

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

**Venue** MS Teams

## Membership

**Chair** Cllr Beverley Momenabadi (Lab)

### Labour

Cllr Mary Bateman  
Cllr Paula Brookfield  
Cllr Jasbinder Dehar  
Cllr Asha Mattu  
Cllr Rita Potter

### Conservative

Cllr Wendy Dalton  
Cllr Stephanie Haynes  
Cllr Mak Singh  
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>Election of Vice Chair</b><br>[To appoint a Vice-Chair for Corporate Parenting Board for the remainder of the municipal year subject to approval of the refreshed terms of reference.] |
| 2               | <b>Apologies for absence</b>  |
| 3               | <b>Declaration of interests</b>   |
| 4               | <b>Minutes of the meeting held on 23 September 2021</b> (Pages 5 - 10)<br>[To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 23 September 2021 as a correct record.]                          |
| 5               | <b>Matters arising</b><br>[To consider any matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 23 September 2021.]  |
| 6               | <b>Schedule of outstanding matters</b> (Pages 11 - 14)<br>[To receive the Schedule of Outstanding Matters.]   |
| 7               | <b>Refreshed Terms of Reference</b> (Pages 15 - 20)<br>[To approve the refreshed Terms of Reference for the Corporate Parenting Board.]   |
| 8               | <b>Health Assessments</b> (Pages 21 - 26)<br>[To receive an update on the performance reporting and timeliness of health assessments for children and young people in care.]              |
| 9               | <b>Care Leavers' Independent Collective (CLiC) Presentation</b><br>[To receive a presentation led by members of CLiC.]  |
| 10              | <b>Independent Reviewing Service Annual Report</b> (Pages 27 - 46)<br>[To endorse the Annual Report of the Independent Reviewing Officer Service 2020-2021.]                              |
| 11              | <b>Corporate Parenting Strategy 2022-2025</b> (Pages 47 - 62)<br>[To approve and the Corporate Parenting Strategy 2022-2025.]   |
| 12              | <b>Performance Monitoring Information</b> (Pages 63 - 70)<br>[To receive the Performance Monitoring Information Report.]  |

- 13        **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**

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

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## Attendance

**Chair** Cllr Beverley Momenabadi (Lab)

## Labour

Cllr Mary Bateman  
Cllr Paula Brookfield

Cllr Jasbinder Dehar  
Cllr Asha Mattu

Cllr Rita Potter

## Conservative

Cllr Wendy Dalton

Cllr Stephanie Haynes

## In Attendance

Fiona Brennan  
Dr Wendy Harrison-Frazer  
Alison Hinds  
Shelley Humphries  
Rachel King  
Dr Stephanie Simon  
Mark Tobin  
Alice Vickers  
Jazmine Walker

Black Country and West Birmingham CCG  
CAMHS, Black Country and West Birmingham CCG  
Deputy Director of Social Care  
Democratic Services Officer  
Head of Specialist Support  
Black Country and West Birmingham CCG  
Head of Service Adoption at Heart  
Co-production & Youth Engagement Manager  
Head of Service Children and Young People in Care

*Item No. Title*

**1 Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from member of the Corporate Parenting Board Councillor Udey Singh.

Apologies were also received from Emma Bennett and Michelle Cummings.

**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 8 July 2021**

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 8 July 2021 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**

It was agreed to defer the item until the Corporate Parenting Officer returned to provide a fuller update. Fiona Brennan, Black Country and West Birmingham CCG provided a brief update on the Strategic Health Steering Group.

Resolved:

To defer the item to the next meeting.

**6 Update on Local Authority Children's Home Provision**

Rachel King, Head of Specialist Support presented the Update on Local Authority Children's Home Provision report and highlighted salient points. The report sought to inform Corporate Parenting Board of the Authority's intention to undertake an ongoing review of residential provision to better understand the needs within the City and ensure that there is adequate provision to meet the needs of the most vulnerable and complex young people. It also outlined the recent decision to close Key to Inspiration and shared the rationale behind this decision.

Queries were raised around the status of the K2I building and how many staff members remained. It was noted that six members of staff remained whilst working out their notice periods. Once vacated, all confidential waste would be destroyed and any remaining furniture would be repurposed. Following this, the building would be released to Corporate Landlord as an asset. The asset management process would determine the future use for the building.

In response to a query around money released from this process, it was noted that monies would be used for commissioning places with external providers for children

or young people in need of it. The Chair noted that suitability of placement for children and young people was more important than cost.

A query was raised in respect of turnover from residential to placement. Assurances were offered that it was a careful process during which lead-in visits to the young person in residential preceded placement, which was then followed up with continual contact during initial placement until this was no longer needed.

It was noted that the activity within the report had prompted an examination of the offer in Wolverhampton.

Resolved:

1. That the update regarding local authority children's home provision be received.
2. That Corporate Parenting Board endorse the plans to undertake a review of residential provision to ensure the needs of children and young people in care can be met.
3. That the recent decision to close Key to Inspiration Children's Home be noted.

## 7 **Health Services for Children and Young People in Care Annual Report Aug 2020 - July 2021**

Fiona Brennan and Dr Stephanie Simon, Black Country and West Birmingham CCG, and Dr Wendy Harrison-Frazer of Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) co-presented the Health Services for Children and Young People in Care Annual Report covering August 2020 – July 2021 and highlighted salient points.

The purpose of the report was to inform and assure members of the Corporate Parenting Board of activity and performance in relation to the health care of Wolverhampton's Children and Young People in Care (CYPiC) wherever they are placed.

The report provided assurance that partners continued to strive to meet statutory requirements across the CCG and provider services and would demonstrate a model of continuous improvement.

The report consisted of Annual reports from Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust and (CAMHS) which had been merged by Black Country and West Birmingham Clinical Commissioning Group into one report.

The report was commended and the Board agreed all key areas of interest had been covered.

Resolved:

That the Health Services for Children and Young People in Care Annual Report August 2020 – July 2021 be received.

## 8 **Adoption Service Report**

Mark Tobin, Head of Service for Adoption@Heart presented the Adoption Service Report and highlighted salient points. The interim report detailed performance for Wolverhampton as well as for the partnership as a whole.

A query was raised around the disparity between people who had registered interest in adoption and those who had been approved. It was noted that this was common and it was thought that often people registering interest in the initial stages sometimes went to another agency.

It was queried whether Special Guardianship Orders (SGOs) had any impact on the adoption rate. It was noted that it did sometimes however other forms of permanence were always explored. It was agreed that data on SGOs would be collated and provided to Councillors.

In response to a query around where Adoption@Heart staff were based, it was reported that many worked from home unless a home visit was necessary and employees could access the Civic if required.

The work was commended by the Chair and it was acknowledged that the aim of the agency was to find families to suit the needs of the children and young people.

Resolved:

1. That the Adoption Service Report for Adoption@Heart be received.
2. That the progress made by the Regional Adoption Agency be noted.
3. That Special Guardianship Order data be shared with Councillors.

## 9 **Performance Monitoring Information**

Alison Hinds, Deputy Director of Social Care presented the Performance Monitoring Information Report and highlighted salient points. The report provided an update on service performance as at 31 May 2021. It was noted that health and adoption had been covered in two previous reports therefore the remaining points would be addressed.

It was noted that the number of children in care continued to reduce and the service continued to ensure that only the right children remained in care as well as strengthening opportunities to support children to remain with their families where appropriate. It was reported that Wolverhampton's performance was on a par with statistical neighbours across the West Midlands.

Placement analysis showed stability of placements in a positive light as the service sought to keep children's placements with other close family members where possible. The Family Values programme provided high quality support to foster carers where it was not possible to place a child with family or friends.

Up to date assessments and reviews also showed a strong performance improving on previous years. Children and young people's participation in reviews was almost at 100% which was very positive.

In terms of education, there was a great deal of work going into ensuring children had up to date personal education plans (PEPs) across all ages. There was some more focused work required around years 12 and 13 however there was a positive overall picture.

It was acknowledged that improvements in recording dental checks were ongoing.

Accommodation continued to perform well. There was a slight downturn in care leavers available for work however this was a reflection of the national picture around employment in general.

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 virtual visits to establishments had been attempted but been unsuccessful. It was now possible to arrange in person visits and Councillors Stephanie Haynes and Councillor Wendy Dalton expressed an interest. All Councillors were invited to contact either Alice Vickers or Michelle Cummings to express an interest to visit. It was noted that this could be arranged but to be mindful that only individual visits were possible.

Resolved:

That individual visits to establishments would be arranged for any Councillors expressing an interest.

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<b>CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL</b>	<b>Corporate Parenting Board</b> <b>25 November 2021</b>
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<b>Report title</b>	Schedule of Outstanding Matters	
<b>Cabinet member with lead responsibility</b>	Councillor Beverley Momenabadi Children and Young People	
<b>Wards affected</b>	All wards	
<b>Accountable director</b>	Emma Bennett, Executive Director of Families	
<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>
10 June 2021	That young people be invited to participate and provide feedback in a meeting of the Strategic Health Steering Group.	Michelle Cummings, Corporate Parenting Officer	Dates are in the process of being confirmed.
23 September 2021	That Special Guardianship Order data be shared with Councillors.	Mark Tobin, Head of Service, Adoption@Heart	Data has been prepared to share with members. Fuller detail will be included in the next Adoption Report.

## 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 Any other implications**

6.1 There are no other implications arising from this report.

**7.0 Schedule of background papers**

7.1 Minutes of previous meetings of the Corporate Parenting Board and associates.

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<b>CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL</b>	<b>Corporate Parenting Board</b> <b>25 November 2021</b>
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<b>Report title</b>	Refreshed Terms of Reference	
<b>Cabinet member with lead responsibility</b>	Councillor Beverley Momenabadi Children and Young People	
<b>Wards affected</b>	All wards	
<b>Accountable director</b>	Emma Bennett, Executive Director of Families	
<b>Originating service</b>	Children and Young People in Care	
<b>Accountable employee</b>	Jazmine Walker	Head of Service
	Tel	01902 552543
	Email	<a href="mailto:Jazmine.walker@wolverhampton.gov.uk">Jazmine.walker@wolverhampton.gov.uk</a>
<b>Report to be considered by</b>	Children's Social Care Leadership Meeting	18 November 2021

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**Recommendation for action:**

The Corporate Parenting Board is recommended to:

1. Approve and adopt the refreshed Terms of Reference for the Corporate Parenting Board.

## **1.0 Purpose**

1.1 The purpose of the report is to present the refreshed Terms of Reference for approval.

## **2.0 Background**

2.1 All elected Councillors are responsible for the welfare of children and young people in care i.e. "corporate parenting". The Corporate Parenting Board meets on a bi-monthly basis (every other month) to consider matters which affect children and young people in care. The refreshed Terms of Reference will ensure the Board is effective.

## **3.0 Options**

### **Option 1 – do nothing**

3.1 The Board do nothing and work to the existing Terms of Reference.

### **Option 2 – approve the refreshed Terms of Reference**

3.2 The Board are recommended to approve and adopt the refreshed Terms of Reference; this now includes Membership, Quorum, Access to Information and Timescales for Review. This will ensure the Terms of Reference document remains up to date and supports Councillors to ensure the Board is effective. This is the recommended option.

## **4.0 Financial implications**

4.1 There are no financial implications for this report.  
[JG/16112021/D]

## **5.0 Legal implications**

5.1 There are no legal implications for this report.  
[SB/16112021/R]

## **6.0 Equalities implications**

6.1 There are no equalities implications for this report.

## **7.0 All other Implications**

7.1 There are no wider implications for this report.

## **8.0 Schedule of background papers**

8.1 There are no background papers for this report.

## **9.0 Appendices**

9.1 Appendix 1: Terms of Reference – Corporate Parenting Board

**Terms of Reference – Corporate Parenting Board**

**1.0 Role of the Board**

- 1.1 All elected Councillors are responsible for the welfare of children and young people in care i.e. "corporate parenting". The Corporate Parenting Board meets on a bi-monthly (every other month) basis to consider matters which affect children and young people in care.

