

Children, Young People and Families Scrutiny Panel

9 September 2015

Time 6.00 pm **Public Meeting?** YES **Type of meeting** Scrutiny

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

Membership

Chair Cllr Peter O'Neill (Lab)

Vice-chair Cllr Arun Photay (Con)

Labour

Cllr Paula Brookfield
Cllr Jasbinder Dehar
Cllr Dr Michael Hardacre
Cllr Julie Hodgkiss
Cllr Rupinderjit Kaur
Cllr Welcome Koussoukama
Cllr Martin Waite
Cllr Daniel Warren

Conservative

Cllr Christopher Haynes

Liberal Democrat

Cllr Richard Whitehouse

Quorum for this meeting is three Councillors.

Information for the Public

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Tel/Email Tel: 01902 551251 or earl.piggott-smith@wolverhampton.gov.uk
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Agenda

Part 1 – items open to the press and public

Item No. *Title*

MEETING BUSINESS ITEMS

- 1 **Apologies**
- 2 **Declarations of interest**
- 3 **Minutes of the previous meeting (8.7.15)** (Pages 1 - 6)
 [To approve the minutes of the previous meeting as a correct record]
- 4 **Matters arising**
 [To consider any matters arising from the minutes]

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- 5 **Corporate Parenting, Children in Care Council and the role of Councillors**
 (Pages 7 - 14)

 [Alice Vickers, Corporate Parenting Officer and Kyron Hughes, Vice-Chair Children in Care Council, will give a joint presentation on corporate parenting, the responsibilities of Councillors and the work of the Children in Care Council]
- 6 **Wolverhampton Youth Zone** (Pages 15 - 30)

 [Philippa Gregory, The Way, Wolverhampton Youth Zone will give an update on progress of the development.]



Children, young people and families scrutiny panel

Minutes - 8 July 2015

Attendance

Members of the Children, young people and families scrutiny panel

Cllr Paula Brookfield
Cllr Jasbinder Dehar
Cllr Christopher Haynes
Cllr Julie Hodgkiss
Cllr Welcome Koussoukama
Cllr Peter O'Neill (Chair)
Cllr Arun Photay
Cyril Randles
Cllr Martin Waite
Cllr Daniel Warren
Cllr Richard Whitehouse

In attendance

Cllr Claire Darke
Cabinet Member for Education

Employees

Carole Bourne	Acting Head of Service Children's Commissioning (also a Children's Centre Manager)
Alexandra Chilcott	Head of Standards and Vulnerable Pupils
Bill Hague	Service Manager – School Places and Transport
Kush Patel	Commissioning Officer
Earl Piggott-Smith	Scrutiny Officer

Part 1 – items open to the press and public

Item No. *Title*

- 1 Apologies for absence**
Apologies were received from the following members of the panel:

Cllr Rupinderjit Kaur
Cllr Dr Michael Hardacre
R. Watkins
- 2 Declarations of Interest**

Cyril Randles declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 5 Primary School Organisation Strategy 2015-18

3 **Election of Vice Chair**

Councillor Photay was nominated to serve as Vice-Chair of the Panel for the remainder of the Municipal Year.

RESOLVED

That Councillor Photay be elected as vice-Chair of the Children, Young People and Families Scrutiny Panel for the 2015/16 municipal year.

4 **Minutes of previous meeting (18.3.15)**

The panel approved the minutes of the meeting of 18.3.15 as a correct record and were signed by the Chair.

5 **Primary School Organisation Strategy 2015-2018**

Bill Hague, Service Manager - School Places and Transport introduced the report on the Primary School Organisation Strategy 2015-2018. The Service Manager explained that this is the third draft of the strategy which had been previously considered by the panel.

The strategy has been sent out for consultation. No formal comments received. The Service Manager updated the panel on The Royal School Wolverhampton plans to convert to a free school status from September 2015. The Service Manager commented that the schools governing body had proposed an expansion of existing school places which could provide extra capacity. The Service Manager explained that the Department of Education has advised that the view of the Government is that the school should open in September 2016. The Council will need to respond quickly to any decision to expand current capacity.

