

Corporate Parenting Board

30 September 2015

Time 5:30 p.m. **Public Meeting?** YES **Type of meeting** Oversight

Venue Council Chamber - Civic Centre, St Peter's Square, Wolverhampton WV1 1SH

Membership

Chair Cllr Val Gibson (Lab)

Labour

Cllr Paula Brookfield
Cllr Jasbinder Dehar
Cllr Julie Hodgkiss
Cllr Peter O'Neill
Cllr Rita Potter
Cllr Stephen Simkins
Cllr Martin Waite

Conservative

Cllr Christine Mills

Liberal Democrat

Cllr Richard Whitehouse

Quorum for this meeting is three Councillors.

Information for the Public

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

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Tel/Email Tel: 01902 555046 or carl.craney@wolverhampton.gov.uk
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Tel 01902 555043

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

Agenda

Part 1 – items open to the press and public

<i>Item No.</i>	<i>Title</i>
1	Apologies for absence (if any)
2	Declarations of interest (if any)
3	Minutes of the previous meeting (1 July 2015) (Pages 5 - 10) [For approval]
4	Matters arising [To consider any matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 1 July 2015]
5	"This is my friend" [To conduct an exercise between the Members of the Corporate Parenting Board and the Children in Care Council]
6	Priorities identified by the Corporate Parenting Board and the Children in Care Council [To discuss and compare priorities for Looked After Children]
7	Feedback and arrangements for the next joint meeting [To consider the outcome of this meeting and arrangements for the next joint meeting scheduled for 30 March 2016]
8	Adoption Agency Interim Report (Pages 11 - 50) [To consider a report on the work of the Adoption Service for the period April 2014 to March 2015]
9	Performance Monitoring Data (Pages 51 - 60) [To consider the Performance Monitoring Data for September 2015]
10	Exclusion of the press and public

[To pass the following resolution:

That in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business as they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information on the grounds shown below]

Part 2 – exempt items, closed to the press and public

- 11 **Councillors visits to establishments**
[To receive feedback on any visits to establishments undertaken by Councillors since the last meeting]

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Corporate Parenting Board

Minutes - 1 July 2015

Attendance

Chair Cllr Val Gibson (Lab)

Labour

Cllr Paula Brookfield
Cllr Jasbinder Dehar

Cllr Julie Hodgkiss
Cllr Peter O'Neill

Cllr Rita Potter
Cllr Martin Waite

Conservative

Cllr Christine Mills

Liberal Democrat

Cllr Richard Whitehouse

Employees

Emma Bennett
Fiona Brennan

Carl Craney
Alison Hinds
Alice Vickers

Service Director - Children and Young People
Designated Nurse, Looked After Children, Wolverhampton
Clinical Commissioning Group
Democratic Support Officer
Head of Looked After Children
Corporate Parenting Officer

By Invitation

Cllr Ed Ruane

Coventry City Council

Item No. *Title*

1 Apologies for absence (if any)

An apology for absence had been received from Cllr Stephen Simkins.

2 Declarations of interest (if any)

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

3 Minutes of the previous meeting (11 March 2015)

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 11 March 2015 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

4 Matters arising

With reference to Minute No. 4 (Matters arising) and with particular reference to access to the Children and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS), the Chair, Cllr Val Gibson, enquired as to the present position with regard to the request submitted to the Black Country Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (BCPNHST) in relation to access to the service. Emma Bennett, Service Director for Children and Young People, reported that in conjunction with the Wolverhampton City Clinical Commissioning Group a review of services in relation to Tiers 1 – 3 including CAMHS was presently being undertaken, that a contract request had been submitted to the BCPNHST and that a detailed report would be submitted to a future meeting of the Board.

Cllr Peter O'Neill commented that one of the issues faced by young people suffering from mental health problems was the parity of esteem given the disparity between mental health services for young people compared to adults. The Service Director for Children and Young People explained that the review would attempt to ensure that early intervention and assistance was available. She advised the Board on the system currently operated by Staffordshire County Council for Tier One and Two cases and of the use of an on line service commissioned from the charity, Barnardos. A Tier Two service had also been developed with schools and an IT system which provided advice and assistance on matters including counselling, creative therapy and parenting courses.

With reference to Minute No. 5 (Safeguarding Service Annual Report 2013/14) Cllr Paula Brookfield suggested that the minute be included with the next report on the Safeguarding Service to act as an aide memoire to the Board on questions asked previously.

With reference to Minute No. 6 (Performance Monitoring – Looked After Children) and with particular reference to the elements pertaining to Education, Cllr Paula Brookfield suggested that the minute be included with the next report on the Education Service to act as an aide memoire to the Board on questions asked

previously. With reference to Minute No. 6.3, the Chair, Cllr Val Gibson, enquired as to whether details of data relevant to the average caseload of Social Workers dealing with Child Protection and LAC issues was available. The Service Director, Children and Young People reported that work was underway on the collation of this information.

Resolved:

1. That an extract from the minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 11 March 2015 be included with future reports on the Safeguarding and Education Services to act as an aide memoire to the Board;
2. That a report on outstanding matters be submitted to future meetings of the Board.

5 Dates and time of meetings

Resolved:

That meetings of the Corporate Parenting Board be held on the following dates commencing at 17:30 hours in the Civic Centre, Wolverhampton:
30 September 2015;
11 November 2015;
6 January 2016 and
30 March 2016.

6 Work Programme 2015/16

The Board considered a draft Work Programme for the 2015/16 Municipal Year.

Resolved:

That the draft Work Programme be approved.

7 Corporate Parenting Strategy and Action Plan

Alice Vickers, Corporate Parenting Officer presented the Corporate Parenting Strategy and Action Plan for Looked After Children and Care Leavers for use across the Council and its partners.

Cllr Rita Potter enquired as to the support available for Care Leavers including those with learning difficulties. The Corporate Parenting Officer advised that the “New Blongings” package had just been signed off. This was a package that had been evaluated nationally by Care Leavers. The Service Director for Children and Young People undertook to provide a report on this matter to the next meeting of the Board.

Cllr Martin Waite suggested that “the public” should be added to Priority One and that with regard to Priority Eight there was a need for a measurement to be included especially in relation to sexual health and the number of Looked After Children and Care Leavers accessing services. With regard to Priority Nine he suggested that there was also a need for a measurement on making placement changes more positive including, if possible, a minimum notice period to be given in cases where a change in placement was required. Alison Hinds, Head of Looked After Children, explained that where possible notice was given but circumstances sometimes dictated the need for a move at very short notice. Cllr Martin Waite acknowledged

this point but suggested a target for notice of planned moves could be added to the Strategy. The Head of Looked After Children undertook to strengthen the information provided to Looked After Children in relation to planned moves. The Chair, Cllr Val Gibson, commented that there was a long lead in time with placement moves where possible but that the service needed to be able to fit around the needs of the individual child. Any attempts to be overly prescriptive could be counter productive. Cllr Paula Brookfield supported this view but requested that in the event of any moves undertaken at short notice the Looked After Child receive a follow up visit very quickly. The Head of Looked After Children advised that such a visit was always made within 72 hours of such a move. The Corporate Parenting Officer reported that in the case of an out of city placement a directory of services provided by the relevant local authority was also provided and work was undertaken with the Fostering Service.

With regard to Priority Nine, Cllr Peter O'Neill suggested that the idea of making placement moves more positive should be explored with the Children in Care Council.

Cllr Paula Brookfield referred to the dedicated link in housing for fostering services and enquired as to the meaning of this term. The Corporate Parenting Officer explained that prospective Foster Carers' would require larger houses and that this needed to be factored into the allocation process.

Cllr Julie Hodgkiss queried Priority Four. The corporate Parenting Officer explained that as a result of placement moves the social lives of Looked After Children were often interrupted and that there was a need for a sense of inclusion in the company of children who were not in care. The opening of the Youth Zone and work with the Youth Council could assist with the achievement of this Priority. Cllr Julie Hodgkiss referred to Priority Five and the two distinct elements and queried whether the Looked After Children required further information on why it was not always possible for contact with siblings to be maintained. The Corporate Parenting Officer reported on the absence of data on the number of siblings kept together or separated and that the intention was to make sure information on siblings was available if requested by a Looked After Child.

Resolved:

That subject to minor amendments and clarifications as now discussed the Corporate Parenting Strategy and Action Plan be approved for submission to the Children, Young People and Families Scrutiny Panel for consideration and then to be subject to formal ratification by this Board.

8 Performance Monitoring Data

The Service Director, Children and Young People presented the Performance Report for June 2015 (data as at May 2015 and provisional 2014/15 out-turn data) and responded to a number of queries.

Resolved:

That the report be received and noted and that in future the report include a commentary on the number of placements in excess of 20 miles from Wolverhampton.

9 **Exclusion of the public and press**

Exclusion of the public and press

Resolved:

That in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business as they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information contained in paragraph 1 of the Act, namely information relating to any individual.

Part 2 – items not open to the public and press

10 **Councillors visits to establishments**

The Head of Looked After Children reported that the Children's Homes had now been de-commissioned and closed with the exception of Upper Pendeford Farm and Merridale Street West. The future role of Upper Pendeford Farm was currently being reviewed.

Cllr Paula Brookfield questioned how the Council monitored the service provided to Looked After Children housed in external establishments. The Service Director, Children and Young People explained that these establishments were subject to Ofsted inspections and that the Council did not use any establishments with an inadequate rating. In the event of such a rating being given a visit to the establishment would be made and an informed decision taken on future and / or continuing use. Cllr Ed Ruane (Coventry City Council) reported on the procedures operated by Coventry City Council in relation to the use of external residential establishments.

Resolved:

1. That the Chair, Cllr Val Gibson, undertake a visit to Upper Pendeford Farm and that the Head of Looked After Children make the necessary arrangements;
2. That the location and number of Looked After Children in residential accommodation be added to future Performance Monitoring reports;
3. That the COPE Team Manager / Virtual School Head be requested to submit a report on the academic achievements of all Looked After Children including the steps taken with poor achievers to a future meeting of the Board

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Corporate Parenting Board

30th September 2015

Report title	Adoption agency interim report
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Val Gibson Children and Families
Wards affected	All
Accountable director	Linda Sanders, People
Originating service	Children and Family Support
Accountable employee(s)	Tel Louise Haughton 01902 553010 Email louise.haughton@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by	The report has not been considered at any other meetings.

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The Corporate Parenting Board is recommended to:

1. Receive, observe and provide feedback on the Wolverhampton City Council Adoption Service annual report.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 This report details the work of Wolverhampton City Council Adoption Service in the year April 2014 to March 2015.
- 1.2 The purpose of the report is to provide updated information in relation to adoption both nationally and locally. It includes legislative and practice changes, and how these have impacted on those affected by adoption in Wolverhampton.

2.0 Background

2.1 Adoption Reform Agenda

- 2.1.1 The adoption reform agenda has been on-going since the latter part of 2011 and as well as the introduction of new legislation three papers have been released.
- 2.1.2 An action plan for adoption: tackling delay, March 2012, further action on adoption: finding more loving homes, January 2013 and regionalising adoption, June 2015.
- 2.1.3 The adoption leadership board was launched in April 2014
- 2.1.4 The Adoption Leadership Board (ALB) is a new national board with a remit to drive significant improvements in the performance of the adoption system in England. It has a particular focus on supporting and challenging the adoption system to maximise the likelihood that:
 - I. children for whom adoption is the best way of achieving permanence are adopted without unnecessary delay;
 - II. there are enough prospective adopters to provide homes for all the children approved to be adopted; and
 - III. adoptions do not break down through the right adoption support being readily available to all people who need it. (ALB core brief 2014)
- 2.1.5 The adoption Leadership board is chaired by Sir Martin Narey and it's members include senior figures from the Association of Directors of Children's Services (ADCS), the Local Government Association, the Consortium of Voluntary Adoption Agencies, University of Bristol – Hadley Centre for Adoption and Foster Care Studies and Adoption UK.
- 2.1.6 Following this regional adoption leadership boards were launched. More about the regional adoption leadership board's role is outlined later in this report.
- 2.1.7 Regionalising adoption, June 2015

- 2.1.8 Regionalising adoption is the most recent DfE paper and outlines the government's plans to reduce the number of adoption agencies across England. It is argued that fewer adoption agencies would achieve more economies of scale and would allow quicker matching for children. It is anticipated that local authorities will have a wider pool of adopters who could potentially meet the needs of a child for whom they were considering adoption.
- 2.1.9 Wolverhampton is currently in discussions with the other agencies in the region to discuss how partnerships could be strengthened to meet the requirements of the regionalisation agenda.

2.2 Adoption Reform Grant

- 2.2.1 2014/2015 saw a second round of smaller grants to local authorities to enable continued improvement of adoption services. The aim of the grant was to further reduce the time taken to place children for adoption. The timely and efficient recruitment, assessment and approval of more adopters were deemed to be a key element in reducing delay for children
- 2.2.2 It was again agreed by Senior Officers and Members that this would be spent on adoption services both internally and through Adoption in the Black Country (ABC). The usage of the previous grant had been successful in facilitating the approval of more adopters and in significantly decreasing the time taken to place children for adoption.
- 2.2.3 It is evident from the data within this report that the grant enabled the adoption service to maintain growth in approvals of prospective adopters, to place higher number of children for adoption and to further reduce the time taken to place children for adoption.
- 2.2.4 The grant was used to increase resources including two social workers to family find for children who had a plan of adoption. These social workers were tasked with placing the large number of children who has been waiting (known as legacy cases) for adoption within the year therefore significantly reducing the numbers of those children waiting with an active plan of adoption.
- 2.2.5 One part-time social worker provided backfill to enable continued development of early permanence work e.g. fostering for adoption and concurrent planning. This was to allow the business of the team to continue whilst a social worker continued to work on imbedding early permanence through fostering for adoption and concurrent planning. The grant also funded on-going partnership and membership fee to Coram Adoption Agency to support the development of concurrent planning.
- 2.2.6 The grant was also used to support independent assessments of prospective adopters. This allowed Wolverhampton to continue to approve much larger numbers of adopters without increasing staffing.

- 2.2.7 It is likely that the commissioning of independent assessments will cease to take place on a large scale as ABC and adoption focus move towards strengthening the current partnership in line with the regionalising adoption agenda.
- 2.2.8 The grant was also used to feature harder to place children externally. The adoption team spent this allocation in an innovative way and were early up takers in utilising the Adoption Links website. Adoption Links is a web based family finding service that works in a similar way to publications like “Be my Parent” or “Children who Wait”. The clear advantage to this site was the reduced timescale between publicising a child’s profile and adopters being able to see the profile and register an interest. The adoption team found that multiple potential matches were being identified within 24 hours for harder to place children; many of these went on to become successful matches.
- 2.2.9 Increased resources were added to the ABC marketing budget which resulted in referrals increasing by 100%. Wolverhampton paid a quarter share of increased staffing to ABC to support the increased admin and marketing activity. The administrator also facilitated both stage one and two preparations training for prospective adopters.