**2.0 Purpose of the Board**

- 2.1 Provide clear strategic and political direction in relation to corporate parenting.
- 2.2 Ensure that all Councillors and City of Wolverhampton Council Service Groups are all fulfilling their roles and responsibilities as corporate parents proactively.
- 2.3 Make a demonstrable commitment to prioritising the needs of children and young people in care and their carers.
- 2.4 Show ambition and aspirations for all children and young people in care and care leavers.
- 2.5 Undertake regular monitoring of the outcomes associated with the above priorities as they are articulated in the 'Corporate Parenting Pledge'.
- 1.6 Set objectives for monitoring the work of and evaluating the progress of the Corporate Parenting Partnership Board.
- 2.7 To receive regular reports on the level and quality of services to children and young people in care and care leavers from the Children and Young People's Service Group and other Service Groups and external organisations.
- 2.8 Ensure that Councillors undertake a programme of visits to children's homes.
- 2.9 Promote achievement and acknowledging the aspirations of children and young people in care by supporting celebration events.
- 2.10 Champion the provision of Council based work placements and apprenticeships for young people in care and care leavers.
- 2.11 To determine ways in which the role of corporate parenting can be improved, using examples from other local authorities and countries.
- 2.12 To be responsible for ensuring that the views of children and young people and their carers are involved in the assessment, development and delivery of services.
- 2.13 Engaging with children and young people in care or who have left care including inviting them to act as advisers to the Board on a regular basis.

- 2.14 Engaging with foster carers including inviting them to act as advisers to the Board on a regular basis.
- 2.15 Meeting with Government inspectors where appropriate, for their input into overall inspections such as the Annual Performance Assessment (APA) and individual inspections of fostering/adoption services and children's homes.
- 2.16 Through appropriate mechanisms, to report to Cabinet or other appropriate bodies on the work of the Board.

### **3.0 Membership and Quorum**

- 3.1 The Membership of the Board will consist of the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Children and Young People and up to nine Members on political proportionality. Membership and Chair arrangements of Corporate Parenting Board are agreed at each Annual General Meeting of the Council.
- 3.2 The Chair is the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Children and Young People.
- 3.3 The Vice Chair will be appointed from the membership and agreed at the Annual General Meeting of the Council or the first meeting of the Corporate Parenting Board.
- 3.4 The quorum for Corporate Parenting Board is three Councillors including the Chair or Vice Chair.

### **4.0 Frequency**

- 4.1 The Board meets on a bi-monthly (every other month) basis to consider matters which affect children and young people in care.

### **5.0 Access to information**

The Board will be recorded and communicated as follows:

- 5.1 All agendas and accompanying paperwork will be published online in accordance with legislation on the Council's public-facing website by the nominated Democratic Services Officer.
- 5.2 Full meetings of Corporate Parenting Board will be conducted in public unless confidential information is to be disclosed. Reports that are of a confidential nature (i.e. containing exempt information as defined in Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972) will be restricted from public access and discussed following exclusion of press and public.
- 5.3 The Democratic Services Officer will record the minutes and decisions of the Corporate Parenting Board and publish to the Council's public-facing website.

Exempt information as defined in Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 will be restricted from public access.

5.4 Meetings of Corporate Parenting Board are currently held virtually and streamed live via the public-facing Council website. Streaming ceases during exclusion of the press and public.

## **6.0 Review**

6.1 These Terms of Reference will be reviewed on an annual basis at the beginning of each municipal year. The last review was 25 November 2021.

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<b>CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL</b>	<b>Corporate Parenting Board</b> <b>25 November 2021</b>
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<b>Report title</b>	Health Assessments
<b>Cabinet member with lead responsibility</b>	Councillor Beverley Momenabadi Children and Young People
<b>Wards affected</b>	All wards
<b>Accountable director</b>	Emma Bennett, Executive Director of Families
<b>Originating service</b>	Children and Young People in Care
<b>Accountable employee</b>	Jazmine Walker      Head of Children and Young People in Care Tel:                              07971 843891 Email: <a href="mailto:Jazmine.walker@wolverhampton.gov.uk">Jazmine.walker@wolverhampton.gov.uk</a>
<b>Report to be/has been considered by</b>	Children's Social Care Leadership Team Corporate Parenting Board

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**Recommendations for action:**

The Corporate Parenting Board is recommended to:

1. Receive the update on health assessment performance.

**Recommendations for noting:**

The Corporate Parenting Board is recommended to note:

1. The improvements in the performance reporting and the completion and timeliness of initial and review health assessment for all children and young people in care.

## **1.0 Purpose**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Corporate Parenting Board (CPB) on the challenges and actions identified in March 2021 and the improvements in the performance reporting and the completion and timeliness of initial and review health assessment for all children and young people in care.

## **2.0 Background**

- 2.1 Promoting the Health and Well-being of Looked After Children (March 2015) is the statutory guidance that outlines that local authorities' responsibilities in making sure health assessments for our Children and Young People in Care (CYPiC) take place as below:
- Initial Health Assessments (IHA) - The initial health assessment should take place in time to inform the child's first CYPiC review within 20 working days of entering care.
  - Review Health Assessments (RHA) - The review of the child's health plan must take place once every six months before a child's fifth birthday and once every 12 months after the child's fifth birthday.
- 2.2 NHS service providers have a duty to comply with requests from local authorities in support of their statutory requirements, and a local partnership agreement was made in 2017 to assist compliance as follows:
- IHAs – The local authority to send the request to the Royal Wolverhampton Trust (RWT) within five days of a child entering care, and health colleagues to complete and return within 13 days. The RWT Key Performance Indicators (KPI) measures the 13-day turnaround. This enables RWT to monitor a swift assessment timescale. However, if the local authority sends the request to health later than five working days of the child entering care the statutory timescales will not be met.
  - RHAs - Requests should be sent to RWT three months in advance and local authority should ensure that, as a minimum, the child's main carer completes the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ) for the child in time to inform their assessment.
- 2.3 The performance data for IHAs and RHAs were previously an area of strength; with RHAs consistently at 90-93% completed in timescales. It was noted that in March 2021 there had been a continued month on month reduction since July 2020. Furthermore, since the local authority's children's electronic recording system moved to a new system Eclipse in September 2020, there were concerns about the accuracy of the Power Bi performance reports (which are presented to the CPB) and how the lack of reliable data was contributing to poor performance in this area.
- 2.4 The report presented in March 2021 outlined the data quality activity being undertaken to provide assurance about the number of children with in-date RHAs as well as assurance about how the Local Authority will further monitor and improve performance in this area.

This report updates on the challenges and actions identified in March 2021 and the improvements in the performance reporting and the completion and timeliness of initial and review health assessment for all children and young people in care.

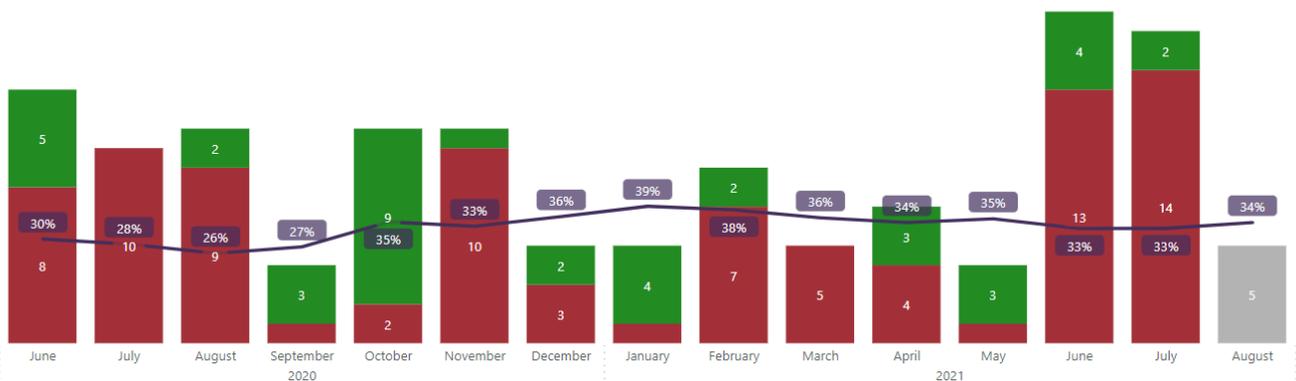
### 3.0 Progress

- 3.1 The proportion of new CYPiC with IHAs remains low at 34% for the rolling year (see Table 1). However, this is an improvement on 28% the rolling year as reported to the CPB on 25 March 2021. The rolling year average for March 2021 has since improved to 38% due to retrospective recording.
- 3.2 Only four out of 17 IHAs were recorded as being completed within timescales in June 2021, and of the new CYPiC coming in to care during July 2021, two of the fourteen had been completed at the time of running the report. Although this would not affect the other health percentages this remains an area of concern and continues to be flagged as an area of concern in internal performance management meetings.

**Table 1: IHA Performance as of September 2021**

New CYPiC Initial Health Assessments (Within 20 Working days of CYPiC Start)

● Fail ● Pass ● Still within 20 working days ● Initial Health Assessments Pass (Rolling 12 Months)

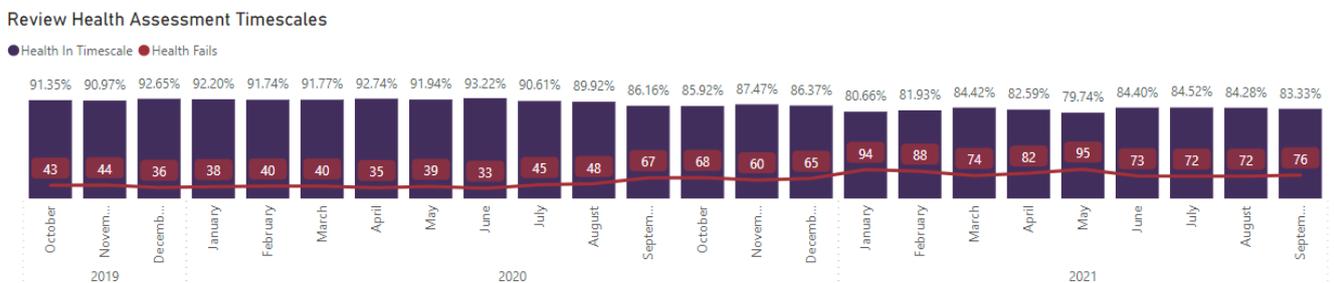


- 3.3 A monthly meeting between the Strengthening Families Service (responsible for CYPiC who have recently come into our care) and Health colleagues has been taking place. This has been a separate meeting to the one outlined below chaired by the CYPiC Service. In October, Dr Latha Tirupatikumara, Consultant Community Paediatrician Named Doctor for CYPiC and Adoption Medical Advisor highlighted that while the data remains at 34% due to timeliness the work of the group has improved the quality of the paperwork provided by Children’s Social Care when the IHA is requested resulting in improved health care plans for children. Further work is required to improve the timeliness of IHAs. In order to achieve this the two meetings will be joined as one working group to further improve both IHAs and RHAs.
- 3.4 Since the last update in March 2021, the Service are now confident in Power Bi performance reports. The work undertaken since the last report has also significantly improved performance through retrospective recording. In March 2021 it was reported

performance was 56% of RHAs completed within timescales; this has increased to 84%. Table 2 shows the improvements made with an average 10 percentage point increase (compared to the performance reported in the March 2021 report) month on month between September 2020 and March 2021 as a result of retrospective recording. Although the local authority now has confidence in the performance reporting there will inevitably be some retrospective recording but not on the scale previously seen.