The Service Manager commented on the challenges in predicting increases in demand for school places and responding to 'spikes' in numbers during the year, which will require asking schools to increase their capacity.

The Service Manager commented that surplus places estimated at 4%-5%.

The panel commented on the link between the strategy and the increase in the number of school education appeals and queried if there was work being done to look at links to the impact of new housing developments and the demand for extra places.

The Service Manager outlined the modelling work used to estimate demand for schools places and explained that the process does not take account of families outside the City moving to the area, as does not provide a reliable indicator of future plans.

The panel commented on the increase in the number of Y2 places by 65 and queried how other intelligence is used to predict the likely demand for places. The Service Manager commented that the assessment process does not take account of birth data. The panel discussed the likely implications on demand for secondary school places based on current predictions at primary school.

Alexandra Chilcott, Head of School Standards, commented that a new free school will be opening which increase capacity for places, but accepted the challenge in meeting increased demand at secondary schools in the future and creating surplus places. The Head of School Standards is waiting for details of the Royal School Wolverhampton admissions policy to be published before assessing the impact on meeting the demand for places at other schools.

The panel queried the impact of planning building work to increase capacity will have on the lessons and the concern about the disruption among children taking exams as work could not be completed during the holiday period.

The Service Manager commented on the building plans and situations where temporary classroom solutions will be considered and situations where a more permanent building would be a better solution to provide extra capacity. The Service Manager commented on the quality of temporary classrooms that will be provided at schools.

The panel discussed the potential factors that might impact on demand for school places in the future.

Resolved

The panel welcomed the report and accepted the recommendation. The panel comments on the strategy to be referred to Cabinet.

6 Role of the local authority in raising school standards of attainment

Alex Chilcott, Head of School Standards, presented a report which outlined the responsibilities of the local authority in helping to raise educational attainment standards. The Head of School Standards also outlined the work being done to hold schools to account for their educational performance.

The Head of School Standards detailed the range of specific actions aimed at supporting schools to improve and the statutory powers that can be used to intervene where schools are not improving at the required rate. The Head of School Standards gave examples of where intervention by the local authority had led to significant improvement in key stage 2 educational results in English and mathematics. The Head of School Standards explained that from September all school governing bodies will be rated to determine the level of support and or intervention needed to improve educational outcomes

The panel welcomed the report.

The panel queried the implications of the Government's proposal to intervene where a school has been assessed by OFSTED as being a 'coasting' school. The Head of School Standards explained that the Government has not yet agreed a final definition in their published guidance. Based on latest information only one of Wolverhampton schools would meet the current criteria.

The panel discussed the implications and likely response when an existing academy is assessed as a failing school. The Head of School Standards explained that the local authority would have a responsibility to find alternative school provision if parents decided that they wished to move their child to another school.

The panel discussed the findings of the Ofsted Outcomes 2013-16 predicted inspection grades and basis for the calculation.

The panel queried that the issue of children leaving school with few or no qualifications. The panel suggested that a briefing should be presented to provide data on the numbers of children and the action being taken by the local authority. The Head of School Standards explained the difficulties in collating the data and in tracking the destination of school leavers. The panel discussed the issue of issue of children who are excluded or who are receiving home teaching and the work done to monitor their progress. The Head of School Standards explained that academies are not required to share this information with the local authority.

The Head of School Standards suggested that it would be useful to contact Rachel King to get further details and ask for a briefing to be drafted.

Resolved.

The panel supported the recommendations.

The panel requested a briefing on data on number of children leaving school with no qualifications

The panel requested that Rachel King be invited to provide details of Council's monitoring arrangement for children being educated at home.

- 7 **Wolverhampton Children, Young People and Families Plan 2015-2025**
Kush Patel, Strategic Improvement Development Officer, presented a report on the Children Young People and Families Plan 2015-25. The Strategic Improvement Development Officer explained that the plan is an update on the previous plan. The main change in the document is the inclusion of the important role of families and wanting to improve the lives of children. The Strategic Improvement Development Officer explained the key outcomes and the governance arrangements.