2.3 Regional and local developments

2.3.1 Adoption Leadership Boards

- 2.3.2 The West Midlands adoption leadership board is chaired by Tony Oakman (Strategic Director People Services at Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council). The board is made up of senior leaders from the 14 local authorities that make up the West Midlands region.

2.3.4 Adopt West Mids

- 2.3.5 Adopt West Mids remains a strong regional consortium, which offers mentoring, training, peer learning and development and a database exchange for children and families. Adopt West Mids has also facilitated four Activity days in conjunction with British Association of Adoption and Fostering (BAAF) during this reporting period.

- 2.3.6 Adopt West Mids is made up of adoption operational managers, it’s role and purpose is however in flux , Adopt West Mids is likely to be viewed and utilised as the delivery arm of the regional adoption leadership board.

2.3.7 Black Country Consortium (Adoption in the Black Country and Adoption focus) ABC

- 2.3.8 Wolverhampton continues to be a part of this consortium looking at joint initiatives in adoption. This consortium has continued to work collaboratively over the last twelve months.

- 2.3.9 ABC has continued to jointly purchase services from both Adoption U.K. and from After Adoption, as detailed below.

- 2.3.10 The original remit of ABC was to recruit adopters for older children, sibling groups and those of minority ethnic groups. However, although all promotional materials and campaigns still reflect this, enquiries are also accepted from potential adopters who fall outside this category. The enquiries are equally shared throughout the four local authorities.
- 2.3.11 During the previous reporting period a scoping exercise was commissioned by the ABC. This piece of work was undertaken by Core Assets and BAAF following a tendering process; with a view to considering future development of the ABC Consortium.
- 2.3.12 After giving consideration to the options available, the consortium members favoured an opportunity to expand ABC by adding a fifth partner from the voluntary adoption agency sector. A successful bid for an innovation grant of £300,000 was awarded to Adoption Focus who utilised the grant to become the fifth partner of ABC. ABC was re-branded as ABC and Adoption Focus and the new Consortium was launched in October 2014. The purpose of this partnership was to further increase the pool of adopters available to children in the Black Country. Adoption Focus and ABC now jointly recruit, train and support prospective adopters with a view to increasing Adoption Focus adopter approval. These families will have Black Country children placed with them.
- 2.3.13 Adoption Focus have recently appointed a family finder who keeps a data base of all children waiting for adoption in the Black Country, all children in the pipeline in the Black Country and all adopters available in ABC and Adoption Focus. The role of this family finder is to ensure that links are made quickly within the consortium. This has already resulted in more matches being made within the consortium.
- 2.3.14 As stated above, ABC and adoption focus along with other local authorities in the area is currently considering how it might change to meet the requirements of the regionalising adoption agenda.

2.4 Case Law

- 2.4.1 In 2014 a judgement was passed by Mr Justice Munby (President of the Family Division of the High Court of England and Wales) that significantly changed the adoption landscape across the country. Re B (June 2013) and B-S (Sept 2013) challenged the robust nature of adoption plans and decision making both in relation to social work reports and court judgments. As a direct result local authorities began to see the numbers of placement order being granted decreases and by November 2014 it was reported that nationally placement orders had decreased by 54%.
- 2.4.2 Mr Justice Munby has since has emphasised in other court judgements Re CW (Nov 2014) and Re R (Dec 2014) the importance of adoption. Mr Justice Munby stated that "Where adoption is in the child's best interests, local authorities must not shy away from seeking, nor courts from making, care orders with a plan for adoption, placement orders and adoption orders.

- 2.4.3 In 2014/2015 Wolverhampton saw placement orders decrease from 71 the previous year to 51. This was not considered to be a significant decrease as the amount of placement orders granted 2013/2014 had peaked at a level higher than would be expected year on year.

2.5 Team restructure

- 2.5.1 As part of a wider restructure in June 2014 the adoption service was reconfigured into three units. A recruitment and assessment unit, a family finding and adoption support unit, and a children's unit for children with a plan of adoption. This placed all of the professionals involved in placing children for adoption and supporting those placements within the same team. As a result the team has been able to improve efficiency and place children for adoption in shorter timescales. Adoption specific training has also been provided to all social workers. This has led to a more co-ordinated response to adoption support, with all social workers involved working more closely together and sharing the same approach. As a result local adopters have valued the support offered by the service and have been confident to make their adoption applications earlier.

2.6 Adopter approval

- 2.6.1 Wolverhampton Adoption Team has continued to imbed the stage one and stage two adoption processes. The process is fully integrated in the council's electronic system which enables the production of performance and case tracking tools.
- 2.6.2 The stage one and stage two processes have faced some difficulties both locally and nationally with regards to the completion of statutory checks in stage one. In particular the waiting time for Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks in the West Midlands has been up to four months. As a result adopters have not been able to progress to stage two within two months of stage one beginning.
- 2.6.3 The West Midlands Police Constabulary has now employed more staff to undertake DBS's and an improvement have been noticed in this area.
- 2.6.4 Wolverhampton Adoption Service continues to provide stage one and stage two training in conjunction with ABC. Stage one training is web based and provides the foundation for face to face training in stage two.
- 2.6.5 Stage two is three day's face to face training that is delivered on a monthly basis.
- 2.6.6 ABC and Adoption Focus have developed material to support the recruitment of foster to adopt carers. This includes information about fostering to adopt being provided at information events and during preparation training.

2.7 Adoption support services

- 2.7.1 Wolverhampton Adoption Service continue to ensure the provision reflects the Adoption Support Regulations 2005, having the equivalent of one and a half social workers who

are dedicated to the work of adoption support and one part time post adoption contact co-ordinator.

- 2.7.2 On 11 September 2013 the Government announced that £19.3 million of post adoption support would be made available to adoptive families following a pilot of the adoption support fund. Ten local authorities piloted the scheme. The scheme was deemed to be successful and the fund was launched nationally on 1st May 2015. The fund will initially be available for one year and will be evaluated. The government has indicated that it is committed to the adoption support fund long term.
- 2.7.3 The adoption support fund is a sum of money that is held centrally. Local authorities can make applications to the fund on behalf of adopters for a range of therapeutic services following an adoption support assessment.
- 2.7.4 The adoption support fund will pay for therapeutic services such as, more complex assessment where required e.g. Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) assessment, multidisciplinary assessment including education and health, cognitive and neuropsychological assessment, other mental health assessment, therapeutic parenting courses, Dyadic Developmental Psychotherapy, Non Violent Resistance, Theraplay, filial therapy, art therapy, dance therapy and drama therapy. The fund will not pay for practical support or activities.
- 2.7.5 The adoption team have so far completed thirteen adoption support assessment and have made seven applications to the adoption support fund on behalf of adoptees and their families. The applications have been made on behalf of a variety of families many of whom were already receiving an adoption support service. Some of these families have not yet adopted and the fund has allowed them to make their application to adopt confident in the knowledge that the finance has been secured to provide for the on-going therapeutic needs of their family. Other families adopted many years ago and have found that their children have required therapeutic support at various stages of their development.
- 2.7.6 The adoption team is currently able to offer the circle of security parenting programme and theraplay internally. The adoption team is also investing in adoption support by training staff in Non-violent resistance (NVR offers a child-focused approach that rebuilds the relationship through de-escalation, acceptance and reconciliation, allowing the child's needs to be met through the love and care of unconditional positive regard) and DDP (Dyadic Developmental Psychotherapy- integrative method of psychotherapy developed for the treatment of children and young people who manifest serious psychological problems associated with complex trauma and serious failure to establish secure patterns of attachment).
- 2.7.7 Wolverhampton City Council continues to work in partnership with the other Black Country Authorities i.e. Walsall, Sandwell and Dudley to purchase adoption support packages from Adoption U.K. and After Adoption enabling us to work in partnership with these organisations. These support packages provide services to adopters, adopted children, adopted adults and birth family members.

- 2.7.8 In relation to Adoption U.K. the partnership agreement has been reviewed within this period to ensure we are purchasing an effective support package which meets the needs of approved adopters and prospective adopters.
- 2.7.9 All prospective adopters continue to receive 12 months free membership to Adoption UK, unless they choose to opt out of this. All prospective adopters will be offered the support of a buddy (adoptive parent mentor or parent consultant) who reflects their own situation. This support will be offered either at the point of being linked to a child or at any point during placement.
- 2.7.10 All prospective adopters will be invited to attend the Adoption Support Group run by Adoption UK on a bi-monthly basis. Adoption UK is keen to ensure the success of this support group and have structured the meetings more formally to include speakers and presentations that are pre planned. This has been helpful and social workers can encourage adopters to attend relevant support groups. These meetings are held in Walsall and Halesowen. This offers adopters the opportunity of meeting with other adopters at a group run by adopters themselves. Adopters are also able to access Adoption UK training workshops.
- 2.7.11 After Adoption continues to provide services on behalf of ABC. The first is an existing service which provides support to adopted adults, adopted children and birth relatives. The organisation supports intermediary services, counselling, and helping adopted adults to trace their birth family.
- 2.7.12 After Adoption also offers independent counselling to all birth parents where there is a plan of adoption for their child.
- 2.7.13 This year, After Adoption secured a grant to run Breaking the Cycle. Breaking the Cycle provides intensive one-to-one and group support to birth mothers in the Black Country (Wolverhampton, Sandwell, Walsall, and Dudley) who have lost at least one child to adoption. Birth mothers receive an initial assessment. Following this there are six group work sessions focusing on change, concentrating on building self-esteem whilst supporting positive life choices to break repetitive cycles. For women who want to have future children there are further sessions on nurturing parenting. At the end of the programme birth mothers can continue to attend support groups with other women who have completed the programme.
- 2.7.14 In partnership with ABC After Adoption is commissioned to deliver Safebase twice per year within the Black Country. This is a parenting programme which includes an initial Marscak Interaction Method (MIMS assessment). The feedback from adopters who have attended is very positive. After Adoption deliver Safebase across the country and Wolverhampton can utilise these courses for the prospective adopters of children who are placed out of the area. This has worked particularly well and has enabled the adoption team to be confident that prospective adopters caring for Wolverhampton children with more complex needs have a basic knowledge of attachment and therapeutic parenting.

2.7.15 In addition to this, the Black Country Consortium has implemented a post approval training programme. This now consists of four/five workshops each year. The workshops are available to approved adopters who are waiting for a placement, those who have had a child placed, or those who have adopted. The workshops include: Introducing Theraplay, Attachment, Helping Adopters to tell their adopted children of their adoption and background, Social Networking Implications for Adopters, contact, Education workshop for adopters and Understanding the Impact of Early Trauma.

2.8 Family Finding

2.8.1 The data contained in this report will include how performance relating to family finding is improving. In 2014 /2015 Wolverhampton placed a record number of children for adoption, many of whom were part of sibling groups to be placed together.

2.8.2 With the government emphasis on improving the timeliness of children to be placed for adoption, this is an area which has been given priority within the team. To this effect bi-monthly family finding meetings with individual family finders to monitor and action family finding activity continued to take place. Six weekly care planning tracking meetings with social worker and their line managers also took place to ensure that plans were progressed for children with a plan of adoption. Social care workers complete profiles, photographs and DVD's as soon as the local authority has a possible plan of adoption. Social care workers also follow up potential links for the Consortium, the Adoption Register or Adoption Links to enable a prompt exchange of paperwork. Wolverhampton Social Care Workers in the adoption team have attended a photography course at Wolverhampton College to enhance the quality of photographs and DVD's of our children which are used when publishing both internally and externally. High specification digital cameras are used to achieve good quality photographs of children.

2.8.3 Wolverhampton attended the majority of Adoption Register exchange days across England and Wales and featured harder to place children at those events.

2.8.4 Wolverhampton has also been proactive in enabling children to attend Adoption Activity Days' held across the region where appropriate. This is an event where children and approved adopters take time to enjoy each other's company having fun at a planned activity day. The percentage of children matched at activity days has increased across the region. Wolverhampton has used the events to give prospective adopters who have already expressed an interest in a child or children with more complex needs the opportunity to meet the child or children in question. This has often reassured adopters with regards to their ability to meet the child's needs and a match has been progressed to panel. It was reported that the ABC and Staffordshire event held in April 2015 received an "exceptional amount of positive feedback from adopters and foster carers on the day, and there was a very good atmosphere". Wolverhampton had an Afro-Caribbean sibling group and an older single child in attendance. A number of families registered an interest in the older child.

2.9 Panel membership

- 2.9.1 The Panel continues to function well supported by its committed members and support staff.
- 2.9.2 The professional advisor to panel Lorna Carr has continued to increase panel membership with the establishment of a central list of panel members. Lorna has also further developed the permanency panel to incorporate general fostering and adoption matters once a month. This has increased panel availability for both fostering and adoption.

2.10 Functions of the adoption team

- 2.10.1 In addition to the functions outlined above, Wolverhampton Adoption Service continues to offer services in all areas of adoption with the main functions being, approval and support of prospective adopters through to adoption orders being granted, notified adoptions, voluntary relinquishments, inter country adoptions and family finding.

2.11 Adoption Inspection

- 2.11.1 The Adoption Service was inspected by Ofsted in October 2012. The inspectors were impressed with the overall improvements to the service in Wolverhampton and rated the local authority as Good.
- 2.11.2 Due to change in inspection framework the Adoption Agency will no longer be inspected separately, but as part of a Children's Services Inspection. A separate rating will be issued, as part of this overall inspection.

3.0 Progress, options, discussion, etc.

3.1 Adoption scorecard

- 3.1.1 The DfE has produced a range of comparative data used to measure timeliness for children with a plan of adoption over a three year period. In December 2014, the Adoption Scorecard Data for 2011-2014 was published.
- 3.1.2 The A1 indicator measures the average time between a child entering care and moving in with its adoptive family for children who have been adopted. Wolverhampton had taken an average of 872 days compared to a national average of 628 days. 872 was however a 19% decrease from the previous year.
- 3.1.3 The A2 indicator measures the average time between a local authority receiving court authority to place a child and the local authority deciding on a match to an adoptive

family. Wolverhampton had taken 294 days compared with a national average of 217 days.

- 3.1.4 A detailed scorecard analysis was produced that evidenced the adoption team were making improvements year on year. It also highlighted some areas of good practice against the other indicators. (appendix One)
- 3.1.5 In 2014 the A10 indicator was introduced. This measures the average time between a child entering care and being placed with their prospective adopters adjusted for foster carer adoptions (where times for children who are adopted by their foster carers are stopped at the date children were placed with their foster carers). Wolverhampton had taken an average of 522 days compared to national average 525 days.
- 3.1.6 Wolverhampton remains committed to supporting foster carers to adopt children who have been in their care for a significant amount of time and where this is in the child's best interests.
- 3.1.7 Adoptions increased by almost 40% in Wolverhampton to 106 in 2011-2014 with 50 adoptions taking place in 2013/14. 19% of children who left care were adopted compared with an England average of 14%.
- 3.1.8 Wolverhampton also continues to pursue adoption for children who would be considered as harder to place including those from BME backgrounds and those aged five years or older. In Wolverhampton 15% of BME children leaving care were adopted compared to an England average of just 8%. Also in Wolverhampton 10% of children aged 5 or over leaving care were adopted compared with just 5% nationally.
- 3.1.9 The data for this reporting period as seen below will evidence continued improvements with regards to timeliness for children that will in due course be evident in the adoption scorecard.

