

Corporate Parenting Board

26 May 2016

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

Venue Committee Room 4 - Civic Centre

Membership

Chair Cllr Val Gibson (Lab)

Vice-chair

Labour

Cllr Paula Brookfield
Cllr Julie Hodgkiss
Cllr Hazel Malcolm
Cllr Lynne Moran
Cllr Peter O'Neill
Cllr Rita Potter
Cllr Zee Russell
Cllr Martin Waite

Conservative

Cllr Christine Mills

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
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Wolverhampton WV1 1RL

Copies of other agendas and reports are available from:

Website <http://wolverhampton.moderngov.co.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 interests (if any) |
| 3 | Minutes of the meeting held on 21 April 2016 (Pages 5 - 10)
[For approval] |
| 4 | Matters arising
[To consider any matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 21 April 2016] |
| 5 | Schedule of outstanding matters (Pages 11 - 14)
[To consider and comment on the summary of outstanding matters] |
| 6 | Corporate Parenting Board - Work Programme - 2016/17 Municipal Year
(Pages 15 - 16)
[To consider the proposed Work Programme for the 2016/17 Municipal Year] |
| 7 | Introduction to the work of the Corporate Parenting Board
[To receive a presentation on the role and responsibilities of the Corporate Parenting Board] |
| 8 | Corporate Parenting Strategy - Update (Pages 17 - 24)
[To receive an update on the progress of the Corporate Parenting Strategy and priorities for the next year] |
| 9 | Performance Monitoring Data (Pages 25 - 34)
[To consider the Performance Monitoring Data for April 2016] |
| 10 | Exclusion of the public and press
[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

- | | |
|----|---|
| 11 | 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 - 21 April 2016

Attendanc

Chair Cllr Val Gibson (Lab)

Labour

Cllr Jasbinder Dehar

Cllr Peter O'Neill

Cllr Martin Waite

Conservative

Cllr Christine Mills

Cllr Richard Whitehouse

Employees

Emma Bennett

Carl Craney

Alison Hinds

Puja Taloy

Andrew Scragg

Alice Vickers

Service Director - Children and Young People

Democratic Support Officer

Head of Looked After Children

Participation Officer

Youth Service Participation Worker

Corporate Parenting Officer

Representatives of the Care Leavers' Forum

Alicia Blewit

Gareth Rafferty

Representatives of the Children in Care Council

Nathan Jones

Brandon Jones

Kyron Hughes

Paige Hughes

Ben Reynolds

Mark White

Item No. *Title*

1 Apologies for absence (if any)

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Paula Brookfield, Rita Potter and Stephen Simkins together with Fiona Brennan, Designated Nurse, Looked After Children, Wolverhampton City Clinical Commissioning Group.

2 Declarations of interests (if any)

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

3 Minutes of the meeting held on 23 February 2016

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 23 February 2016 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

4 Matters arising

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 23 February 2016.

5 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. The Chair, Cllr Val Gibson, commented that reports in connection with the review of Children and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) and academic achievements of Looked After Children and support provided to poor achievers had been considered at previous meetings and could, therefore, be deleted from the schedule.

With regard to teenage pregnancy – comparison of the number of under 18 conceptions against the national average, Emma Bennett, Service Director, Children and Young People, reported that from the latest available data (December 2014) the number of under 18 conceptions in Wolverhampton had almost halved over the previous six year period but was still higher significantly than the national average. The latest data indicated that there were 28.7 conceptions / 1,000 in Wolverhampton compared to the national average of 22.1 / 1,000. In 2014 there had been 150 under 18 conceptions in Wolverhampton compared to 300 in 2007. She undertook to arrange for the circulation of a Briefing Note on this matter to the Board.

Resolved:

1. That the report be received and noted;
2. That a Briefing Note in connection with a comparison of the number of under 18 conceptions against the national average be circulated to the Board.

6 "New Belongings"

Alison Hinds, Head of Service, Looked After Children, presented a report which updated the 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. She explained that in order to meet the "New Belongings" criteria it had been necessary for the Council to:

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

She advised that it was anticipated that by participating the Council would be able to set the foundation for an effective relationship between the local authority and Care Leavers so that trust between the two could be developed further.

She referred to the improved communication between the Council and Care Leavers' and the introduction of "Outcome Star" where all the Transition Team had been trained on its implementation, which was the tool that would be used with young people to measure progress and the impact of the support offered to Care Leavers. She reported also on the training available for internal and external foster carers', the availability of a "training flat" which afforded young people an opportunity to try living independently and the increase in the housing offer. The project had also lead to a reduction in the number of Care Leavers' not in Education, Employment or Training. She explained that the project presented an opportunity to increase the amount of work undertaken with partners to increase the offer to Care Leavers'. A further survey amongst Care Leavers' was to be commenced shortly.

The Chair reported that the Cabinet had signed up formally to the Care Leavers Charter the previous evening and this decision would be ratified by the Council in due course.

Cllr Peter O'Neill welcomed the comments now made but expressed concern with regard to the mixed response received to the weekly Education Employment Training (EET) drop-in sessions which had begun in September 2015. He also took the opportunity to commend the Youth Zone and its success in engaging with Care Leavers' from the outset. He commented that this particular initiative appeared to

have been more successful in engaging with young people than the Youth Service had previously. The Head of Service, Looked After Children explained the reasons behind the mixed response and outlined the range of services available at the sessions. The Service Director for Children and Young People reported that approximately 75% of Care Leavers' who were available for work were engaged in Education Employment or Training and undertook to circulate a breakdown of this information to the Board.