The Strategic Improvement Development Officer explained that while there is no statutory requirement to have a Children's Trust Board Wolverhampton has decided to maintain it. The Strategic Improvement Development Officer explained that there was agreement among the different agencies represented that no one agency could deliver the desired outcomes. An annual action plan will be produced. The plan will be overseen by the Children's Trust Board.

The panel queried that the document did not include details about the CAMHS service and considered that it should be a priority. The plan should detail how the needs of young people with mental health issues will be supported. The Strategic Improvement Development Officer outlined the current support available and the referral routes for young people to access services at either Tier 1 or Tier 2.

The panel queried that there were no details in the report about the achievements of the previous plan. The Strategic Improvement Development Officer explained that an update report had been published and agreed that a briefing paper would be shared with the panel.

The panel suggested that it would be useful to have a full annual review of progress against the improvement targets and a mid-term or quarterly review to monitor progress. The Strategic Improvement Development Officer explained that Children's Trust Board meet every quarter and will consider progress reports and challenge partners where performance has not met agreed targets.

The panel queried if issues related to female genital mutilation and radicalisation are covered by the plan. The Strategic Improvement Development Officer explained that these specific issues are part of the Safeguarding Children's Board, which has multi-agency representation. Emma Bennett Service Director, Children and Young People, commented that Wolverhampton Safeguarding Board Annual Report 2014/15 is on the agenda for the panel meeting on 20 January 2016.

The panel discussed the role of schools forum in the development of the plan.

Resolved

The panel to be sent a briefing on outcomes from the previous children, young people plan.

The panel's comments to be considered.

The meeting closed at 19:23

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Children, Young People and Families Scrutiny Panel

9 September 2015

Report title	Corporate Parenting, Children in Care Council and the role of Councillors	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Val Gibson Children and Families	
Wards affected	All	
Accountable director	Linda Sanders, People	
Originating service	Looked After Children	
Accountable employee(s)	Alice Vickers Tel Email	Corporate Parenting Officer 01902 556703 Alice.Vickers@wolverhampton.gov.uk

Report to be/has been considered by

Recommendations for commenting

The Panel is asked to note:

- (1) The report which highlights Wolverhampton City Council's commitment to Corporate Parenting, Children in Care Council and the role of Councillors

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 A brief overview of Looked After Children in Wolverhampton, our Corporate Parenting responsibilities, councillors responsibility and the role of the Children in Care Council.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 There are very few responsibilities and duties undertaken by the Council and its partners which are more important or pose a greater challenge than that of Corporate Parenting. Wolverhampton City Council takes these duties very seriously and has high aspirations for all of our children who are looked after. A whole Council response is required to respond to the needs of Looked After Children with a coordinated and concerted approach towards developing policies, initiatives, services and budget priorities.
- 2.2 In order to achieve Councillors, Officers and Partner agencies are encouraged to consider the following three questions:
- Is this good enough for my child?
 - Would this have been good enough for me as a child?
 - Is this the best that we can achieve?
- 2.3 The terms 'looked-after children' and 'children in care' include children placed by a local authority with family members, foster carers or in a residential care home. The term also includes those children placed in care through a care order under section 31 of the Children Act 1989 or by a voluntary agreement with the child's parents under section 20 of the Act. The terms can also be used to refer to children entered into police protection and those involved in the youth justice system.
- 2.4 The concept of Corporate Parenting was introduced by the Government in 1998 as part of a drive to improve the lives of children who are looked after by the local authority. The Corporate Parenting responsibility was reiterated and reinforced in 2007 with the release of the White Paper Care Matters-Time for Change and the underpinning legislation, Children and Young People Act 2008.
- 2.5 Wolverhampton City Council and its partners have a legal and moral duty towards all of its Looked after Children and Care-leavers to offer them the kind of support a good parent would provide. Importantly, Wolverhampton City Council's Corporate Parenting responsibility cannot be implemented by services targeted at children alone. There is an emphasis on the collective responsibility of the Local Authority to achieve good parenting including services such as housing, regeneration and leisure. It is also important to note that every Councillor has the specific responsibility of acting as a corporate parent.