3.2 Number of children adopted and timeliness

- 3.2.1 53 children were adopted in 2014/2015. This compares with 50 in 2013/2014 and 35 the year before.
- 3.2.2 The average time taken to place children as measured by the A1 indicator was 522 days. This was below the scorecard target of 547 days.
- 3.2.3 The average time taken to place children as measured by the A2 indicator was 241 days. This was significantly above the scorecard target of 152 days. It should however be noted that the national average for 2011 – 2014 was 216 days and it has since increased. 241 represented a slight increase in timeliness against this indicator for Wolverhampton compared to the previous year.

3.3 Panel Business

- 3.3.1 Panel met on 18 occasions during 2014/2015. It was apparent that two panels would be required most months in order to service the needs of the adoption team. This was due to the increased numbers of matches and adopter approvals.
- 3.3.2 There are also procedures in place for convening emergency panels when required.
- 3.3.3 Children requiring a “should be placed for adoption decision” are not presented to panel as they proceed straight to the Agency Decision Maker. The Agency Decision Maker sits twice a month but is also able make emergency decisions when required.

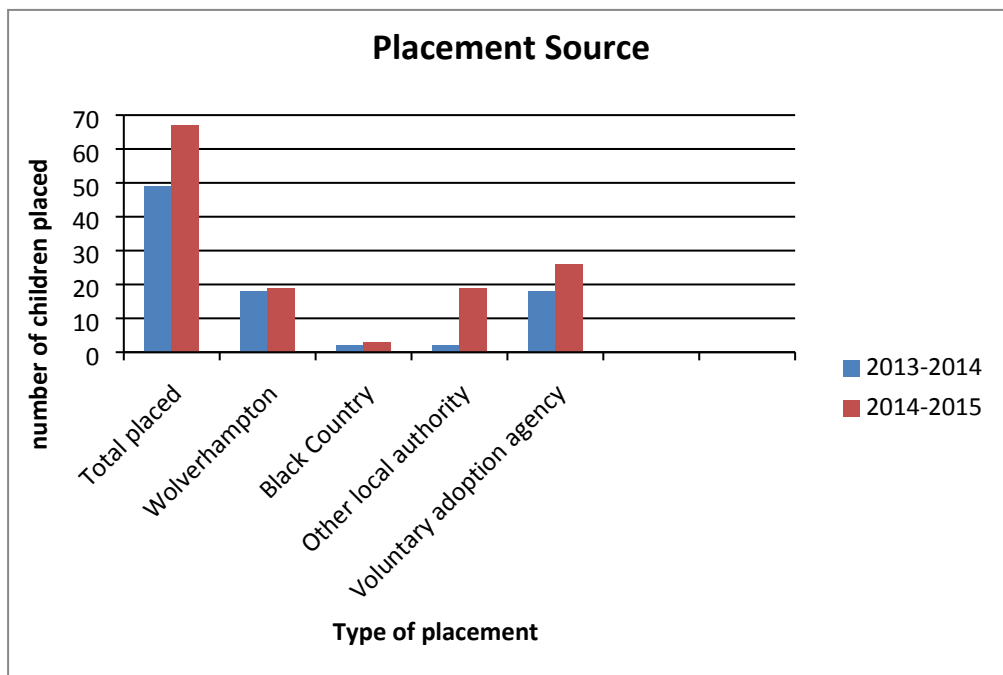
Recommendation that children should be placed for adoption	Rescinding of adoption plan for children	Approval of prospective adopters	De-registration of adopters	Links of children with prospective adopters	Disruption reports
51 (85)	22 (29)	25 (30)	1 (2)	76 (49)	0 (0)

3.4 Adopter approval

- 3.4.1 There have been 25 approvals of prospective adopters so far in this reporting period. This is less than the previous year. A further four families were taken to panel before the end of March. Of these; two families were approved as concurrent carers and one family wished to be considered as foster to adopt carers if an appropriate match became available.
- 3.4.2 ABC (adoption in the Black Country) continues to experience a growth in numbers of enquiries and subsequent referrals. The implementation of the two stage process has however posed some threats with regards to progressing enquires in a timely manner. Statutory checks are now conducted in stage one. There have been lengthy delays in receiving some of the checks; DBS's have taken up to four months to be processed. The escalation procedures have been used but this did not result in DBS's being completed speedily. The delay in stage one has caused lower numbers of prospective adopters to be approved than was anticipated.
- 3.4.3 There are currently 12 families waiting to be matched.
- 3.4.4 There are five Asian and one dual heritage White/Asian family currently waiting. This year just two children of Asian or Asian dual heritage background have become subject to a plan of adoption in Wolverhampton. This compares to eight in the previous year. As

a result these families have waited longer than anticipated for a link. Family finding has been active on their behalf and they have been advised to attend national exchange days. They have also been featured on the Adoption Register and Adoption Links.

- 3.4.5 Wolverhampton currently does not have any children waiting who would be a match for the prospective adopters waiting. It is anticipated that a number of the adopters will be matched with children from other local authorities in the region who do have children waiting.



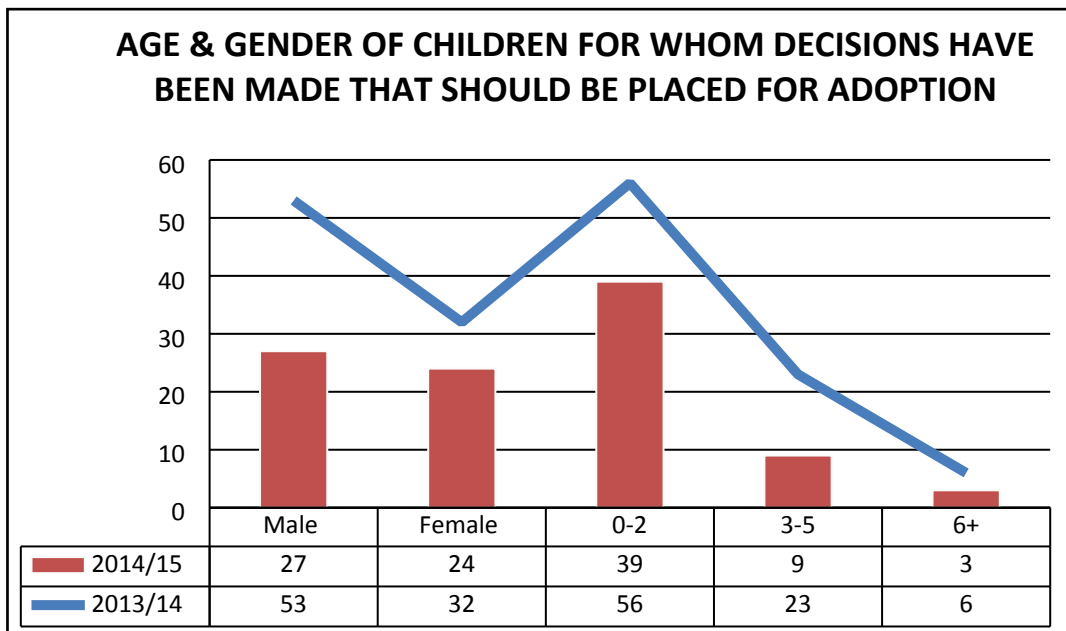
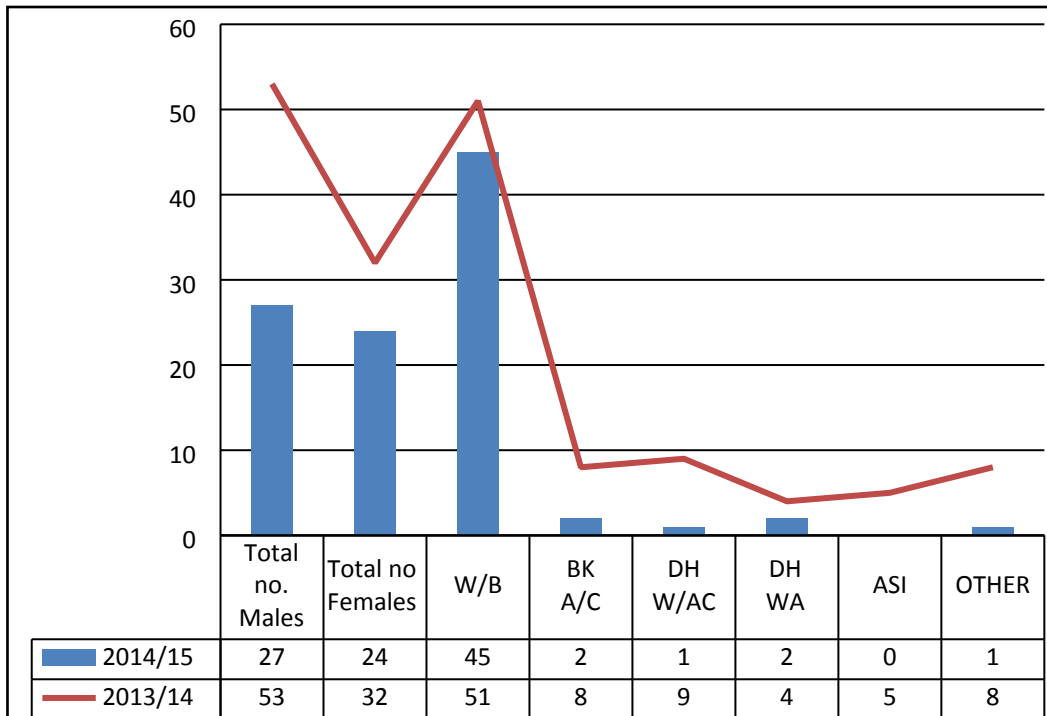
- 3.4.6 Following the levelling of interagency placement fees all adoption agencies are required to charge the same for providing a prospective adoption placement. For one child the cost is £27,000. The increased resources from the Adoption Reform Grant has provided some support for the purchasing of interagency placements.

3.5 Children's decisions

- 3.5.1 In the last reporting year 85 children were considered as children who should be placed for adoption (SBPFA) compared with 63 the preceding year. In 14 of these cases placement orders were not subsequently made by the courts. In this reporting period 51 children have had SBPFA decisions agreed; of these ten were not granted placement orders.
- 3.5.2 There has been a dip in the number of children for whom Wolverhampton is pursuing a plan of adoption. It is however acknowledge that the number of children for whom SBPA decisions were made in 2013/2014 was unusually high. Wolverhampton's decline was not in line with the national trend of around 50% highlighted above.

- 3.5.3 Of the 51 children 24 were female and 27 male.
- 3.5.4 In terms of age 39 children were aged naught to two, nine children were aged three to five and three children were six plus years of age.
- 3.5.5 Of the 51 children 45 children were White British. Three were Black British, three were dual heritage and one was White British European.
- 3.5.6 This equates to 76% of children being aged naught to two compared with 65 % in the previous year and 12% of children with a plan of adoption being from BME backgrounds. There had been concerns in the previous two years that children from BME backgrounds were over represented. This figure is now within expected parameters.
- 3.5.7 It is also helpful to look at the number of sibling groups included in this chart. 41% of the children were to be placed as part of a sibling group. This figure is slightly below the national picture of 49%.
- 3.5.8 Of these children there were:-
- Two sibling groups of three
 - Seven sibling groups of two
 - It was planned for three children to join older siblings in adoptive placements.
- 3.5.9 Given it is often harder to place children who are older, part of sibling groups and children who are of a BME background, the decrease in these figures should result in further improvements in timeliness for children with a plan of adoption in 2015/2016.
- 3.5.10 In addition a significantly larger group of children continued to have their plans changed from adoption this year. This was partly due to the large numbers of children for whom placement orders were not granted between 2013 and 2015. Some of these children were children for whom the local authority had not been able to secure an adoption placement and an alternative plan of permanence was been agreed. This cohort is made up predominantly of older children, many of whom are to be placed as a sibling group, and some with complex health needs. For all children who had become subject to a placement order significant family finding had taken place prior to considering a change of plan. For the majority of those children a change of plan to permanent fostering enabled children to be permanently fostered with their current carers.

Ethnicity of children for whom a SBPFA decision was made

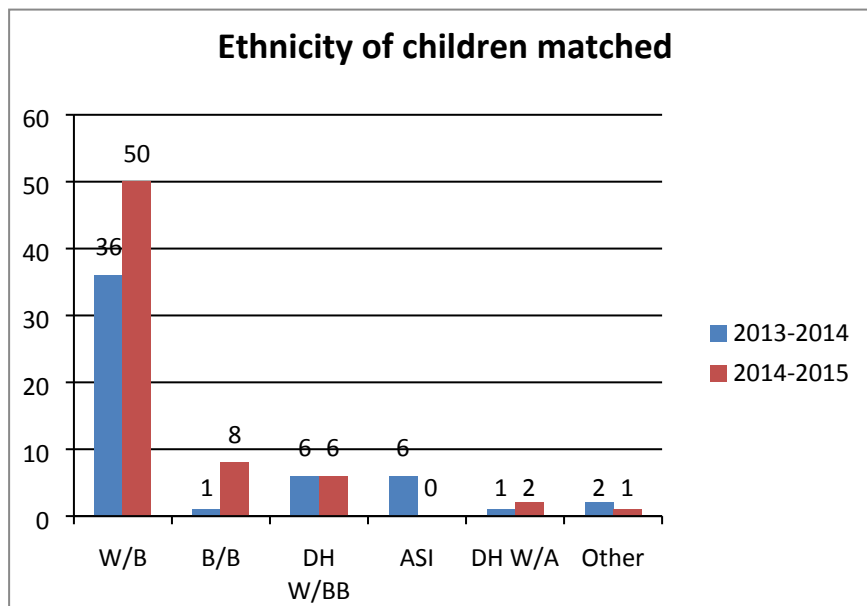


3.6 Matches of children with prospective adopters

3.6.1 During this reporting period from April 2014 to March 2015, 67 children were matched with prospective adopters compared with 49 the preceding year.

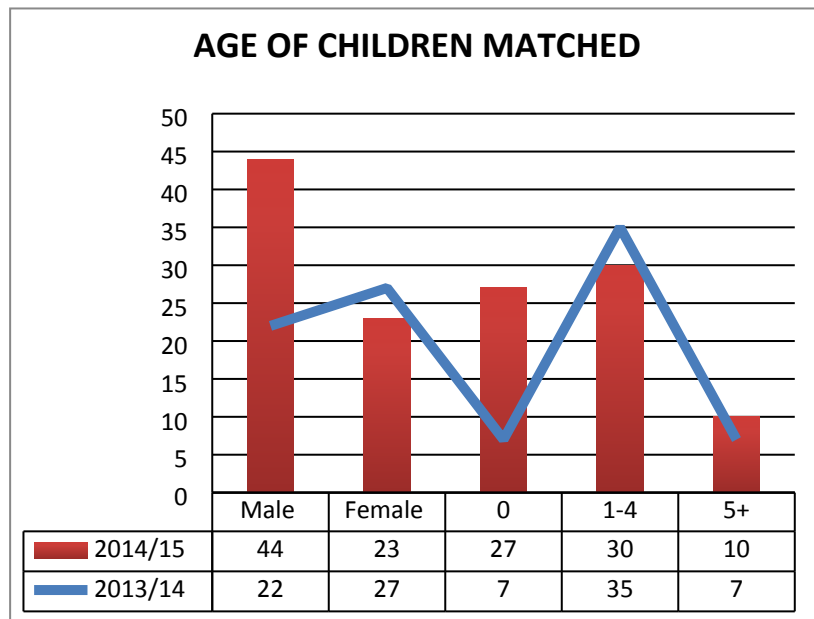
3.6.2 36 of the 67 children matched at panel were part of a sibling group.

