a bus pass. The assessment concluded that Child K was ready to live in supported accommodation; his wishes to find accommodation near to his Grandmother were respected. Child K is now settled in his own flat. The IRO was pleased to see that he has taken great pride in furnishing his own flat and is doing very well. Child K continues to live near his family who can offer some support, but he is feeling more settled than he had been when in care placements.

- 6.5 The IROs complete a Recognition of Excellent or Good Practice notification when there is evidence of high quality practice. 35 notifications were awarded in 2018-19 (a slight decrease from 40 in 2017-18). The IROs have recognised the positive impact that recognition of good work has on teams, and therefore actively seeks to improve recognition.
- 6.6 The IRO service promotes good practice across Children's Service and has implemented a training programme available to all Social Work staff. Sessions are delivered regarding best practice for Social Workers in relation to Child Protection Conferences and Child and Young Person in Care Reviews. These sessions are offered on a quarterly basis and delivered jointly with Advanced Practitioners; the training has been well received particularly by newly qualified Social Workers. Training is also now being offered by the Team to partner agencies in relation to their contribution to Child Protection Conferences.
- 6.7 Each IRO is linked to a Social Work Team; this works as a mechanism for disseminating messages around expectations of practice and encouraging good practice in line with the service priorities and quality assurance standards; most recently around participation of children and parents in Reviews. It is expected that IROs occasionally attend their link Team Meetings and regularly hold discussions with the Team Managers to increase communication between the two services.

6.8 Wolverhampton IRO service has been hosting regional IRO Practice Share meetings on a quarterly basis with attendance from a number of West Midlands Local Authorities. These meetings have been welcomed and has provided good opportunities for IROs to network and share ideas for practice improvement.

8.0 Consultation with Young People- Feedback from the Children in Care Council

8.1 The Children in Care Council were presented with the IRO Annual Report on 21 August 2019. They reported that they understood the role of the IRO and the purpose of their Reviews. Although not all could remember the name of their IRO, most knew that their IRO had been a consistent person in their life for some time. The children discussed appreciating having the opportunity to meet with their IRO outside of the Review and one child shared how their views had been respected by their IRO who invited a family member to the Review, according to the child's wish. The group spoke about how it would be helpful to receive a letter to remind them when their Review is scheduled and having some information, perhaps a 'fact file' card to remind them who their IRO is. The group were shown the new Consultation Booklets and liked that there were different versions for different age groups. They liked that there was more space to freely write their views and not as many questions. The group gave some feedback about the colour scheme and icons and these alterations will be made

9.0 Review of last year's priority areas for improvement and action

9.1 To further develop means by which children can participate in reviews, including MOMO and implement new model for reviews which is more child friendly

Work has been ongoing to develop creative ways to encourage children's participation in their Reviews and offering choices about how their Reviews are arranged. A Project has been piloted to refresh how children are consulted and prepared to take part in Reviews; the feedback obtained from children, Foster Carers, Social Workers and IROs is encouraging and the next steps for further implementation are being considered.

9.2 To improve participation and consultation arrangements for children and carers where children are placed for adoption.

A revised consultation form has been used for Prospective Adopters to assist them in preparing for their Reviews. It is unclear as to the effectiveness, as very often Prospective Adopters are supported by their own Social Worker in planning for their Reviews. By nature of the adoption process, many children who are placed for Adoption are too young to verbally express a view or provide written consultation. Where children are older, IROs will make efforts to see or observe the child so they can participate in their Review.

9.3 To demonstrate improved parental participation in Reviews
Data shows that the vast majority of parents are participating in Reviews, or being offered the chance to participate. Where there is no participation this tends to be because their whereabouts are not known or they are excluded for a valid reason, because of potential risk

to the child or if it is the child's wish that they are not part of their Review. IROs continue to make efforts to encourage parents to participate, even when they have been absent from the Review process for some time.