2.6 Corporate Parenting is different from 'ordinary' parenting, in that the focus is not necessarily on forming personal relationships with individual children. Corporate Parenting is about prioritising and championing LAC and this will look very different in different areas of the authority.

2.7 Statistical Information on Wolverhampton LAC as of July 2015

- 748 children and young people are LAC
- 47 (6%) live in residential children's homes, of whom approximately 59% live out of the authority area.
- 2 live in residential special schools, all of whom live out of the authority area.
- 571 (73%) live with foster families, of whom 62 % live out of the authority area.
- 86 children live with parents or persons with parental responsibility.
- 0 children are unaccompanied asylum-seeking children.
- 96 (12%) of LAC have a decision that they should be adopted; with 26 of those children currently being placed with their adoptive parents.
- 46% of LAC are in placements outside of Wolverhampton

2.8 Generally, LAC are spread relatively evenly across all ages with the main exception being a high proportion of 16 and 17 year olds. Ethnicity breakdowns remains generally unchanged from year out turn with the general rule being Asian children are underrepresented in the LAC population and all other ethnicities are over represented.

2.9 In order to support this group of Children and Young People who find themselves to be looked after by Wolverhampton City Council we need to consider the following challenges they may face:

- High levels of Special Educational Needs
- Poor education outcomes pre care
- Difficulty in trusting adults
- Poor physical health
- High levels of instability
- Helplessness and lack of control
- Different priorities
- Attachment-related issues
- Poor Mental health
- The consequences of pre care trauma

- 2.10 The role and remit of the Children in Care Council (CiCC)
- 2.11 The CiCC has been in existence since 2007, it is made up of young people being looked after by Wolverhampton City Council aged 11-18 years. The young people on the council are asked to reflect on their own experience of the care system and use this experience to inform others, influence policy and influence decision makers. They meet monthly, but also have workshops and training sessions, in addition to the meetings to support and train them in their role. The CiCC purpose is to:
- be involved in development of existing services
 - contribute to the designing services of the future
 - consult on policy and procedural changes in relation to LAC
 - contribute and benefit from the services there to support this group
 - feel that they are being heard and valued
 - be able to make a difference
- 2.12 The purpose of the CiCC is constantly measured in its effectiveness by the young people and monitoring and SMART planning is used to continuously monitor the effectiveness of participation of children and young people in the design and development of services. Children and Young People involved in the CiCC are supported and educated in their roles and responsibilities in being effective and representative of the other looked after children they represent.
- 2.13 CiCC is involved in recruitment and selection processes of relevant staff, they train and develop staff in area of corporate interest in relation to the needs of looked after Children and Young People using the 'Total Respect' training course which the young people complete a training course and receive a qualification on completion of this course. The Children and Young People will develop ways of engaging other Children and Young People to have their voice heard in arenas where their knowledge and experience can influence decision makers. The Children and Young People will be consulted on Policy and Strategy developments from the Children and Families Directorate as standard practice.
- 2.14 What is the councillor's role in Corporate Parenting?

Councillors have access to many reports about different areas of the Council's work and priorities. As Corporate Parents it is important for Councillors to think about Wolverhampton's Looked After Children and Care leavers in the meetings and decisions and how they can be better supported. The following are examples of the kind of support that can help LAC

- Communications & PR: Prioritising news stories about Looked after Children which help to breakdown stigma of what a Looked after Child is both in the authority and also with the wider public.

