

Corporate Parenting Board

21 April 2016

Time 5.30 pm **Public Meeting?** YES **Type of meeting** Oversight
Venue Council Chamber - 4th Floor - Civic Centre

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:

Contact Carl Craney
Tel/Email Tel: 01902 555046 or carl.craney@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Address Democratic Support, Civic Centre, 1st floor, St Peter's Square,
Wolverhampton WV1 1RL

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

Agenda

Part 1 – items open to the press and public

- | <i>Item No.</i> | <i>Title</i> |
|--|--|
| 1 | Apologies for absence (if any) |
| 2 | Declarations of interests (if any) |
| 3 | Minutes of the meeting held on 23 February 2016 (Pages 3 - 8)
[For approval] |
| 4 | Matters arising
[To consider any matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 23 February 2016] |
| 5 | Schedule of outstanding matters (Pages 9 - 12)
[To consider and comment on the summary of outstanding matters] |
| 6 | "New Belongings" (Pages 13 - 22)
[To receive an update on the progress of the New Belongings Action Plan and impact on care leavers within Wolverhampton] |
| 7 | To meet with representatives of the Children in Care Council and Care Leavers Forum to consider the "New Belongings" priorities and other matters of mutual interest.
[To consider "New Belongings" and other matters of mutual interest] |
| 8 | Performance Monitoring Data (Pages 23 - 32)
[To consider the Performance Monitoring Data for February 2016] |
| 9 | 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 – items not open to the public and press | |
| 10 | Councillors visits to establishments
[To receive feedback on any visits to establishments undertaken by Councillors since the last meeting] |

Corporate Parenting Board

Agenda Item No: 3

Minutes - 23 February 2016

Attendance

Chair Cllr Val Gibson (Lab)

Labour

Cllr Jasbinder Dehar
Cllr Julie Hodgkiss
Cllr Peter O'Neill
Cllr Rita Potter

Employees

Emma Bennett	Service Director - Children and Young People
Fiona Brennan	Designated Nurse, Looked After Children
Carl Craney	Democratic Support Officer
Wendy Harrison-Frazer	Crisis Team Manager, Black Country Foundation NHS Trust
Alison Hinds	Head of Looked After Children
Darren Martindale	Virtual School Head
Dr Chitra Ramalingam	Designated Doctor Looked After Children
	Wolverhampton City Clinical Commissioning Group
Dr Stephanie Simon	Designated Doctor Looked After Children
Alice Vickers	Corporate Parenting Officer

Item No. *Title*

1 Apologies for absence (if any)

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Paula Brookfield, Mrs Christine Mills, Stephen Simkins, Martin Waite and Richard Whitehouse together with Dr Roberta Fry (Black Country Partnership NHS Foundation Trust).

2 Chair's Announcements

i) Introductions

The Chair, Cllr Val Gibson, invited those present to introduce themselves. Introductions were duly made.

ii) Awards

The Chair commented on the successful Awards evening which had been well attended and organised. She offered her thanks to all those involved in the evening.

iii) Next Meeting – 30 March 2016

The Chair advised that the next meeting was scheduled for 30 March 2016 which was during Easter week. It was agreed that an alternative date be identified for this meeting given the likelihood of difficulties being encountered with attendance during the holiday period.

3 Declarations of interest (if any)

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

4 Minutes of the meeting held on 6 January 2016

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 6 January 2016 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

5 Matters arising

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 6 January 2016.

6 Schedule of outstanding matters

Carl Craney, Democratic Support Officer, presented a report which appraised the Board of the current position with a variety of matters considered at previous meetings of the Board. He advised that details of casework, in terms of number of cases of individual Social Workers had been contained in the Performance Management Data report considered at the last meeting and could, therefore, be deleted from the schedule.

Emma Bennett, Service Director, Children and Young People, reported that the review of the Children and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) had been widened and a report on that matter was to be considered at the meeting of the Health Scrutiny Panel to be held on 25 February 2016. Cllr Peter O'Neill advised that members of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel had been invited to attend that meeting.

Cllr Peter O'Neill reported that he had yet to be contacted with regard to the arrangements for the visit to the Merridale Street West establishment.

Resolved:

1. That the report be received and noted;
2. That the items relating to caseload and the review of CAMHS be removed from the schedule;
3. That Alice Vickers, Corporate Parenting Officer make contact with Cllr Peter O'Neill and Stephen Simkins with regard to arrangements for the visit to the Merridale Street West establishment.

7 Looked After Children - Children and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS)- Annual Report

Wendy Harrison-Frazer, Crisis Team Manager, Black Country Partnership Foundation NHS Trust, presented the Looked After Children – Children and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) Annual Report.

Cllr Peter O'Neill expressed concern with regard to the average waiting time between referral and first contact. The Crisis Team Manager advised that the average waiting time compared very favourably against other CAMHS teams. The Service Director, Children and Young People reported that national guidance indicated that the waiting time between referral and the first contact was 18 weeks whilst the average waiting time in Wolverhampton was nine and half weeks. The Crisis Team Manager explained that each case was treated on its merits and some cases would be seen within 24/48 hours of referral.

Cllr Julie Hodgkiss enquired what action was taken in the case of a crisis situation occurring. She opined that just because the performance in Wolverhampton was better than that in other areas and below the national guidance did not necessarily mean that it was satisfactory. The Crisis Team Manager explained that in the event of a crisis situation occurring the Crisis Team would respond immediately. Cllr Julie Hodgkiss queried who would provide the continuity of care in the event that a Looked After Child was removed from a Foster Carer. The Service Director, Children and Young People reported that the child would maintain its relationship with the Designated Social Worker. She explained that this would continue even if the child was admitted to Tier 4 accommodation which could be anywhere in the country given the lack of available places. The Crisis Team Manager added that in the case of a breakdown in a relationship the association with CAMHS would continue if the placement was within 20 miles of Wolverhampton.

Cllr Julie Hodgkiss reminded the Board that the Children in Care Council had raised the issue previously of continuity of care if a Looked After Child was in hospital. Alison Hinds, Head of Looked After Children reported that in such a case the Foster

Carer would be expected to undertake hospital visits. The Crisis Team Manager commented that hospitalisation was avoided if at all possible.

Cllr Rita Potter enquired if a crisis situation occurred who determined whether the situation was urgent. The Crisis Team Manager reported that the CAMHS Team would determine the urgency of the situation and would respond right away if appropriate. The Service Director, Children and Young People advised that such a decision would be made in consultation with the Social Worker and the Carer. The Crisis Team Manager added that the breakdown of a relationship was not necessarily as a result of mental health issues.