3.6.3 When considering the ethnicity of the children matched, 17 of the 67 children were of BME (black and minority ethnic) background. This equates to 25% of children matched. Of these children 12% were Black. Black children were therefore over represented when compared to Wolverhampton's demographic of Black children which is 8%.



3.6.4 Of the 67 children; 27 were matched before the age of one. This compares with just seven the preceding year. There are well documented benefits to placing children as young as possible including less chance of adoption breakdown and increased emotional wellbeing for children. Wolverhampton has taken a number of steps to increase the possibility of children being placed with adopters early when they cannot be cared for within their birth family. This has included the development of systems to enable tracking and early family finding for children who become subject to a plan of adoption.

3.6.5 Ten of the children matched were boys over the age of five.



- 3.6.6 37 of the 67 children were placed within four months of a placement order which equated to 54%. A further six were placed within the previous A2 target of five months. The majority of children who waited more than four months were part of a sibling group, in five cases the children had complex health needs and in one case the child had received therapeutic support from CAMHS (child and adolescent mental health services) for a significant period of time which prevented the case being progressed.
- 3.6.7 80% of children who have become subject to a placement order in this reporting year have been linked within four months.
- 3.6.8 2014 to 2015 has seen the adoption service experience even more success with placing both sibling groups and older children. This may be a result of both the national media coverage of adoption and localised targeted recruitment for adopters of sibling groups and older children.
- 3.6.9 The adoption team has therefore been able to place all of the children for whom adoption was deemed to remain appropriate and had been waiting 12 months or more in this reporting period. Of the children waiting with an active plan of adoption at the end of this reporting period there were just four for whom placements had not been identified.
- 3.6.10 It is therefore anticipated that the adoption service will enter 2015/2016 in a good position to meet the national target for the A2 indicator.
- 3.6.11 This has partly been achieved through the extra resources provided to the family finding unit in the form of two social workers funded by the adoption reform grant.

3.7 Complaints

3.7.1 There have been no complaints received by panel during this period.

3.8 Strategic issues and forward plans

3.8.1 Wolverhampton remains committed to adoption as a positive permanence choice for children who cannot be cared for by their birth relatives. The service has welcomed the governments challenge around timeliness for children who have a plan of adoption, it is well accepted that age at placement is one predictor impacting on positive outcomes for children who are placed for adoption. Wolverhampton is therefore committed to continuing to improve timeliness for children.

3.8.2 The adoption service has begun to strengthen relations and offer support to locality teams resulting in earlier family finding for children. It is hoped that as new processes are further imbedded, this will provide opportunities for closer working during pre-birth assessments to ensure options for early permanence are fully explored where this is appropriate.

3.8.3 A key feature of the adoption services improvement plan is to increase the recruitment of adopters who can consider offering early permanence options to children either through concurrent planning or foster to adopt.

3.8.4 The adoption service has demonstrated the ability to embrace new ways of working in order to improve outcomes for children. It is expected that closer working within the region as described above will lend itself to ensuring that children are matched without delay with adopters who are able to meet their long term needs.

3.8.5 As the regionalising agenda is progressed it will be important to ensure that the team continues to build on previous success. This will include further improving timeliness, recruiting more adopters who will consider concurrency and foster to adopt and remaining ambitious for harder to place children to ensure they are offered the opportunities they deserve.

4.0 Financial implications

4.1 The approved budget for 2014/15 for the Adoption Service was £2.7 million. ,

4.2 The Council was also awarded an Adoption Reform grant allocation of £249,000 for 2014/15.

4.3 The Adoption Reform grant has enabled the Council to increase its staffing resources, marketing budget and capacity for inter-agency placements. A grant has not been awarded for 2015/2016.

4.4 The Adoption Reform Grant funded independent assessments of prospective adopters over a two year period. This enable the significant increase in adopter approvals, the

adoption service will face some pressures with regards to maintaining these numbers without the adoption reforms grant.

- 4.5 The government has made funds available in 2015/16 that will allow the Council to claim back the inter-agency fee when placements are made for harder to place children (sibling groups, children of BME background and children over the age of five). It is estimated that potentially the Council would be able to claim £500,000 from this fund, assuming that the fund remains available at the time of submitting a claim.

[NM/23092015/Q]

5.0 Legal implications

- 5.1 There have been some significant changes to regulations under the Adoption Reform Agenda and the Children and Families Act 2014 – this Act received Royal Assent in March 2014.

- 5.2 The key areas addressed in this legislation are listed below

- 5.2.1 Contact between prescribed persons and adopted person's relatives

This provision allows for relatives of adoptees to access the adoption records of a deceased relative and undertake a search for birth relatives. The adoption team have this far received 1 request of this nature from the daughter of an adoptee.

- 5.2.2 Early placement of looked after children with prospective adopters

This places a duty on the local authority to consider placing a child with foster to adopt carers in cases where the child's plan is likely to become one of permanence.

Workshops have been delivered to Consultant social workers explaining this duty in the context of permanency planning. In 2014/2015 two concurrent placements were made. From this the adoption team have gained experience around supporting concurrent/foster to adopt carers through the uncertainties of the court process successfully.

- 5.2.3 Repeal of requirement to give due consideration to ethnicity: England

- 5.2.4 Recruitment, assessment and approval of prospective adopters

This allows the Secretary of State to direct local authorities to make arrangements for the recruitment, assessment and approval of prospective adopters to be carried out on their behalf by one or more adoption agencies.

- 5.2.5 Adoption support services: personal budgets

Where adoption support services are agreed the local authority must make provision for the payment of personal budgets if asked to do so by the recipient of the services. Wolverhampton has not yet received any requests for personal budgets.

5.2.6 Adoption support services: duty to provide information

This places a duty to provide information about adoption support services to any family who has or is interested in adoption a child.

The team has developed an adoption passport that contains all required information and is given to prospective adopters or adopters on all initial visits.

5.2.7 The Adoption and Children Act Register

This made the provision for approved prospective adopters to be able to search the adoption register themselves in order to identify possible matches.

The National Adoption Register does not yet have the functionality to allow adopters to search. This is still in development.

5.2.8 Contact: post-adoption

This strengthened the rights of birth relative, adoptees, adopters and other significant individual's to obtain a contact order from the courts after an adoption order has been made.

The adoption team is not aware of any applications being made to the court for a contact order in respect of children who were placed by Wolverhampton Local Authority

5.3 A further piece of legislation is currently proposed within the Education and Adoption Bill 2015. This would enact powers, for the Secretary of State to direct one or more local authorities in England to make arrangements for all or some of their functions to be carried out by one of those local authorities, or through one or more other adoption agencies. TC/22092015/Q

6.0 Equalities implications

6.1 Wolverhampton seeks to recruit and purchase adopters who are able to meet the needs of a diverse range of children. This includes children of different black and minority ethnic groups, both young and older children, male and female children. This is reflected within the recruitment strategy and all new policies have been subject to an equalities analysis.

7.0 Environmental implications

7.1 There are no environmental implications

8.0 Human resources implications

- 8.1 At the end of March 2015 the adoption service lost 2.5 posts funded by the Adoption Reform Grant. These extra posts had enabled the service to deliver the targets set for the year. It should however be noted that there are currently much fewer children waiting with a plan of adoption and extra resources are not required in the family finding area.

9.0 Corporate landlord implications

- 9.1 There are no corporate landlord implications.

10.0 Schedule of background papers

- 10.1 There are no background papers attached.

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ANALYSIS OF ADOPTION SCORECARD INFORMATION 2011-2014

Including provisional information for 2014/15 as at Jan 2015.

**Helena Kucharczyk & James Amphlett
Business Intelligence Team
Community Directorate**

**Louise Haughton
Adoptions Service
Community Directorate**

1. Background

- 1.1.** In December 2014, Adoption Scorecard Data for 2011-2014 was published by the Department for Education. Wolverhampton was rated 'double red' against the two key performance indicators:

A1 – Average time between a child entering care and moving in with its adoptive family for children who have been adopted.

A2 – Average time between a Local Authority receiving court authority to place a child and the local authority deciding on a match to an adoptive family.

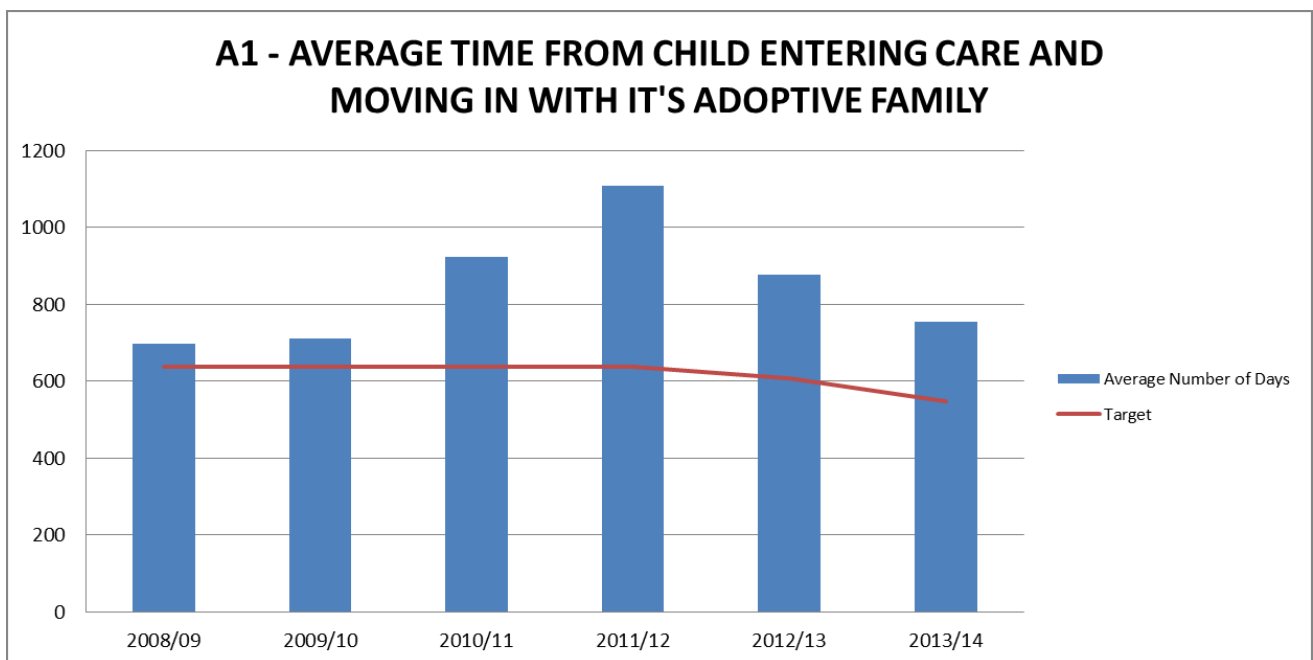
- 1.2.** There are also a number of contextual indicators including the percentage of children leaving care who are adopted, the percentage of adoptions of children from ethnic minorities and of those children aged 5 or over and the average length of care proceedings.
- 1.3.** In 2012/13 a new indicator, A10, was also introduced which is an adjusted indicator of A1. The new indicator looks at the average time between a child entering care and moving in with its adoptive family where children are adopted by their foster families. The measure is adapted to count from the date of moving in with the adoptive family to the date that fostering placement begins.
- 1.4.** The nationally set targets for these indicators is reducing year on year. When the scorecards were introduced in 2012 the target for A1 was set at 639 days (21 months) in 2014 it had reduced to 547 days (18 months) and reduces further to 487 days (16 months) for 2015. The A2 target was originally set at 213 days (7 months), reducing to 182 days (6 months) for 2014 and 152 days (5 months) for 2015.
- 1.5.** Wolverhampton City Council was last inspected by Ofsted in October 2012 and received an overall rating of good, an improvement on the previous inspection that rated the service as adequate.

2. Key Headlines from the 2011-2014 Adoptions Scorecard

- 2.1.** Despite Wolverhampton's results for 2011-14 remaining 'double red' in the two key indicators, performance in other areas remains good and Wolverhampton adoption service continues to make improvements in adoption outcomes for its looked after children. The following key performance indicators demonstrate this.

It should be noted that Wolverhampton courts have a process for the making of adoption orders which is inconsistent with other authorities around the country. In most areas adoption orders are made at the hearing and birth parents are given 21 days to appeal. The celebration hearing does not take place until after the 21 days and at a time convenient to the adopters. In Wolverhampton the final order is not made until the celebration hearing. This may take place up to two months after the hearing adding 2 months onto the timescales taken to achieve adoption.

- 2.2.** Adoptions have increased by almost 40% to 106 in 2011-2014 compared with 76 in 2010-2013. Overall this is an increase of nearly 78% from 2009-2012 where just 59 adoptions took place.
- 2.3.** In the year 2013/14, 50 children were adopted in Wolverhampton.
- 2.4.** Between 2011-2014 19% of children who left care were adopted compared with 17% in the previous 3 year period and an England average of just 14%.
- 2.5.** In 2011-2014 the timeliness of adopted children who move in with their adoptive families (Indicator A1) has improved by 9.4% from 962 days to 872.
- 2.6.** Despite this improvement timeliness of adoptions are still above the national target of 547 days, the England average figure of 628 and the average of our statistical neighbours of 665
- 2.7.** 2013/14 as a single year saw a significant improvement with the average number of days decreasing from 876 in 2012/13 to 747. This is further improvement from 2011/12 where the average was 1109.



- 2.8.** Wolverhampton's performance against the new A10 indicator is on target for the 3-year period at 522 days compared with an England average of 525 days.
- 2.9.** In 2011-14 performance against the A2 indicator data again showed a slight increase in the average number of days from 306 to 294 against a target of 152 days and an England average of 210 days.
- 2.10.** Wolverhampton has continued to improve on good areas of practice. In 2011-14 15% of black and minority ethnic children leaving care were adopted (Indicator A6) – almost double the England average of 8%.

- 2.11.** Wolverhampton continues to pursue adoption for what would be regarded as harder to place children including those aged five years or older (Indicator A7). In 2011-14, 10% of children aged over 5 leaving care were adopted compared with an England average of just 5%. This was an improvement on the 2010-13 result of 9%.
- 2.12.** Wolverhampton's commitment to adoption as a positive outcome for many of our looked after children remains strong, however, between 2011-2014 17% of the children with a plan of adoption had their plan of adoption changed (Indicator A5) increased compared with 15% in the 3 year period 2010-2013.
- 2.13.** As at 31st March 2014 the number of children awaiting adoption (Indicator A9) was 70, a decrease of 22% from the 90 children awaiting adoption on 31st March 2013.