10.0 Priorities for 2019 - 2020

- 10.1 To continue to build on increasing participation and creative approaches to children's Reviews.
- 10.2 Capture data to evidence the different ways IROs consult with children, including the amount of face-to-face pre Review consultations.
- 10.3 Design/development of consultation leaflets and tools to increase the participation of children with disabilities.
- 10.4 Annual observations of IROs Chairing a Review and feedback to be obtained directly from the child and parent where appropriate, which can be included in the next Annual Report.

11.0 Conclusion

- 11.1 This report has highlighted the work of the IROs in Wolverhampton from April 2018 to March 2019 and is an update on the last annual report.
- 11.2 The service needs to continue working to improve child participation and consultation, for children with a range of needs and circumstances.
- 11.3 The next report will cover the period from 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020.

CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL	Corporate Parenting Board 26 September 2019
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Report title	Performance Monitoring Information	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor John Reynolds Children and Young People	
Wards affected	All wards	
Accountable director	Emma Bennett, Director of Children's Services	
Originating service	Insight and Performance Team	
Accountable employee	James Amphlett	Insight and Performance Manager
	Tel	01902 551033
	Email	James.Amphlett2@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be considered by	Corporate Parenting Board	26 September 2019

Recommendation for action:

The Corporate Parenting Board is recommended to:

1. Receive the report and request any additional indicators or data items that they would like to see reported in future performance updates.

Recommendations for noting:

The Corporate Parenting Board is asked to note:

1. The most recent performance relating to Children and Young People in Care and Care Leavers.

1.0 Purpose

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

2.0 Background

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

3.0 Update

- 3.1 All current indicators in the report have been updated with data as at 31 July 2019. Please note that this data is provisional and may not directly reflect the end of year out turn which will not be confirmed until statutory returns are submitted at the end of July.
- 3.2 At the request of the Board data additional data around placement types and median adoption averages has been included.
- 3.3 At the request of the Board data additional data around initial health assessments for children and young people entering care has been included.

4.0 Financial implications

- 4.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.
- 4.2 The 2019-2020 budget for Children and Young People in Care is £30.8 million. Any costs associated with this report will be contained within this allocation.
[NM/17092019/Y]

5.0 Legal implications

- 5.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.
[TS/17092019/Q]

6.0 Equalities implications

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

7.0 Climate Change and Environmental implications

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

8.0 Human resources implications

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

9.0 Corporate Landlord implications

9.1 There are no direct Corporate Landlord implications arising from this report.

10.0 Schedule of background papers

10.1 There are no background papers related to this report.

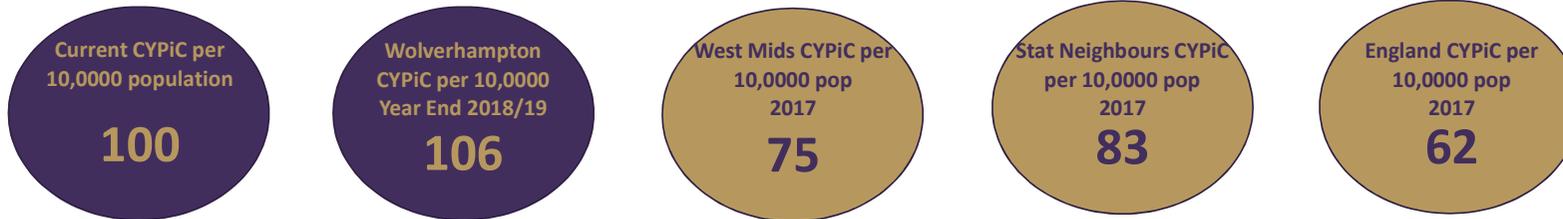
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CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