Cllr Martin Waite enquired as to whether use was made of external mentors to assist Care Leavers' to find a pathway into work and to retain a position. He also questioned whether any work was carried out with larger employers in the city with regard to the corporate responsibility to Care Leavers'. Alice Vickers, Corporate Parenting Officers explained the initiatives which had been worked on with the Council's Procurement Team to include opportunities for Care Leavers' under social responsibility grounds in all contracts let by the Council. Furthermore, through the Care Leavers' Charter work was on-going with Spellor Metcalfe, one of the Council's contractors with a view to training being provided to increase the financial responsibility of Care Leavers' in order to build confidence and obtain appropriate qualifications. This work would be used as a template for roll out to other Council contractors and large employers in the city. With regard to the use of external mentors, this was being examined but was already in place through the "Aspire to University" initiative. It was also used in the "Talent Match" initiative.

Cllr Jasbinder Dehar welcomed the introduction of the regular Care Leavers' newsletter and the increased usage of Facebook to contact Care Leavers'. The Service Director, Children and Young People explained that the Facebook contact was through a closed group, that messages were checked each day and offered an opportunity to participate in employment interviews of appropriate employee positions. It had also been used recently to recruit Care Leavers' as Counting Assistants on the forthcoming Police and Crime Commissioner election.

Cllr Peter O'Neill commented that given that the Minister of State had been involved in the launch of the "New Belongings" project he was surprised that no funding from Central Government was available. He suggested that recognition be sought in terms of a financial contribution. The Head of Service, Looked After Children advised that the Minister of State would receive feedback on the success of the project. The Service Director, Children and Young People reported that the Council enjoyed benefits wider than financial recognition through the project.

Resolved:

That the report be received and noted.

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.**

Representatives from the Children in Care Council and the Care Leavers' Forum joined the meeting. At the invitation of the Chair introductions were duly made.

The Board and representatives from the Children in Care Council and the Care Leavers' Forum conducted two scenarios and duly reported back on the results.

Nathan Jones read out a poem which had been written by a Care Leaver on life in care.

The Chair reported that the Corporate Parenting Strategy had been approved formally in December 2015 and that the Care Leavers' Strategy had been approved by the Cabinet on 20 April 2016 and would be presented to the Council in due course. The Service Director, Children and Young People advised that the Care Leavers' Charter was a national document and that it was intended to produce a local charter which would be published and publicised in due course.

The Corporate Parenting Officer reported that a leaflet on the Corporate Parenting Strategy was now available and that meetings of the Children in Care Council and the Care Leavers' Forum had been scheduled in such a way as to enable all reports to be considered by the Corporate Parenting Board to be considered first by those Groups.

Resolved:

1. That the feedback from the two scenarios be written up and presented to the Children in Care Council, Care Leavers' Forum and the Board for checking and follow up as appropriate;
2. That the poem be displayed on the Corporate Website;
3. That the updates be received and noted;
4. That the thanks of the Board be extended to the representatives of the Children in Care Council and the Care Leavers' Forum for attending and participating in the meeting.

The representatives from the Children in Care Council and the Care Leavers' Forum left the meeting.

8 **Performance Monitoring Data**

The Service Director, Children and Young People, presented the Performance Report for March 2016 (data as at February 2016) and updated certain elements of the contents.

Cllr Peter O'Neill referred to the attendance of representatives from the Children in Care Council and the Care Leavers' Forum earlier in the meeting and reported that the sibling of one of those in attendance who was also in care, was being "fast tracked" into university and that another in attendance aspired to attend university as his sibling was currently attending.

The Chair enquired as to the reasons why 4% of assessments and reviews were not up to date. The Service Director, Children and Young People gave examples of the type of reasons for assessments and reviews not being up to date including the illness of the child or the foster carer, the Social Worker or the Independent Reviewing Officer.

Resolved:

1. That the report be received and noted;

2. That the thanks of the Board be extended to the Officers responsible for the production of the report and the efforts made to improve the data contained therein.

9 **Exclusion of the press and public**

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**

No visits to establishments had been undertaken since the last meeting of the Board.

Resolved:

That the Corporate Parenting Officer liaise with Cllrs Peter O'Neill and Stephen Simkins with a view to a visit being undertaken to the Merridale Street West establishment.

11 **Cllrs Jasbinder Dehar and Richard Whitehouse and Carl Craney**

The Chair reported that this would be the last meeting of the Board to be attended by Cllr Jasbinder Dehar, who was not standing at the forthcoming Municipal Elections, Cllr Richard Whitehouse, who was retiring from the Council and Carl Craney, Democratic Support Officer, who was transferring to the West Midlands Combined Authority. She thanked the Councillors and the Officer for their contributions to the work of the Board.

Cllr Jasbinder Dehar offered her thanks to the Chair, fellow Councillors and the Officers.

12 **Thanks to the Chair**

Resolved:

That the best thanks of the Board be extended to the Chair, Cllr Val Gibson for the able and courteous manner in which she had conducted the proceedings of the Board during the 2015/16 Municipal Year.