3. Key Headlines so far in 2014/15

- 3.1.** Momentum on increasing the number of children adopted continues with 33 adopted so far this year.
- 3.2.** Timeliness of placing children for adoption has continued to improve.
- 3.3.** Wolverhampton continues to perform well in terms of securing adoption for those children traditionally classed as 'hard to place' including those aged over 5 and from BME backgrounds.
- 3.4.** The number of children whose plan has moved away from adoption has increased, however, this is due to better care planning and tracking processes which are securing more settled outcomes which focus on the child's specific needs. Furthermore, over the last two years there have been significantly more children who have become subject to a plan of adoption for whom the courts have not granted placement orders

4. Areas for continued development

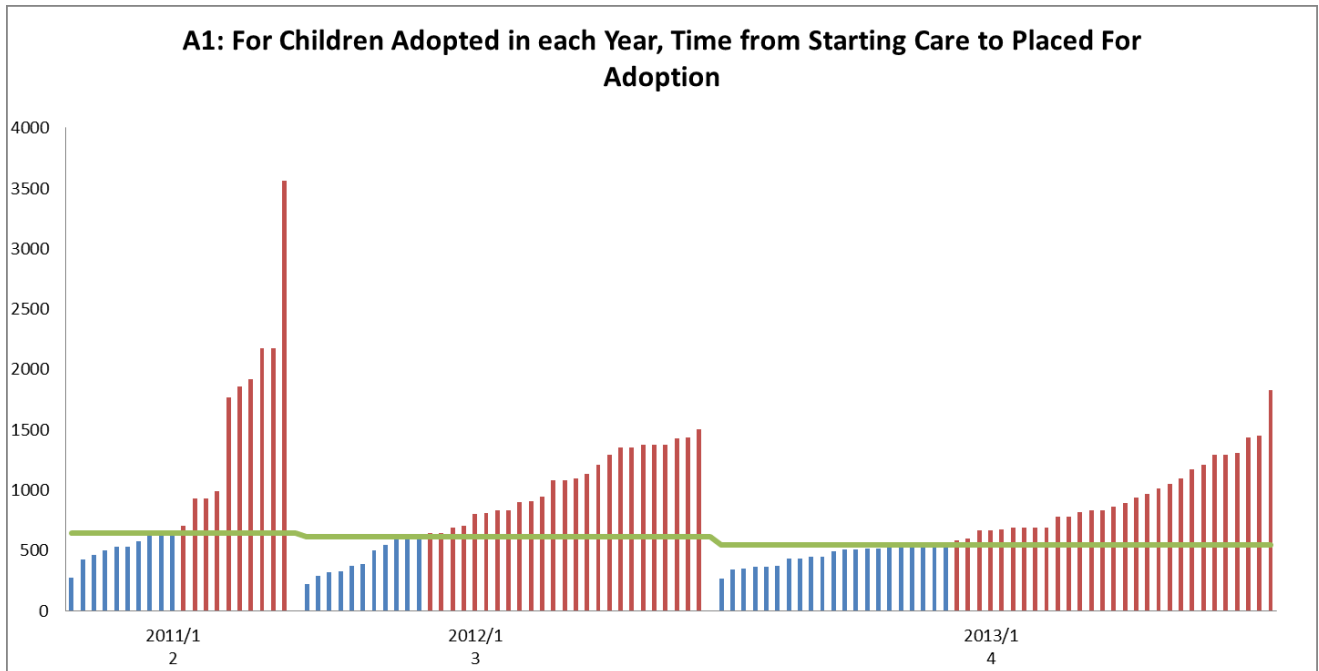
- 4.1.** To continue to build on improvements in all areas via the monitoring of the adoption improvement plan.
- 4.2.** To effectively use the Adoption Reform Grant to support continued improvements enabling more children to be placed for adoption in a more timely way.

5. A1 - AVERAGE TIME FROM CHILD ENTERING CARE AND MOVING IN WITH ITS ADOPTIVE FAMILY

A3 - THE NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN WHO WAIT LESS THAN 18 MONTHS BETWEEN ENTERING CARE AND MOVING IN WITH THEIR ADOPTIVE FAMILY

- 5.1.** The number of children adopted has increased significantly in 2013/14 with 50 children being adopted compared with 19 in 2011/12 and 36 in 2011/12.
- 5.2.** The target is for children to be placed for adoption for 2011-14 was 547 days. This is lower than the target for 2010-13 which was 608 days. The target for 2012-15 is 487 days

- 5.3.** The average number of days decreased significantly in 2011-2014 to 872 compared with 962 in the previous rolling three year period. Average timeliness for the single year of 2013/14 also decreased significantly by 129 days to 747.
- 5.4.** The graph below shows the timeliness for individual children adopted over the last three years:



Children Placed within Timescale

- 5.5.** In 2013/14 18 children were placed within the target of 547 days of these 14 were aged two years or under (78%) and 8 were White British (44%).
- 5.6.** 33% of children placed within target were from a BME background. This is a significant increase on 2012/13 where only 9% of children placed within the timescale were BME.

Children Placed outside Timescale

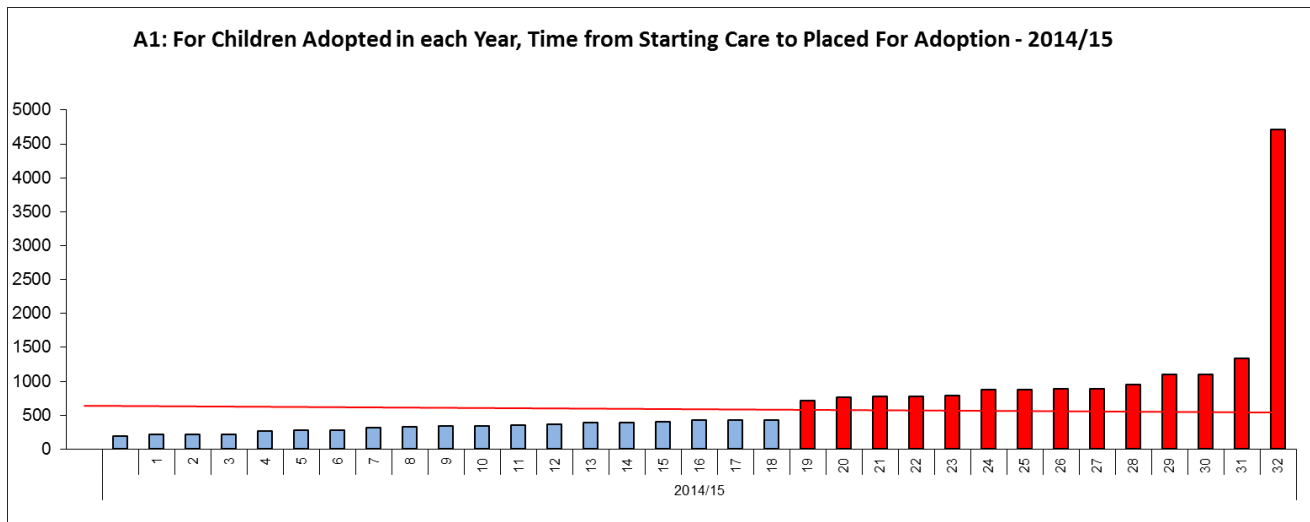
- 5.7.** In the same period 32 children were placed outside the target of 547 days.
- 5.8.** The percentage of children placed for adoption outside timescales decreased between 2012/13 and 2013/14. Further to this the amount of time by which they were outside timescales also decreased. This is evidenced by the fact that average time for children placed outside of target timescales has fallen from 1088 days in 2012/13 to 983 in 2013/14.
- 5.9.** 10 of the 32 (31%) were adopted by their foster carers (See Indicator A10).
- 5.10.** 5 of the 32 children were from a BME background (15%).

5.11. 12 children were aged 3-4 years when placed (37%) and 8 children were aged 5-9 years (25%) giving a total of 62% of children placed outside of timescale were 3 years or older.

2014/15 Current Position

5.12. For 2012-15 the target number of days has again dropped to 487.

5.13. As of 1st January 2015, 33 children have been adopted, 19 (58%) of whom had been placed within the new timescales. The average time has continued to improve and is now 690 days.



5.14. For the 14 children placed outside of timescales, the average time to place has increased to 1184 days from 1032 days in 2013/14. In this year one child was placed that had been in care for 4717 days. Removing this case from the average shows the average time has dropped to 912 days

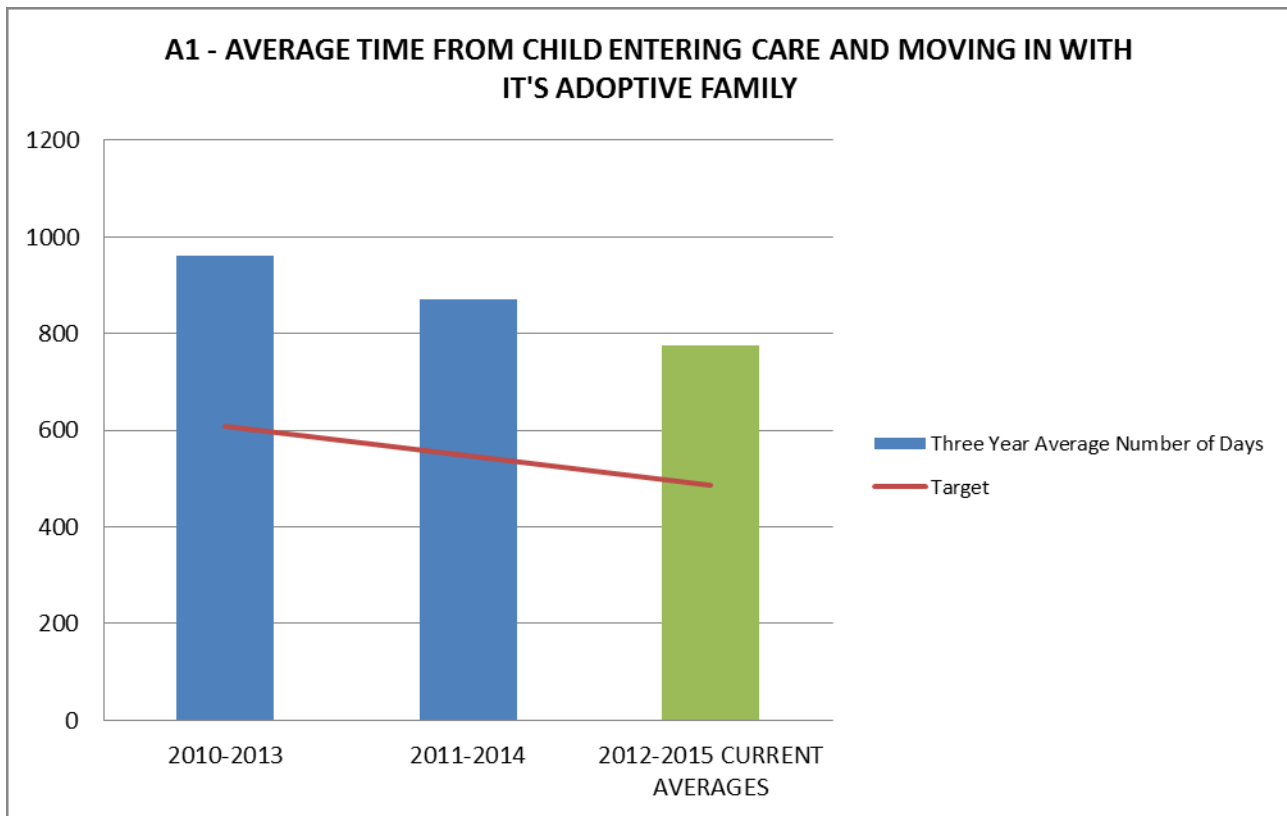
5.15. The child in question had no plan of adoption but a plan of long term foster care due to complex social and emotional needs. The child has been with the foster carers since 2005 but they approach the local authority this year to pursue adoption of the child. We believed due to the circumstances of the long term foster care this was in the best interest of the child and family.

5.16. Without this case being included in the data the A1 indicator drops from 690 days to 564 days.

5.17. 5 of these children (35%) were from BME backgrounds and 6 (42%) were aged 3 or over when placed. This compares with 10 (52%) children placed within timescales who were under the age of 1 when placed and 16 (84%) under the age of 2.

2012-2015 Prediction based on current averages.

The current 2012-2015 three year rolling A1 score (using year to date for 2014/15) is 770 days which is a significant improvement on 2011-2014 which is at 872 but above this year's national target of 487 days.



6. A10 - AVERAGE TIME BETWEEN A CHILD ENTERING CARE AND MOVING IN WITH ITS ADOPTIVE FAMILY – ADJUSTED FOR FOSTER CARER ADOPTIONS

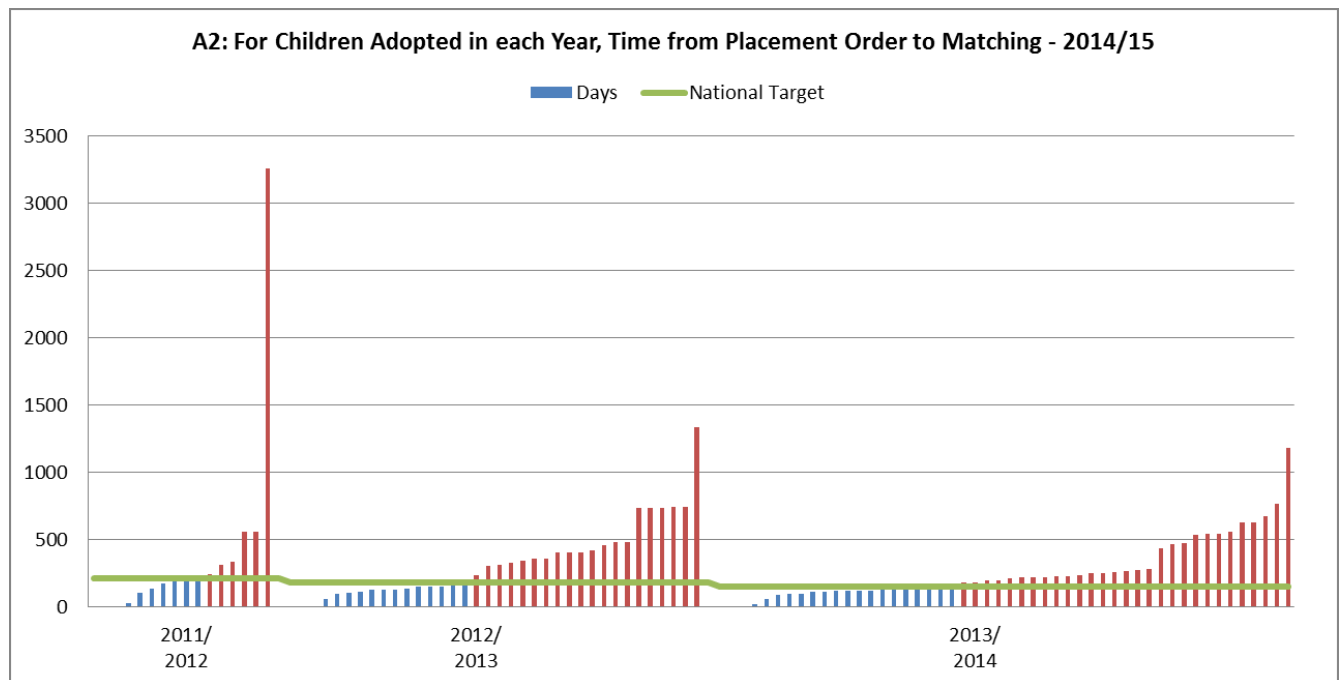
- 6.1. Wolverhampton's performance against the new A10 indicator is on target for the 3-year period 2011-2014 at 522 days compared with an England average of 525 days. This number is an increase from the three year average for 2010-2013 where the figure was 486 but is still below national averages. This is due to less foster parents adopting this year.
- 6.2. For the child, foster carer adoptions are positive because they remain within the family environment in which they feel secure and stable thus reducing the need for a placement move or transfer of attachment to new parents and family.
- 6.3. Indicator A10 demonstrates that for children for whom we find alternative adoptive families, we are achieving well below the A1 target of 547 days.
- 6.4. The average figure for the year 2013/14 was 592 days. This was an increase of 24% on the previous year's figures and is due to fewer foster care adoptions.
- 6.5. 20 out of 50 children (40%) were placed within 547 days.
- 6.6. For the children who did take over 639 days to place, 55% were 3 years old or above, and 27% were 5 years old or above.