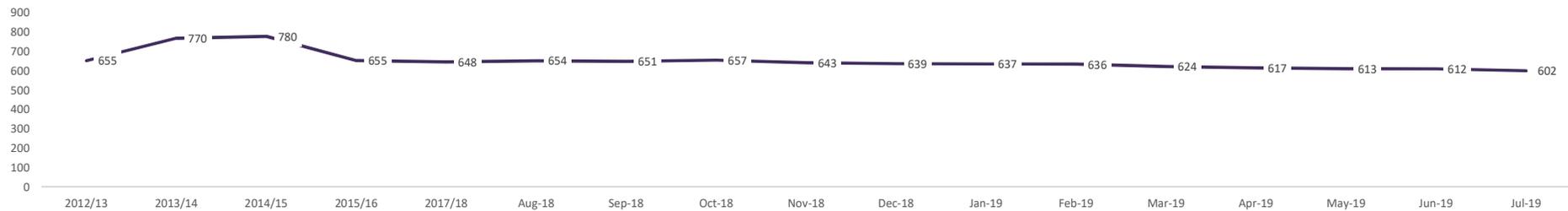
PERFORMANCE REPORT

**SEPTEMBER 2019
(DATA AS AT 31ST JULY 2019)**

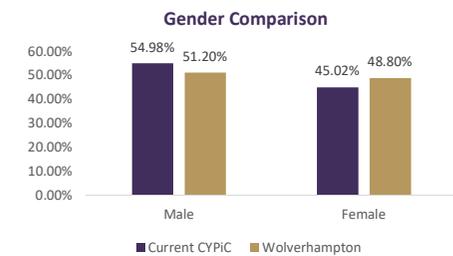
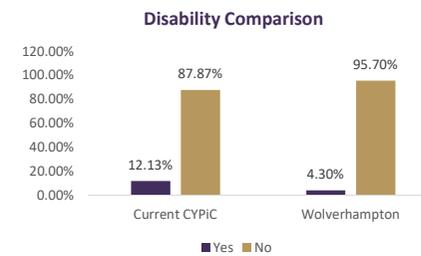
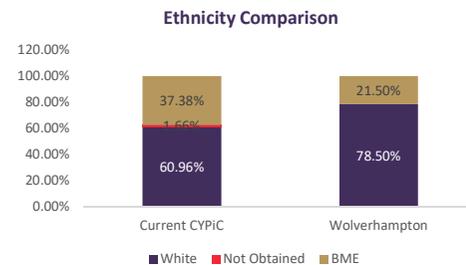
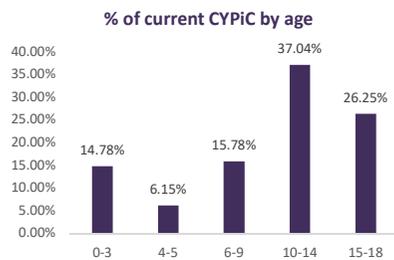
Current CYPiC Profile



Number of Children and Young People in Care in Wolverhampton



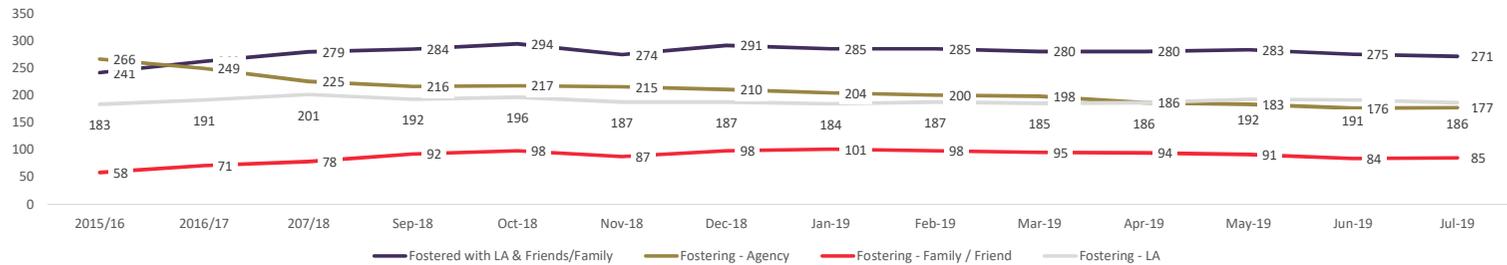
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The numbers of children and young people in care have decreased in the year to date from 624 to 602. This is due to an increase in the number of children leaving care and the rate of children entering care becoming more stable than it that has been seen over the past 18 months. Over 63% of Wolverhampton's children and young people in care are aged 10 and above with 26% aged 15 or above.