- 3.5 At the time of writing this report there are 533 children within the CYPiC cohort as at the end of September 2021, 77 of those cases have been open for less than 12 months, therefore 456 of these young people should have an RHA. Power Bi reports 379 (83%) children have had an RHA in the last 12 months.

**Table 2: RHA Performance as of September 2021**



- 3.6 A monthly joint CYPiC and Health operational group in place with operational and business support colleagues and has been taking place since March 2021. The focus of the monthly meeting is to set agreed actions and monitor the completion of statutory health tasks. This has improved the internal processes for RHAs within the local authority. Due to previous performance report being inaccurate it is not possible to outline how the work of this group has impacted upon timeliness. However, we do now have a baseline to measure future performance.
- 3.7 To improve performance there is a clear process in place between business support colleagues to ensure referral paperwork is completed and appointments made which is much more effective. We have included an additional quality assurance stage in the process to ensure all paperwork sent to the Gem Centre is full and correct which has reduced the number of requests returned to the local authority which previously caused delay and subsequent effect on timeliness.
- 3.8 Since the last update in March 2021, all RHAs are booked within five days of being received and appointments are being booked now for December 2021. The evidence of internal processes being more effective is in the improved timeliness of paperwork completion and assessments taking place. Our focus now is the quality of requests and assessments to ensure the RHAs are as meaningful as possible.
- 3.9 Health assessments, and other performance data, are discussed at fortnightly team manager meetings chaired by the CYPiC Service Manager and monthly Performance

Meetings chaired by the Head of CYPiC. This is to ensure the above actions are resulting in continued improvements in performance.

- 3.10 The CCG monitor Provider performance and quality issues through quarterly and monthly contractual reporting and key performance indicators. Exceptions are presented at the CCG Combined Clinical Quality Review Meeting. A robust quality assurance process remains in place both within the Provider and the CCG, where issues, including timeliness are addressed. Regular meetings are held with CCG Designated professionals and Provider leads and weekly Provider team meetings include monitoring of statutory activity.

#### **4.0 Recommendations**

- 4.1 It is recommended that Corporate Parenting Board note the improvements in the completion and timeliness of initial and review health assessment for all children and young people in care.

#### **5.0 Financial implications**

- 5.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report.  
[JG/26102021/I]

#### **6.0 Legal implications**

- 6.1 Promoting the Health and Well-being of Looked After Children (March 2015), is the statutory guidance that outlines that local authorities' responsibilities in making sure health assessments for our CYPiC take place. This guidance is issued to local authorities, CCGs and NHS England under sections 10 and 11 of the Children Act 2004 and they must have regard to it when exercising their functions. It is also issued under section 7 of the Local Authority Social Services Act 1970. Local authorities must comply with this guidance unless there are exceptional reasons that justify a departure.  
[SB/03112021/B]

#### **7.0 Equalities implications**

- 7.1 There are no equalities implications associated with this report. The guidance ensures all CYPiC receive an assessment of their health needs and a health plan that will ensure the local authority and its partners meets children and young people's individual health needs as a good parent would.

#### **8.0 All other Implications**

- 8.1 There are no other implications associated with this report.

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<b>CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL</b>	<b>Corporate Parenting Board</b> <b>25 November 2021</b>
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<b>Report title</b>	Independent Reviewing Officer Annual Report 2020-2021	
<b>Cabinet member with lead responsibility</b>	Councillor Beverley Momenabadi Children and Young People	
<b>Wards affected</b>	All Wards	
<b>Accountable director</b>	Emma Bennett, Executive Director of Families	
<b>Originating service</b>	Safeguarding	
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<b>Report has been considered by</b>	Children's Leadership Team	23 September 2021
	Children in Care Council	13 October 2021
	Children and Young People in Care Managers' Meeting	13 October 2021
	Cabinet Member Briefing	23 November 2021

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**Recommendation for action:**

The Corporate Parenting Board is recommended to:

1. Endorse the Annual Report of the Independent Reviewing Officer Service 2020-2021.

## **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 2020-2021 and determines actions to be progressed in 2021-2022.

- 3.2 The Service had an establishment of 10.5 FTE IRO's at March 2021. The service had additional support from agency workers during this time owing to long term sickness and vacancies during April 2020 – March 2021. During this period the Safeguarding Service created a full time Team Manager post to support the service and successfully recruited to the vacancy. There have been some staff changes and it remains an experienced team; some of whom have worked for Wolverhampton for many years, meaning some IROs have been consistently involved with the same young people. The IROs have a range of experiences and backgrounds which is an asset to the 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 meeting the statutory duties of reviews and achieving meaningful participation of children in their reviews, we want to continue to improve. This is reflected in the plans for 2020-2021.

#### **4.0 Financial implications**

- 4.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. The IROs are funded from the approved Safeguarding Children budget.  
[JG/15112021/P]

#### **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.  
[SB/13112021/O]

#### **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 All other Implications**

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

- 7.1 There are no direct implications arising from this report

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

- 7.2 There are no direct implications arising from this report

##### **Corporate Landlord implications**

- 7.3 There are no direct implications arising from this report

### **COVID 19 Implications**

- 7.4 Throughout the COVID 19 pandemic the IRO service has operated an adapted model of service delivery. This has seen reviews undertaken utilising technologies such as MS Teams meetings. In some cases, participation of young people has improved with the implementation of these approaches and this will be considered as part of future service delivery models.

### **Health and Wellbeing Implications**

- 7.5 The health and wellbeing of young people within the care system is of paramount importance. As part of reviews, it is the role of the IRO to hold professionals to account in ensuring that this is being maintained in a timely and robust manner.

### **8.0 Schedule of background papers**

- 8.1 The annual report for 2020-2021 is attached. The Corporate Parenting Board has received Annual reports in preceding years.

### **9.0 Appendices**

- 9.1 Appendix 1 - Independent Reviewing Officer Annual Report 2020-2021

# Independent Reviewing Service

## Annual report 2020- 2021

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 The IRO Handbook (2010) is the statutory guidance for Independent Reviewing Officers (IROs) 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 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 2020 – March 2021. This is the 11th annual report.
- 1.3 The Safeguarding Service is based at the Priory Green Building in Pendeford, Wolverhampton. However, between April 2020 – March 2021, staff have been working from home due to the covid pandemic. Most of the team had a mixed caseload of Children in Care and Child Protection, with only three of the IROs holding a solely Children in Care caseload.
- 1.4 The IRO service in Wolverhampton consists of:
  - Rachel King Head of Service
  - Sonia Mahay Service Manager
  - Sarah Hartill Team Manager
  - 10.5 FTE IRO's

The management of the IRO team provides supervision to the IROs and responsibility for the team. The Safeguarding Service Manager also manages the Independent Foster Home Reviewing Officers.

1.5 The IROs have a key role in assuring the quality of the care planning for children and young people in our care. This report provides an opportunity to highlight areas of good practice, areas for improvement, identify emerging themes and trends. The report will set out the work undertaken to date and outline the service development priorities for the coming twelve months.

## 2. Purpose of service and legal context

2.1 Legislation for the reviewing of children and young people in care is supported by detailed guidance which informs the planning in Wolverhampton. The guidance includes Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (England) Regulations 2010 and the IRO Handbook. 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;

2.2 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'*.

2.3 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 in Short Break Care, or who are placed for adoption under the Adoption and Children Act 2002. Also, those who are in care because they are remanded by the court to local authority accommodation. These young people require an allocated IRO and reviews in their place of custody.

### **3. The service**

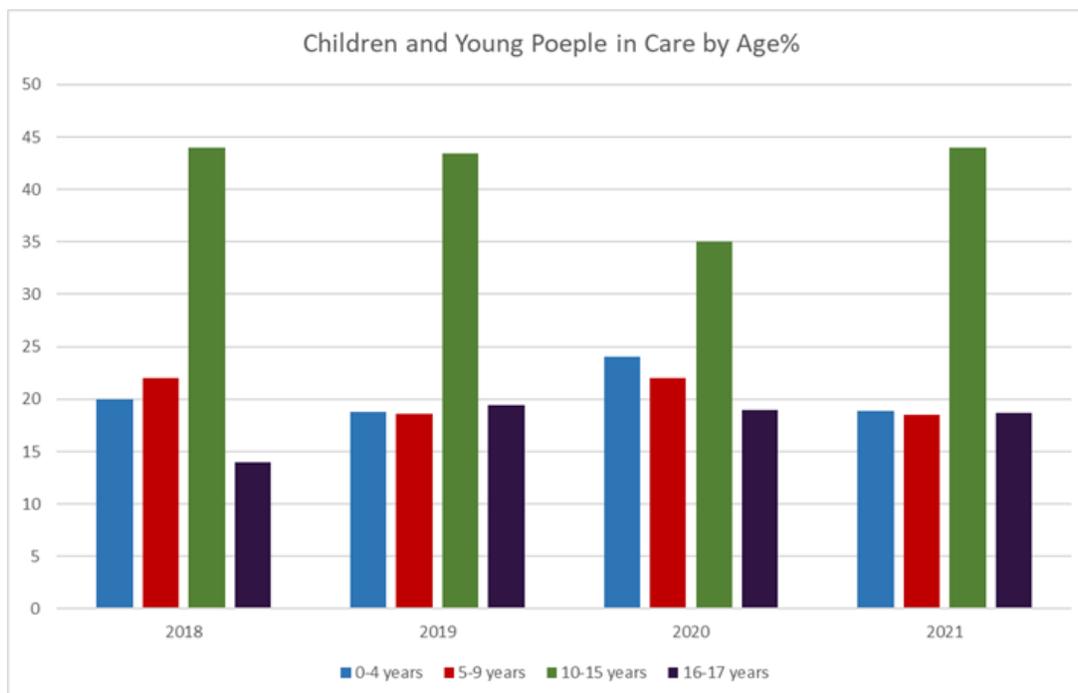
- 3.1 The Service had an establishment of 10.5 FTE IRO's at March 2021. The service had additional support from agency workers during this time owing to long term sickness and vacancies during April 2020 – March 2021. During this period the Safeguarding Service created a full time Team Manager post to support the service and successfully recruited to the vacancy. There have been some staff changes and it remains an experienced team; some of whom have worked for Wolverhampton for many years, meaning some IROs have been consistently involved with the same young people. The IROs have a range of experiences and backgrounds which is an asset to the service .
- 3.2 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 child protection plan, and those receiving care through short breaks (Section 20), was 66 children on 31 March 2021. This compares to 77 in March 2020. The reduction is owing to additional support being provided via agency workers to cover long term sickness and the reduction of children and young people in care. Most of the team had a mixed caseload of Children in Care and Child Protection, with only three of the IROs holding a solely Children in Care caseload. The makeup of caseloads is regularly reviewed and a priority for 2021/2022 is that all staff members undertake the dual role to ensure fair and consistent caseloads across the service.
- 3.3 In terms of diversity, the profile of the team is representative of a range of ethnicity and cultural backgrounds (60% white British, 30% Asian, 10% black/British/African/Caribbean). The children and young people in care of Wolverhampton were from the following backgrounds during 2020-2021: 57% white

British, 5% Asian, 10% black/British/African/Caribbean, 9% mixed white/black African/Caribbean, 2% mixed white/Asian, 17% other .

