

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

**Venue** MS Teams Meeting

## Membership

**Chair** Cllr John Reynolds (Lab)

### Labour

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

### Conservative

Cllr Paul Appleby  
Cllr Udey Singh

Quorum for this meeting is three Councillors.

## Information for the Public

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

**Contact** Shelley Humphries  
**Tel/Email** Tel: 01902 554070 or [shelley.humphries@wolverhampton.gov.uk](mailto:shelley.humphries@wolverhampton.gov.uk)  
**Address** Democratic Services, Civic Centre, 1st floor, St Peter's Square,  
Wolverhampton WV1 1RL

Copies of other agendas and reports are available from:

**Website** <http://wolverhampton.moderngov.co.uk>  
**email** [democratic.services@wolverhampton.gov.uk](mailto:democratic.services@wolverhampton.gov.uk)  
**Tel** 01902 550320

Please take note of the protocol for filming, recording and use of social media in meetings, copies of which are displayed in the meeting room.

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

# Agenda

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

- | <i>Item No.</i> | <i>Title</i>   |
|-----------------|--|
| 1               | <b>Apologies for absence</b>   |
| 2               | <b>Declarations of interests</b>   |
| 3               | <b>Minutes of the meeting held on 17 September 2020</b> (Pages 3 - 8)<br>[To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 17 September 2020 as a correct record.]  |
| 4               | <b>Matters arising</b><br>[To consider any matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 17 September 2020.]   |
| 5               | <b>Schedule of outstanding matters</b> (Pages 9 - 12)<br>[To receive the Schedule of Outstanding Matters]  |
| 6               | <b>Care Leavers' Forum</b><br>[To participate in a session led by members of the Care Leavers' Forum.]   |
| 7               | <b>Performance Monitoring Information</b> (Pages 13 - 20)<br>[To receive the Performance Monitoring Information Report.]   |
| 8               | <b>The REACH Local Offer for Care Leavers Aged 16-25 Annual Review 2020</b><br>(Pages 21 - 26)<br>[To approve the publishing of the revised REACH Local Offer for Care Leavers Aged 16 - 25.]  |
| 9               | <b>The House Project Wolverhampton – [To Follow]</b><br>[To receive the annual update report on the Wolverhampton Local House Project.]  |
| 10              | <b>Wolverhampton Children and Young People in Care Health Annual Report - [To Follow]</b><br>[To receive the Wolverhampton Children and Young People in Care Health Annual Report 2019 – 2020.]  |
| 11              | <b>Exclusion of the Press and Public</b><br>[That in accordance with section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business as they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information falling within paragraph 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972] |

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

- |    |  |
|----|--|
| 12 | <b>Councillor Visits to Establishments - Schedule of Visits</b><br>[To receive verbal feedback on any visits to establishments undertaken by Councillors since the last meeting] |
|----|--|

CITY OF  
WOLVERHAMPTON  
COUNCIL

## Corporate Parenting Board

### Minutes - 17 September 2020

#### Attendance

**Chair** Cllr John Reynolds (Lab)

#### Labour

Cllr Paul Sweet  
Cllr Paula Brookfield

Cllr Rashpal Kaur  
Cllr Rita Potter

Cllr Zee Russell

#### Conservative

Cllr Udey Singh

#### In attendance

Fiona Brennan  
Alison Hinds  
Shelley Humphries  
Alice Vickers  
Robert Hart

Designated Nurse, Children and Young People in Care  
Deputy Director of Social Care  
Democratic Services Officer  
Co-production and Youth Engagement Manager  
Head of Service - Inclusion and Empowerment

*Item No.*    *Title*

**1        Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from member of the Corporate Parenting Board, Councillor Paul Appleby.

Apologies were also received from Emma Bennett and Nicola Hale.

**2        Declarations of interests**

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

**3        Minutes of the meeting held on 23 January 2020**

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 23 January 2020 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

**4        Matters arising**

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

**5        Schedule of Outstanding Matters**

Alice Vickers, Co-production and Youth Engagement Manager presented the Schedule of Outstanding Matters which provided progress on matters previously considered by the Board.

It was reported that there had been a meeting set up to assist Board members with recording their pledges but this had been postponed due to social distancing restrictions. It was agreed that virtual sessions be held to provide technical support to Board members.

Resolved:

That officers virtually support Board members with recording their pledges.

**6        Corporate Parenting Board Work Plan 2020- 2021**

Alice Vickers, Co-production and Youth Engagement Manager presented the Corporate Parenting Board Work Plan 2020 - 2021 report to the Board.

The report outlined that meetings of the Board would continue to be held virtually until it was safe to resume face-to-face meetings. The meetings would also be live streamed on the Council website to make the meetings accessible to the public.

The attached Corporate Parenting Board Work Plan 2020 - 2021 identified the Board's priorities for the current municipal year and it was highlighted that young people from the Children in Care Council and Care Leavers' Forum would be invited to actively participate in virtual meetings.

Resolved:

1. That the Corporate Parenting Board approve the proposed Corporate Parenting Board Work Plan 2020 – 2021 outlining the Corporate Parenting Board's activities for the next 12 months.
2. That the Corporate Parenting Board agree to continue the Corporate Parenting Board's activities for next 12 months using Microsoft Teams until face-to-face meetings are safe to resume.

## 7 **Independent Reviewing Officer Annual Report 2019 - 2020**

Alison Hinds, Deputy Director of Social Care presented the Independent Reviewing Officer Annual Report 2019 – 2020 and highlighted key points. The report outlined that the Independent Reviewing Officer Service was 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.