Cllr Peter O'Neill enquired whether the Foster Carer Allowance would be stopped if a child was admitted to hospital. The Service Director, Children and Young People responded that this depended on the individual case and the anticipated length of stay in hospital. This issue was addressed in the Standard Operating Procedures and were reviewed on a case by case basis.

Cllr Julie Hodgkiss asked as to the present position with the use of Police cells in the event that no suitable places were available in mental health establishments. The Crisis Team Manager confirmed that the use of Police cells was no longer permitted. She explained that in the event of the Police being called to an incident involving a young person with a suspected mental health issue CAMHS would be contacted and a street triage service would be initiated which would prevent further Police involvement. This service was considered to be a model of good practice.

Resolved:

That the report be received and noted.

8 **Health Care Service for Looked After Children - Annual Report**

Dr Chitra Ramalingam, Designated Doctor Looked After Children and Fiona Brennan, Designated Nurse Looked After Children presented the Health Services for Looked After Children Annual Report for the period September 2014 to August 2015.

Cllr Peter O'Neill commented that the data in respect of teenage conception and under-18 conception related to 2013 and suggested that more up to date data would be available in the Director of Public Health's Annual Report. The Service Director, Children and Young People explained that there was a delay in the publication of Public Health data but that it was believed that the teenage pregnancy in the city was at its lowest ever rate. The Designated Doctor Looked After Children advised that the data to be published shortly would relate to 2014 as there was an 18 month delay in publishing Public Health data.

Cllr Julie Hodgkiss suggested that an a comparison exercise of data against the national data should be undertaken together with an attempt to compare the data in relation to Looked After Children as opposed to the population in general. She enquired why this data was not readily available. The Head of Looked After Children explained that such statistics could only be collected and collated if the necessary disclosures were made. The Service Director, Children and Young People commented that the figures also included Care Leavers who the Council had no manner in which to require disclosure of relevant data. The Head of Looked After

Children reported that an exercise in gathering of data in connection with usage of contraception amongst Looked After Children was also being undertaken currently.

The Designated Doctor Looked After Children referred to the high rate of out of city placements which had led to a delay in meeting the statutory timescales in conducting health assessments for Looked After Children. She advised on the steps which had been taken to overcome this problem and to regularise the situation. The Head of Looked After Children reminded the Board that out of city placements were only used if no suitable in city placements were available or where specialist placements were required. She reminded the Board on the high level of the Looked After population and on the action taken to reduce the number.

Cllr Jasbinder Dehar referred to paragraph 4.6 of the report insofar as it related to the delay in meeting statutory timescales on health assessments for children placed in Wolverhampton. The Designated Doctor Looked After Children advised that this had been for two reasons: i) Delays in referrals; ii) The review of staffing arrangements coupled with staff shortages. She assured the Board that 90% of assessments were now undertaken within the statutory timescales. The Service Director, Children and Young People, reminded the Board that it received information regularly on this matter via the Performance Monitoring Data reports.

Resolved:

1. That the report be received and noted;
2. That a further report be submitted to the Board and the Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel in relation to a comparison of the teenage pregnancy and the number of under-18 conceptions against the national average figures in due course.

9 **Virtual School Headteacher Annual Report**

Darren Martindale, Virtual School Head, presented the Virtual School Headteacher (VSH) report for 2014/15.

Cllr Rita Potter welcomed the report and commented that the service was moving in the right direction. She queried who attended such events as "Parents Evenings" for Looked After Children. The Virtual School Head advised that the Key worker would attend such events, if required. The Service Director, Children and Young People commented that parents were also encouraged to attend such events, if appropriate.

Cllr Julie Hodgkiss expressed some surprise that the number of Looked After Children eligible for free school meals was so low. The Service Director, Looked After Children, the Head of Looked After Children and the Corporate Parenting Officer explained the reasons for this, as this was an entitlement for all children in Key Stage 1 and reflected the number of Looked After Children in this cohort.

Cllr Julie Hodgkiss enquired as to the steps taken to assist children who were excluded permanently from Pupil Referral Units or Special Schools. The Virtual School Head reported on the steps which would be taken to ensure that such pupils were re-integrated into main stream schools or that Educational Health Care Plans were prepared and therapeutic support provided. Each case was assessed on its merits. The Service Director, Children and Young People commented that during the

Ofsted inspection of the Youth Offending Team the provisions made for Looked After Children who had been excluded permanently from Pupil Referral Schools or Special Schools had been commended. A check of the arrangements for alternative provision had been commissioned to ensure the most appropriate arrangements were being made. The Virtual School Head advised that alternative provision, in for example, further education was sometimes was considered to be more appropriate.

Resolved:

1. That the report be received and noted;
2. That the Virtual School Head be thanked for the comprehensive report.

10 **Performance Monitoring Data**

The Service Director, Children and Young People, presented the Performance Report for February 2016 (data as at January 2016).

Resolved:

That the report be received and noted.

[The Chair reported that it would not be necessary to pass a resolution to exclude the press and public as the report on Councillors visits to establishments due to be considered at Agenda Item No. 11 was not available – (see Minute No. 6 above)]

11 **Exclusion of the press and public**

See Minute No. 10 above.

12 **Councillors visits to establishments**

See Minute No. 10 above.

Corporate Parenting Board

21 April 2016

Report Title	Summary of outstanding matters	
Cabinet Member with Lead Responsibility	Councillor Val Gibson Cabinet Member for Children and Young People	
Wards Affected	All	
Accountable Director	Emma Bennett – Service Director – Children and Young People	
Originating service	Governance	
Accountable officer(s)	Carl Craney Tel Email	Democratic Services Officer 01902 55(5046) carl.craney@wolverhampton.gov.uk

Recommendations for noting:

The Corporate Parenting Board is asked to consider and comment on the summary of outstanding matters

1.0 Purpose

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

2.0 Background

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

<u>DATE OF MEETING</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>LEAD MEMBER / OFFICER</u>	<u>CURRENT POSITION</u>
1 July 2015 and 30 September 2015	Review of Children and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS)	Emma Bennett	Report to 30 March 2016 meeting
1 July 2015	Academic achievements of Looked After Children and support provided to poor achievers	Darren Martindale	Report to 23 February 2016 meeting
30 September 2015	Report on “New Belongings” project to be circulated to the Board	Emma Bennett	Report circulated on 28 October 2015 and to be considered at 21 April 2016 meeting
30 September 2015	Report back on visit to Merridale Street West	Cllrs Peter O’Neill and Stephen Simkins / Alice Vickers	Report to a future meeting
6 January 2016	Representatives of Fostering Carers’ – various matters raised	Emma Bennett	Reports to future meetings
23 February 2016	Teenage pregnancy – Comparison of the number of under 18 conceptions against the national average	Emma Bennett	Report to a future meeting.