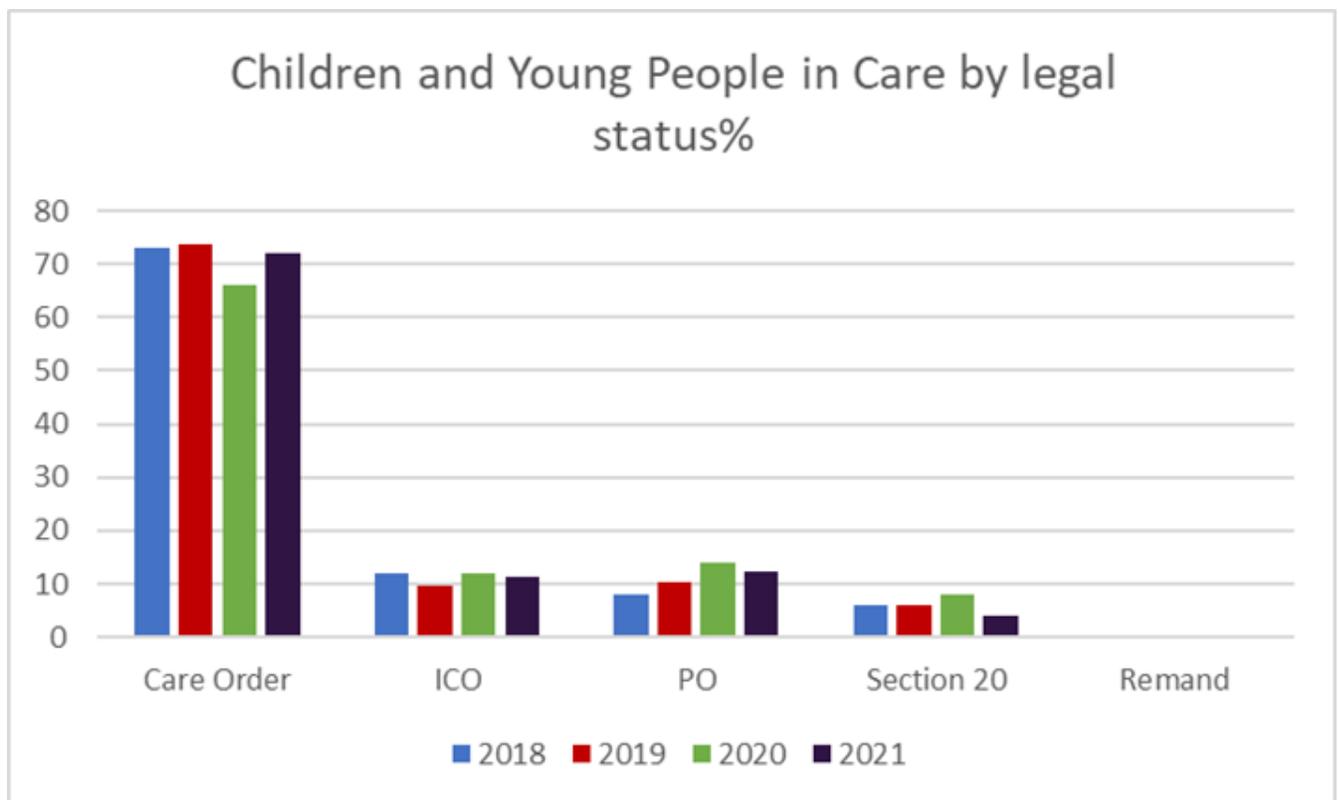
3.4 There was a new management system (ECLIPSE) implemented in September 2020. Since the launch of Eclipse there has there been recording and inputting errors on Eclipse which has impacted performance. Throughout the last two quarters we have worked with colleagues in Insight and Performance to address these issues, but this has impacted on data between September 2020 – March 2021. In 2021-22, we will be continuing to improve our data collection and performance management information.

#### 4. Our Children and Young People in Care population.

4.1 There were 541 children and young people in care as of 31.3.21, compared to 588 in 2020. The total number of children who were in care between 01.04.20 – 31.03.21 was 684. Of these 317/46% were female (344/46% in 2019) and 367/54% were male (398/54% in 2019). The charts below show the percentage of children in care by age . The data shows an increase in the numbers of 10-15-year-olds in care from 2020, and a reduction in the other age groups.



4.2 As of 31.3.21 in relation to legal status, the chart below shows the percentage of all children remaining subject to Care Orders has slightly decreased, this is owing to an increase of other orders being granted at the final hearing such as Child Arrangement Orders. Children and Young People subject to care proceedings, Interim Care Orders and Placement Orders has decreased, as has the number of children placed under Section 20 agreements. The decreased use of Section 20 and Interim Care Orders, alongside there being no children who exited then returned to care, evidences social work teams are safely and effectively reducing the number of children who need to be in care. There were two young people on remand.



## 5. Our IRO service

5.1 The local authority is required to carry out review meetings in line with timings specified in the Regulations [regulation 33]:

- the first review of a child's case within 20 working days of the date on which the child becomes looked after;
- the second review no more than three months after the first;
- the third and subsequent reviews no more than six months after the previous one;
- a review whenever the IRO directs; and

- a review in all other circumstances as specified in the Regulations.
- 5.2 On 31 March 2021, 99% of all children had an update review (97% in 2020). This shows a good increase in performance from the previous year.
- 5.3 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. Information is sent to the child via a letter. Children can also make direct contact with their IRO by calling, by text or by email. Further work is still underway to develop consultation tools suitable for children with disabilities, which has been difficult to achieve due to a lack of access to suitable computer programs within the council. However, as part of work aimed at developing child friendly reviews, some positive work has been undertaken to ensure children with disabilities and those with limited communication are able to participate within their review. Software is being purchased to support the inclusion of children with disabilities.
- 5.4 The majority of brothers and sisters, 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.
- 5.5 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.

- 5.6 The recorded achievement in this area of activity is also a measure of local authority performance. As of 31 March 2021, 92% of children had participated in their review. This was the same in 2020 .
- 5.7 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. In person visits have been limited during this period owing to lockdown restrictions and the impact of Covid-19, therefore communication has been more creative. In person visits have been completed to children and young people who required a visits during this time.
- 5.8 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 giving children choices about how to prepare and participate in their reviews. This approach has been rolled out but hindered by the impact of Covid-19 limiting in-person contact. This is an area the service is keen to progress moving forward. Although, reviews have been virtual during this period, creative reviews have still taken place, for example, PJ party reviews, tea parties, dressing up. The IROs now record the reviews by way of writing to the child so when children want to access their records they will be child focused , written to them, they will be able to understand them and the record forms a part of their life journey work.

**Example:**

***“The Young Person was encouraged to help write his report and his views were captured well, this enabled the meeting to focus on his achievements and the Young Person showed us his ‘world map’ picture, his Lego constructions and a picture of the 16lb carp he caught, he told us he enjoyed his meeting by video and would choose this again in the future”.***

- 5.9 IROs continue to work hard to involve parents in their children’s reviews, albeit sometimes this means consultations take place by telephone discussion or separate meetings. Social Workers and IROs need to ensure they are providing this option of participation to parents. Monitoring participation of parents and improving parental engagement will be an area of focus moving forward.
- 5.10 There were no children and young reviewed under the Short Break Statutory Guidance (Section 20(4) of the Children Act 1989) in 2020/21 (0 in 2019/20) as they are reviewed by Disabled Childrens and Young People team as there brakes are under 75 overnights a year and for those over 75 overnights they are in care.
- 5.11 The IRO service have received no complaints and one registered compliment between April 2020-March 2021 . However, compliments have been received via other avenues, such as the Director of Children’s Services (DCS) regular newsletter called the “Round Up”, which goes out to all colleagues in the Children and Young People’s Service, detailing good practice.

**Example:**

*“I feel that you were a good support, compassionate, empathetic and a very fair IRO. Your grasp of these children and their needs was very intuitive and was always at the forefront of your mind. I have always found you approachable but very professional at the same time”*

*“IRO was very child friendly and really engaged well with the young person and they usually struggle with new professionals but the IRO was brilliant”*

*“The day after the review the carer phoned me to say that they really appreciated the IROs approach within the review as it had put the young person at ease in what can sometimes be a daunting experience. The child has complex needs and the carer felt that IRO was sensitive to these. The IRO also asked the child a number of “fun” questions and had taken the time to read about her likes/dislikes which was nice to see”*

*“I have seen the IRO explain some difficult things to children so well. The IRO has a real natural ability to explain things in a child friendly and warm manner that I don’t think should go unrecognised”*

- 5.12 The IRO service continue to explore ways to gain feedback from children about their experience of reviews and their IRO. Further work needs to be undertaken to find a way to

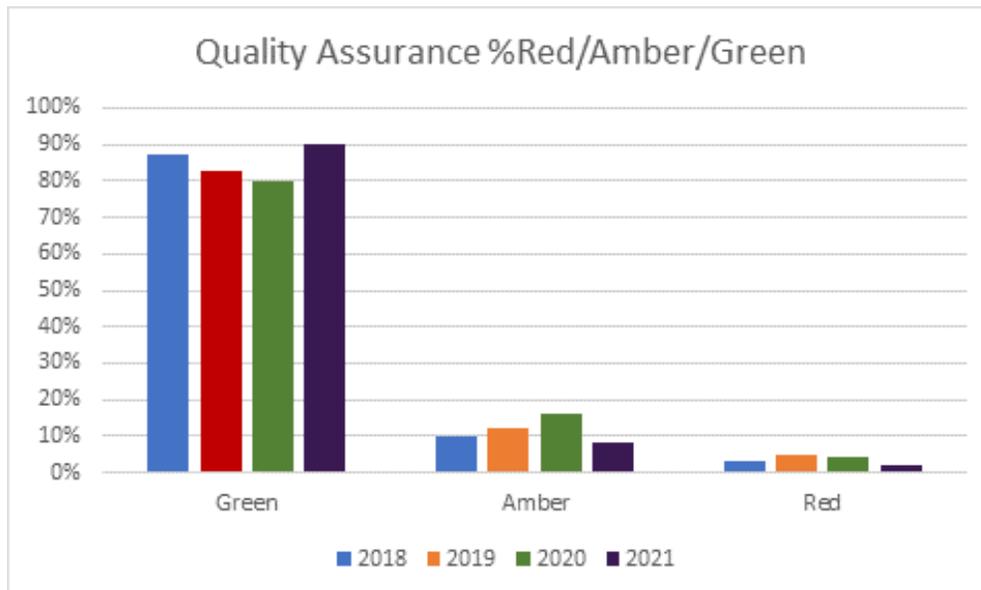
routinely gain this feedback . The team manager and participation officer will be exploring ways to gain feedback and strengthen this area of practice. In addition, when compliments are received, the Service Manager will ensure these are officially reported to 'Have Your Say'.

## 6. 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,

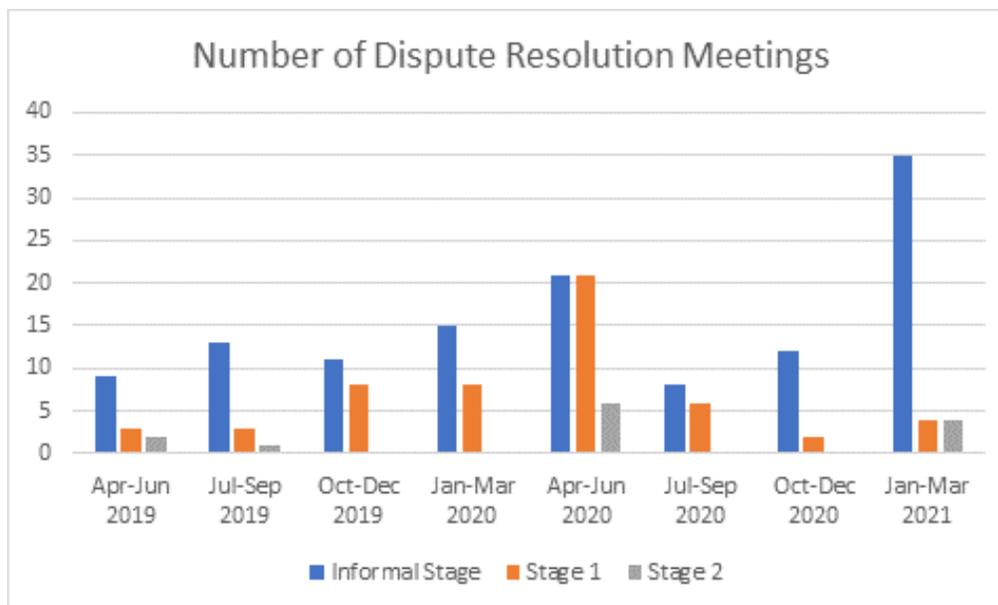
6.2 The RAG (Red/Amber/Green) quality rating system, in respect of reviews, including the progress of plans, preparation for the meeting and the quality of reports, has been used consistently in Wolverhampton since August 2014. In 2020-21, RAG ratings were issued in relation to 1292 reviews (1501 in 2019-20). The chart below compares ratings over the last four years. This shows an increase in Green RAGs being issued and slight reduction in Ambers and Reds, suggesting an increase in good quality Care Planning.