It was highlighted that many improvements had been made over the year, particularly in terms of engagement with young people and participation in reviews. Extensive work had gone into exploring creative ways to engage with children and young people during their reviews to ensure their voices could be heard. The incorporation of technology, which had been introduced to increase parent participation, had been also proved useful during the pandemic situation. Caseloads had become more manageable, enabling more time to be spent building relationships with and listening to the views of the child.

A concern was raised in respect of the deficit in software resources to include pictorials in the consultation leaflet to make them accessible to children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). It was noted that this was being continually explored and Councillor Paula Brookfield added she would be happy to support the procurement of this software.

It was queried whether any challenges had been experienced with children or young people in care not observing regulations to prevent the spread of coronavirus. Reassurances were offered that all children and young people in care had been encouraged to observe the rules relating to wearing masks and social distancing in all settings and no issues had been reported.

The work of the service and the report was commended by the Board and it was noted that the case studies had been a useful tool to bring additionality to the information in the report.

Resolved:

That the Corporate Parenting Board endorse the Annual Report of the Independent Reviewing Officer Service 2019 – 2020.

## 8 **Consultation on the Draft Wolverhampton Strategy for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities 2020 - 2023**

Robert Hart, Head of Service Inclusion and Empowerment presented the Consultation on the Draft Wolverhampton Strategy for Children and Young People

with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities 2020 – 2023 report and highlighted salient points.

This report detailed the undertaking of the consultation on the Draft Wolverhampton Strategy for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) 2020 – 2023 and the draft of the Strategy had been submitted to the Corporate Parenting Board to receive feedback and input in their role as corporate parents.

The work that had gone into the co-production of the Strategy was commended and it was noted that the key message was for children and young people with SEND be empowered to have control over their own lives, make their own decisions, have quality of life and be prepared for adulthood.

The Tell it Once initiative was commended as it prevented the requirement for children and their families to repeat the same information to different professionals, which was thought to be frustrating or even distressing for the child.

It was queried how the culture of Tell it Once would be accurately achieved as agencies had differing methods of recording information. It was stated that successful examples of good practice had been seen in the Early Years Service using the Team Around the Child methodology, with a single Key Worker assigned to co-ordinate key information received from professionals, the child and their family. This work was also linked to education settings, teachers and Special Educational Needs Coordinators (SENCOs) ensuring each service involved with a child received the information they need to know.

In response to a query around whether the consultation had received positive feedback to date, it was confirmed that engagement had been extremely positive. In addition, it was noted that ownership of the draft Strategy did not belong to the Council alone; it had been co-produced with the SEND Partnership therefore had already included contributions from parent and carer focus groups, Wolverhampton Clinical Commissioning Group, SENCOs, healthcare providers, members of the voluntary sector and teachers as well as Council services.

It was clarified that the consultation period had opened in July 2020 and closed on 21 September 2020.

It was noted that Tell it Once was a useful initiative as the health service was aware of gaps in information when a placement move occurred, particularly out of the area. It was acknowledged that Education and Health Care Plans (EHCPs) were also useful for keeping information in one place.

It was noted that the Tell it Once system was in use in Sandwell via multiagency meetings around the child.

Resolved:

1. That the draft Wolverhampton Strategy for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities 2020 – 2023 at Appendix 1 be received.
2. That Corporate Parenting Board provide feedback through the consultation portal by 21 September 2020.

3. That the next steps for publication of the Wolverhampton Strategy for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities 2020 – 2023 be noted.

## 9 **Performance Monitoring Information**

Alison Hinds, Deputy Director of Social Care presented the Performance Monitoring Report and highlighted salient points.

Numbers of children in care were close to that of Wolverhampton's statistical neighbours.

Placement stability had improved to 91% from 86% shown last year and this was attributed to the support provided by the Family Values Project. It was acknowledged that a supportive team of Foster Carers had been in place during the lockdown period and there had been no placement breakdowns reported over this time.

Up-to-date assessments had improved to 89.5% from 41% which was very positive as the information collected at the assessments allowed the service to understand the needs of children and young people in care and plan appropriately.

A rise in up-to-date case reviews was also reported along with improved participation and engagement in reviews.

The average social worker caseload had reduced to 17 which placed them in a better position to build and maintain relationships with the children and young people.

School attainment data was slightly outdated, however the annual report available at the next meeting would provide the most current summary of information.

Dental checks and managed assessments had been down as a result of social distancing restrictions.

There had been delays in care applications while the Courts had been out of operation due to COVID-19 but it was expected to level out once Courts were back in session. There had been three adoptions since April 2020

In response to a query regarding a gap emerging between Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 4 Maths and Literacy, it was noted that the gap had been acknowledged and the service had been accessing pupil premium and working with schools on targeted interventions.

Reassurances were also offered that some children and young people in care had continued to attend school throughout lockdown as they were in the vulnerable category and there had been a maintained focus on all personal education plans (PEPs). The DfE had provided access to a specific fund to support children whose education may have been affected by COVID-19.

It was acknowledged that the service had continued to provide parents and vulnerable children and young people in care with stability, regard and assurance during a particularly challenging time and the work of the service and that of foster carers was commended.

Resolved:

That the Performance Monitoring Information report be received

10 **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.

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

It was reported that there had been no face-to-face visits to establishments due to the current pandemic situation and the Board agreed that this should continue to be the case until it was safe to resume. It was agreed that the possibility of virtual visits via Microsoft Teams should be explored if the children and young people in residence were happy for this to take place.

Resolved:

1. That there would be no face-to-face Councillor visits to Establishments until it was safe to resume.
2. That the service explore virtual establishment visits for Councillors using Microsoft Teams, following consultation with the children and young people in residence.