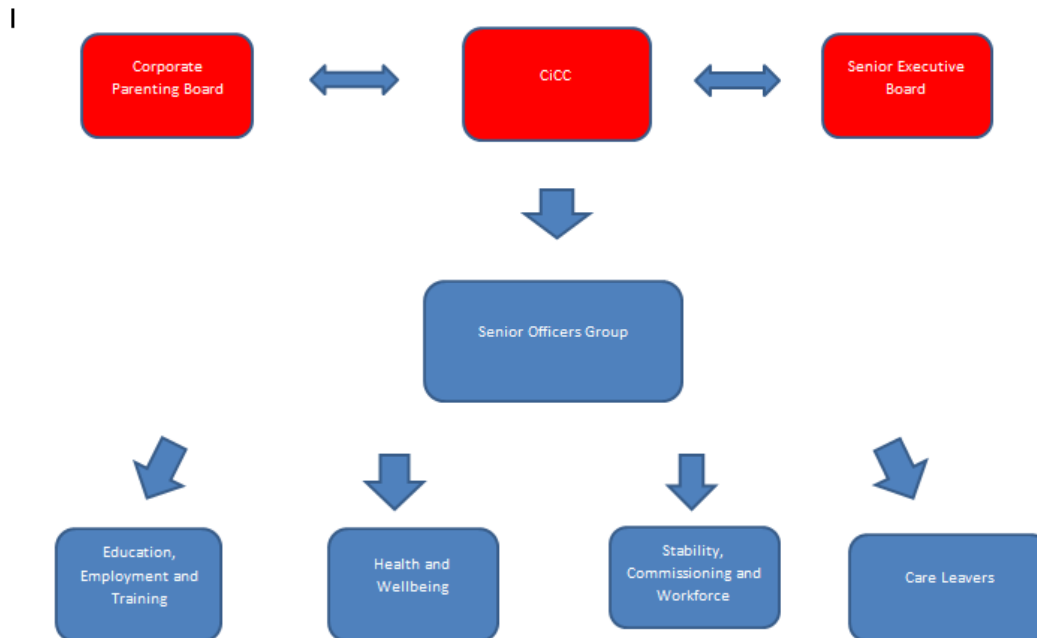
- Library services: Provide all Looked after Children with their own library card when they come into care which can follow them around their placements.
- Planning: Consideration of Corporate Parenting responsibilities when a new children's home is being proposed.
- Procurement: Building into all contracts that any companies working for WCC or Partners that they will offer Work Experience to Looked after Children or prioritise Care Leavers in apprenticeship roles.
- Culture & Leisure Services: To offer specific initiatives to Looked after Children and carers, including free or discounted entrance to venues such as theatres, art galleries, swimming pools etc.
- Housing: A designated link in housing for fostering services.
- ICT Services: Offer ICT support sessions to Looked after Children and their carers.

3.0 Progress

- 3.1 Wolverhampton City Council Corporate Parenting Priorities. These priorities were set by the Children in Care Council (CiCC) in May 2015 as part of a three day consultation using various methods of art work, media and discussion with a mix of young people from the CiCC.

Priority One	"Have services understand us better."
Priority Two	"Focus on the positive things we do"
Priority Three	"Help us to make achievements"
Priority Four	"Help us to spend time with children who aren't in care"
Priority Five	"Keep siblings together & give us more contact with siblings."
Priority Six.	Maximise access to work experience and apprenticeships
Priority Seven	Strengthen care leavers' preparation for independence, teaching independence skills from an earlier age and increasing access to life story work.
Priority Eight	Partnership between health and education to offer cohesive and knowledgeable support for LAC.
Priority Nine	Make placements changes more positive, by preparing young people about what the family and the community might be able to offer.

3.2 These priorities are managed and monitored through the Corporate Parenting action plan a working document that is governed through the below groups



3.3 The CiCC from June 2015 hold their meetings in the council chambers this shows the young people involved the level of responsibility they have and also gives a framework and structure to the meetings. The CiCC were given a tour of the chamber by Cllr Peter O'Neil at their first meeting using this space.

3.4 The CiCC now has their Vice Chairman sitting on the Wolverhampton Youth Council; they have been joined by one other member from CiCC on the Youth council for additional support.

3.5 The CiCC this year will meet jointly with the Corporate Parenting Panel in September 2015 and in March 2016 this gives both groups insight to their thoughts and experiences of being looked after and decision making.

3.6 Some members of the CiCC have been working with the Wolverhampton Youth Council to achieve their Citizenship ASDAN award and met with Cllr Daniel Warren who helped support the young people in completing a section of this award.