2014/15 Current Position

- 6.7.** 2014/15 has seen a vast improvement in performance against the A10 indicator. The current average figure for the year 2014/15 is 387 days. This is a decrease of 34% from 2013/14.
- 6.8.** Using current figures the predicted figure for 2012-2015 three year rolling is 491 days a decrease from 2011-2014 although slightly higher than the new 2012 -2015 target of 487 days.

7. A2 - AVERAGE TIME BETWEEN RECEIVING COURT AUTHORITY TO PLACE AND THE LOCAL AUTHORITY DECIDING A MATCH

- 7.1.** The target for this indicator is 5 months or 152 days. The average number of days decreased in 2011-2014 to 294 compared with 306 in the previous rolling three year period. This however is still higher than the national indicator (152 days), the England average (217 days) and the average of Statistical Neighbours (242 days).
- 7.2.** Average timeliness for the single year of 2013/14 has also decreased to 270 days from 334 in 2012/13.



Children Matched within Timescale:

- 7.3.** 40% (20 of 50) children in the 2013/14 were placed within government set timescales. This was a slight decrease on 2012/13 where 44% (16 of 36) were placed within timescale
- 7.4.** Of these children, 6 children (30%) were aged 3 or older.
- 7.5.** 10 of the 20 (40%) were White British.

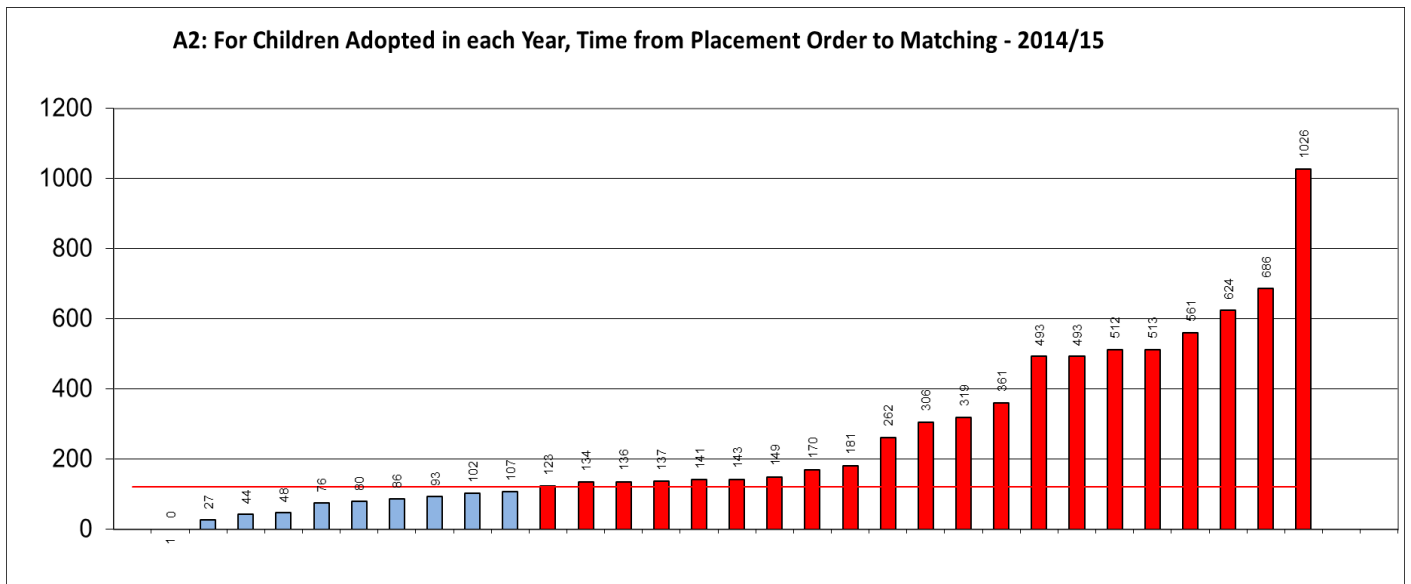
- 7.6.** Out of 18 children with a Placement Order Granted in 2013 16 (88%) were matched within the 152 day target. This is a strong indication that new children awaiting adoption are moving through the system both within targeted timescales and more quickly than children from previous years.

Children Matched outside of Timescale:

- 7.7.** Of the significant outliers shown in the graph, five children were adopted by their long term foster carers. This year more urgency has been placed on reducing the amount of time between a foster parent declaring an interest in adopting the child in their care and the adoption taking place. This is now being monitored internally by a tracking system.
- 7.8.** Another child had a placement order granted in January 2012 aged almost 5. There is no clear reason as to why it took so long to find a suitable placement for this child despite extensive attempts at family finding. However, the child has now been adopted by his foster carer and has only ever been in the one foster placement and as such is extremely settled and secure meaning that they have had a really positive outcome.
- 7.9.** The average time for children to be placed who were not matched within the government timescale of 213 days was 384 days
- 7.10.** For the 30 children placed outside of timescales, 12 (40%) were matched more than 300 days after the Placement Order was granted. Of these, 9 were granted placement orders prior to 2012.

2014/15 Current Position

- 7.11.** Only 36% (12 out of 33) children so far in 2014/15 have been placed within government set timescales, a decrease on 2013/14 where 40% (20 of 50) were placed within target. This is due to another decrease in target down from 152 day to 121 days.
- 7.12.** Average timeliness for the single year to date has decreased from 281 days in 2013/14 to 246 days up to 1st January 2015
- 7.13.** 80% of all children with a Placement Order granted in 2014 were place within 4 months. This shows promise for future results and an upward trend.



8. A4 - ADOPTIONS FROM CARE

- 8.1.** In 2010-2013, there were a total of 76 adoptions in Wolverhampton (an average of 25 adoptions per year). This has increased in 2011-2014 to 105, with 50 of those in 2013-2014.
- 8.2.** This equates to 19% of children leaving care doing so via adoption in 2011-2014 compared with 17% in 2010-2013 and an England average of just 14%.
- 8.3.** As at 1st January 2015 33 children had been adopted showing that the momentum for adoptions continues and demonstrates Wolverhampton's on-going commitment to adoption as a positive outcome for many of our LAC who are unable to return home.

9. A6 - THE PERCENTAGE OF BLACK AND MINORITY ETHNIC CHILDREN LEAVING CARE WHO ARE ADOPTED

- 9.1.** Of all BME children leaving care in 2011-2014 15% were adopted compared with an England average of 8%.
- 9.2.** Of the 33 children adopted in 2014/15 10 (30%) were from BME backgrounds.

10. A7 - THE PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN AGED 5 OR OVER LEAVING CARE WHO ARE ADOPTED

- 10.1.** Equally good is Wolverhampton's performance in placing children aged over 5 for adoption. In 2011-2014 35 of the 105 children adopted were aged 5 or over and 10% of over 5's leaving care were adopted. This compares favourably with the National average for the same period which was just 5%.
- 10.2.** This continues to show Wolverhampton's commitment to placing children who may be considered 'harder to place'. Continuing to secure appropriate adoptive placements may take longer given the ages and circumstances of many of the children.

10.3. As A1 shows, we are successfully able to place young White British children in a timely way. However, older children and those from a BME background are likely to take longer to identify a suitable adoptive family.

11. A5 - NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN FOR WHOM THE PERMANENCE DECISION HAS CHANGED AWAY FROM ADOPTION

11.1. Results for 2011-2014 show that 57 children (19%) had their permanence decision changed from adoption. This is higher than in the 2010-2013 periods when 35 children (15%) had their plan changed.

11.2. Of these 57 children 30 had their plan changed in 2013/14:

- We were not successful in getting placement orders in 2 cases and following further assessment these children are likely to be returning home
- 1 child is at home placed with parents
- 2 children have been moved to a permanent carer and the matching process for this is underway, one of these children had previously been placed for adoption but his adoption had broken down prior to an order being made
- 19 of these children had plans changed to enable them to stay with their current carers on a permanent fostering basis and of these 19 there were 2 sets of sibling groups of 3, and 4 sets of sibling groups of 2.
- 26 of the children are aged between 4 and 9.

2014/15 Current Position

11.1. So far in 2014/15 13 children have had their permanence decision changed away from adoption however, it is expected that this figure will be comparable with the 2013/2014 figure of 30 by the end of the year. This figure continues to be higher than previous years. Over the last two years there have been significantly more children who have become subject to a plan of adoption for whom the courts have not granted placement orders. This has contributed to higher numbers. The adoption tracking and care planning processes are also becoming embedded and we are considering more appropriate care plans for children who have had a plan of adoption for a long time and reconsidering the need to secure their permanence in an alternative way.

11.2. Of the 13 children who have had their plan changed in 2014/15:

- We were not successful in getting placement orders in 7 cases and following further assessment these children are likely to be returning home
- 1 child was placed with a family member and sibling

- 5 of these children had plans changed to enable them to stay with their current carers on a long term fostering basis. Of these 19 there were 2 sets of sibling groups of 3, and 4 sets of sibling groups of 2.
- 26 of the children are aged between 4 and 9.

12. A8 - AVERAGE LENGTH OF CARE PROCEEDINGS LOCALLY (WEEKS)

12.1. Results for 2011-2014 show that care proceedings in Wolverhampton have reduced to an average of 49 weeks compared to an England average of 51 weeks. This is an improvement on the 2010-2013 result of 54 weeks.

Information supplied by CAFCASS

13. A9 - NUMBER OF CHILDREN AWAITING ADOPTION

13.1. This indicator is decreasing.

13.2. On 31st March 2013 there were 90 children awaiting adoption. This decreased to 85 as at 31st March 2014 and has decreased further to at 62 as at 14th January 2015.

13.3. Although we continue to have a significant number of children each year with a new plan of adoption (in the year 2013/14 – 84 children), the overall number of children awaiting adoption is declining.

13.4. This is, in part, due to the increased number of children we have matched at Panel this year compared to last year which has more than doubled compared with the previous year.

2013-14 number of children matched = 46

2012-13 number of children matched = 43

2011-12 number of children matched = 20

13.5. Given the high number of children we currently have placed for adoption, and the continued support offered to foster carers to adopt;; Wolverhampton are confident that we will continue to increase the number of adopted children.

13.6. In addition to this the focus will remain, not only to continue to increase the number of children adopted, but also to ensure this is undertaken in a timely manner.

Appendix Wolverhampton Adoption Scorecard indicators update for year 2012-2013 and for part year 2013-2014

Indicator	Definition (note latest result is in-year not 3 year)	Measure	3 year 2010 -2013	3 year 2011 -2014	Single year 2013/14	Single year 2014/15 (As at Jan 2015)	Target 2015	England 3 yr 2011-14
A1: Average time between a child entering care and moving in with its adoptive family, for children who have been adopted (days)	<p>1. This indicator includes all children adopted in the period 1 April to 31 March that were placed for adoption immediately prior to their adoption.</p> <p>2. Time is calculated between a child starting to be looked after and their placement for adoption, i.e. the date they move with their adoptive family. Only children with valid data are included.</p> <p>3. Figures are rounded to the nearest day.</p>	Average (days)	962 days	872 days	746 days Note see also the new A10 indicator	690 days	487 days	628
A2: Average time between a local authority receiving court authority to place a child and the local authority deciding on a match to an adoptive family (days)	<p>1. This indicator includes all children adopted in the period 1 April to 31 March that were placed for adoption and on a placement order or freeing order immediately prior to their adoption.</p> <p>2. Time is calculated between receiving court authority to adopt (granting of placement order/freeing order) and matching with adopters. A time of zero is assigned to children who were matched before court authority was received.</p> <p>3. Figures are rounded to the nearest day.</p>	Average (Days)	306 days	294 days	281 days	230 days	121 days	217

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

Indicator	Definition (note latest result is in-year not 3 year)	Measure	3 year 2010 -2013	3 year 2011 -2014	Single year 2013/14	Single year 2014/15 (As at Jan 2015)	Target 2015	England 3 yr 2011-14
A3 The number and percentage of children who wait less than 21 months between entering care and moving in with their adoptive family <div>Page 46</div>	<p>1. This indicator includes all children adopted in the period 1 April to 31 March that were placed for adoption immediately prior to their adoption and all children with a current adoption plan at 31 March (excluding those where the decision to adopt has been reversed). When adoption is the preferred option for permanence this is referred to as the adoption plan.</p> <p>2. Time is calculated between a child starting to be looked after and their placement for adoption, i.e. the date they move in with their adoptive family. Only children with valid data are included. Children are flagged if they waited less than 21 months (measured at 639 days) between starting to be looked after and being placed for adoption or had not yet been looked after for 21 months at 31 March.</p> <p>3. The numerator is therefore all adopted children who were placed for adoption first who were placed less than 21 months after becoming looked after and all children looked after at 31 March with a current adoption decision who were placed less than 21 months after becoming looked after or who had not yet been looked after for 21 months."</p> <p>4. The denominator is therefore all adopted children who were placed for adoption first and all looked after at 31 March with a current adoption decision.</p>	<p>Number Children</p> <p>% Children</p>	<p>70</p> <p>35%</p>	<p>95</p> <p>38%</p>	<p>18</p> <p>36%</p>	<p>22</p> <p>61%</p>	<p>Not set</p>	<p>11,360</p> <p>51%</p>