6.3 Following a review the IRO will rate the care planning the child is receiving as Green, Amber or Red. Green indicates that there is good the care planning. If Amber or Red,

this indicates that there are concerns with care planning and the IRO will raise a dispute resolution in keeping with the severity of the concerns. Ambers and Reds generate an informal dispute discussion record, this process was introduced in the last quarter to ensure that it is detailed how the concerns have been addressed and the agreed action. If not addressed or if the IRO deems that formal dispute is required, this will be expedited.

- 6.4 During 2020-21, 43 formal dispute resolutions were implemented in Wolverhampton. This protocol commences when the IRO identifies serious concerns about drift or delay in a child's care plan and is unable to resolve the difficulty with the social worker or their manager. 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. It would be expected for most disputes to be resolved at the informal stage by the IRO and Team Manager.



Some children and young people have been discussed at both informal and formal stage as per escalation through the dispute resolution process. While there has been an increase in formal disputes, this was expected given Ambers and Reds rag ratings generate an informal dispute discussion record. This process was introduced to ensure that it is detailed how the concerns have been addressed and the agreed action. Also,

this provides consistent recording and tracking of the outcomes of informal stage discussions, which has led to the increase in the formal stages meaning that concerns that have not been addressed are escalated. Concerns that have arisen have been in respect of permanence planning, life story, family time arrangements, care planning, drift and delay, care and living arrangements. A focus for 2021-2022, is reviewing the Dispute Resolution policy as well as the recording of Dispute Resolutions to enable effective tracking of resolutions.

***Examples:***

***The IRO had raised concerns about the care of a child , following the DR process the child was moved and now thriving in the care of another family member.***

***IRO raised concerns about life story work not being completed , this was actioned and explored with the young person.***

***IRO raised concerns about adoption planning, this was addressed resulting in a positive plan for the child.***

6.5 Quality assurance forms are also completed following the review, reports are now available on the findings of quality assurance work, which means the service is able to identify trends and patterns of practice and bring them to the attention of Children's Social Care. The Safeguarding Manager provides a report to the Children and Young People's Management Team on a quarterly basis, highlighting areas of good practice and areas for concern and action. Below details key themes identified in the quarter prior to eclipse implementation:

- There has been an increase in performance of Social Worker's preparation for reviews, with pre-review consultations with parents/carers and child slightly increasing.
- There has been an improvement in the quality of Social Worker's reports to review, and an increase of the reports being completed and authorised within timescale.

- There has been a slight increase in Social Work assessments being completed to evidence progress of the Care Plan. The assurance that the Care Plan has progressed in terms of other actions, and that the family time arrangements meet the needs of the child has remained static since the previous quarter.
- There has been a slight decline in evidence that actions to progress permanence plans have been taken and a slight decrease in permanence planning meetings having taken place before the second review. There has also been a slight decrease in actions to undertake Life Story work. This is most likely a reflection of the difficulty overall in progressing permanence plans during Covid which included court delays.

6.6 The IROs complete a Recognition of Excellent or Good Practice notification when there is evidence of high-quality practice. 28 notifications were awarded in 2020-2021 (a decrease from 44 in 2019-2020) again this figure is likely to be impacted by good practice shared via the round up.

**Examples:**

*“Social Worker demonstrates a comprehensive understanding of the law and asylum processes and has the ability to empathise and support the young person”*

*“Good preparation for a Child in Care review; Social Worker had sought the child’s views and the report to the review was co-produced with the child. Child was well prepared to participate in his virtual review”*

*“Social Worker preparing a child for their ‘virtual review’ and ensuring the review had a celebratory feel; supporting the child to participate in the review. Progressing life story work and permanence actions for linking and matching”*

- 6.7 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 at Child Protection Conferences.
- 6.8 Wolverhampton IRO service attends the regional IRO Practice Share meetings on a quarterly basis with a number of West Midlands Local Authorities. These meetings have provided good opportunities for IROs to network and share ideas for practice improvement.
- 7. Any resource issues that are putting at risk the delivery of a quality service**
- 7.1 The year 2020-21 has been greatly impacted by the global pandemic, this has had an impact of work that has been completed by service from in person to virtual. Whilst the service adapted to the circumstances, the absence of physical human connection has impacted on seeing our children and young people and wellbeing of our staff.
- 7.2 Annual observations of IROs chairing a review and feedback being obtained directly from the child and parent where appropriate, has not taken place in 2020/2021 owing to capacity. This is an area that will be a focus for 2020/2021.
- 8. Review of last year’s priority areas for improvement and action**
- 8.1 Develop a system for routinely obtaining feedback about IROs and the function of reviews from children, Social Workers and other professionals. This report details that this is an area that is being progressed by the team manager and the Participation Officer.
- 8.2 Measure the impact of the roll out of the refreshed approach to reviews, particularly in terms of participation and creativity. This work is in progress, the roll out of the CAYPIC review approach was impacted by Covid-19 restrictions, which resulted in a complete

change in practice . However, the Review Steering Group has been re-established and this will be progressed in 2021/2022.

- 8.3 Measure the impact of the use of technology for increasing child and parental participation in reviews. Virtual working was accelerated as a consequence of Covid-19 , virtual reviews have been well received although virtual working has at times been wearing, it is felt that a blended approach would be positive moving forward.
- 8.4 Continue work on developing bespoke resources for children in care who have a disability to enable their participation in reviews. Software is being obtained in order for the information to be given to young people in easy read, once this is available bespoke resources will be produced.
- 8.5 Monitoring the impact of the Dispute Resolution process and ensure recurring themes are reported to Heads of Service. The dispute resolution process continues to be monitored and themes are reported to managers, work is going to completed to review the policy and procedure in 2021/2022.

## **9. Priorities for 2021/2022**

- Moving to a hybrid approach where children and young people are seen in person as well as sometimes virtually.
- Routinely obtain feedback about IROs and the quality of reviews from children, Social Workers and other professionals.
- Relaunch the refreshed approach to reviews to increase levels of participation and promote creativity.
- Continue work on developing bespoke resources for children in care who have a disability to enable their participation in reviews.

- Review the Dispute Resolution process, including evidencing the effectiveness for children and young people and ensure recurring themes are reported to senior managers.
- Continued development of the use of performance information and observations to improve practice both within the service and across children services.
- Monitoring participation of parents and improving parental engagement.
- Even distribution of workloads, having mixed and manageable caseloads for all staff (CP and CAYPIC), which is regularly reviewed to allow for positive outcomes for children to be achieved.

## **10. Conclusion.**

- 10.1 This report has highlighted the work of the IROs in Wolverhampton from April 2020 to March 2021 and is an update on the last annual report.
- 10.2 The service continues to work to improve child participation and consultation, for children with a range of needs and circumstances and will support the roll out of the revised model for reviews across the Social Work Teams.
- 10.3 The next report will cover the period from 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022.

<b>CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL</b>	<b>Corporate Parenting Board</b> <b>25 November 2021</b>
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<b>Report title</b>	Corporate Parenting Strategy 2022-2025	
<b>Cabinet member with lead responsibility</b>	Councillor Beverley Momenabadi Children and Young People	
<b>Wards affected</b>	All Wards	
<b>Accountable director</b>	Emma Bennett, Executive Director for Families	
<b>Originating service</b>	Children's Services	
<b>Accountable employee</b>	Alice Vickers	Co-Production and Youth Engagement Manager
	Tel	01902553010
	Email	Alice.Vickers@wolverhampton.gov.uk
<b>Report has been considered by</b>	Children Social Care Leadership Team	7 October 2021
<b>Report to be considered by</b>	Strategic Executive Board	16 December 2021

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**Recommendation for decision:**

The Corporate Parenting Board is recommended to:

1. Approve and endorse the Corporate Parenting Strategy 2022-2025.

## **1.0 Purpose**

1.1 This strategy sets out Wolverhampton City Council's vision and commitment and explains how we, as the Council, will be an effective and trustworthy corporate parent. Our children and young people in and leaving care are some of the most vulnerable in society. It is crucial we as Corporate Parents work collaboratively with a range of partners to ensure they are supported for them to be safe, happy and thrive

## **2.0 Background**

2.1 Corporate Parenting is the term used in law to describe our collective responsibility to care for, love and champion our children in care and our care leavers and ensure they have every opportunity to reach their full potential as they grow up.

2.2 The concept of Corporate Parenting was introduced by the Government in 1998 as part of a drive to improve the lives of children who are cared for by the local authority. The Corporate Parenting responsibility was reiterated and reinforced in 2007 with the release of the White Paper Care Matters-Time for Change and the underpinning legislation, Children and Young People Act 2008. The Children and Social Work Act 2017 which now requires all local authorities to evidence how they meet the seven Corporate Parenting Principles as they are statutory in relation to children and young people in and leaving care.

2.3 The Corporate Parenting Principles for children in care and care leavers, are:

- To act in the best interests, and promote the physical and mental health and well-being, of those children and young people
- To encourage those children and young people to express their views, wishes and feelings
- To take into account of the views, wishes and feelings of those children and young people
- To help those children and young people gain access to, and make the 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
- For those children and young people to be safe, and for stability in their home lives, relationships and education or work
- To prepare those children and young people for adulthood and independent living.

## **3.0 Progress and discussions**

3.1 This strategy has been developed and co-produced with the Children in Care Council and Care Leavers Independent Collective, with the Corporate Parenting Partnership

Board. Each principle has been evaluated analysing the strengths, challenges and what needs to happen. This feedback will form the basis of the Corporate Parenting Action plan and will be reviewed annually.

### 3.2 The City's Corporate Parenting Strengths:

- We are dedicated and passionate
- The voice of our young people is strong and valued by all including senior leaders
- There is good emotional and wellbeing support
- Co-production on service and policy development
- We have high aspirations and everyone wanting the best
- There is strong partnership working with equal offers of support, information, forward thinking and joined up working
- Integrated approach, celebration events, awareness of achievements, stakeholder engagement
- Young people's voice respected, support with mental health, training flat, house project, ASDAN award and peer support
- Support and options for accommodation for young people leaving care
- Support for Education, Employment and Training.

### 3.3 The City's Corporate Parenting Challenges:

- Communication support for young people and keeping young people up to date with support on offer
- Digital inclusion
- Transport
- Equality of opportunity and support for those young people living out of City, sustainability, stability and consistency for young people
- Preparing for adulthood support to foster carer.