<b>CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL</b>	<b>Corporate Parenting Board</b> <b>19 November 2020</b>
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<b>Report title</b>	Schedule of Outstanding Matters	
<b>Cabinet member with lead responsibility</b>	Councillor John Reynolds Children and Young People	
<b>Wards affected</b>	All wards	
<b>Accountable director</b>	Emma Bennett, Director of Children's Services	
<b>Originating service</b>	Governance	
<b>Accountable employee</b>	Shelley Humphries	Democratic Services Officer
	Tel	01902 554070
	Email	<a href="mailto:shelley.humphries@wolverhampton.gov.uk">shelley.humphries@wolverhampton.gov.uk</a>

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**Recommendation for action:**

The Corporate Parenting Board is recommended to:

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

## 1.0 Purpose

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

## 2.0 Background

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

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Lead Member / Officer</b>	<b>Current Position</b>
17 September 2020	That officers virtually support Board members with recording their pledges.	Alice Vickers, Co-production & Youth Engagement Manager	A virtual workshop was led by Alice Vickers on 2 November 2020 to support Corporate Parenting Board members in recording their pledges. The instructional slides that were used have been shared with the full membership.

## 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

### PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW

**Data as at:  
30 September 2020**

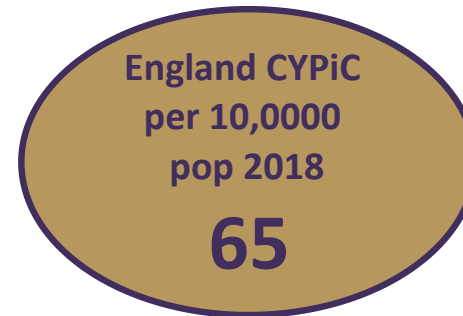
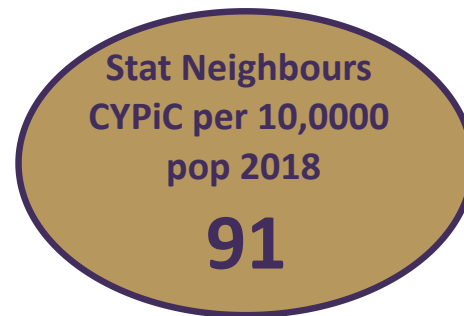
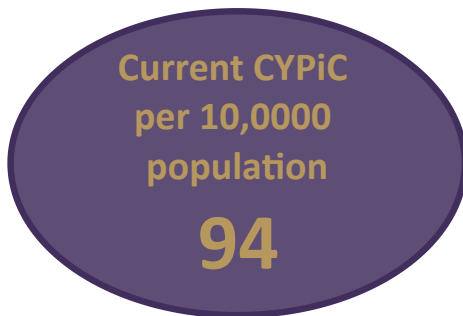
Page 13

\*Unfortunately due to a recent migration of Children's Services data there are a number of indicators where we are unable to accurately report figures to the end of September 2020