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

Indicator	Definition (note latest result is in-year not 3 year)	Measure	3 year 2010 -2013	3 year 2011 -2014	Single year 2013/14	Single year 2014/15 (As at Jan 2015)	Target 2015	England 3 yr 2011-14
A4 Adoptions from care (number adopted and percentage leaving care who are adopted)	1. Only the last occasion on which a child ceased to be looked after in each year has been counted. A child who ceased to be in care in more than one year will be counted more than once. 2. This indicator compares the number of children who ceased to be looked after in the period 1 April to 31 March with the number of children who were adopted during that period.	Number Adopted % adopted of leaving Care	80 Children 17%	105 Children 19%	50 Children	36 Children	Not set	12, 530 14%
A5 The number and percentage of children for whom the permanence decision has changed away from adoption	1. The denominator includes all children with an on-going adoption decision in the period 1 April to 31 March. (The adoption decision date may be prior to 1 April.) The numerator includes all children with an on-going adoption decision in the period 1 April to 31 March for whom the decision was reversed in the period 1 April to 31 March.	Number rescinded %	35 children 15%	50 children 17%	30 Children	13 Children	Not set	3,230 12%

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

Indicator	Definition (note latest result is in-year not 3 year)	Measure	3 year 2010 -2013	3 year 2011 -2014	Single year 2013/14	Single year 2014/15 (As at Jan 2015)	Target 2015	England 3 yr 2011-14
A6: The percentage of black and minority ethnic children leaving care who are adopted Page 48	1. Only the last occasion on which a child ceased to be looked after in the year has been counted. 2. The numerator includes all children with a known ethnicity of Asian, Black, Chinese, Mixed or Other who were adopted in the period 1 April to 31 March. The denominator includes all children within these ethnic groups who ceased to be looked after for any reason in the same time period. Numerators and denominators exclude all children where ethnicity was refused or not obtained. 3. Percentages show the proportion of all black and minority ethnic children leaving care who are adopted. Therefore if a local authority has a low proportion of black and minority ethnic children in their care population then the denominator will reflect this low number.	Number	20 Children	25 Children			Not set	1,910
		%	13%	15%				8%
A7: The percentage of children aged 5 or over leaving care who are adopted	1. Only the last occasion on which a child ceased to be looked after in the year has been counted. 2. Age on leaving care. 3. The numerator includes all children who were adopted in period 1 April to 31 March who were aged 5 or over. The denominator includes all children who were aged 5 or over when they ceased to be looked after in the same time period.	Number % adopted age 5 or over of all care leavers aged 5 or over	25 Children 9%	35 Children 10%			Not set	2,790 5%

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

Indicator	Definition (note latest result is in-year not 3 year)	Measure	3 year 2010 -2013	3 year 2011 -2014	Single year 2013/14	Single year 2014/15 (As at Jan 2015)	Target 2015	England 3 yr 2011-14
A8: Average length of care proceedings locally (weeks)	<p>1. Figures are provided from the CAFCASS National Case Management System (CMS).</p> <p>2. The unit of measurement is a care application. An application can involve multiple children. CMS is a live system and any late entries will be accounted for at the time of release of subsequent updates to this data."</p> <p>3. Average care duration is calculated from date of care application to the court to date application completed on CMS in the selected time period. Averages are based on care applications completed in the period.</p> <p>4. The average length of care proceedings locally includes all care proceedings which the local authority has initiated, including care proceedings which take place in courts outside of the local authority area.</p>	Weeks	54	49	Not available	Not available	Not set	48
A9: Number of children awaiting adoption	<p>1. This indicator includes all children with an adoption plan in year ending 31 March that were still looked after at 31 March and who had not been placed for adoption at 31 March. When adoption is the preferred option for permanence this is referred to as the adoption plan.</p>	Number	90 Children	105 Children	90 children	62 children	Not set	6,370

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

Indicator	Definition (note latest result is in-year not 3 year)	Measure	3 year 2010 -2013	3 year 2011 -2014	Single year 2013/14	Single year 2014/15 (As at Jan 2015)	Target 2015	England 3 yr 2011-14
A10 Average time between a child entering care and moving in with its adoptive family adjusted for foster carer adoptions, for children who have been adopted (days)	<p>1. This indicator includes all children adopted in the period 1 April to 31 March that were placed for adoption immediately prior to their adoption.</p> <p>2. Time is calculated between a child starting to be looked after and their placement for adoption, i.e. the date they move with their adoptive family. Where children are adopted by their foster carer, the time is measured until the date they moved in with their foster carer. Only children with valid data are included.</p> <p>3. Figures are rounded to the nearest day.</p>	Average Days	486 days	522 days	592 days	387 days	Not set but A1 Target = 487 days	525



Corporate Parenting Board

Performance Report

September 2015

(data as at August 2015)

Key Points to Note

Redesign and further development

This report for the Corporate Parenting Board continues to be developed. Provisional 2014/15 out-turn figures have been amended where updated information is available. Please note that these have not yet been validated by the statutory returns to the Department for Education and as such may be subject to change. Average caseload data for LAC teams has been added along with the number of social workers current LAC have had in the past 12 months. Demographic data has also been updated.

Demographics

This section has been updated with the ONS 2014 mid-year population estimates and LAC gender and ethnicity for 2014/15. However, there are only slight changes to results.

A considerably lower proportion of LAC are from BME backgrounds compared to the Wolverhampton CYP population.

The number of Looked After Children has seen a large decrease in August - largely due to the revocation of care orders for children who are placed with parents. However, numbers are still considerably higher than comparators.

Placements

In-house Foster Carers trend data shows that numbers of children placed with in-house foster carers remains relatively stable, however due to the decrease in overall LAC numbers, the percentage is increasing.

There has been another increase in the proportion of LAC placed more than 20 miles from home, which means that we are now higher than our comparators 2013/14 out-turn.

The indicators that look at placement stability continue to show positive results and demonstrate that Looked After Children in Wolverhampton generally benefit from stable placements.

Assessments and Reviews

The average number of cases held by social workers in the LAC teams has been added into the report. These are the teams that generally deal with children who have been LAC for 15 months plus and averages at around 20 cases per worker. More detailed work is currently being undertaken around caseloads.

The number of social workers that LAC have had in the past 12 months has also been added and shows that almost 50% of children who have been looked after for more than 12 months have had 3 or more social workers in the past year.

Assessments and Reviews of Looked After Children in Wolverhampton remain generally up to date however the percentage of children that participated in their reviews has fallen significantly from 98% at the end of 2014/15 to 92% at the end of August. The reasons for this are being investigated.

Education

The 2014 KS2 results show that Wolverhampton LAC are performing better in 2014 than in 2013. Performance is also considerably better than for LAC in statistical neighbouring authorities, the West Midlands and England overall across Maths, Reading and Writing.

There is just a 9% gap between the performance of LAC at KS2 and the wider Wolverhampton population. This is incredibly positive.

GCSE performance is less positive compared with last years out-turn - however, it should be noted that there has been a change in how this statistic is calculated at a national level this year which has impacted negatively on results in general. There is also some discrepancy between nationally published figures and locally held results. **Please note** - small numbers can also adversely affect this indicator.

Health

The percentage of children with up to date dental checks fell from 90% at the end of 2013/14 to 81% provisionally at the end of 14/15. However, performance in 2015 continues to improve and is at 86% at the end of August. This result is still higher than the 65.2% of children in the general Wolverhampton population that have seen a dentist in the past 2 years.

The percentage of health checks that are up to date continues to improve and has increased to 89% at the end of May compared with a provisional year end out-turn of 82%. This is due to ongoing work in this area and improved working with RWT and the CCG.

Leaving Care

Adoption - Performance against adoption timescales continues to improve however, overall performance remains below national expectations. The 'Adoption Scorecard' was published in mid-December and detailed analysis has been undertaken. Wolverhampton remains 'double red' in the two key indicators which focus on the timeliness of adoption, however, continue to perform better than national averages when it comes to adopting 'hard to place' children such as those over the age of 5 and those from BME backgrounds.

The adoption pipeline shows that there are currently 91 children with a plan of adoption, 71 of which have placement orders or are currently placed for adoption. Of the 58 that are placed for adoption, a number have been in their placements for some time which is inflating the average number of days. The placements and plans for some of these children are currently being reviewed and not all of the children will be adopted.

52 children were adopted in 14/15 and 17 have been adopted so far in 15/16. This is extremely positive.

Care Leavers - The percentage of Care Leavers in Employment Education and Training was worse than statistical neighbours, West Midlands and England averages in 2013/14, although improvements have been made in 2014 and performance is now considerably better than at year end and higher than comparators.

Work is being undertaken on reporting of Care Leavers information and this section of the report will be developed further in the coming months.

Demographics



57658 children aged 0-17 live in Wolverhampton
22.8% of the total population

ONS 2014 mid-year estimate

48.8% of the CYP population and 44.9% of LAC are

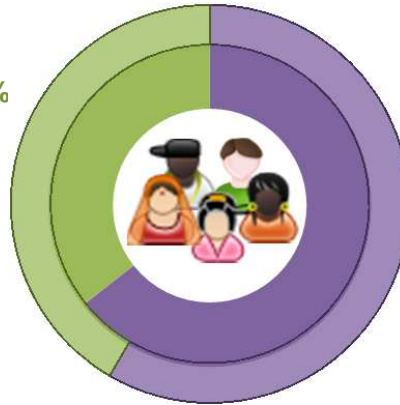


51.2% of the CYP population and 55.1% of LAC are male

LAC as at 31/03/2015



41.6% of the CYP population and 35.6% of LAC are BME



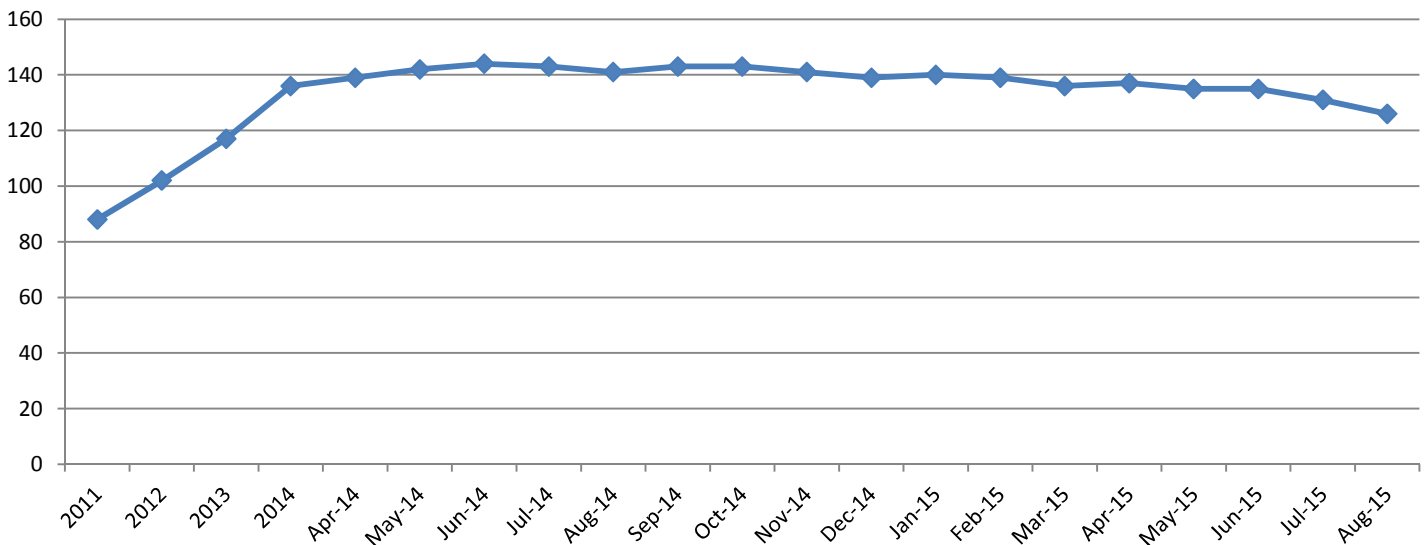
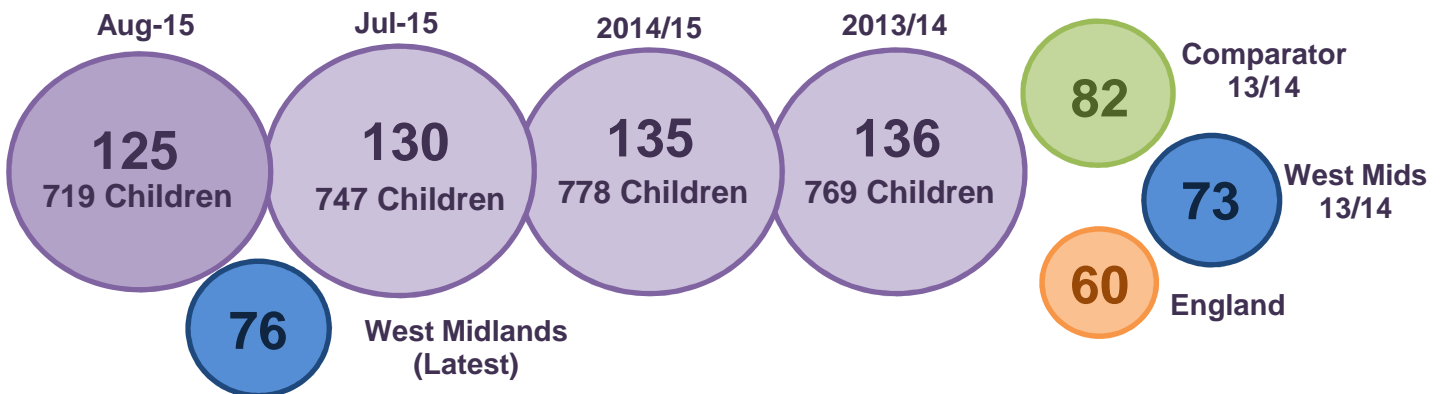
58.4% of the CYP population and 64.4% of LAC are white

Inner circle represents the LAC population, the outer circle is the CYP population