3.0 Financial implications

3.1 None arising directly from this report. The financial implications of each matter will be detailed in the report submitted to the Board.

4.0 Legal implications

4.1 None arising directly from this report. The legal implications of each matter will be detailed in the report submitted to the Board.

5.0 Equalities implications

5.1 None arising directly from this report. The equalities implications of each matter will be detailed in the reports submitted to the Board

6.0 Environmental implications

6.1 None arising directly from this report. The environmental implications of each matter will be detailed in the report submitted to the Board.

7.0 Human resources implications

7.1 None arising directly from this report. The human resources implications of each matter will be detailed in the report submitted to the Board.

8.0 Corporate landlord implications

8.1 None arising directly from this report. The corporate landlord implications of each matter will be detailed in the report submitted to the Board.

9.0 Schedule of background papers

9.1 Minutes of previous meetings of the Board and associated reports.

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Corporate Parenting Board

21 April 2016

Report title	New Belongings Update	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Val Gibson Children and Young people	
Wards affected	All	
Accountable director	Emma Bennett, Children and Young People	
Originating service	Looked After Children	
Accountable employee(s)	Alison Hinds Tel Email	Head of Service, Looked After Children 01902 553035 Alison.hinds@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by		

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The Corporate Parenting Board is recommended to:

Review the update of New Belongings project

1.0 Purpose

The purpose of this report is to update the Corporate Parenting Board on the progress being made in relation to the implementation of New Belongings and the impact of this on Care Leavers of the City of Wolverhampton Council (CoWC).

2.0 Background

- 2.1 New Belongings is an innovative and ambitious initiative aiming to raise expectation and aspiration for Care Leavers. The initial national project ran from May 2013 to October 2014 in nine local authority areas and has shown how attention to the Care Leavers' voice and a commitment to improving services can begin to create radical shifts in culture and belief.
- 2.2 The inspiration for New Belongings came from the national Care Leavers group who meet regularly with the Minister for Children and was the third in a series of initiatives which produced the principles and concepts of Access All Areas and the Charter for Care Leavers. The aim is to embed these initiatives into local services and communities and reduce the sense of long term isolation often expressed by Care Leavers.
- 2.3 New Belongings was needed to create a culture change in delivery of services for Care Leavers to address the continuing over-representation of this group in all the statistics of disadvantage and social exclusion including adult prisoners, mental health service users, and chronically lower paid or unemployed.
- 2.4 The City of Wolverhampton Council was successful in its bid to partake in The New Belongings project. A Care Leaver survey was completed which informed the action plan to improve overall service delivery for Wolverhampton Care Leavers.
- 2.5 To meet the New Belongings criteria it was necessary for CoWC to:
 - Sign up to the Government's Care Leavers Charter.

- Have the personal support of the Managing Director, who will ensure co-operation across the Local Authority and its partners to achieve the priorities of the project.
- Have a commitment to meeting with the New Belongings team at the mid-point of the project to review the project's progress.
- Have the personal support of the Leader, who will engage with local groups and businesses that can offer opportunities and personal support to Care Leavers.
- Have a commitment to create a Care Leaver Forum which has real voice and influence
- Have commitment to develop a basic plan for the project, reflecting the Care Leavers' survey and the Governments Care Leavers' strategy; that will be delivered by a designated project lead, and supported by sufficient resources including the Young Person Advisors. The project plan needs to be approved and support given to the action plan for embedding into the Transition Service. The project is time-limited for 12 months and will be reported back to the Department for Education (DfE) and the Care Leavers' Foundation.

2.6 It was anticipated that by participating, CoWC would be able to set the foundation for an effective relationship between the Local Authority and Care Leavers so that trust between the two can be further developed.

3.0 Progress, options, discussion, etc.

3.1 Having launched formally the implementation of the project in Care Leaver's week in October 2015, CoWC has made excellent progress in implementation and all of the criteria described in paragraph 2.5 have been achieved.

3.2 In addition to the essential criteria, through New Belongings, the CoWC has implemented additional actions which have supported improved outcomes for Care Leavers.

3.3 **Increase communication and participation with Care Leavers:**

- Monthly Care Leavers' forums have taken place since September 2015 on the first Wednesday of every month at the Youth Zone. This has provided opportunities for positive activities and partnership working.
- A regular Care Leavers' newsletter is formulated by the assistant Corporate Parenting Officer (occupied by a Care Leaver) and distributed via a Young Persons Advisor (YPA) on Facebook and the Care Leaver's webpage.
- All Care Leavers are being added to a confidential Facebook page. A Family Support Worker and Education Employment and Training officer access this page daily to support increased communication with Care Leavers'. There is also a generic Facebook page for all Care Leavers', which is non-confidential, where information can be posted regarding activities and events. The Looked after Children's website has a Care Leaver tab which the team can edit to provide information to young people regarding services, activities and the Care Leavers' forum.
- Representatives of the Care Leavers' forum attend the steering group for New Belongings, and members of the forum are consulted regarding changes to policy and procedures.
- An updated Care Leaver pack has been created which includes useful information, policies, and telephone numbers to support young people post 16.

3.4 Introduction of Outcome Star:

- The Transitions team have all been trained on the implementation of Outcome Star which is the tool that will be used with young people to measure progress, and the impact of the support offered to care leavers.

3.5 Increase support for Care Leavers in regards to their independence skills:

- Mandatory training for foster carers will be increased to bi-monthly workshops to ensure all foster carers are trained in the Getting Ready for Adult Life (GRAL) pack. Initially training will target foster carers who have a teenager in placement. The training will also focus on Staying Put arrangements.
- Fostering Supervising Social Workers and Young Persons Advisor's check the GRAL pack during supervision and Pathway Plan reviews to ensure the young people are being supported appropriately.
- The training flat provision has been embedded since July 2015. This gives young people who are considering their independence and transition options to undertake a supported trial period living on their own in their own accommodation. This opportunity has been well utilised and has proved to be an effective way of helping young people consider what options are available to them. It also gives opportunity for the young person's social worker and the Housing Support team to assess the level of support which will be required by the young person should they move into their own accommodation.
- The accommodation support offer has been recently increased. On-going partnership working with Wolverhampton Homes has enabled an increase in the accommodation portfolio for young people from 15 to 30 flats across Wolverhampton. In addition eight extra Housing Support workers are being recruited to offer bespoke packages of support to young people living independently. This will enable more young people to live in Wolverhampton with the appropriate level of support to enable them to live successful independent lives.