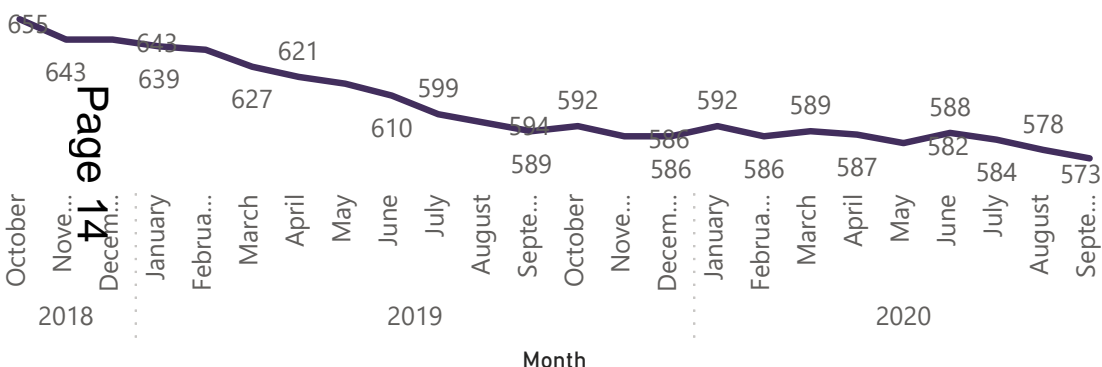
Agenda Item No: 7

# City of Wolverhampton Council - Corporate Parenting Report

## Current CYPiC Profile

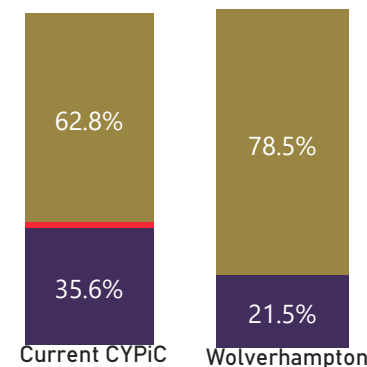


Number of Children and Young People in Care in Wolverhampton



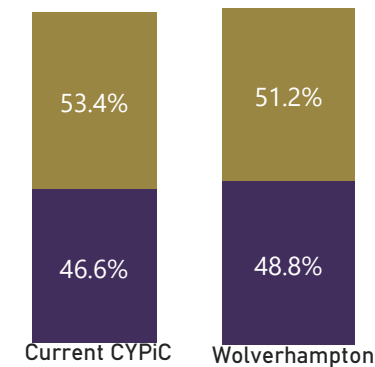
Ethnicity Comparison

- BME
- Other
- White

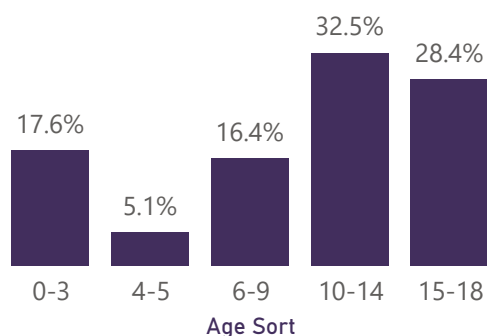


Gender Comparison

- Female
- Male



Age Breakdown

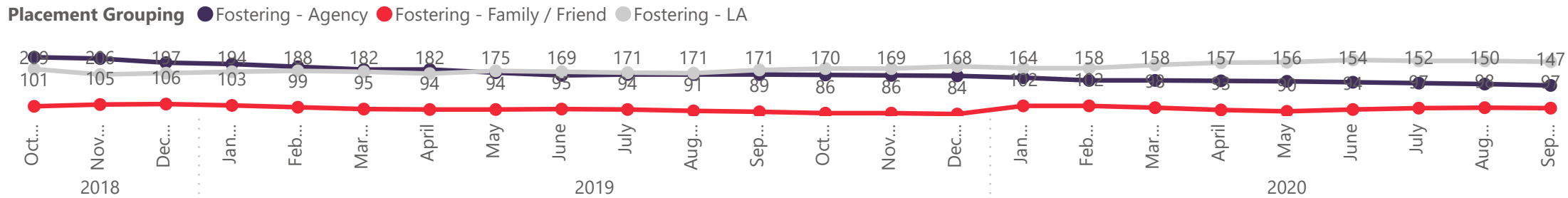


The numbers of children and young people in care have decreased further in the year to date from 589 in March to 573. There continues to be an increase in the number of children leaving care and the rate of children entering care has decreased. Just over 60% of Wolverhampton's children and young people in care are aged 10 and above with 28% aged 15 or above. There is an over representation of BAME children in the current children and young people in care cohort compared to the overall city population of 0-18 year olds. (It is concerning that the ethnicity of 2.62% of CYPiC is currently unknown and not obtained). Over representation is also apparent with males when compared to the overall Wolverhampton population of 0-18 year olds.

# City of Wolverhampton Council - Corporate Parenting Report

## CYPiC Placement Analysis

Number of placements for current CYPiC in past 12 months



There continues to be more children placed with internal foster carers than agency carers



Page 15

**% CYPiC placed more than 20 mile + from home**

**11%**

2019/20 (Provisional) = 10%  
 2018/19 = 13%  
 2017/18 = X  
 2016/17 = 11%

**% CYPiC with less than 3 placements in last 12 months**

**89.6%**

2019/20 (Provisional) = 91%  
 2018/19 = 86%  
 2017/18 = 84%  
 2016/17 = 87%

**% CYPiC in same placement for 2 years or more**

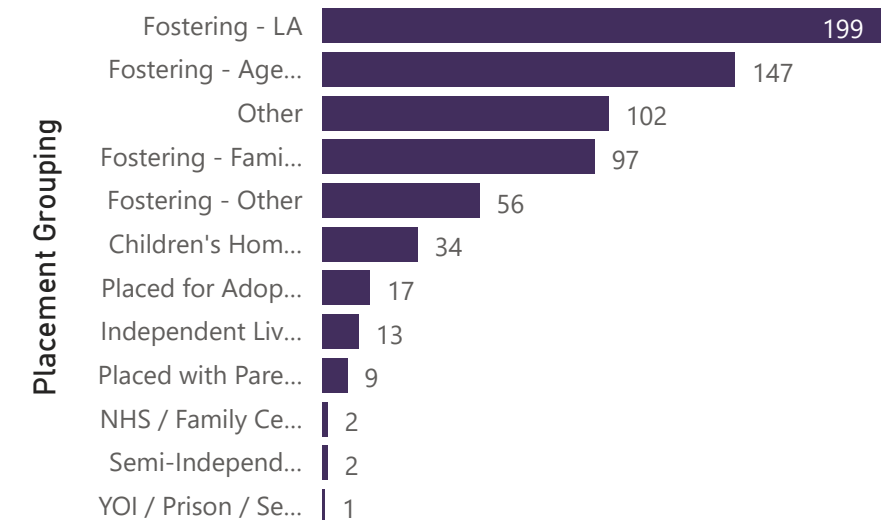
**75.7%**

2019/20 (Provisional) = 74%  
 2018/19 = 73%  
 2017/18 = 70%  
 2016/17 = 65%

Number of placements for current CYPiC in past 12 months



Current CYPiC by Placement Type



Through the performance of the Family Values Project, the number of mainstream placements continue to stay higher than those with agency foster carers. Both the long and short term placement stability continue to improve with an increase to 90% for the percentage of CYPiC with fewer than 3 placements during the last 12 months from 86% during 2018/19. As at the end of August 2020, there were xx placed with parents, we are currently in the process of realigning the reporting and as such other placement types will be over-represented in the above figures.