3.7 New Members Induction has been updated, with the new Priorities and a Total Respect Training Sessions have been booked for early September 2015.

4.0 Financial implications

4.1 There are no direct financial implications as a result of this report.
[NM/26082015/G]

5.0 Legal implications

5.1 There is a statutory duty on all parts of the Council to co-operate in promoting the welfare of children and young people who are looked after by them and a duty of other agencies to co-operate to fulfil that duty. These duties arise from the following legislation and guidance:

- Children Act 1989
- Quality Protects 1998
- Care Standards Act 2000
- Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000
- Every Child Matters 2003 & Children Act 2004
- Care Matters 2007 & Children Act 2008
- Children and Families Act 2014
- Wolverhampton City Council Corporate Parenting Policy 2007
- Integrated Placement Strategy, Securing Sufficient Accommodation for Looked after Children 2010.
- Statutory guidance on promoting the educational achievement of looked after children - Department for Education 2014
- Wolverhampton's Children, Young People and Families Plan (2015 – 25)
- Looked after Children Service Action Plan 2014
- CAMHS strategy for Looked after Children

RB/25082015/M

6.0 Equalities implications

6.1 An equalities analysis has been completed on the Corporate Parenting Strategy 2015-2018 which supports this report.

7.0 Environmental implications

7.1 There are no environmental implications.

8.0 Human resources implications

8.1 There are no Human resource implications.

9.0 Corporate landlord implications

9.1 There are no Corporate Landlord implications.

10.0 Schedule of background papers

10.1 None



SOMEWHERE TO GO



Page 16

- Up to 250 young people each evening
- Open to all young people

- Safe places
- Iconic, inspiring buildings

- Neutral spaces
- 7 days a week
- 50p per visit

- £5 annual membership
- £1 nutritious hot meal

SOMETHING TO DO



- 20 activities each night
- Buildings that create involvement

- Sports, arts, personal development
- Expert staff

- Army of volunteers
- Try, train, team approach

- Regular inter-Youth Zone events
- Residentials

SOMEONE TO TALK TO



- Youth workers that engage young people

- Develop communications skills

- Young leaders

- Second home for young people

- One-to-one work

- Employability programmes

- Inclusion

- Raise aspirations

ICONIC FACILITIES



YOUTH ZONE UPDATE

- Started on site October 2014
- Open January 2016
- Founder Patrons 16 in place
- Recruitment underway
- Young People's Development Group informs development



UNDERSTAND **THE NEW MODEL**

- New way of working
- Partnership with business
- Partnership with the Local Authority
- 25 business partners & individuals to be Founder Patrons (16 in place August 2015)
- Links to a further 100+ businesses
- Recruiting 50 staff (19 FT)
- 100 Volunteers
- Fundraising

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YOUTH ZONE **YOUNG PEOPLE**

- Young People's Development Group
 - Logo & Values
 - Hoardings design
 - Events – Topping Out & Ground Breaking
 - Recruitment of key posts
 - Capital funders artwork

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YOUTH ZONE LOGO & VALUES



WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

- Business makes the difference to the next generation
- Partnerships for the benefit of young people
- VOLUNTEERS are the life blood of our Charity
- Local organisations – EYES, Catch 22, Base 25, YOW
- An open door to work with all providers for young people
- Support – talk, fundraise, follow us...like us

Over 100 young people will be engaged on the employability programme in year 1



UNIVERSAL SERVICE

Get Active
Get Creative
Get Outdoors

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TARGETED PROVISION

Page 26

Get Connected – young people involved in running the youth zone, leadership...

Get Sorted – personal health & well-being issues

Get Ahead – skills & support to prepare Young people for the world of work



GET INVOLVED WITH US

- **Help us to find volunteers to support delivery**
 - **Employability Programme**
 - **Sports/arts sessions**
 - **Back Office or Mentoring**
- **Fundraise for & with us**

NEXT STEPS

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- Staff recruitment continues
- Founder Patrons continues
- Wider business engagement – mentors, volunteers, employability
- Profile building
- www.thewayyouthzone.org

THANK
YOU
SO
MUCH!

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