

Corporate Parenting Board

24 November 2016

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

Venue Committee Room 4 - Civic Centre

Membership

Chair Cllr Val Gibson (Lab)

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

Liberal Democrat

Quorum for this meeting is three Councillors.

Information for the Public

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

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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 22 September 2016 (Pages 3 - 8) [To approve the minutes of the previous meeting as a correct record]
4	Matters arising [To consider any matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on xxx]
5	Schedule of Outstanding Matters [There are no outstanding matters]
6	CAMHS Looked After Children's Mental Health Report (Pages 9 - 14) [Dr Roberta Fry to present report]
7	Health - Annual Report Regarding the Health of Wolverhampton's Looked After Children [Report to follow. Fiona Brennan and Chitra Ramalingam, NHS, to present report]
8	Annual Report of the Independent Reviewing Officer Service 2015-16 (Pages 15 - 28)
9	Performance Report (Pages 29 - 40) [Emma Bennett, Service Director – Children and Young People, to present the key points and findings]



Corporate Parenting Board

Minutes - 22 September 2016

Attendance

Chair Cllr Val Gibson (Lab)

Labour

Cllr Paula Brookfield
Cllr Hazel Malcolm
Cllr Lynne Moran

Cllr Peter O'Neill
Cllr Rita Potter
Cllr Zee Russell

Cllr Martin Waite

Employees

Linda Sanders
Emma Bennett
Alison Hinds
Dawn Deans
Alice Vickers
Esther Douglas
Mike Hooper

Strategic Director
Service Director – Children and Young People
Head of Looked After Children
Senior Social Work Manager – Adoption
Corporate Parenting Officer
Social Worker / Foster Care Trainer
Democratic Services Officer

Item No. *Title*

1 Apologies for absence (if any)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Julie Hodgkiss and Councillor Christine Mills.

2 Declarations of interests (if any)

There were no declarations of interest.

3 Minutes of the meeting held on 21 July 2016

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 21 July 2016 were confirmed as correct record and signed by the Chair.

4 Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

5 Change to the Order of Agenda Items

The Chair moved that agenda item 5, Schedule of Outstanding Matters, be considered following items 6, Fostering Agency Annual Report, 7, Adoption Agency Annual Report and 8, Performance Monitoring – Looked After Children.

Resolved

That agenda items 6, 7 and 8 be considered prior to agenda item 5.

6 Fostering Agency Annual Report

Alison Hinds, Head of Looked After Children, presented the Fostering Agency Annual Report with a view to receiving feedback from Board members.

In addition to the information contained within the report and in response to questions from Board Members and attending foster carers, officers stated the following:

- Recent recruitment and marketing campaigns had been successful, with increased referrals seen during Fostering Week.
- The review of fees and allowances recognised that there was a need for foster carers that are family members to receive the same levels of support and financial help as other foster carers.
- Meeting the needs of older children was an area that needed to be focussed upon in terms of recruitment. Family placements were deemed to be the most appropriate.
- Care leave mentors would be a future area of focus.
- Processes were in place to ensure that the Independent Reviewing Officers were able to escalate to the Council issues raised by carers.
- Work commitments such as particular shift patterns would not necessarily rule a person out as a potential foster carer. The Authority would check to see if

- extended support networks and provision for the unexpected, i.e. an unwell child, were in place.
- Significant life events such as bereavements or new relationships would be actively investigated.
 - All carers should receive unannounced supervision visits. It was acknowledged that better planning was required to ensure that happens. Should improvements to the current rate not be achieved, the Independent Reviewing Officer could seek a 360 degree review.
 - It was recognised that children needed time to form bonds with their Social Workers and efforts were being made to reduce the number of agency staff. However, it was also essential that staffing levels were maintained. Recruiting and retaining staff was an industry-wide issue and new incentives, including a rolling recruitment programme, were being implemented. In addition, discussions had been had with best practice authorities and performance monitoring was in place. The Authority currently employed 15 agency Social Workers.
 - Measures taken to retain permanent Social Workers included thorough workforce plans and excellent development pathways, competitive pay and other employee benefits.
 - There was a need to ensure that carers kept young people beyond the age of 18. Fees had been set at a level where carers wouldn't be worse off financially.

The Head of Looked After Children apologised for the graph included under 13.11 report being incorrect.