3.6 Reduce number of Care Leavers who are Not in Education Employment or Training (NEET)

- Weekly Education Employment Training (EET) drop-ins began in September 2015. There has been a mixed response, but staff are incentivising young people to attend in order that appropriate support can be offered to support young people into education, employment and training.

- There are currently 75% of Care Leavers classified as EET. This is an increase from 51.5% in September 2015. (This figure does not include young people who are not available for the labour market).
- The Transitions Team are currently completing EET profiles for each Care Leaver. This will identify which young people need mentoring, work experience and/or employment, and will enable provision of appropriate support to move more young people into Employment, Education and Training.
- All post 18 NEET Care Leavers are now being referred to Talent Match. This is a Lottery funded ,voluntary organisation that are targeting supporting vulnerable groups of 18-25 year olds into education employment or training. They offer varied levels of support depending on the needs of each young person.
- The EET action planning group, attended by representatives of CoWC and its partners is addressing this agenda. The key outcomes to date are:
 - Inclusion of Looked after Children (LAC) and Care Leaver (CL) opportunities in Procurement contracts of £170,000 plus.
 - CL and LAC specific features in the Wolverhampton skills model of delivery for Local Authority work experiences, apprenticeships, traineeships and internships.
 - Packages of support for employers, educators, and trainers are now being developed ready for the young people taking up these opportunities.
 - A prepare to work support directory for LAC and CL is also being devised.
 - Six extra work experience opportunities will be available for Looked after Children and Care Leavers in 2016.

3.7 Increase health and leisure opportunities for Care Leavers:

- Care Leavers will have their membership of the Youth Zone paid for by the Transition Service to support opportunities to take part in services offered there. In addition the Care Leavers' forum takes place at Youth Zone every first Wednesday of the month and young people can utilise all senior sessions for 50 pence following the forum meeting.
- A 12 week independence programme for Care Leavers takes place each Friday afternoon facilitated by youth zone staff.
- An allotment for Care Leavers has been sourced and agreed. Tools and equipment have been purchased.

3.8 Improve partnership with services that support the most vulnerable group of Care Leavers:

- Update to electronic recording system to identify vulnerable groups of Care Leavers is now in place.
- A programme has been developed in conjunction with the Youth Zone to be delivered to young parents and expectant parents. This is due to be implemented.
- A joint Local Authority and Department of Works and Pensions (DWP) protocol has been developed to enable Care Leavers to apply for benefits, where this is necessary, six weeks prior to their 18 birthday. This will avoid any delay in payment when the young person is 18.

3.9 It is expected that the combined efforts of all partners to support the above actions will decrease barriers for Care Leavers in the community. Increasing participation, on-going education, training and employment opportunities, housing options and access to health and wellbeing services via our local services and partners will raise the profile of Care

Leavers. This will promote aspirations and opportunities for Care Leavers so that they can be encouraged, supported and empowered to achieve better outcomes for their future. Breaking down these barriers will automatically improve our Care Leavers' experience of transition from childhood to adult life.

4.0 Financial implications

4.1 The Council has not attracted any additional funding directly for the New Belongings Project.

4.2 Any costs to date that have been incurred on implementing the project have been contained within existing Children and Young People's approved budgets.

(NM/14042016/V)

5.0 Legal implications

5.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from the report.

(TC/13042016/E)

6.0 Equalities implications

6.1 There are no equalities implications as The New Belongings programme is supporting improving outcomes for one of the most vulnerable group of young outcomes