CYPiC Placement Analysis

Breakdown of Foster Placements



There are now more children placed with internal foster carers than agency carers



% CYPiC placed within 20 mile + from home

16%

2017/18 = 14%
2016/17 = 14%
2015/16 = 16%

% CYPiC with fewer than 3 placements in last 12 months

87%

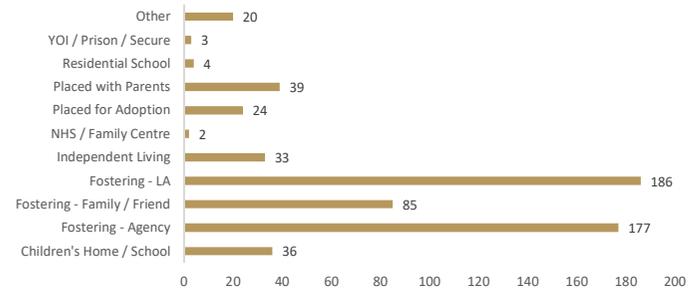
2017/18 Wolverhampton = 84%
2017/18 West Midlands = 89%
2017/18 Stat Neighbours = 90%

% CYPiC in same placement for 2 years or more

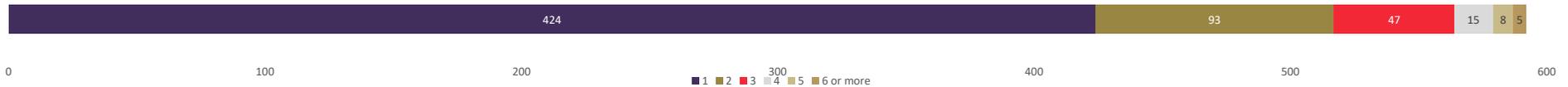
65%

2017/18 Wolverhampton = 70%
2017/18 West Midlands = 68%
2017/18 Stat Neighbours = 70%

Current CYPiC by Placement Type



Number of placements for current CYPiC in past 12 months



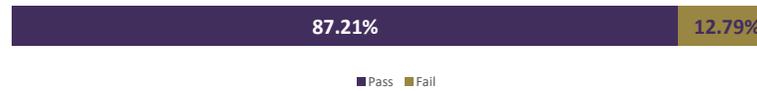
Through the performance of Family Values Project, a clear increase in placements with internal foster carers can be seen. Over the past six months the increase in internal carers has translated into a decrease in agency placements. For the first time Wolverhampton now has more children placed with internal mainstream carers than agency carers. The Family Values project has also saw a net increase of 21 internally approved foster cares in 2018/19/ This is the largest net increase seen in one year, 20 more than in 2017/18. There have been 5 mainstream carers approved so far in 2019/20.

There has been an improvement in the performance of long-term stability from 58% to 65% in the year. Despite . Short term placement stability remains an area on concern for the authority and Wolverhampton are in the bottom quartile of national performance although improvements have been seen in the year. The vast majority of children who were looked after had two or less placements in the last 12 months. The majority of young people who have had multiple placements are 16 and 17 years olds who have moved between independent placements addresses.