Corporate Parenting Board

26 May 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>
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

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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Date CPB meeting	Date Of CiCC	Agenda Items	Invitees
26/05/16	27/04/16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate Parenting Strategy Report • Corporate Parenting Board 12 month Work Plan 	Alice Vickers
21/07/16	29/06/16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CiCC/CLF • New Belongings • School Engagement 	Puja Taloy and Clare Bishop Laura Wood Darren Martindale
22/09/16	31/08/16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adoption Agency Annual Report • Fostering Agency Annual Report • Foster Carers 	Shirley Gounder Shirley Gounder Esther Douglas
24/11/16	26/10/16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CAMHS • Health 	Dr Roberta Fry Fiona Brennan Chitra Ramalingam
26/01/17	30/11/16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IRO report • CiCC/CLF • Virtual School Report 	Mandy Lee Puja Taloy and Clare Bishop Darren Martindale
16/03/17	22/02/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adoption interim • Corporate Parenting Strategy Report 	Shirley Gounder Alice Vickers

Key Dates For Submission of reports for CiCC and CPB

<u>Submission of report for CiCC date</u>	<u>Attendance at CiCC</u>	<u>Deadline for Submission to report mailbox</u>	<u>Date of Attendance at CPB</u>
15/04/16	27/04/16	9 May 2016	26/05/16
15/06/16	29/06/16	4 July 2016	21/07/16
17/08/16	31/08/16	5 September 2016	22/09/16
12/10/16	26/10/16	7 November 2016	24/11/16
16/11/16	30/11/16	9 January 2017	26/01/17
8/02/17	22/02/17	27 February 2017	16/03/17

Corporate Parenting Board

25 May 2016

Report title	Corporate Parenting Strategy Update	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Val Gibson Children and Young People	
Wards affected	All	
Accountable director	Emma Bennett,	
Originating service	Children and Young People	
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 noting:

The Corporate Parenting Board is asked to note:

1. Consider and comment on the developments of the Corporate Parenting Strategy since April 2015 and the progress of the action plan.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 That the Corporate Parenting Board considers the developments over the past year of Corporate Parenting Strategy and action plan.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The City of Wolverhampton Council approved a new two year strategy in December 2015. An action plan to look at four areas of focus, which are the main commitments laid down in the strategy, has been developed and implemented throughout the year.

2.2 The aim of this report is to feedback on progress.

3.0 Progress, options, discussion, etc.

3.1 The Strategy was approved and endorsed by The City of Wolverhampton Council's Cabinet in December 2015. It is important to note that although the strategy wasn't signed off until December the areas of focus had begun to be progressed from April 2015.

3.2 The areas of focus are Education, Employment and Training, Health, Social Skills and Corporate Responsibilities. This report will focus on each area in turn and highlight key progress and discuss any areas of challenge. These areas of challenge will influence the 2016/2017 action plan.

3.3 Education, Employment and Training

The key requirements in this area of focus are:

- Help young people to make achievements.
- Encourage young people to be involved in making choices about school.
- Maximise access to work experience and apprenticeship opportunities for Looked after Children (LAC) and Care Leavers (CL).

In order to address these key requirements an Education, Employment and Training action group has been set up with colleagues from Social Care, the Virtual School, Connexions, Business Education and Enterprise, Procurement, the Voluntary Sector (The Children's Society, Talent Match), Wolverhampton University, and colleges. From these meetings targeted LAC and CL opportunities have been highlighted and developed. These include:

- 12 places for young people have been reserved to receive "Aspire to University" coaching. "Aspire to University" access to work placements had been delivered through the Creating Chances Charity linked to this programme
- Support package for training opportunities for LAC is also being prepared by Trowers and Hamlyn.
- Three trainee places are also being made available for LAC and Care Leavers within the Council and in service areas that match the career aspirations of the candidates.
- Placements for work experience at the City of Wolverhampton Council for LAC have also been approved recently by the People Leadership Team.
- It is now mandatory in all Wolverhampton Procurement exercises exceeding £164,000, that 10% of the overall scoring module is evaluated on Social Value. In association with The City of Wolverhampton Charter; *Develop and grow a skilled workforce* – we have the ability to ensure all contracted suppliers provide commitment to supporting opportunities for LAC and Care Leavers.
- A handbook for managers in relation to work experience placements for LAC has been developed.

- An E-learning module for colleagues has been developed to support LAC and CL in work experience opportunities within the council and will be available to partners
- Joint work has been further developed with the Connexions Service with regard to the hard to reach, not in employment, education or training LAC.
- 20% of the last LAC year 11 cohort have achieved 5 A* - C grade at GCSE.

3.3 Health

The key requirements in this area of focus are:

- Share more information and support about sexual health.
- Develop partnership between Health and Education to offer cohesive and knowledgeable support for LAC especially in relation to health appointments and recorded absence.

The Corporate Parenting Officer regularly attends the LAC Health Steering group which is a partnership group between the LA (Local Authority), CCG (Clinical Commissioning Group), RWT (Royal Wolverhampton Trust) and BCPFT (Black Country Partnership Foundation Trust)

Sharing information and support about sexual health is now part of the LAC Health Steering group agenda and information on contact details for the LAC nurse are also now on the webpage www.wolverhamptonlac.co.uk. Monitoring the numbers of LAC/CL accessing sexual health services will be explored for next year's plan as the service is now using a marker to show whether service users are LAC or CL.

Drop in sessions for CL are now arranged to take place at The Way on Friday afternoons.

Total Respect (TR) training has been delivered to the CCG designated Dr and Nurse and an awareness raising session has also been delivered to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) in order to raise the profile of the needs of LAC/CL.

Work is being explored by the CCG and Public Health in understanding health needs of our LAC/CL and is now set as an agenda item on the LAC Health Steering group to inform service delivery and commissioning of services.

The CCG and RWT are committed to provide out of hours appointments for LAC health reviews and CAMHS appointments. They are currently looking at the Gem Centre's governance protocols and liabilities to extend opening hours.