7.0 Environmental implications

7.1 There are no environmental implications.

8.0 Human resources implications

8.1 There are no human resources implications.

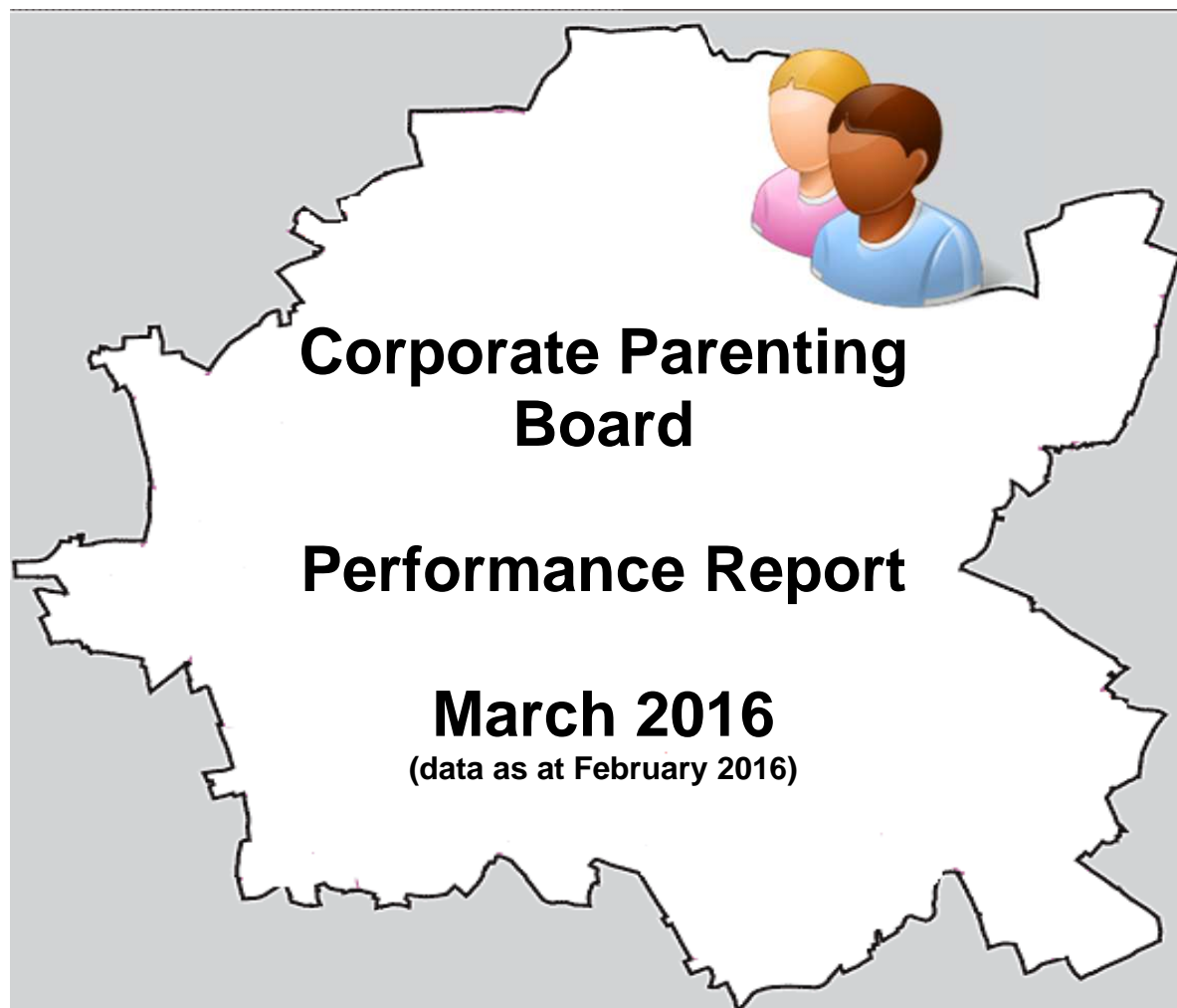
9.0 Corporate landlord implications

9.1 There are no corporate landlord implications.

10.0 Schedule of background papers

10.1 There are no background papers.

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Key Points to Note

Redesign and further development

This report for the Corporate Parenting Board continues to be developed. Some 2014/15 out-turn figures remain provisional as final data is yet to be released.

Demographics

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 continued decrease in October and November although considerable further reduction is required to bring Wolverhampton in line with our comparators.

Placements

In-house Foster Carers trend data shows that numbers of children placed with in-house foster carers continues to increase, however due to the decrease in overall LAC numbers, the percentage is increasing at a faster rate.

The proportion of LAC placed more than 20 miles from home, has decreased slightly to 16% but remains in line with 2014/15 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 number of social workers that LAC have had shows that 34% of children who have been looked after for more than 12 months have had 3 or more social workers in the past year. This figure is a positive reduction from the January result of 40% with 3 or more social workers.

Assessments and Reviews of Looked After Children in Wolverhampton have seen a decrease over the year. The percentage of children that participated in their reviews remains lower at 87% compared to a 2014/15 result of 98%. This figure has stabilised but remains lower than expected and is likely be due to more accurate recording.

Education

The 2015 KS2 results show that performance of Wolverhampton LAC has deteriorated compared with 2014 across reading, writing and maths. 2015 comparator data is not yet available

As performance at this level has improved in Wolverhampton in general, the gap between Wolverhampton LAC and Wolverhampton students is increasing.

GCSE performance is more positive compared with last years out-turn - with 20% of LAC achieving 5 GCSEs grade A-C including English and Maths compared to 17% last year.

Please noted that small numbers can make these measurements volatile. For further information about the education attainment of LAC in Wolverhampton please refer to the Virtual School Head teacher annual report.

Health

The percentage of children with up to date dental checks was 86% at the end of February which remains an improvement on the 2014/15 out-turn figure of 81%. This result remains significantly higher than the 60% of children in the general Wolverhampton population that have seen a dentist in the past 2 years which is falling.

The percentage of health checks that are up to date has increased to 88% at the end of January, a significant improvement on the provisional year end out-turn of 82%. The majority of children who do not have up to date health checks are placed outside of the city.

Leaving Care

Adoption - Performance against adoption timescales continues to improve in some areas however, overall performance remains below national expectations. The publication of the updated 'Adoption Scorecard' is due imminently and will be fully analysed when available.

The adoption pipeline shows that there are currently 85 children with a plan of adoption, 59 of which have placement orders or are currently placed for adoption. The placements and plans for some of the 85 children are currently being reviewed and not all of the children will be adopted.

51 children were adopted in 14/15 and 51 have already been adopted so far in 15/16. This is extremely positive.

Care Leavers - The percentage of Care Leavers in Employment Education and Training cohort has changed to include all children and young adults who turn 17 to 21 in the year.

At the end of February 51% of 19-21 years olds and 57% of 17-21 year olds were in Education, Employment or Training.

Work continues in this area to ensure that education, employment and training information is recorded and updated.