# City of Wolverhampton Council - Corporate Parenting Report

## Assessments, Reviews, Visits



### CYPiC with an up to date assessment

Where a new assessment has been completed within 12 months



2019/20 = 78.36%  
2018/19 = 41.03%

● Fail ● Pass



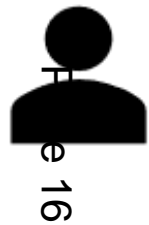
### CYPiC with an up to date review

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



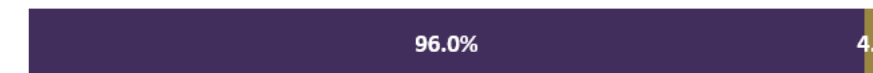
2019/20 = 97.27%  
2018/19 = 95%

● In Timescales ● Not in Timescale



### CYPiC who participated in the review

The proportion of CYPiC reviews where the child was present or contributed by other means in their review (This is August 2020 data)



2019/20 = 89%  
2018/19 = 89%

■ Pass ■ Fail

Average caseload  
of CYPiC Social Worker  
exc ASYE (Aug. figure)

17.5

Assessments have seen a slight reduction during the system migration, while reviews continue to improve throughout the year with 97% of children recorded as having an up to date review.

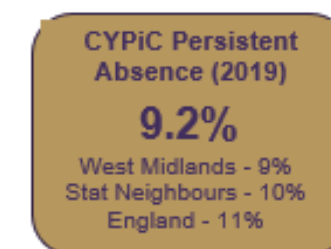
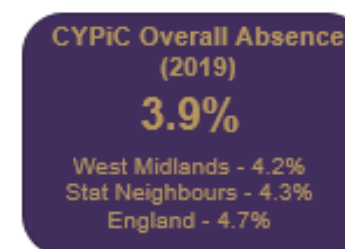
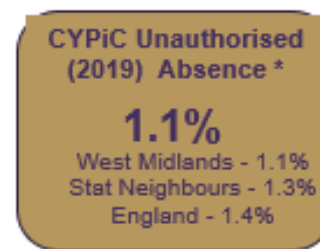
There was no change in the year end out turn for CYPiC participation in reviews when compared to last year, and in the subsequent months there has been extremely positive performance in this area with 96% of children and young people in care participating in their review during August 2020.



# City of Wolverhampton Council - Corporate Parenting Report

## Education

KS2 Expected Standard	Maths	Reading	Writing	Reading, Writing and Maths
CYPiC Wolverhampton 2019	47%	50%	58%	42%
Wolverhampton 2019	74%	70%	77%	64%
CYPiC West Midlands 2019	50%	51%	52%	38%
CYPiC Stat Neighbours 2019	54%	49%	52%	38%
CYPiC England 2019	51%	49%	50%	37%
KS4	9-4 Pass in English and Maths	Attainment 8	Progress 8	
CYPiC Wolverhampton 2019	15%	20%	-1%	
Wolverhampton 2019	58%	45%	0%	
CYPiC West Midlands 2019	18%	20%	-1%	
CYPiC Stat Neighbours 2019	18%	20%	-1%	
CYPiC England 2019	18%	19%	-1%	



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

### PEP's - All Ages



2019/20 = 93%  
2018/19 = 89%

### PEP's - Early Year's



2019/20 = 72%  
2018/19 = 63%

### PEP's - Year 12 & 13



2019/20 = 81%  
2018/19 = 75%

● Fail ● Pass

The 2019 KS2 and KS4 results show that Wolverhampton CYPiC has improved in line with 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. 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 2019. This is taken from published data that was released in April 2020, and shows that performance is in line with or better than comparator groups. Wolverhampton are in the upper quartile nationally (best performance) for children and young people in care overall absence.

CYPiC with an up to date PEP performance has decreased in September, the performance is still an improvement on the September figures the previous year. There are some issues with the accuracy of the PEP data within the new Eclipse system. This is being addressed by the Social Care Systems team to develop forms for more accurate reporting.

Page 17

# City of Wolverhampton Council - Corporate Parenting Report

**Health & Dental - This data is internal CWC data and reflects different timescales to the data provided by health**



## CYPiC with an up to date review health check

Where a review health check has been completed within 12 months



2019/20 = 90%  
2018/19 = 91%

● Fail ● Pass



## CYPiC with an initial health check

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



## CYPiC with an up to date dental check

Where a dental check has been completed within 12 months

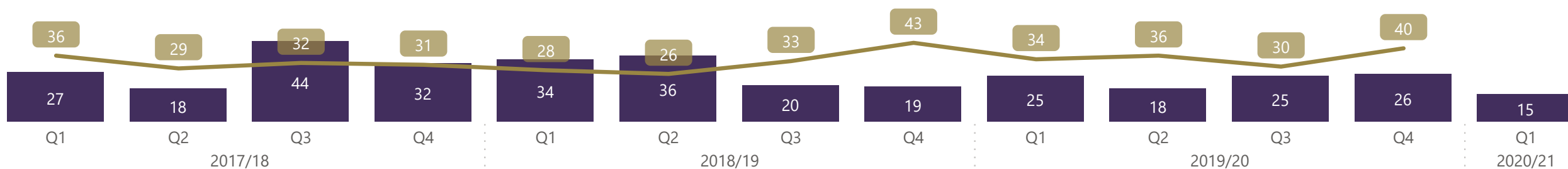


2019/20 = 95%  
2018/19 = 95%

● Fail ● Pass

### Care Applications

● Number of children subject of Care applications ● Timeliness of care applications (Avg. Duration)



The percentage of dental checks completed has been consistently declining as a result of the current situation regarding Covid-19 as dentists have been closed. Medical checks which were previously an area of strength have yet again seen a further decline to 81% in the month. Of the new CYPiC in the past 12 months 27% had a health assessment within the first 20 working days, although this would not affect the other health percentages, however this remains an area of concern and continues to be flagged as an area of concern in internal performance management meetings. We will be expecting to see an increase in the length of care proceedings due to the impact of Covid-19. There has also been a delay in timeliness due to the court initially not being able to manage proceedings virtually.