The Corporate Parenting Officer has met with the Designated Teacher forum who has agreed to mark LAC absence for health related appointments as educated off site when it is not possible for these to be arranged outside of school hours. This has been included into the Model School Policy. This policy will be signed up to by all of the schools in Wolverhampton by the end of July 2016.

3.4 Social Skills and Development

The key requirements in this area of focus are:

- Encourage LAC to spend time with children who aren't in care .
- Keep siblings together and encourage more contact between siblings.
- Strengthen Care Leavers' preparation for independence, teaching independence skills from an earlier age and increasing access to life story work.
- Make placement changes more positive, by preparing young people about what the foster family or residential home and the local community might be able to offer.

A webpage for LAC and CL has now been published. www.wolverhamptonlac.co.uk
Part of the content of this webpage are links to Wolverhampton and neighbouring authorities' statutory children and families services which highlight universal and specialist provision for Children and Young People.

The requirement to look at keep siblings together and encouraging more contact between siblings, requires further work and will be included on the action plan for 2016/17.

The Care Leavers' Forum (CLF) has been launched as part of the New Belongings Project.

The CLF has been meeting at the Way, and are utilising services there alongside other young people, members of the forum are also accessing a preparing for independence group.

Links to local provision and events are posted on the Webpage and highlighted through the LAC and CL Facebook page. Options for communicating this information to foster carers are being explored for next year's action plan; along with developing an email based Corporate Parenting newsletter for Independent reviewing Officers (IRO's), social workers and foster carers updating them on opportunities and progress of the strategy.

A 12 month work plan has been set to deliver mandatory training for foster carers on Total Respect, Corporate Parenting and preparing for independence.

Two Children in Care Council (CiCC) members are now sitting on the Youth Council.

3.5 Corporate Responsibilities

The key requirements in this area of focus are:

- Ensure services understand LAC better.
- Strengthen the social work workforce to ensure that they are skilled and knowledgeable to meet the needs of our LAC population.
- Focus on the positive things LAC do.

This year we have a council commitment to ensure all reports for The Corporate Parenting Board (CPB) are initially presented to the CiCC for comment and consultation. There will be two joint meetings with the CiCC, CLF and Corporate Parenting Board (CPB) to look at matters of joint interest.

11 Councillors attended a special Total Respect training session. It is now part of the induction for new councillors joining the Cabinet.

An E-Learning module on the roles and responsibilities of Corporate Parenting for all colleagues has been designed with the young people and will be ready to launch early May. The young people on the CiCC have completed exercises and video content for this.

The Councillors' guide has been updated and an induction presentation for new Councillors completed. This is disseminated to those accessing Councillor induction sessions.

A programme of workshops on Total Respect for council colleagues has been set for school holidays to ensure young people's availability.

3.7 Feedback from the CiCC

This report was presented to the CiCC on 27 April 2016 and was warmly received. The features of the report that were comment on are:

- There were concerns why the figure was only 20% of young people achieving A-Cs – meaning 80% were not achieving this rate and the CiCC want to know what is being done to address this.
- One member informed the group that he had an appointment on a Saturday at the Gem centre for his Review Health Assessment.
- There were concerns that schools out of the City where LAC attend were not part of Wolverhampton's Model School Policy.
- The group discussed the Pupil Premium and how this was spent. It was felt young people were unable to challenge this in the Personal Education Plan (PEP) meeting.
- The CiCC also asked that the issues highlighted at the last Corporate Parenting Board meeting are included in the next year's action plan. This includes: young people's savings and benefit thresholds, and the practicalities of managing financial matters.
- CiCC members also requested that additional work be carried out on a guide for foster carers, including guidance such as what age it is appropriate for a young

person to have a mobile phone, and what age a young person should catch a bus on their own.

3.8 Conclusions

The action plan has been effective in developing partnerships and opportunities for LAC and CL. The main area of success has been the development of all procurement contracts for the Council to include evaluating all completed tenders in their response to how they can support and provide opportunities to LAC and CL as part of fulfilling their contract with the Council. Two contracts in this reporting timeframe have been awarded in this period: Trowers and Hamlin (Solicitors' firm) and Spellar Metcalf (building contractors). Trowers and Hamlin are designing a bespoke package of support for LAC and Care Leavers which will include work experiences. Work is still continuing to develop Spellar Metcalf offer.

Following consulting with the CiCC on this report, recommendations for the next 2016/2017 action plan are:

Areas of Focus	Key requirements
Education, Employment and Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help young people to feel able to challenge and share their views in the Personal Education Plan (PEP) • Raise Aspirations of LAC and CL and professionals supporting them • Maximise access to work experience and apprenticeship opportunities for LAC and Care Leavers
Health and Wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop health passports for LAC and CL • Develop partnership between health and education to offer cohesive and knowledgeable support for LAC especially in relation to health appointments and recorded absence
Social Skills and Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A guide for foster carers such as what age to have a mobile phone, and what age to catch a bus by yourself. • Keep siblings together & encourage more contact with siblings • Strengthen care leavers' preparation for independence, teaching independence skills from an earlier age and increasing access to life story work, with a focus on budgeting and money matters • Make placement changes more positive, by preparing young people about what the family and the community might be able to offer

Corporate Responsibilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensure that Young People’s savings are protected and do not effect benefits• Ensure services understand LAC better.• Strengthen the social work workforce to ensure that they are skill and knowledgeable in meeting the needs of our LAC population• Focus on the positive things we do
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4.0 Financial implications

4.1 There are no financial implications as a result of this report.

[NM/18052016/S]

5.0 Legal implications

5.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report. TC/18052016/S

6.0 Equalities implications

6.1 An initial equalities screening has been completed on this strategy and action plan, this has highlighted that equality implications have been addressed.