Demographics



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

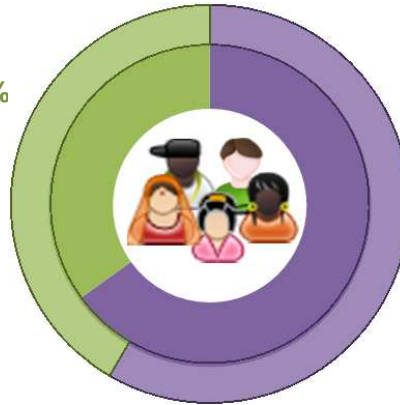
ONS 2014 mid-year estimate

48.8% of the CYP population and 44.6% of LAC are female



51.2% of the CYP population and 55.4% of LAC are male

41.6% of the CYP population and 34.8% of LAC are BME

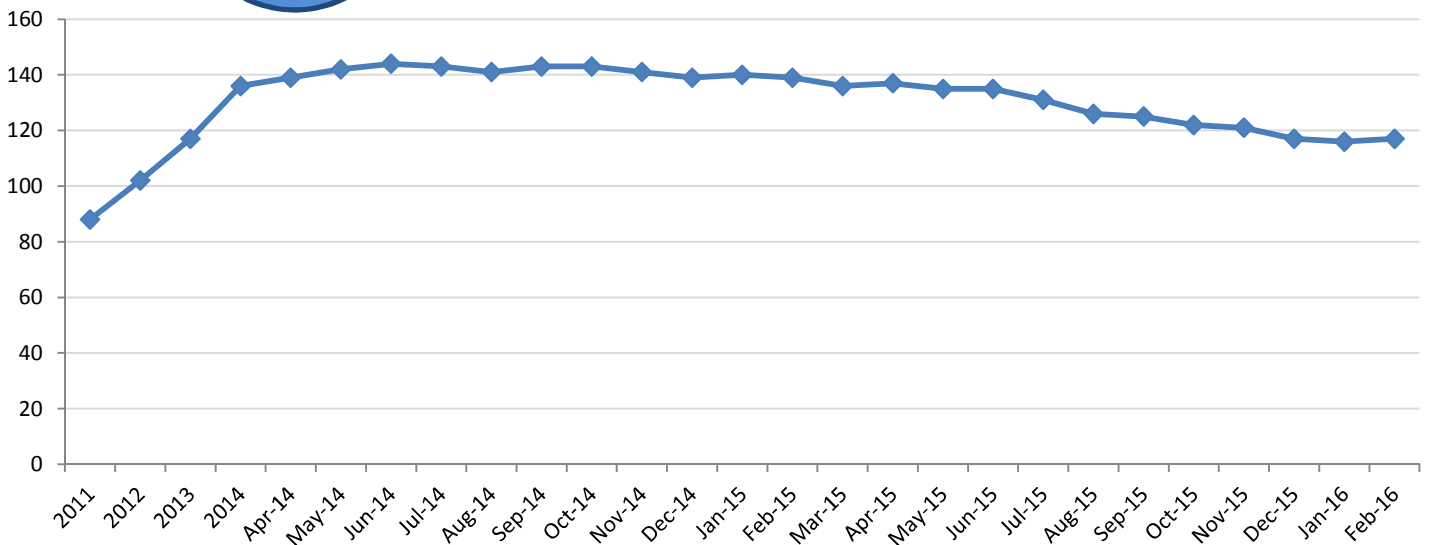
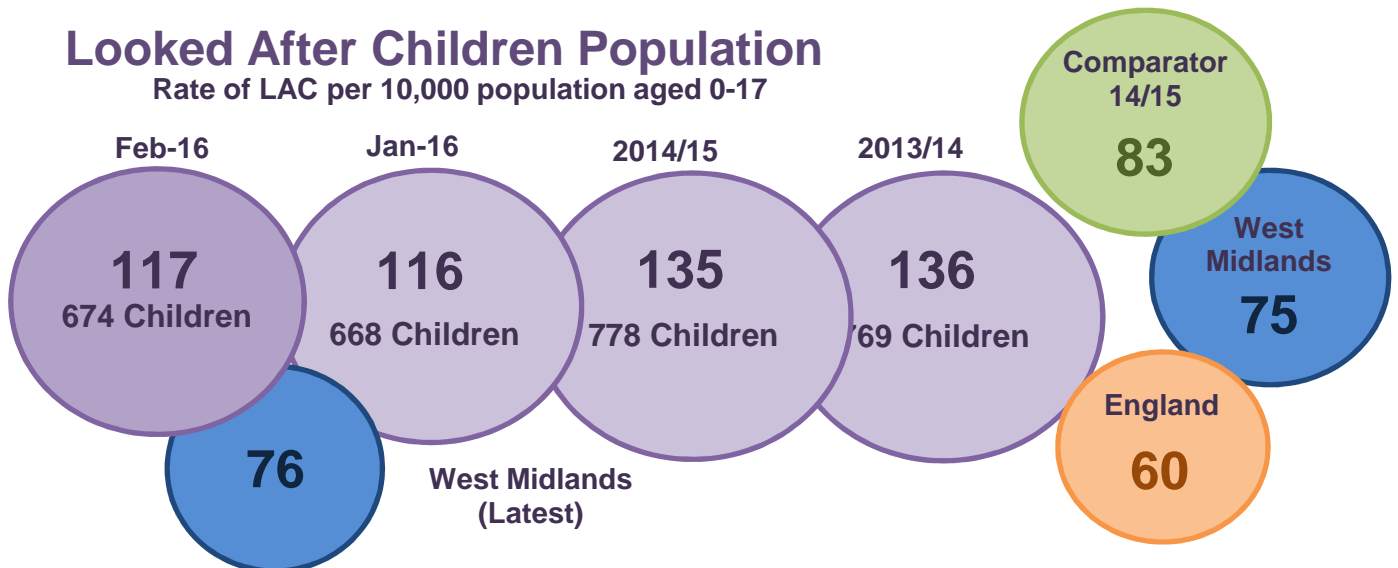


58.4% of the CYP population and 65.0% of LAC are white

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

Looked After Children Population

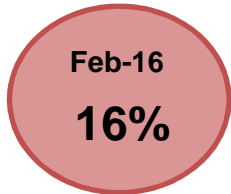
Rate of LAC per 10,000 population aged 0-17