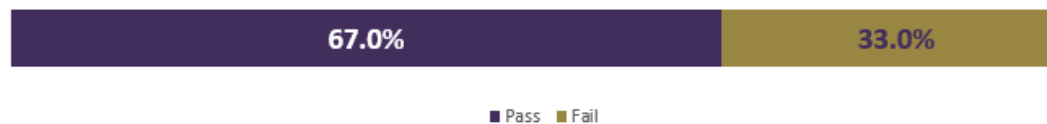
# City of Wolverhampton Council - Corporate Parenting Report

## Adoption - Data to end of August 2020



### CYPiC adopted within A1 indicator

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

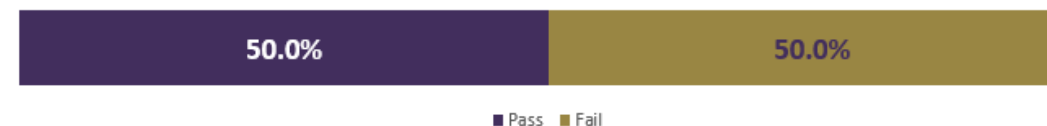


2019/20 = 74%  
2018/19 = 55%

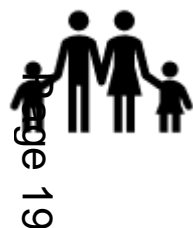


### CYPiC adopted within A2 indicator

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

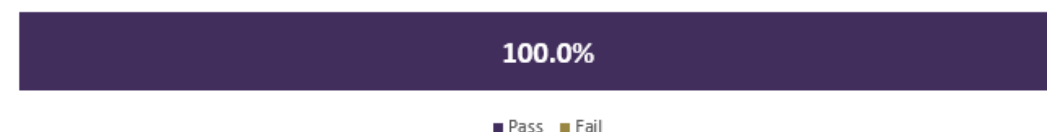


2019/20 = 64%  
2018/19 = 68%



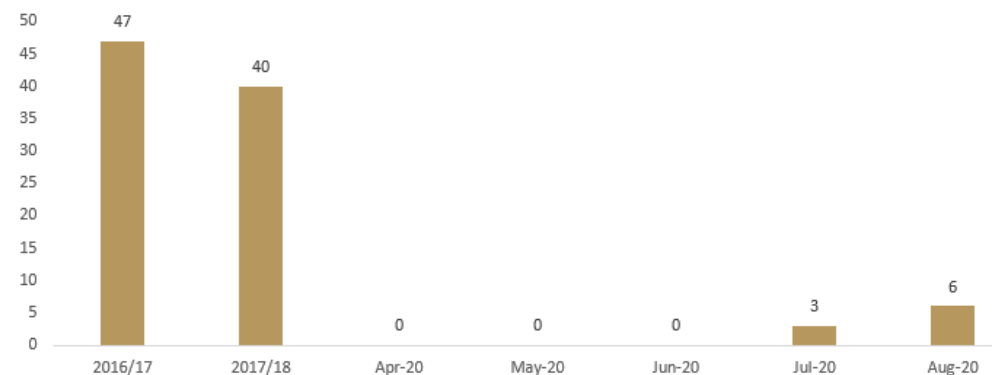
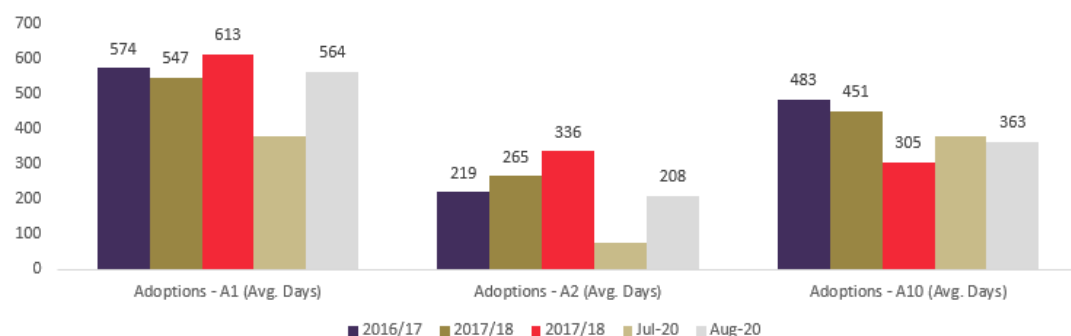
### CYPiC adopted within A10 indicator

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



2019/20 = 89%  
2018/19 = 73%

Average Days against Adoption Indicators



There have only been a small number of adoptions so far for the 2020/21 year as a result of the Covid-19 situation. This has started to improve with three adoptions in August with the likelihood that this will increase further due to the reopening of the courts.