7.0 Environmental implications

7.1 There are no specific environmental implications.

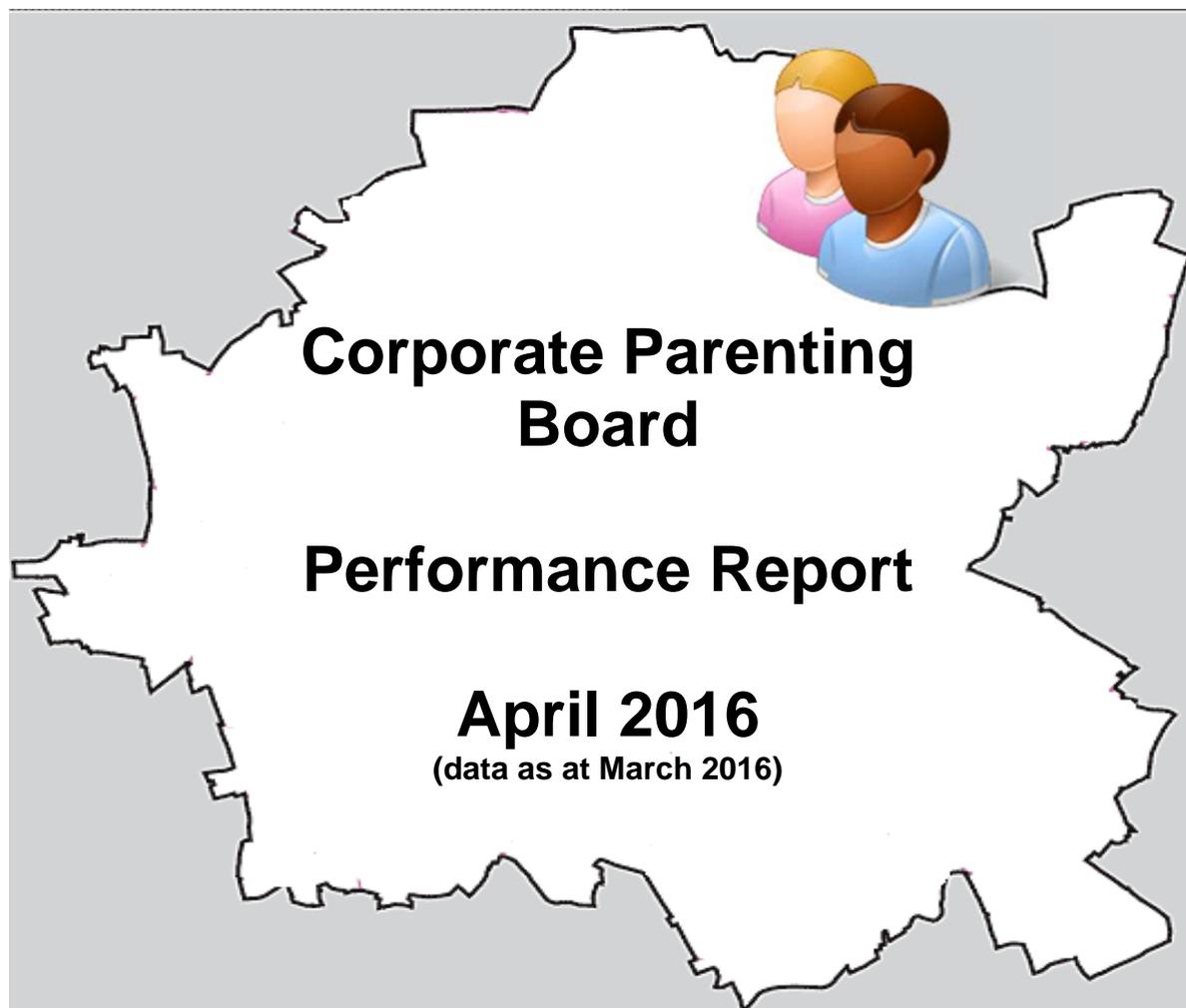
8.0 Human resources implications

8.1 There are no specific implications on Human Resources

9.0 Schedule of background papers

9.1 Corporate Parenting Strategy 2015-2016

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Key Points to Note

Redesign and further development

This report for the Corporate Parenting Board continues to be developed.

Demographics

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

The number of Looked After Children continues to decrease 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 overall, although has fallen slightly in March, however due to the decrease in overall LAC numbers, the percentage is increasing.

The proportion of LAC placed more than 20 miles from home, has increased slightly to 17%.

The indicators that look at placement stability have fallen recently, this is likely to be due to reducing LAC numbers and increased adoptions. However, stability generally continues to show positive results and demonstrates that Looked After Children in Wolverhampton benefit from stable placements.

Assessments and Reviews

Assessments and Reviews of Looked After Children in Wolverhampton remain generally up to date. The percentage of children that participated in their reviews remains lower at 92% compared to a 2014/15 result of 98%. This figure has increased slightly over recent months but remains lower than expected although this 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 89% at the end of March which continues the 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 remained at 88% at the end of March, 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 has declined in the month due to a high amount of historical LAC being adopted before year end. Despite results being behind national expectations the overall trend continues to improve in some areas.