Placements

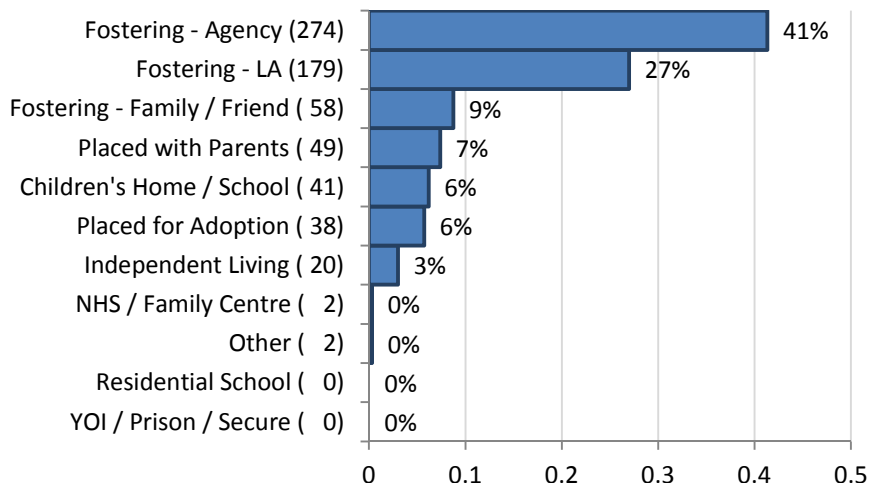


% LAC Placed 20 miles + from home

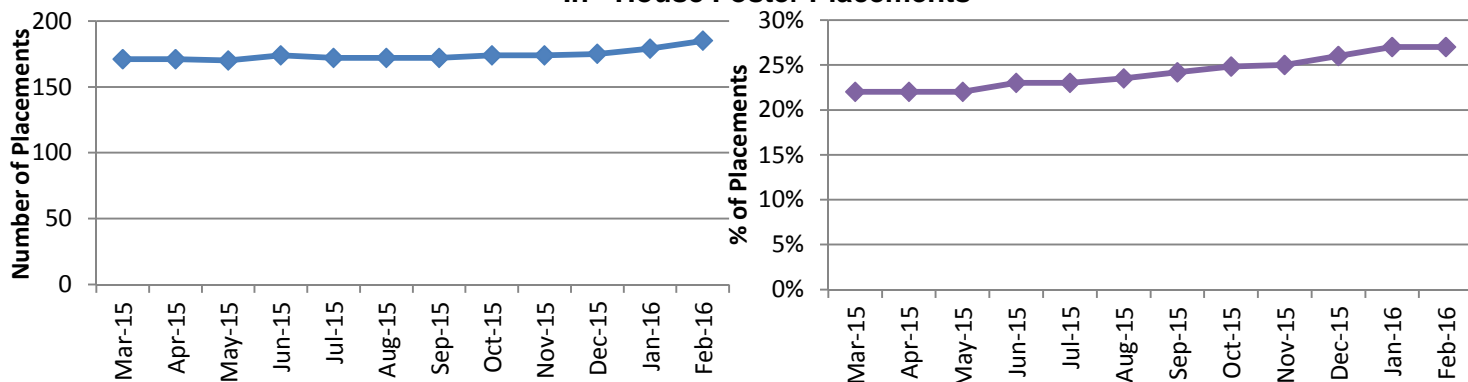


2014/15 Out-turn = 16%
2013/14 Out-turn = 13%
2013/14 Comparator = 15%
2013/14 England = 13%

LAC Placements 31 Jan 2016



In - House Foster Placements

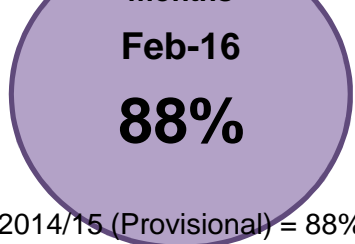


The proportion of LAC Placed with in-house foster carers is increasing due to decreases in other placements. The number of in-house foster care placements has increased slightly to 179.

Placement Stability

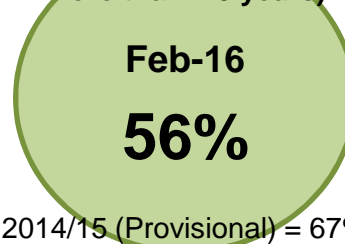


LAC with fewer than 3 placements in the last 12 months



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)



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 children for LAC social workers

10

34% of young people who have been looked after for more than a year and 17% who have been looked after for less than a year have had 3 or more social workers in the past 12 months

This is an improving picture

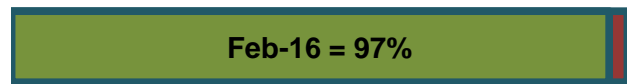
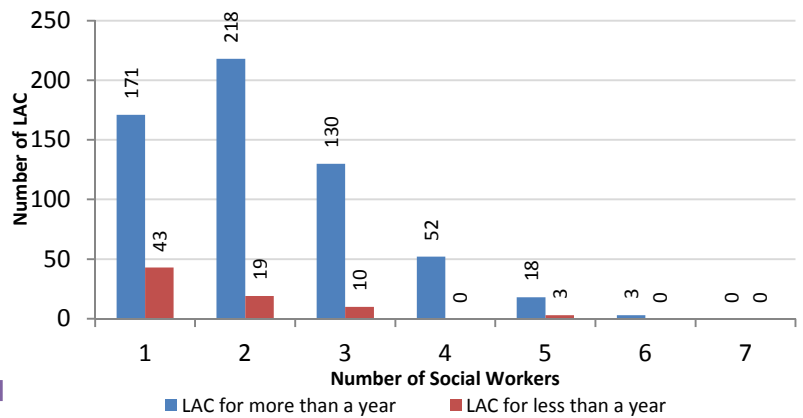
Looked After Children with up to date assessments

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

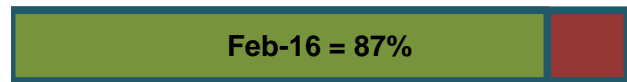
Looked After Children whose reviews have been completed on time

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

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



2014/05 Out-turn = 96%
2013/14 Out-turn = 95%



2014/15 Out-turn = 91%
2013/14 Out-turn = 92%

91% of LAC had all of their reviews completed on time between 1st 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

91%

Feb-16

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

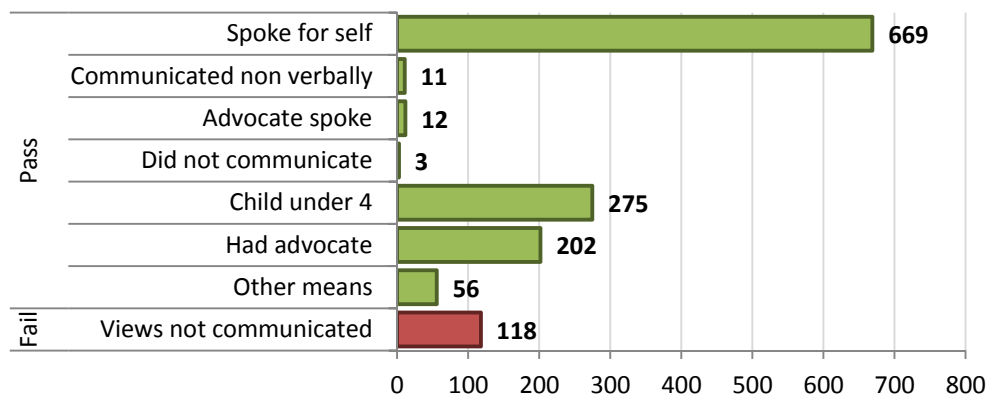
98%

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 2015	60%	65%	52%	N/A		20.0%
Wolverhampton 2015	87%	89%	86%	80%		51.6%
Wolves LAC 2014	72%	76%	78%	70%		17.0%
West Midlands 2014	60%	69%	61%	50%		13.7%
Statistical Neighbours 2014	60%	68%	54%	45%		17.7%
England 2014	61%	68%	59%	48%		12.0%

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 Maths, Reading and Writing in 2015 performed worse than in 2014. However, performance in GCSE's was better.