CYPiC with an up to date assessment

Where a new assessment has been completed within 12 months



2017/18 Year Out-turn = 90%
2016/17 Year Out-turn = 83%



CYPiC with an up to date review

Where the First Review is within 20 working days. Second review within 3 months. Third and subsequent reviews every 6 months



2017/18 Year Out-turn = 92%
2016/17 Year Out-turn = 82%

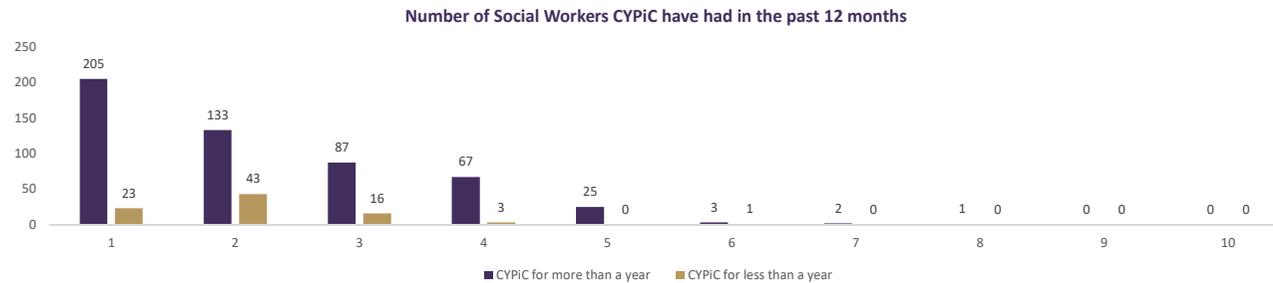
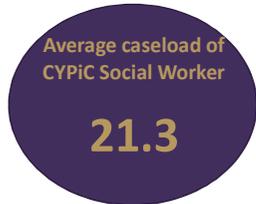


CYPiC who participated in the review

The proportion of CYPiC reviews where the child was present or contributed by other means in their review



2017/18 Year Out-turn = 94%
2016/17 Year Out-turn = 90%



The clear majority of Children and Young People in Care have an up to date assessment, review and visit. Over 87% of assessments and 94% of reviews and visits are up to date. Performance in relation to assessments has improved over the year and is now at it's highest point in this financial year. These improvements in performance are linked to an increase push from managers to use DQ systems to ensure cases are seen within timescales.

17% of young people who have been looked after for more than a year and 5% who have been looked after for less than a year have had more than 3 social workers in the past 12 months. This is a decreasing trend.

KS2 Expected Standard	Maths	Reading	Writing	Reading, Writing and Maths
CYPiC Wolverhampton 2018	36%	50%	45%	21%
Wolverhampton 2018	76%	77%	75%	65%
CYPiC West Midlands 2018	46%	50%	47%	33%
CYPiC Stat Neighbours 2018	49%	53%	48%	36%
CYPiC England 2018	47%	51%	49%	35%
KS4	9-4 Pass in English and Maths	Attainment 8	Progress 8	
CYPiC Wolverhampton 2018	12%	17%	-1%	
Wolverhampton 2018	58%	44%	0%	
CYPiC West Midlands 2018	18%	19%	-1%	
CYPiC Stat Neighbours 2018	20%	19%	-1%	
CYPiC England 2018	18%	19%	-1%	



CYPiC with an up to date PEP

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

The 2018 KS2 an KS4 results show that Wolverhampton CYPiC has fallen behind comparator performance. There remains a significant gap between the performance of CYPiC and all Wolverhampton children however small numbers in the cohort can make these measurements volatile. Wolverhampton is in the bottom quartile of performance for both CYPiC Expected Standard for Reading Writing and Maths and CYPiC 9-4 Pass in English and Maths. For further information about the education attainment of CYPiC in Wolverhampton please refer to the Virtual School Head teacher annual report.

Attendance data has been updated for 2017 - attendance of Wolverhampton CYPiC at school is better than that of comparators. please note there was an error in previous reports where persistent absence was under-reported.