# City of Wolverhampton Council - Corporate Parenting Report

## Care Leavers - Data to end of August 2020



### Care Leavers EET Status

Education, Employment and Training of Care Leavers aged 19-21

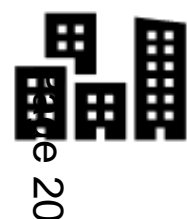


2019/20 Year Out-turn = 57%  
 2018/19 Year Out-turn = 61%  
 2018/19 West Midlands = 51%  
 2018/19 Stat Neighbours = 48%  
 2018/19 England = 52%



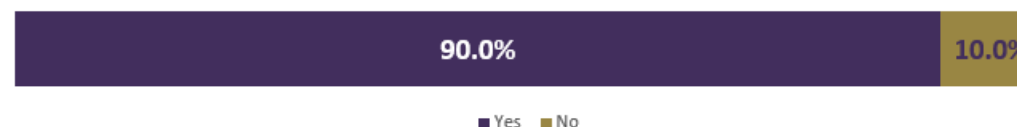
### Care Leavers available to work

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



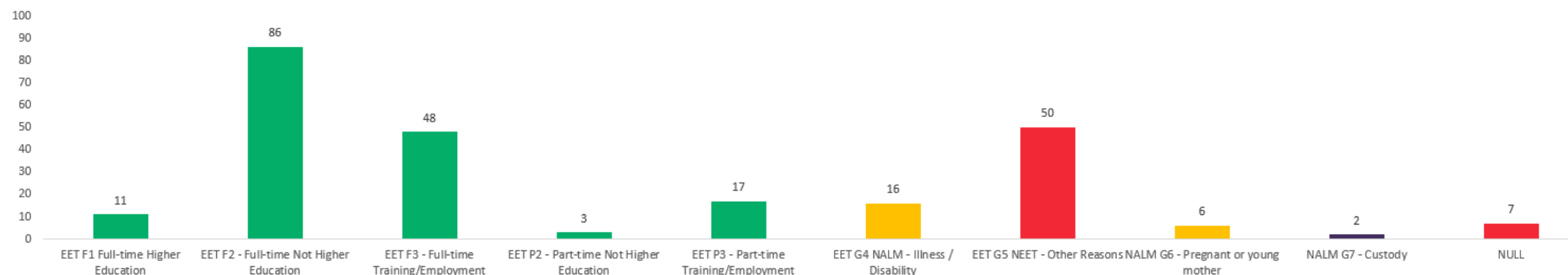
### Care Leavers in suitable accommodation

Care Leavers aged 19-21 who live in suitable accommodation



2019/20 Year Out-turn = 91%  
 2018/19 Year Out-turn = 88%  
 2018/19 West Midlands = 85%  
 2018/19 Stat Neighbours = 86%  
 2018/19 England = 85%

Current Care Leaver EET Status



Care Leaver outcomes continues to be an area of strength for the authority. At the end of August 2020 57% of 19-21 year olds were in Education, Employment or Training. Although this is a slight downturn when compared to last year, it is much higher than regional and national comparators. 73% of care leavers are available for work with 27% (66 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 90% of the cohort are currently in suitable accommodation.

<b>CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL</b>	<b>Corporate Parenting Board</b> <b>19 November 2020</b>
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<b>Report title</b>	The REACH Local Offer for Care Leavers Aged 16-25 Annual Review 2020	
<b>Cabinet member with lead responsibility</b>	Councillor John Reynolds Children and Young People	
<b>Wards affected</b>	All wards	
<b>Accountable director</b>	Emma Bennett, Director of Children's Services	
<b>Originating service</b>	Children and Young People in Care	
<b>Accountable employee</b>	Laura Woods	Service Manager Children and Young People in Care
<b>Report has been considered by</b>	Children and Young People Leadership Team	5 November 2020

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**Recommendations for decision:**

The Corporate Parenting Board is recommended to:

1. Approve the revisions made to the REACH Local Offer for Care Leavers Aged 16 - 25.
2. Approve the publishing of the revised REACH Local Offer for Care Leavers Aged 16 - 25.

**Recommendations for noting:**

The Corporate Parenting Board is recommended to note:

1. The process of the review.

## **1.0 Purpose**

1.1 The REACH Local Offer for Care Leavers Aged 16 - 25 has been now live for the last 24 months. A comprehensive review by care leavers, and the steering group set up to support the services published in the offer, has taken place every 12 months. The latest consultation with young people took place in August 2020 and the steering group held an official review in September 2020.

## **2.0 Background**

2.1 Following the 'Children's Social Care Reform – A Vision for Change' document published in January 2016, the government produced the Children and Social Work Bill which subsequently received Royal Assent on 27 April 2017. Implicit in the Children and Social Work Act 2017, it is the requirement to improve support for looked after children in England and Wales especially for those leaving care.

2.2 The Act introduces seven corporate parenting principles to which local authorities must have regard. These are:

- to act in the best interests and promote the physical and mental health and wellbeing of relevant children and young people
- to encourage those children and young people to express their views, wishes and feelings
- to take into account the views, wishes and feelings of those children and young people
- to help those children and young people gain access to and make best use of services provided by the local authority and its relevant partners
- to promote high aspirations and seek to secure the best outcomes for those children and young people
- to have regard to the need for those children and young people to be safe and have stability in their home lives, relationships and education or work
- to prepare those children and young people for adulthood and independent living.

2.3 Local authorities in England were required to publish a Local Offer for their care leavers by September 2018. The Local Offer had to provide information about services which the local authority offers that may assist care leavers in, or in preparing for, adulthood and independent living. This includes services relating to health and well-being, relationships, education and training, employment, accommodation and participation in society. The Local Offer must be supported and promoted by all members of the local authority to ensure that it develops and strengthens services offered for young people leaving care. The Local Offer must be reviewed on a 12-monthly basis in collaboration with young people, internal services and external agencies.