### 3.4 What needs to happen to ensure we are confidently meeting the principles of Corporate Parenting?

1. To act in the best interests, and promote the physical and mental health and well-being, of those children and young people:
  - Share good practice across the partnership
  - Demonstrate clearly the ways we are listening to young people
  - Communicate effectively with our children and young people what support is there.
2. To encourage those children and young people to express their views, wishes and feelings:
  - Provide different tools for engagement
  - Endorse and share with young people that there are constant feedback opportunities

3. To take into account of the views, wishes and feelings of those children and young people:
  - Celebrate the views of young people
  - Share good practice
4. To help those children and young people gain access to, and make the best use of, services provided by the local Authority and its relevant partners:
  - Access to affordable transport
  - Inclusive and clear use of language
  - Ensure services and provisions are accessible and financially viable for young people
5. To promote high aspirations, and seek to secure the best outcomes, for those children and young people
  - Sharing the success of young people across the partnership
  - Commitment from all stakeholders to showcase and secure opportunities and consistent support
6. For those children and young people to be safe, and for stability in their home lives, relationships and education or work
  - Varied offer from education providers
  - ambitious expectations for young people
  - Support in for care leavers in employment to be practical and flexible
7. To prepare those children and young people for adulthood and independent living.
  - To start independent skills earlier with Children in Care,
  - All young people to complete the ASDAN award

3.5 In addition, the draft strategy has gone out for eight weeks consultation. This consultation asked for feedback and the following findings were shared and the following actions taken as a result.

#### **4.0 Evaluation of alternative options**

- 4.1 Option one would be to make no change to the existing strategy. This would result in the City of Wolverhampton Council remaining with a strategy that is over three years old.
- 4.2 Option two would be to not have a Corporate Parenting Strategy leaving the Council at risk of not meeting its statutory requirements.
- 4.3 Option three would be to update the existing strategy with the proposed strategy. This strategy evidences the Council's commitment to co-production with children and young people in care and care leavers as part of the Co-Production Charter.

## **5.0 Reasons for decision**

- 5.1 Option three is the preferred option. The reason for the decision to approve and endorse this strategy is not only to meet the Council's statutory duties as part of the Children and Social Work Act 2017, but also to ensure our children and young people in care and care leavers are clear that the Council takes its corporate parenting responsibility serious and are ambitious for them and their future.
- 5.2 Following analysis and benchmarking with statistical neighbours Corporate Parenting Strategies, it is clear that this strategy is ambitious, clear and co-produced.

## **6.0 Financial implications**

- 6.1 There are no financial implications attached to the Corporate Parenting Strategy, as the provision is covered within existing budgets.  
[JG/15112021/E]

## **7.0 Legal implications**

- 7.1 This Strategy is to ensure that the Council is clear in its commitment to meet the requirements as laid out in the Children and Social Work Act 2017.  
[SB/13112021/P]

## **8.0 Equalities implications**

- 8.1 The Corporate Parenting Strategy's purpose is to mitigate the inequalities that children and young people who are in or leaving care face. A full Equality Analysis is underway.

## **9.0 All other implications**

- 9.1 This report and strategy do not impact on Human Resources (HR), Assessment Management Team (Corporate Landlord), Health and Wellbeing, Health and Safety, Environmental Services and Transport and Information Governance.

## **10.0 Schedule of background papers**

- 10.1 None

## **11.0 Appendices**

- 12.1 Appendix 1: Corporate Parenting Strategy 2022-2025

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**The City of Wolverhampton Council**  
**Corporate Parenting Strategy 2022 - 2025**

**Foreword**

Councillor Momenabadi Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

Mark Taylor Deputy CEO/Emma Bennett – Executive Director for Families

Children in Care Council (CiCC) and Care Leavers Independent Collective (CLIC)  
endorsement Statement

**Introduction**

This strategy sets out City of Wolverhampton Council's vision and commitment and explains how we, as the Council, will be an effective and trustworthy corporate parent. Our children and young people in and leaving care are some of the most vulnerable in society. It is crucial we as Corporate Parents work collaboratively with a range of partners to ensure they are supported for them to be safe, happy and thrive.

This Strategy has been co-produced with our Children in Care Council, Care Leavers Independent Collective and The Corporate Parenting Partnership Board and has been endorsed by the Corporate Parenting Board. This is a three-year Corporate Parenting Strategy outlines our commitments, challenges, and the key steps we shall take to ensure that our children have the best possible outcomes in life.

Our key partners which include public services, private sector, the voluntary sector and the wider community all have their part to play. By working together, we can support our children and those leaving care to take advantage of the range of opportunities our city can offer to help them to reach their full potential.

Every good parent should ensure that:

- Children are safe and in a secure environment
- Children are protected and are supported against the dangers and risks of life.
- Children are ambitious reach their full potential.
- Children are celebrated and other share in their achievements.

A child who is cared for by the City of Wolverhampton Council has the right to expect everything from a corporate parent that would be expected from a good parent.

**Definitions**

Corporate Parenting is the term used in law to describe our collective responsibility to care for, love and champion our children in care and our care leavers and ensure they have every opportunity to reach their full potential as they grow up.

The concept of Corporate Parenting was introduced by the Government in 1998 as part of a drive to improve the lives of children who are care for by the local authority. The Corporate Parenting responsibility was reiterated and reinforced in 2007 with the release of the White Paper Care Matters-Time for Change and the underpinning legislation, Children and Young People Act 2008. The Children and Social Work Act

2017 which now requires all local authorities to evidence how they meet the seven Corporate Parenting Principles as they are statutory in relation to children and young people in and leaving care,

The Corporate Parenting Principles for children in care and care leavers, are:

- To act in the best interests, and promote the physical and mental health and well-being, of those children and young people
- To encourage those children and young people to express their views, wishes and feelings
- To take into account of the views, wishes and feelings of those children and young people
- To help those children and young people gain access to, and make the 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
- For those children and young people to be safe, and for stability in their home lives, relationships and education or work
- To prepare those children and young people for adulthood and independent living.

This strategy is about working with children and young people in and leaving care in a collaborative and co-productive way. The City of Wolverhampton Council recognises and celebrates its role as Corporate Parents and acknowledges that children and young people in care and care leavers have the right and responsibility to shape how services work for them. The strategy will take a City-wide approach to drive forward, support and strengthen the areas of good practice and work with key partners in the statutory, voluntary and private sectors. The voice of children and young people will be at the heart of service design, delivery and evaluation, including democratic decision-making processes. As corporate parents, relationships and connection will be at the core of everything we do. We will work collaboratively with children and young people to enable us to get things right for them. We will always have high aspirations and high expectations, develop respectful and empowering relationships with our children and young people, we will see their strengths, celebrate their achievements and create many lasting happy memories. The strategy will look at the areas of work that are needed to support young people in and leaving care over the next three years. This will then develop into the Corporate Parenting Strategy Action Plan, which will be overseen by the Corporate Parenting Board.

Legislations that relates to this strategy

- Children Act 1989
- United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989
- The Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000
- Children and Social Work Act 2017

## **Our Commitment**

The City of Wolverhampton Council has a unique responsibility to children who are in care or leaving care as their 'corporate parents'. In simple terms, a corporate parent is intended to carry out many of the roles a parent would. The Council may not be able to provide everything a loving parent can, but they will provide the children and young people they are responsible for with the best possible support and care.

This strategy has been co-produced with the Children in Care Council and Care Leavers Independent Collective, each principle has been evaluated analysing the strengths, challenges and what needs to happen. This feedback will form the basis of the Corporate Parenting Action plan and will be reviewed annually.

### **Strengths:**

- We are dedicated and passionate
- The voice of our young people is strong and valued by all including senior leaders
- There is good emotional and wellbeing support
- Co-production on service and policy development
- We have high aspirations and everyone wanting the best
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- Integrated approach, celebration events, awareness of achievements, stakeholder engagement
- Young people's voice respected, support with mental health, training flat, house project, ASDAN award and peer support
- Support and options for accommodation for young people leaving care
- Support for Education, Employment and Training

### **Challenges:**

- Communication support for young people and keeping young people up to date with support on offer
- digital inclusion
- Transport
- equality of opportunity and support for those young people living out of city,
- sustainability, stability and consistency for young people
- Preparing for adulthood support to foster carer

**What needs to happen to ensure we are confidently meeting the principles of Corporate Parenting?**

The Priorities of the Care Leavers Independent Collective and Children in Care Council need to be at the forefront of the progression of this Strategy. These are their priorities.

<b>Care Leavers Independent Collective Priorities</b>	<b>Children in Care Council Priorities</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Rent reduction for working care leavers</li> <li>2. Apprenticeships/Uni offer with more ring-fenced posts outside of children’s services and support for EET co-ordinator</li> <li>3. Health access/ Mental Health- glasses, dental and equipping young people with skills to cope with adversity and to engage with available support</li> <li>4. Digital Poverty</li> <li>5. Transport</li> <li>6. Professional being accountable to young people</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Celebrating the achievements of young people</li> <li>2. Workers understanding the feelings of young people and listening to their views</li> <li>3. More consistency and contact with social workers.</li> <li>4. To make sure of early intervention and to keep young people safe at all times</li> <li>5. Young people should be given more choices</li> </ol>

Then each of the principles there are areas of focus based on the feedback from children and young people in and leaving care and the relevant stakeholders

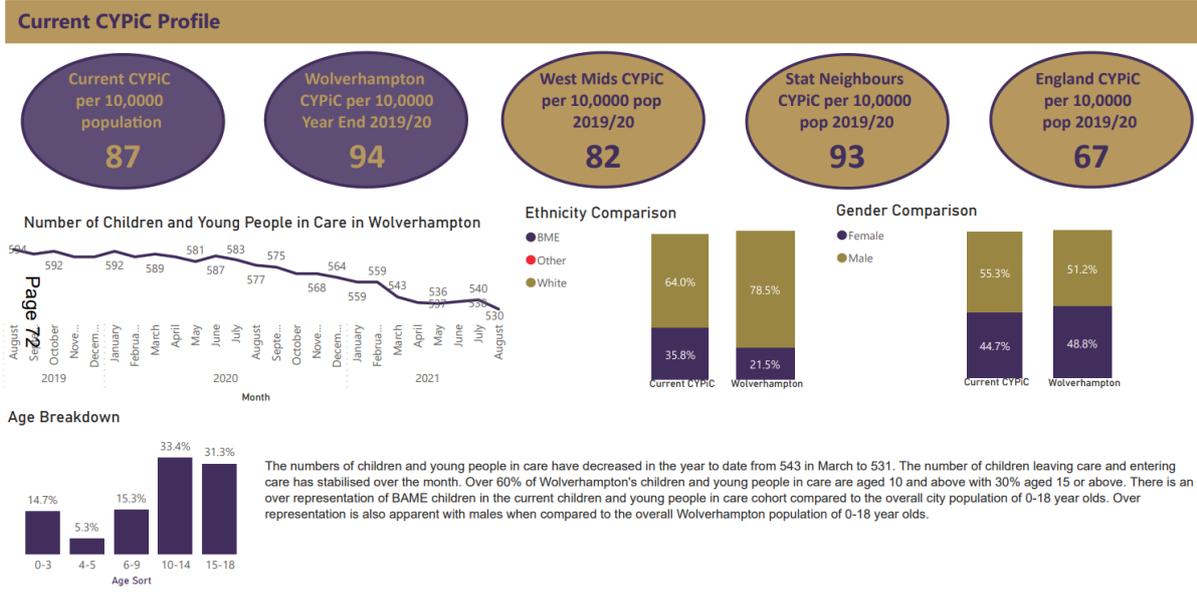
- 1. To act in the best interests, and promote the physical and mental health and well-being, of those children and young people**
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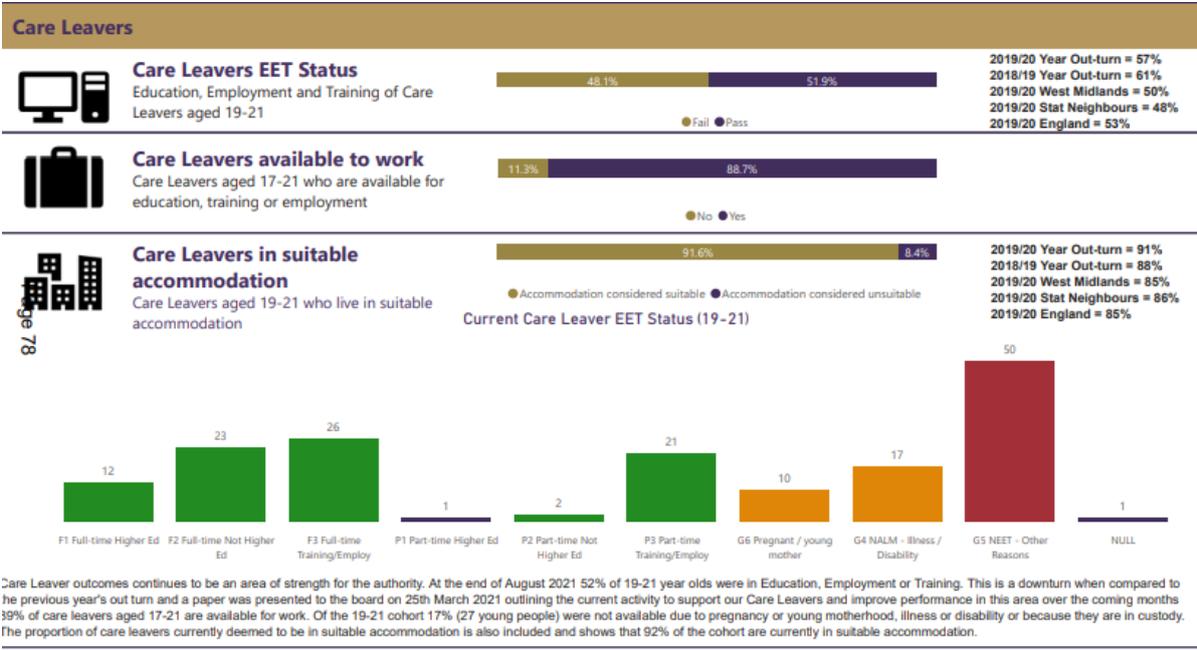
**As a result as a Council we will**