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

86%
PEPS (Years 1 -11)
- Feb-16

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

53%
PEPS (Years 12 and 13)
- Feb-16

* 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



60% of children in the
Wolverhampton Local Authority
Area have seen a dentist in the last
two years

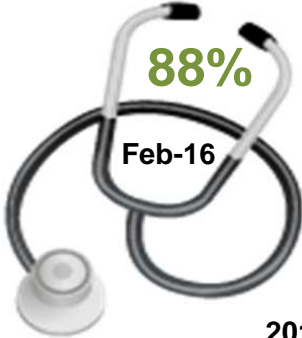
Dental Checks



2014/15 Out-turn = 81%

2013/14 Out-turn = 90%

Health Checks



2014/15 Out-turn = 82%

2013/14 Out-turn = 86%

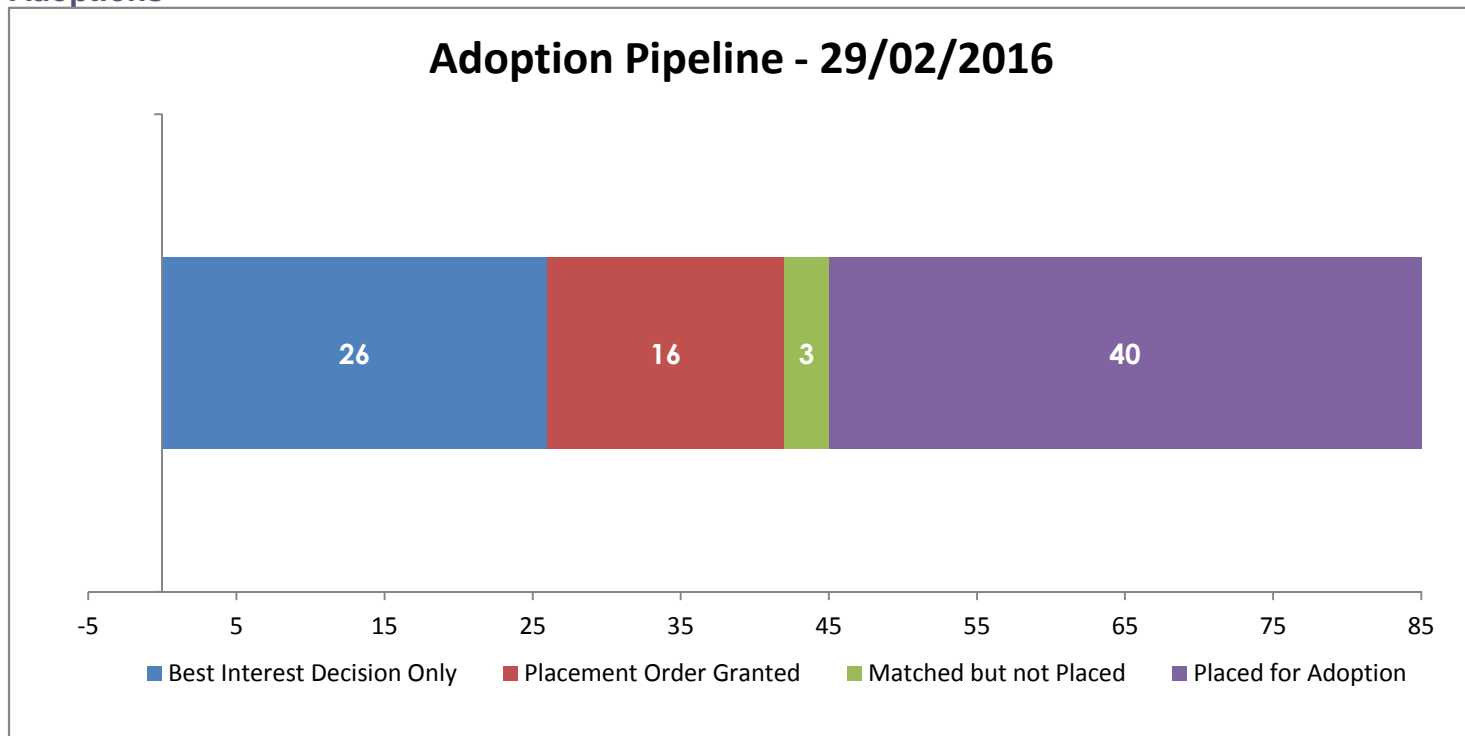
Performance in this area is increasing as
a result of improved working with the
CCG and RWT

Leaving Care



Children Adopted	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15 (Provisional)	2015/16 (So far)
	35	50	51	51

Adoptions



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)

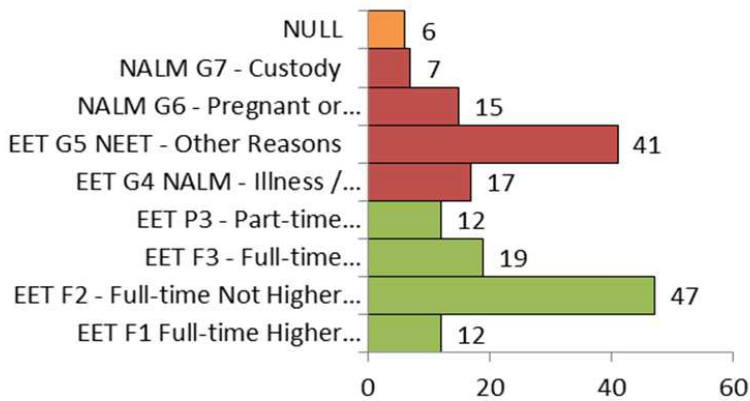
A1 - 619 days with 64% of children adopted within timescales
A2 - 196 days
A10 - 410 days

Single year performance (2015/16 as at January)

A1 - 563 days with 72% of children adopted within timescales
A2 - 226 days
A10 - 422 days

The adoption scorecards for 2013/14 were published just before Christmas 2014. 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. 2012-15 adoption scorecard publication is expected imminently

Care Leavers



Care Leavers in Education, Employment and Training 2014/15

Wolverhampton - 42%
West Mids - 41%
Statistical Neighbours - 46%
England - 48%

February 2016:
51%

The percentage of children and care leavers in education, employment or training (EET) has improved significantly due to a change in the cohort which now measures 17-21 year olds (previously 19-21 year olds). The current result is an improvement to 57% of 17 to 21 year olds in education, employment or training. No comparator data is currently available based on the new cohort.

The previous cohort of 19 to 21 year olds has improved to 51% EET which is better than year out turn.

A large part of the improvement has been due to ongoing work by the leaving care team in identifying and recording EET status for all children and young adults in the cohort.

Further Development: *Locally care leavers reporting is being re-developed. As part of the national changes reporting of care leavers now includes all children and young adults who have turned 17 to 21 in the reporting year. The chart above reflects the new cohort. This change, along with an increased focus by social workers and managers has resulted in an improved result.*