PEP's - All ages



PEP's - Early Years



PEP's Year 12 & 13

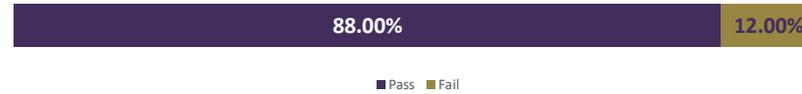


Health and Dental Checks and Care Applications



CYPiC with an up to date health check

Where a health check has been completed within 12 months



2017/18 Year Out-turn = 84%
2016/17 Year Out-turn = 84%



CYPiC with an initial health check

Where a dental check has been completed within 20 working days of entering care (rolling 12 months)



CYPiC with an up to dental check

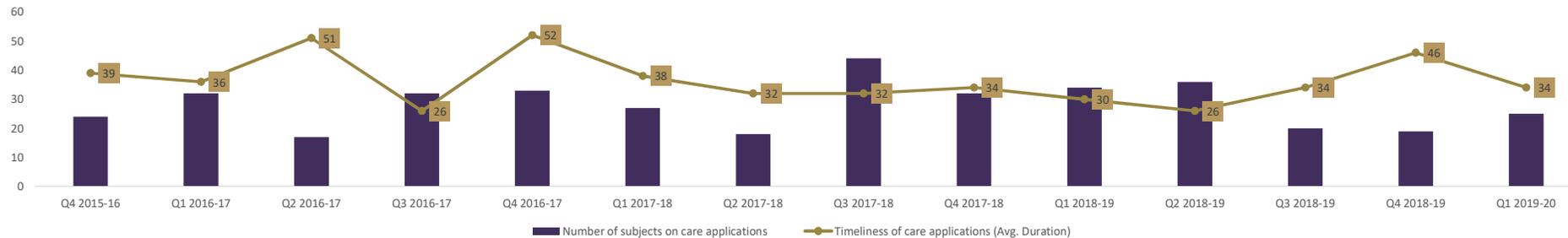
Where a dental check has been completed within 12 months



2017/18 Year Out-turn = 91%
2016/17 Year Out-turn = 89%



Care Applications



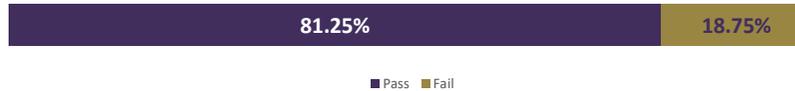
There has been a continued decrease in the percentage of dental checks. Medical checks which were previously an area of strength have also seen a decline of over 4% to 88% in the month. Team Managers are holding discussions with admin to support to ensure data is being inputted correctly. Admin should check returned medical forms for dental dates and add to Carefirst. Social workers should also be updating information following statutory visits. Data for initial health checks have now been included in this report and on the internal managment report. Performance against this indicator is low and work is needed to highlight to increase performance.