The adoption pipeline shows that there are currently 74 children with a plan of adoption, 48 of which have placement orders or are currently placed for adoption. The placements and plans for some of the 74 children are currently being reviewed and not all of the children will be adopted.

62 children were adopted in 15/16 compared to 51 in the previous year. 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 March 56% 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

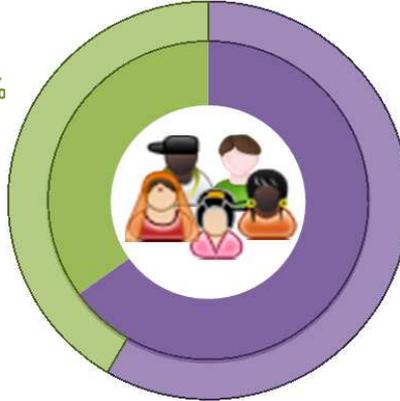
48.8% of the CYP population and 42.6% of LAC are female



51.2% of the CYP population and 57.4% of LAC are male



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

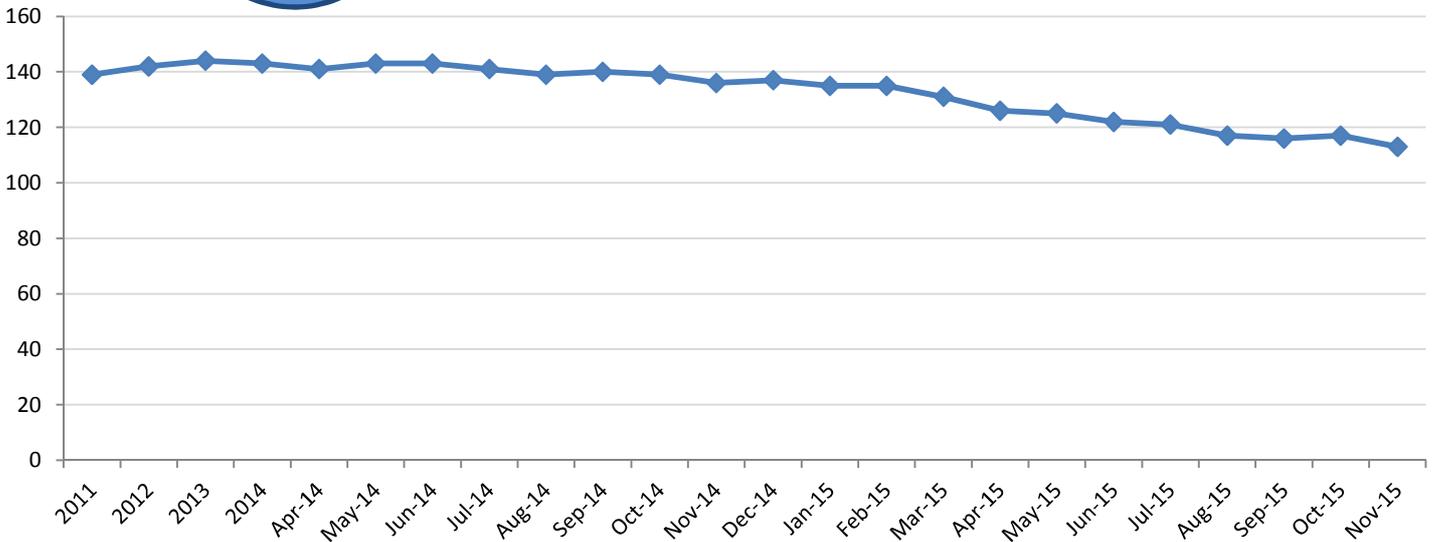
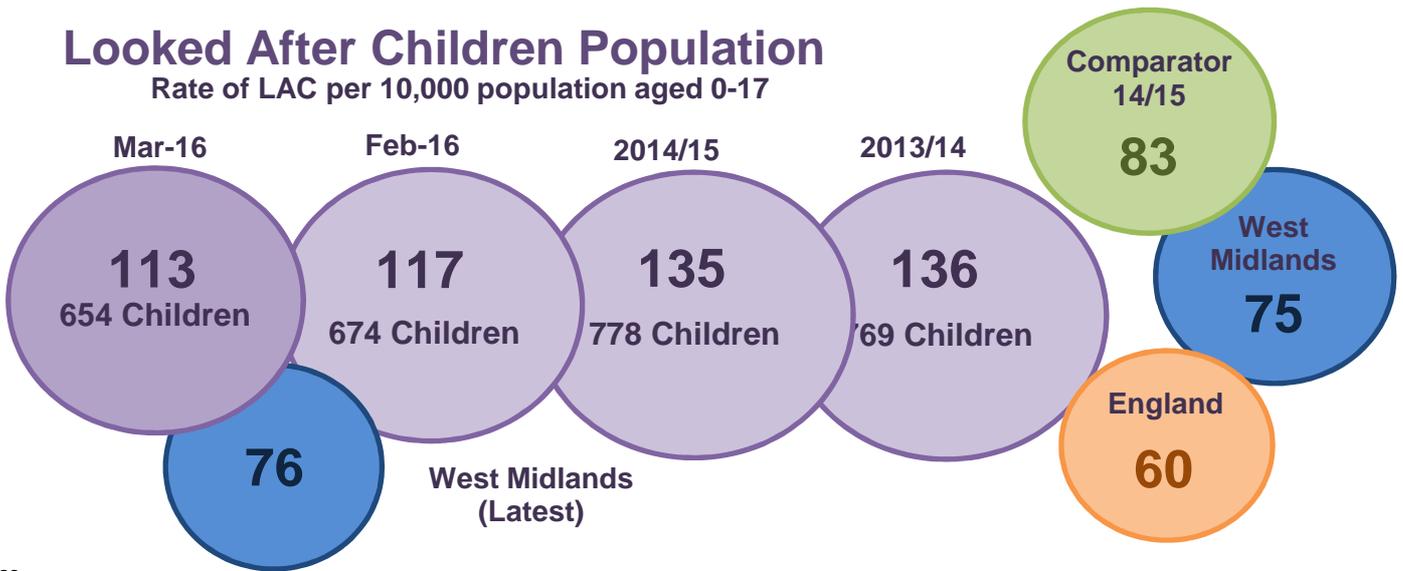