- Know our children, their needs, talents and aspirations and promote their interests
- Hold high aspirations for their future and expect the best for and from them
- Take an interest in their successes and problems and show our pride in their achievements, and celebrate them
- Listen to their views and ensure they influence practice, service developments and policy.
- Ensure they are consulted about their own lives and plans
- Recognise, support and respect their identity in all aspects
- Promote and support high academic achievement.
- Support their health and emotional well-being and resilience
- Support transition to adult life and promote their economic prospects & prepare them to become responsible citizens.

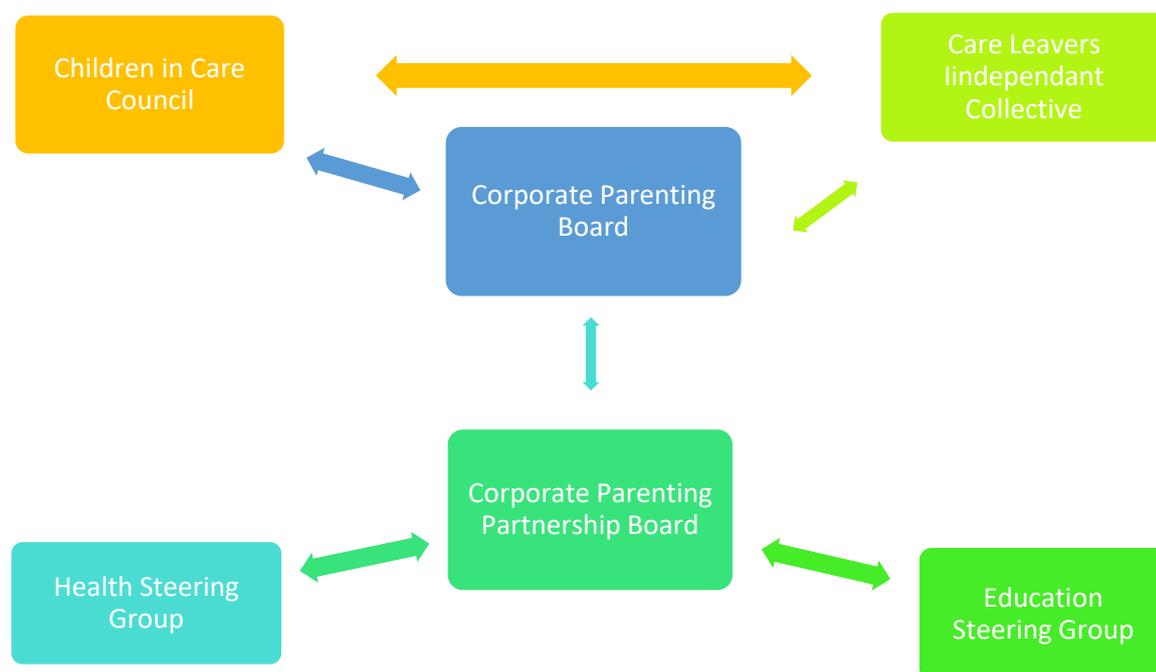
# Children in care profile



# Care Leavers Profile



## Governance



The Corporate Parenting Board made up of elected members and Corporate Parenting Partnership Board made of partners will be influenced and guided by the Children in Care Council and Care Leavers Independent Collective as experts by experience and will be active partners in co-producing developments that effect Children in Care and Care Leavers.

The Governance of this strategy is committed to promote a strong corporate parenting ethos and consider how services can be delivered differently to meet the needs of the care population as effectively as possible. To be successful the City of Wolverhampton Council it is vital that the council recognises, celebrates and promotes the importance of its partners in the statutory, private and third sector. The City of Wolverhampton Council alone cannot meet the needs of Children in Care and Care Leavers and needs to work effectively with partners to demonstrate the statutory Corporate Parenting Principles.

Whilst this strategy is the City of Wolverhampton Council document it is hoped that it will be adopted by our partners and the resultant Action Plan is held across all the sectors.

### Children in Care Council

The Children in Care Council is made of young people aged 11-18 who are in care of the City Council, some living with foster carers, residential homes, friends and family carers and some living independently. These young people are nominated to become members by their social workers, Independent Reviewing Officers (IRO), foster carers or other professionals who feel that young people would benefit from the skills acquired as part of the council.

This group meets fortnightly. The young people completed induction training; interview training and some will complete the Total Respect Training. In addition to the group meeting they meet twice a year with the Corporate Parenting Board. The Children in Care Council work plan includes all of the reports sent to this board. This process is to ensure the experiences and opinions of the young people are imbedded into service delivery and development. This group attends national forums through the National Children's Board which advises on national policy.

### **Care Leavers Independent Collective**

The Care Leaver Independent Collective is made up of young people who are supported by the council leaving care team known as the Reach Team, these young people are 18 -25 and are either living independently, living with a host or staying put with foster carers. They are recruited to the forum through advertisements on Facebook, through their Young Person's Advisors (YPA) or social worker.

The group meets fortnightly and has its meeting combined with a peer support element as these young people can be very isolated. The formal part of the meeting is for an hour and half where they look at policy developments and service provision and give feedback to officers. This group also takes part in the National Care Leaver Covenant and National Benchmarking Forum which feeds into national policy development for Care Leavers.

### **Corporate Parenting Partnership Board**

Corporate Parenting Partnership Board is made up of colleagues from the Council, Police, Fire Service, Health Services, the Voluntary Sector and other relevant organisations. These colleagues are at an appropriate senior level within their organisation to be able to influence policy and strategy within their organisation to assist with the raising of opportunities and aspirations of our care population in line with the seven principles. The actions and recommendations agreed by this group will be shared with the Corporate Parenting Board, the Children in Care Council and the Care Leavers Forum.

### **The Corporate Parenting Board**

The Corporate Parenting Board is made up of cabinet member for children and young people and 10 elected members. In addition, a care experienced young person and a foster carer are advisors and sit on the board. The board meets six times per year to consider and provide clear strategic and political direction in relation to corporate parenting. This includes satisfying themselves that

- All Councillors and the City of Wolverhampton Council Service Groups are all fulfilling their roles and responsibilities as corporate parents proactively and make a demonstrable commitment to prioritising the needs of looked after children and young people.
- The City has high ambitions and aspirations for all looked after children and care leavers.
- Undertake regular monitoring of the outcomes associated with the seven principles.

Set objectives for monitoring the work of and evaluating the progress of the Corporate Parenting Partnership Board.

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**CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD**

**PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW**

**Data as at:  
30 September 2021**

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Agenda Item No: 12

# City of Wolverhampton Council - Corporate Parenting Report

## Current CYPiC Profile

Current CYPiC per 10,000 population

87

Wolverhampton CYPiC per 10,000 Year End 2019/20

94

West Mids CYPiC per 10,000 pop 2019/20

82

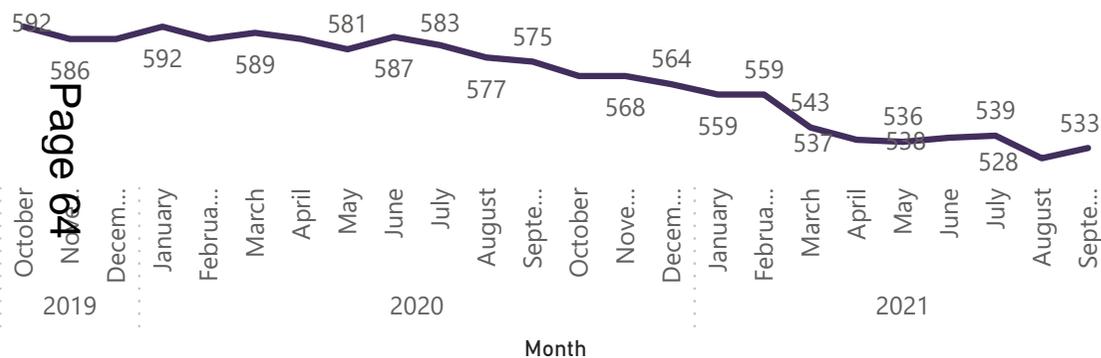
Stat Neighbours CYPiC per 10,000 pop 2019/20

93

England CYPiC per 10,000 pop 2019/20

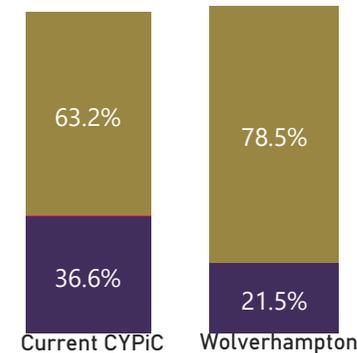
67

Number of Children and Young People in Care in Wolverhampton



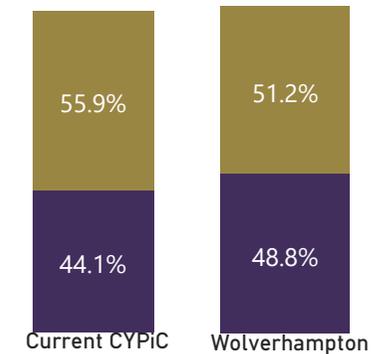
Ethnicity Comparison

- BME
- Other
- White

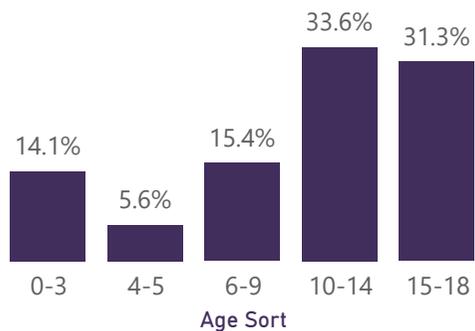


Gender Comparison

- Female
- Male



Age Breakdown

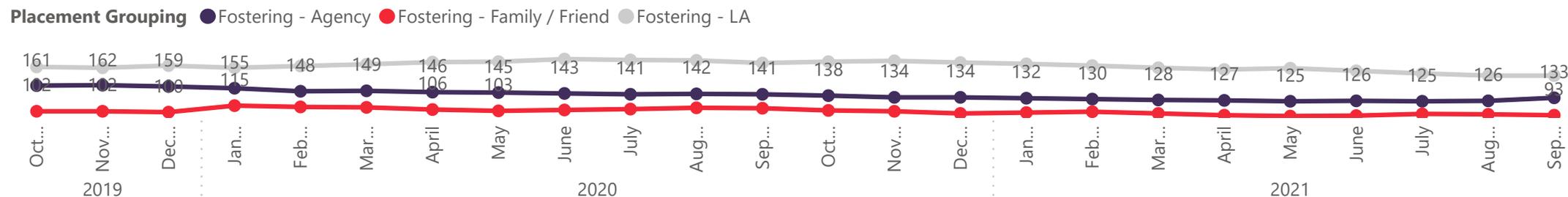


The numbers of children and young people in care have decreased in the year to date from 543 in March to 533. The number of children leaving care and entering care has stabilised over the month. Over 60% of Wolverhampton's children and young people in care are aged 10 and above with 31% aged 15 or above. 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. 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