LAC as at 31/03/2015

Looked After Children Population

Rate of LAC per 10,000 population aged 0-17



Placements

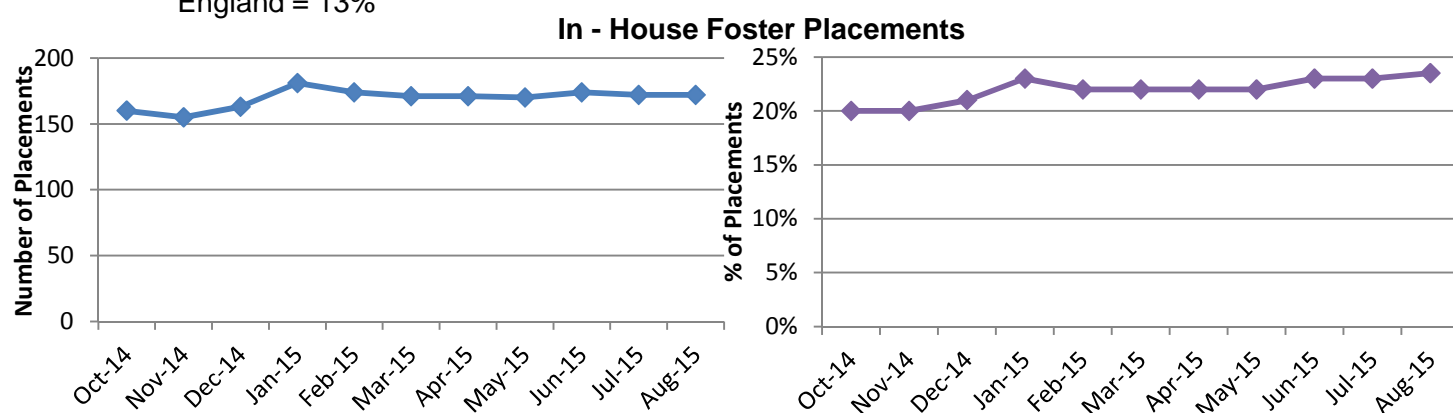
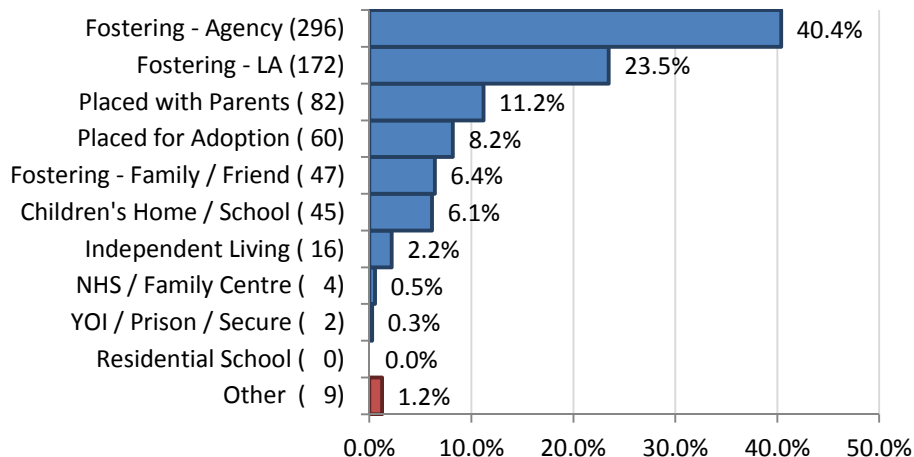


% LAC Placed 20 miles + from home

Aug-15
17%

2014/15 Out-turn = 16% 2013/14
Out-turn = 13% 2013/14
Comparator = 15% 2013/14
England = 13%

LAC Placements at 31/08/15



The proportion of LAC Placed with in-house foster carers is increasing demonstrating that the drive to recruit internal foster carers is beginning to yield results

Placement Stability



LAC with fewer than 3 placements in the last 12 months

Aug-15
86%

2014/15 (Provisional) = 88%
2013/14 Out-turn = 88%
2013/14 Comparator = 89%
2013/14 England = 89%

% of children in same placement for 2 years or more or placed for adoption (when looked after for more than 2.5 years)

Aug-15
71%

2014/15 (Provisional) = 67%
2013/14 Out-turn = 67%
2013/14 Comparator = 67%
2013/14 England = 67%

Performance shows that Looked After Children in Wolverhampton benefit from largely stable packages.

Assessments & Reviews

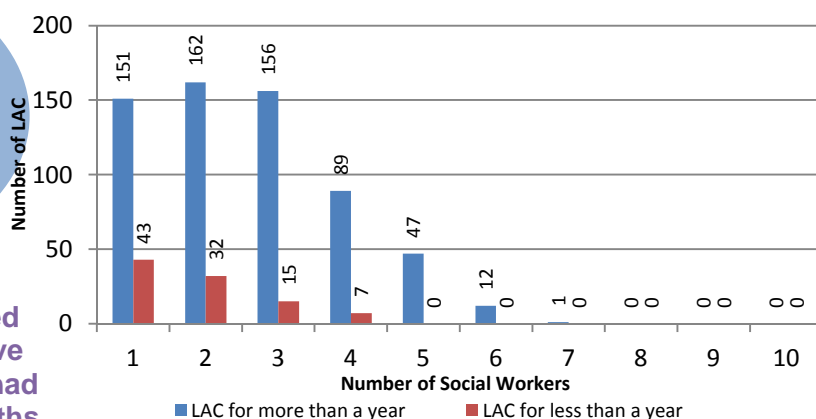


Average caseload of
LAC social workers

20

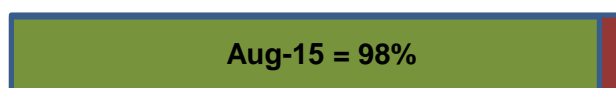
49% of young people who have been looked after for more than a year and 23% who have been looked after for less than a year have had 3 or more social workers in the past 12 months

Number of Social Workers LAC have had in the past 12 months



Looked After Children with up to date assessments

An up to date assessments is one that has been authorised within the last 6 months.

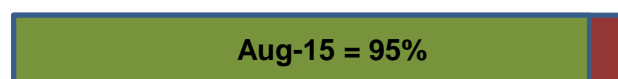


2014/05 Out-turn (Provisional) = 96%

2013/14 Out-turn = 95%

Looked After Children whose reviews have been completed on time

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



2014/05 Out-turn (Provisional) = 91%

2013/14 Out-turn = 92%

91% of LAC had all of their reviews completed on time between 01st April 2014 - 31st March 2015. 1760 reviews were completed in the year and of these 96% were completed within timescales.

The proportion of LAC reviews where the child was present or contributed by other means since 1 April

92%

Aug-15

There has been some decline in LAC participation in reviews. This is being looked into in order to understand the reason for the drop in performance

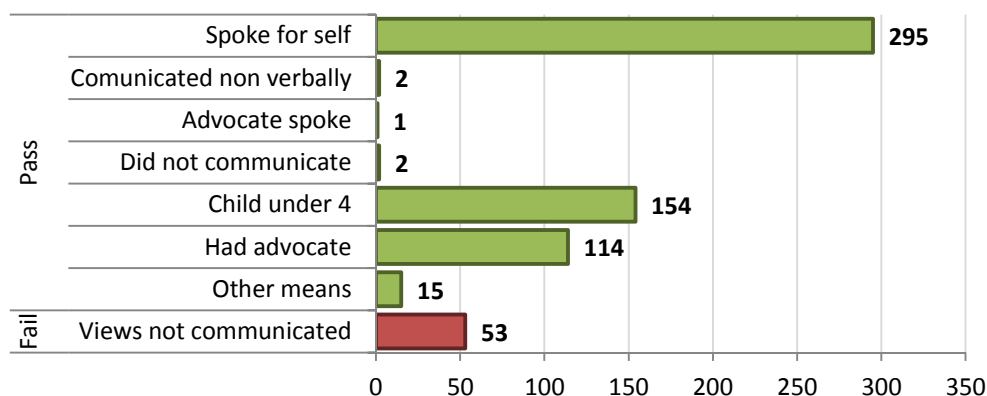
98%

2014/15 Out-turn
(Provisional)

93%

2013/14
Out-turn

Participation in Reviews



Education



KS2 Level 4	Maths	Reading	Writing	Reading, Writing and Maths	GCSEs	5+ GCSE A* - C inc Eng & Maths
Wolverhampton LAC 2014	74%	78%	81%	70%		16.00%
Wolverhampton	86%	88%	84%	79%		45.90%
Wolves LAC 2013	67%	44%	50%	39%		25.80%
West Midlands 2014	60%	69%	61%	50%		13.70%
Statistical Neighbours 2014	60%	68%	54%	45%		17.65%
England 2014	61%	68%	59%	48%		12.00%

PLEASE NOTE: Small numbers in the cohort reaching each key stage can cause results to be volatile making comparison difficult.

National results show that looked after children reaching KS2 level 4 in 2014 performed better than in 2013 and better than LAC in the West Midlands, statistical comparator authorities and England overall. However, performance in GCSE's was worse across the board.

Detailed analysis of LAC educational performance was presented to the Panel via the Virtual School Head teacher report 2014. Please note that there is some discrepancies when nationally published data is compared with locally held data - it is the local data that is presented here.

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



91%
2013/14 Out-turn

89%
2014/15 Out-turn
(Provisional)

88%
PEPS (Years 1 -11)
- Aug-15

65%
PEPS (Years 12 and 13)
- Aug-15

LAC Absence from School - 2014
(taken from nationally published data)

* Children looked after for 12 months or more

Unauthorised Absence *

1.2%

West Midlands - 0.90%
Statistical Neighbours - 0.97%
England - 1.00%

Overall Absence *

4.0%

West Midlands - 3.70%
Statistical Neighbours - 3.69%

LAC Persistent Absence

5.0%

West Midlands - 4.20%
Statistical Neighbours - 4.58%
England - 4.70%

Absence rates are improving, however, they remain slightly higher than comparators.

FURTHER DEVELOPMENT: Work is continuing to develop a detailed, local, virtual schools report. As that work progresses, further information will be reported here.

LAC Health



65.2% of children in the
Wolverhampton Local Authority
Area have seen a dentist in the last
two years

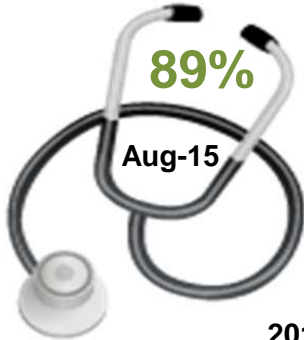
Dental Checks



2014/15 Out-turn
(Provisional) = 81%

2013/14 Out-turn = 90%

Health Checks



2014/15 Out-turn
(Provisional) = 82%

2013/14 Out-turn = 86%

Performance in this area is increasing as
a result of improved working with the
CCG and RWT

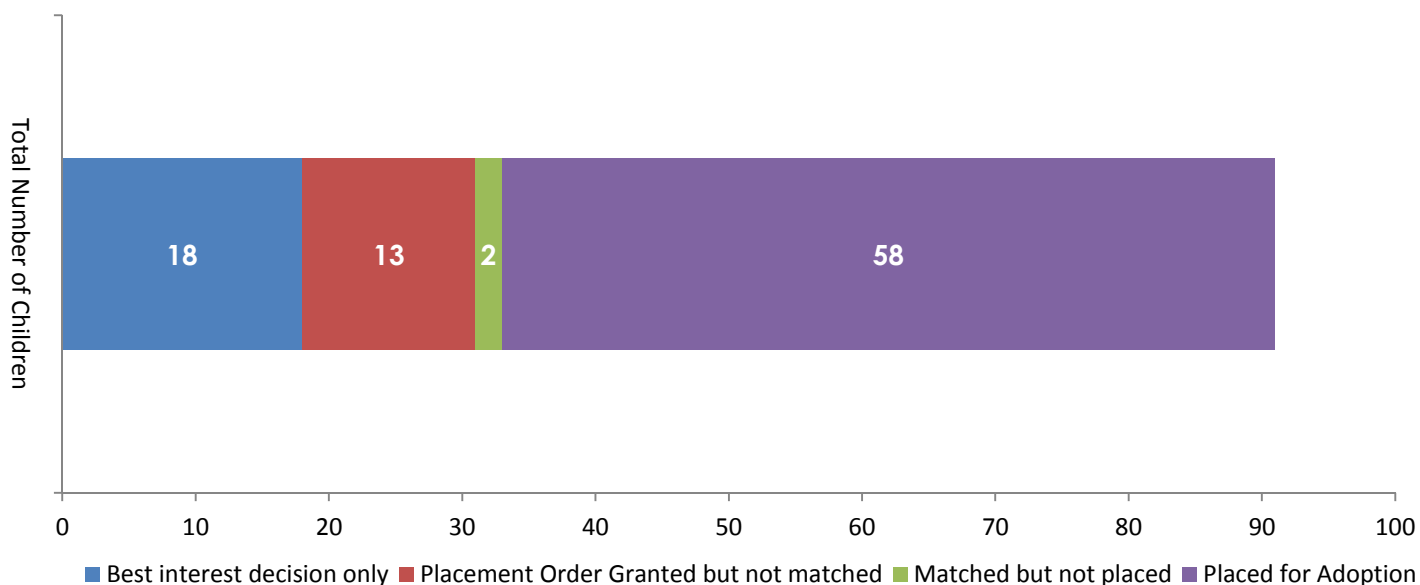
Leaving Care



Children Adopted	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15 (Provisional)	2015/16 (So far)
	35	50	52	17

Adoptions

ADOPTION PIPELINE 01/09/2015



Adoption Scorecard Results (2011 - 2014)

The adoption scorecard is calculated using results and performance over a three year period

A1 - Average time between a child entering care and moving in with their adoptive family

872 Days

38% adopted in

Statistical Neighbours - 665 (46%)
England - 628 (51%)

A2 - Average time between receiving court authority to place and finding a match

294 Days

Statistical Neighbours - 242
England - 217

A10 - Average time between a child entering care and moving in with their adoptive family (stopped at point of fostering for foster carers adoptions)

522 Days

Statistical Neighbours - 539
England - 525

Single year performance (2014/15 - provisional)

A1 - 619 days with 64% of children adopted within timescales
A2 - 196 days
A10 - 410 days

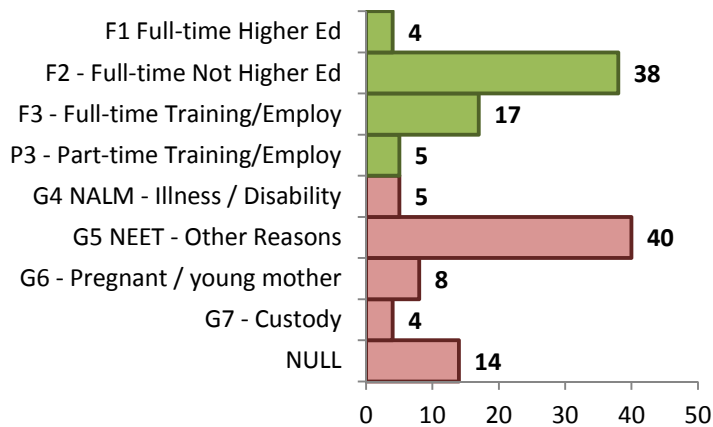
Single year performance (2015/16 - as at August)

A1 - 520 days with 71% of children adopted within timescales
A2 - 178 days
A10 - 398 days

The adoption scorecards for 2013/14 were published just before Christmas. Wolverhampton were once again rated 'double red' in the two key indicators, however, performance around adopting hard to place children including those over the age of 5 and from BME backgrounds continues to be better than performance nationally. Detailed analysis of the results has been undertaken and is available.

Care Leavers

Care Leavers EET Statuses



Care Leavers in Education, Employment and Training 2013/14

Wolverhampton - 31%
West Mids - 41%
Statistical Neighbours - 40%
England - 45%

Provisional 2014/15 - 43%

Further Development: Work is being undertaken to re-develop care leavers reporting locally to ensure that cohort data is accurately reflected. This section of the report will be developed further as that work progresses.