Adoption



CYPiC adopted within A1 indicator

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



2018/19 Year Out-turn = 55%
2017/18 Year Out-turn = 60%



CYPiC adopted within A2 indicator

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



2018/19 Year Out-turn = 68%
2017/18 Year Out-turn = 55%



CYPiC adopted within A10 indicator

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

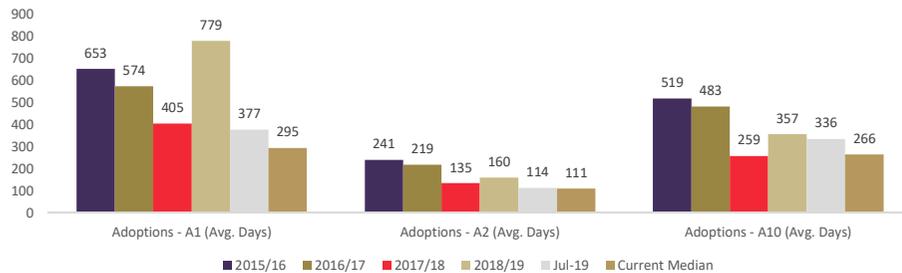


2018/19 Year Out-turn = 73%
2017/18 Year Out-turn = 63%

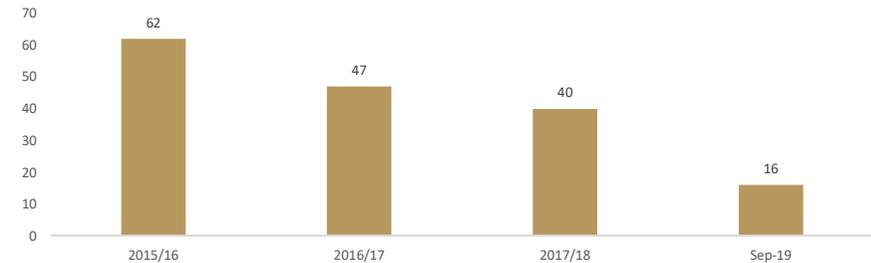


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Average Days against Adoption Indicators



Number of adoptions



Adoption timeliness continues to improve in 2019/20 against all indicators. Wolverhampton's A1 and A10 indicators are currently below national targets and A2 indicator average days is lower than at any previous year. This is promising performance especially when considering that Wolverhampton also compares favourably to comparators against the adoption of hard to place children. There were 16 adoptions in the year to date to July 2019 with an additional 7 adoptions expected before the end of September. Overall managers are pleased with performance although there is caution for adoptions that are set to take place later in the year with how changes in process due to the setup and initiation of the Regional Adoption Agency effect timeliness as the service is imbedded

Care Leavers



Care Leavers EET Status

Education, Employment and Training of Care Leavers aged 17-21

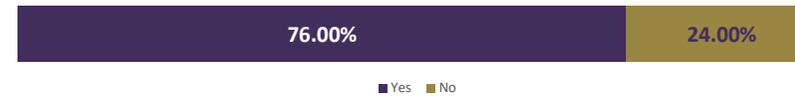


2017/18 Year Out-turn = 60%
2016/17 West Midlands = 46%
2016/17 Stat Neighbours = 47%
2016/17 England = 50%



Care Leavers available to work

Care Leavers aged 17-21 who are available for education, training or employment



2017/18 Year Out-turn = 84%
2016/17 Year Out-turn = 82%



Care Leavers in suitable accommodation

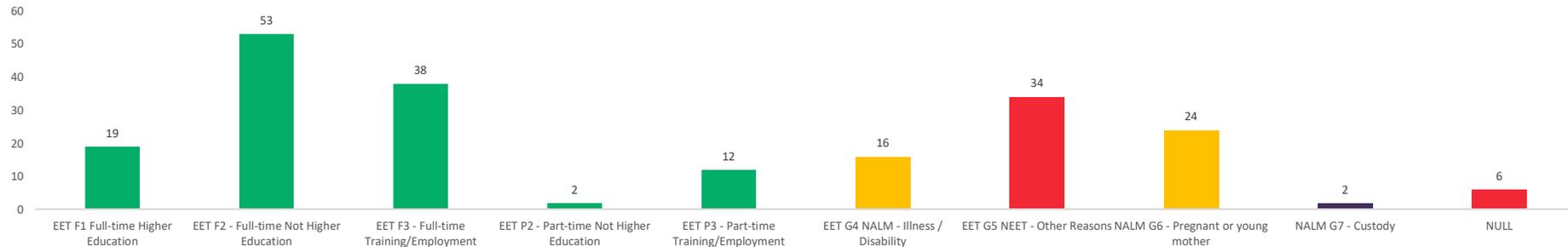
Care Leavers aged 17-21 who live in suitable accommodation



2017/18 Year Out-turn = 88%
2016/17 West Midlands = 82%
2016/17 Stat Neighbours = 83%
2016/17 England = 84%



Current Care Leaver EET Status



Care Leaver data continues to be an area of strength for the authority. At the end of July 2019 65% of 17-21 year olds were in Education, Employment or Training. 82% of care leavers are available for work with 24% (52 young people) not available due to pregnancy or young motherhood, illness or disability or because they are in custody. The proportion of care leavers currently deemed to be in suitable accommodation is also included and shows that 91% of the cohort are currently in suitable accommodation.