age 65

**% CYPiC placed more than 20 mile + from home**  
**13%**

2019/20 = 12%  
2018/19 = 13%  
2017/18 = X  
2016/17 = 11%

**% CYPiC with less than 3 placements in last 12 months**  
**94.0%**

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

**% CYPiC in same placement for 2 years or more**  
**68.7%**

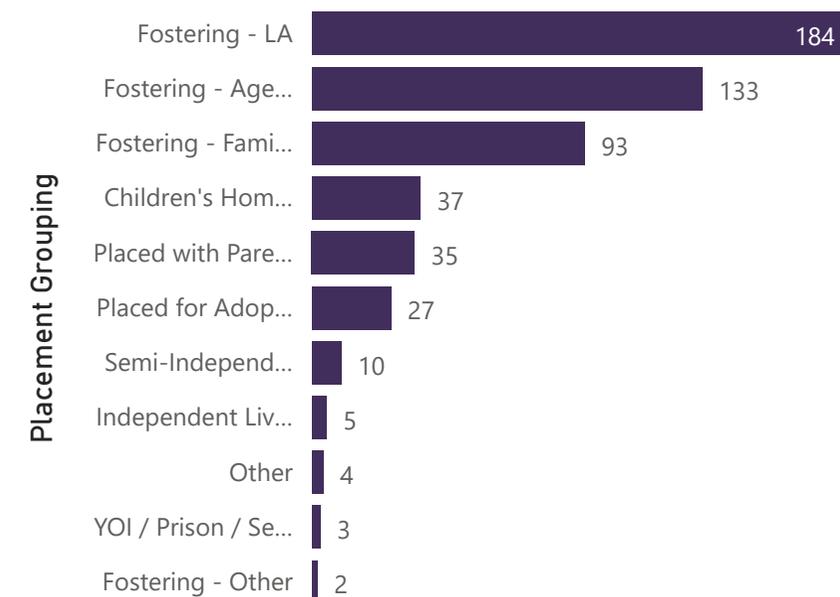
2019/20 = 74%  
2018/19 = 73%  
2017/18 = 70%  
2016/17 = 65%

Number of placements for current CYPiC in past 12 months

Placements in last 12 months ● 1 ● 2 ● 3 ● 4 ● 5 ● 6 ● 7 ● 8 ● 9



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 stay strong at 94% for the percentage of CYPiC with fewer than 3 placements during the last 12 months from 91% during 2019/20.

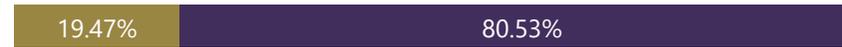
# City of Wolverhampton Council - Corporate Parenting Report

## 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



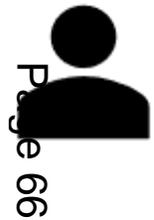
### CYPiC with an up to date review

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



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

● Pass ● Fail

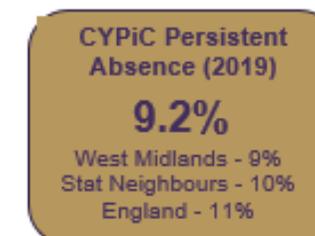
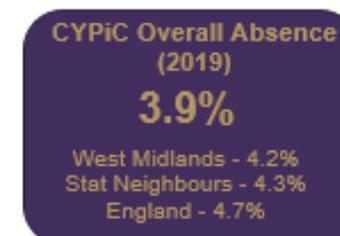
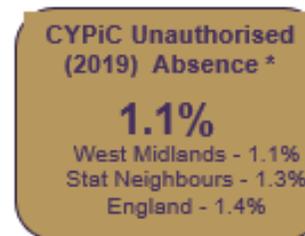
Assessments are 80.34% which is an improvement from 78.36% in the previous year, while reviews continue to stay strong with 94% of children recorded as having an up to date review.

CYPiC Review Participation has stayed high at 98% in the month.

# 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)

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 improved in September. Work is ongoing in the service to improve the PEP performance for the year 12 and 13 cohort.

#### 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

# 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



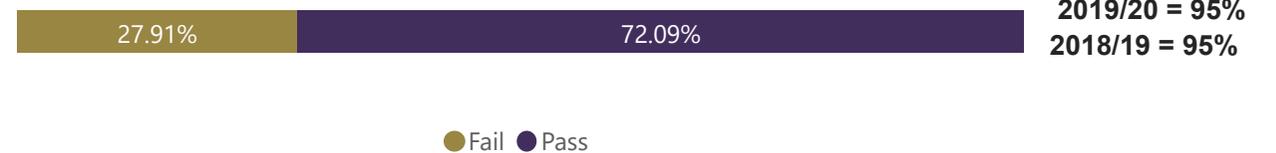
## CYPiC with an initial health check

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



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### Care Applications

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



The percentage of dental checks completed has started to improve over the previous few months. Medical checks which were previously an area of strength had been low previously, partly impacted by recording issues, and has started to see improvements in the month, increasing to 78% in the month. Of the new CYPiC in the past 12 months 28% 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



### CYPiC adopted within A1 indicator (428 days)

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



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

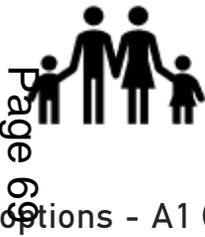


### CYPiC adopted within A2 indicator (122 Days)

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



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



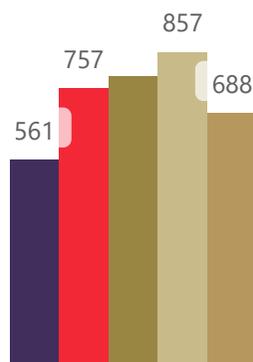
### CYPiC adopted within A10 indicator (428 Days)

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

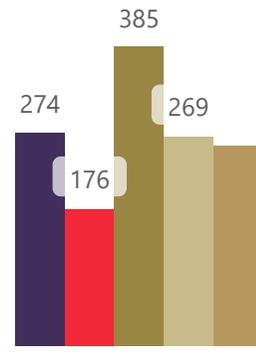


2019/20 = 89%  
2018/19 = 73%

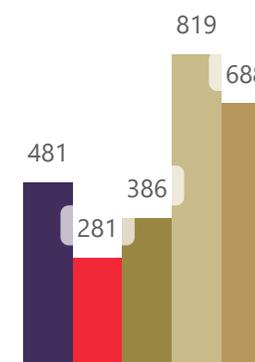
Adoptions - A1 (Avg. Days)



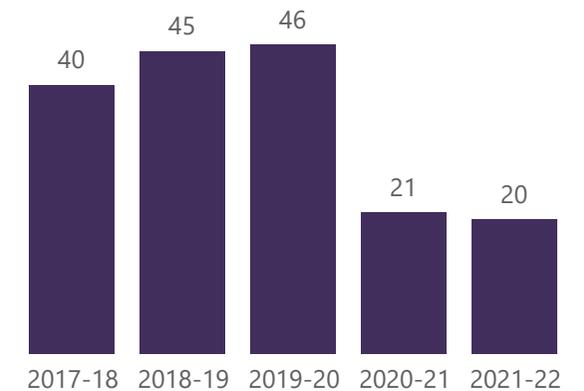
Adoptions - A2 (Avg. Days)



Adoptions - A10 (Avg. Days)



Number of Adoptions



There were 20 adoptions so far in 2021/22, this has been heavily impacted by Covid-19 as court closures caused delays in timeliness, hearings and orders are now being listed which is a positive. The number of children placed with their adoptive families currently is 31

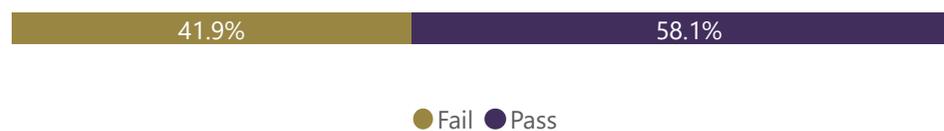
# City of Wolverhampton Council - Corporate Parenting Report

## Care Leavers



### Care Leavers EET Status

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

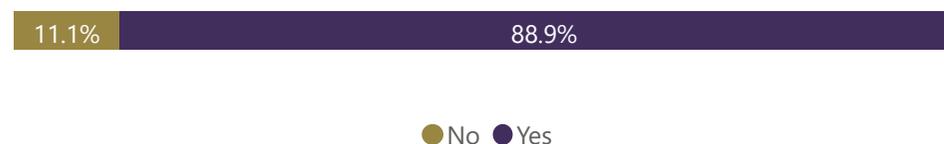


2019/20 Year Out-turn = 57%  
 2018/19 Year Out-turn = 61%  
 2019/20 West Midlands = 50%  
 2019/20 Stat Neighbours = 48%  
 2019/20 England = 53%



### Care Leavers available to work

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



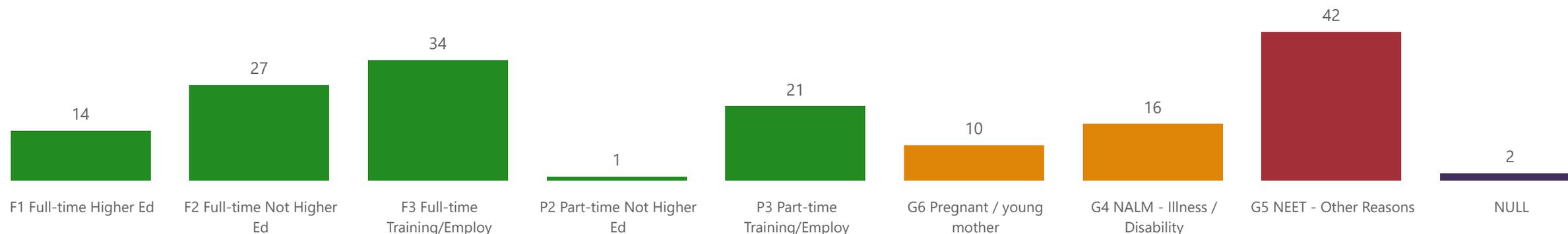
### Care Leavers in suitable accommodation

Care Leavers aged 19-21 who live in suitable accommodation



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

### Current Care Leaver EET Status (19-21)



Care Leaver outcomes continues to be an area of strength for the authority. At the end of September 2021 58% of 19-21 year olds were in Education, Employment or Training. This is an improvement when compared to the previous year's out turn, a paper was presented to the board on 25th March 2021 outlining the current activity to support our Care Leavers and improve performance in this area over the coming months 89% of care leavers aged 17-21 are available for work. This is a significant achievement when considering the high levels of youth unemployment within the city. Of the 19-21 cohort 16% (26 young people) were not available due to pregnancy or young motherhood, illness or disability. The proportion of care leavers currently deemed to be in suitable accommodation is also included and shows that 92% of the cohort are currently in suitable accommodation.