58.4% of the CYP population and 65.0% of LAC are white

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

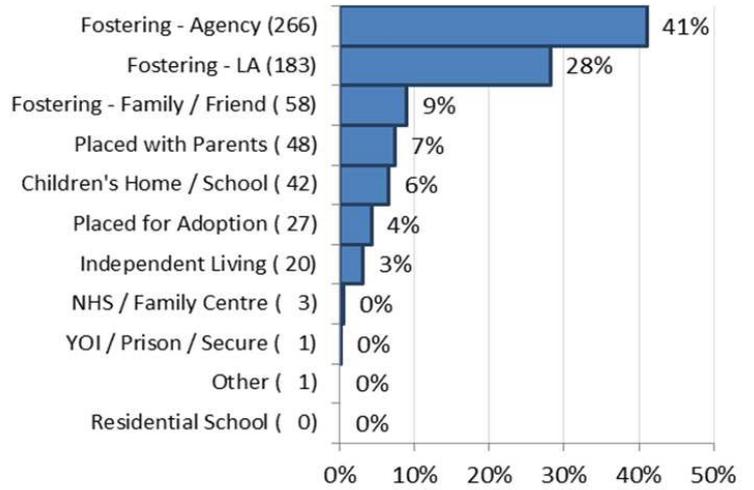


% LAC Placed 20 miles + from home

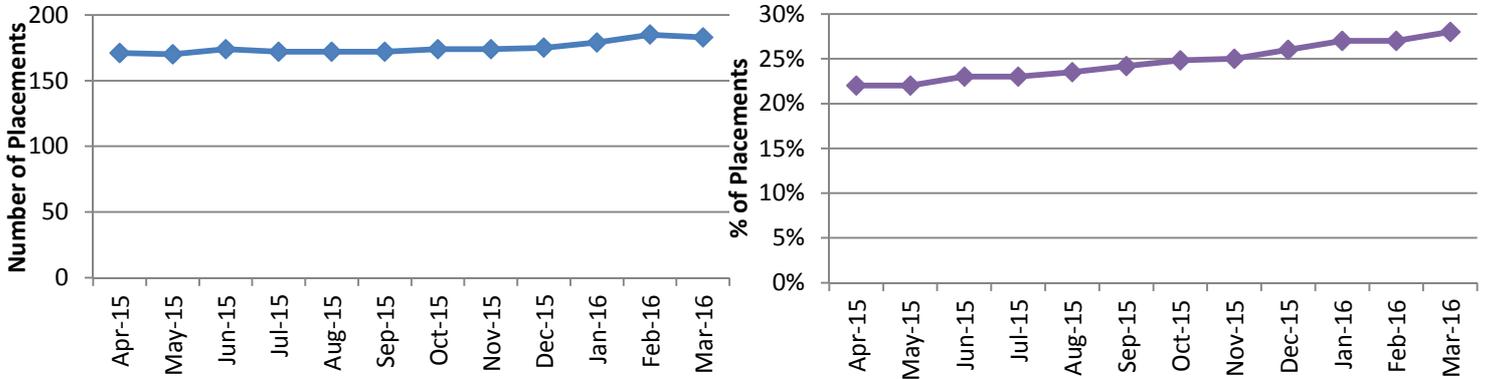


2014/15 Out-turn = 16%
2013/14 Out-turn = 13%
2013/14 Comparator = 15%
2013/14 England = 13%

LAC Placements



In - House Foster Placements

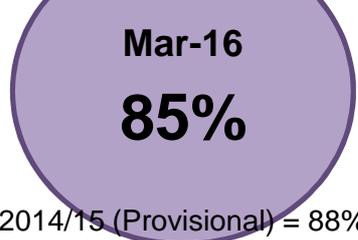


The proportion of LAC Placed with in-house foster carers is increasing due to decreases in other placements. The number of in-house foster care placements has decreased slightly to 183 in the

Placement Stability

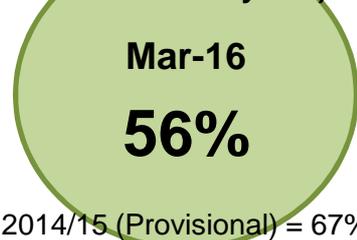


LAC with fewer than 3 placements in the last 12 months



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

21

30% of young people who have been looked after for more than a year and 20% 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