### 3.0 Progress and discussions

3.1 On 5 August 2020, a consultation took place with 21 care leavers using the Mentimeter tool via Microsoft Teams, this was an increase of eight care leavers from last year's review. Participants were asked about the additional elements of the Local Offer added since last year's review to establish which elements were beneficial and which needed strengthening. Highlights of this consultation were;

- Out of the care leavers who took part 47% (10), had heard about the Local Offer and 38% hadn't heard about it; 14% responded with 'maybe'.
- Care Leavers who took part shared that they had a health passport, attend drop-in and had WV active membership. Only one care leaver had completed the ASDAN qualification. No care leavers had shared that they had accessed Embrace (Sexual Health Service) or the online counselling.
- Care Leavers shared that they would like to have had more information on healthy eating and support for mental health for men.
- In respect of relationships; care leavers would like the offer to have information about education on healthy romantic relationships, risky adults and better communication.
- In Education, Employment and Training (EET), over half of care leavers had accessed their EET co-ordinator. There was also high uptake on financial assistance for higher education. Use of mock interviews and Impact work coaches were lower. Care leavers advised they would like more opportunity for work experience and more active support.
- Accommodation support showed that the training flat is well utilised.
- Care leavers felt that the use of emails, social media, texting, introduction to getting involved when preparing to leave care and more groups that were based on socialising would assist care leavers in getting involved.
- One care leaver shared 'I'm not one for getting involved - when you leave care, you really don't want to look back and get involved with things to do with social services.'

3.2 The steering group who represent external organisations and the City of Wolverhampton Council (CWC) met to look at the feedback from the young people and to evaluate their experiences of delivering the services and made the following comments;

- The Reach leaving care team are formulating a 'mailshot' list to ensure all care leavers receive information in relation to the Local Offer.
- The Reach leaving care team will also be relaunching 'care leaver packs' which young people will receive when they meet their young person advisor, this will contain information in relation to all entitlements and a copy of the Local Offer.
- The launch of the Reach café will support care leavers to access 1:1 support, work shops and information evenings regarding specific topics which they have requested more information on.
- The ASDAN qualification has been launched and is being utilised within the Reach flats and the House Project, Covid-19 has slowed down the completion rate.
- Kooth online counselling is a new initiative which will support care leavers to access support, advice and guidance regarding their mental health and maintaining a healthy romantic relationship.
- An education, employment and training steering group need to be set up to look at the city-wide offer to care leavers and how this can be promoted more widely, the DWP and local job centre coaches will be part of this.

- Volunteer parent champions are currently been supported to assist our parent care leavers to access appointments and access support
- 3.3 Both consultations highlighted a need for additional support and services that will need to be explored over the next 12 months with other partner organisations and these include;
- Access to suitable electronic devices and connectivity for all care leavers
  - Support is being sourced through Family Group Conferencing for care leavers this will offer them the opportunity to get additional support from family members
  - All care leavers to have both a health passport and a leaving care health summary
  - Access to public transport to care leavers across the West Midlands
  - Smoother transition support from Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services to adult mental health services
  - Access to City of Wolverhampton graduate programme for care leavers leaving university
  - Discounted optical care for working care leavers
  - Access to free beauty treatments for care leavers
  - Continue to develop Senior Officer Mentoring Scheme in the City of Wolverhampton

#### **4.0 Financial implications**

- 4.1 Any costs associated with developments and additions made to the REACH Local Offer for Care Leavers Aged 16 – 25 will be contained within the overall budget for 2020-2021 for the Children and Young People in Care Service of £31.4 million.
- 4.2 Other Services within City of Wolverhampton Council and external partner organisations are working in partnership with the Children and Young People in Care Service to support the REACH Local Offer for Care Leavers Aged 16 – 25. Any costs incurred by other Services within City of Wolverhampton Council and external partner organisations will be contained within their existing approved budgets for 2020-2021.  
[JB/10112020/E]

#### **5.0 Legal implications**

- 5.1 The publishing of a Local Offer for Care Leavers is a legal requirement as set out in the Children and Social Work Act 2017 to improve support for looked after children in England and Wales, especially for those leaving care.  
[TC/04112020/A]

#### **6.0 Equalities implications**

- 6.1 Care leavers are asked to begin their journey into adulthood earlier than most young people. This can make them more vulnerable, isolated and unsure how to ask for help. The REACH Local Offer for Care Leavers Aged 16 - 25 is to mitigate against the challenges faced by care leavers in the community.
- 6.2 Outcomes for care leavers as a result of their pre-care and in care experience are poorer than their peers, Unfortunately, sometimes being in care can have a negative impact on children's education. Frequent placement and school moves will all impact on a child's



confidence and ability to learn. Traumatic experiences before entry into care can also cause difficulties, which may affect a child's behaviour, self-esteem, self-regulation or trust in authority figures. This experience means that nationally compared to the general population care leavers are (DoE, Published 12 August 2019):

- less likely to be in education, employment or training - over a third of 19-year-old care leavers are not in education, employment or training
- more likely to be attempting to live independently - some are unable to remain in their placements beyond the age of 18. They are therefore likely to experience compressed and accelerated transitions to independence.
- Impact of childhood trauma means they are more likely to suffer with issue relating to emotional health and well being
- more likely to have a criminal conviction and may have experienced unnecessary criminalisation. Care leavers are estimated to represent between 24% and 27% of the adult prison population. This is despite less than 1% of under 18s entering local authority care each year.

6.3 The Reach Care Leaver offer sole purpose is to mitigate against the negative impact of being in care and the inequality they can face in society.

## **7.0 Climate change and environmental implications**

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

## **8.0 Human resources implications**

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

## **9.0 Corporate Landlord implications**

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

## **10.1 Health and Wellbeing implications**

10.2 There are no health and wellbeing implications as a result of this report.

## **11.0 Covid-19 Implications**

11.1 There are no Covid 19 implications as a result of this report

## **12.0 Schedule of background papers**

12.1 The REACH Local Offer for Care Leavers Aged 16 - 25

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