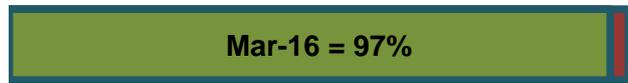
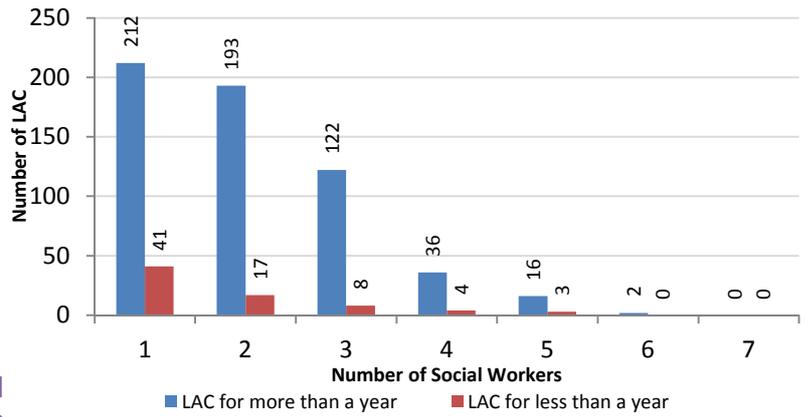
Looked After Children with up to date assessments

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

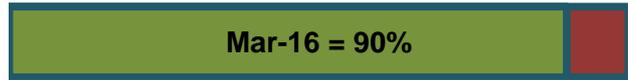
Looked After Children whose reviews have been completed on time

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



2014/15 Out-turn = 96%
2013/14 Out-turn = 95%



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

97% of LAC had assessments completed on time between 1st April 2015 - 31st March 2016.

Since 1st April 2015, 1501 reviews were completed in the year with only 69 not completed within

The proportion of LAC reviews where the child was present or contributed by other means since 1st April 2015

92%

Mar-16

There has been a decline in LAC participation in reviews since year out turn 14/15. This is being looked into in order to understand the reason for the drop in

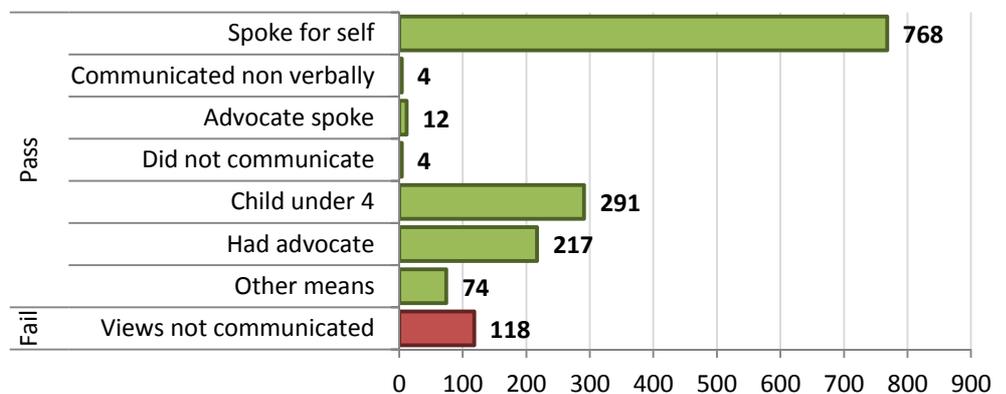
98%

2014/15 Out-turn

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

90%
PEPS (Years 1 -11)
- Mar-16

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

57%
PEPS (Years 12 and 13)
- Mar-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%

There has been a strong improvement in the number of PEP's in the month in both indicators that see results slightly above year out turn 14/15.

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

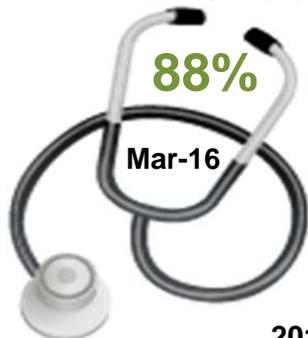
Dental Checks



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	2015/16 (Provisional)
	35	50	51	62

Adoptions

Number of children awaiting adoption 31/03/2016



Adoption Scorecard Results

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

671 Days

3 Year avg 2013-2016

(734 days 2012-2015)

Target - 428 days

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

252 Days

3 year avg 2013-2016

Target - 121 days

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

509 Days

3 year avg 2013-2016

(488 days 2012-2015)

Target - 428 days

Single year performance (2014/15)

A1 - 619 days with 64% of children adopted within timescales

A2 - 193 days

A10 - 410 days

Single year performance (2015/16 as at March)

A1 - 652 days with 64% of children adopted within timescales

A2 - 238 days

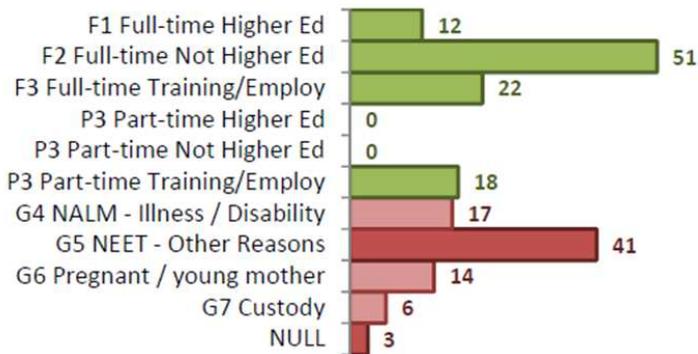
A10 - 518 days

The adoption scorecards for 2012-15 were published in March 2016. 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

5.4 Context: Number EET Statuses



Care Leavers in Education, Employment and Training 2014/15

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

March 2016:
56%

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 56% of 17 to 21 year olds in education, employment or training. No comparator data is currently available based on the new cohort.

A large part of the improvement has been due to on-going work by the leaving care team in identifying and recording EET status for all children and young adults in the cohort. Work continues to ensure data quality is high.

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.*