Resolved:

That the Wolverhampton Fostering Annual Report for 2015/2016 be noted.

7 **Adoption Agency Annual Report**

Alison Hinds, Head of Looked After Children, presented the Adoption Agency Annual Report with a view to receiving feedback from Board members.

In addition to the information contained within the report and in response to questions from Board Members, officers stated the following:

- Contact with birth parents was retained through the Post-Adoption Contact (PAC) Service. Letterbox contact was made once per year through the PAC Co-ordinator. Currently there was one open case that had contact three times per year with parents and grandparents.
- Where a child was placed in a fostering capacity pre-adoption, their Social Worker would talk to them about what fostering and adoption meant.
- Guidelines were very clear that ensuring a cultural match should not be the driving force behind placements. Measures could be taken to support children from different cultural backgrounds to their carers. If an adopter specifically stated that they did not want children from a particular background the Authority would analyse and evaluate the reasoning behind that.

Resolved:

That the Adoption Agency Report for 2015/2016 be noted.

8 **Performance Monitoring - Looked After Children**

Emma Bennett, Service Director – Children and Young People, provided an overview of the key points and findings of the September 2016 Performance Report (data as at July 2016).

Attention was drawn to an administrative error in the report. On page 80 of the agenda, the percentage of LAC in Good or Outstanding Children's Homes was 81%.

In response to questions raised by the Board, the Service Director stated the following:

- The number of adoptions so far during 2016/17 (12) was not cause for alarm. The Munby case law indicated that adoption should be the last option considered and that had a big impact upon placement orders being granted.
- Although the industry had seen an uplift in care proceedings, Wolverhampton had seen a decrease.
- Young Persons Advisors could potentially meet with care leavers through to the age of 25. Social Workers would usually support up to the age of 18 but occasionally they would remain responsible for a case beyond that.

Resolved:

That the Performance Report be noted.

9 **Schedule of outstanding matters**

Emma Bennett, Service Director – Children and Young People presented a report on the progress made in relation to actions previously agreed by the Board.

Resolved

That the actions taken in relation to the following matters be noted and that they be removed from the Summary of Outstanding Matters:

- Report back on visit to Merridale Street West.
- Breakdown of LAC in terms of those known or not known to the Authority before being taken into care.
- Details of the number of children in privately operated Children's Homes in Wolverhampton together with the Ofsted rating of such establishments.
- Regional Adoption Agency.

10 **Exclusion of the public and press**

Resolved

That in accordance with Part 1 Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business as it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual.

11 **Councillor Visits to Children's Homes**

Councillor Peter O'Neill presented an exempt report regarding his recent visit to Merridale Street West Children's Home.

Resolved

That the report be noted.

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Agenda item no:	
Enclosure no:	

Meeting:	Corporate Parenting Board
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Date:	24 th November 2016
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Title:	CAMHS Looked After Children's Mental Health Report
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Presented by:	Roberta Fry – Consultant Clinical Psychologist
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Prepared by:	Roberta Fry - Consultant Clinical Psychologist Cheryl Newton – General Manager CYPF
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Purpose:	Information	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Discussion	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Recommendation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Approval	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Additional resources required:	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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This report covers (tick all that apply):

Strategic objectives:	
We will nurture a culture which provides: safe, effective, caring, responsive and well led services.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
We will involve and listen to patients, carers and family's experience to continually improve services we provide.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
We will be a leading provider of specialist mental health, learning disability and children's services, proactively seeking opportunities to develop our services, building partnerships with others, to strengthen and expand the services we provide.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Attract and retain well-trained, diverse, flexible, empowered and valued workforce.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Resources will be used effectively, innovatively and in a sustainable manner.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Evidences compliance to:						
Health & Safety Executive						
Care Quality	Safe	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Caring	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Responsive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Commission	Effective	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Well Led			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Number of pages in Document	5	Number of Appendices	0
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Executive Summary

The Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS), Looked After Children's (LAC) Team provides a therapeutic service to children and young people whom may be either looked after and/or adopted. Typically these children will have suffered considerable trauma and will present as being insecurely attached resulting in the requirement for specialist intervention.

In recognition of this requirement Wolverhampton CAMHS in conjunction with Social Services and education department have resolved to provide a quality service to looked after and adopted children.

The CAMHS Service provides an integrated and consistent approach to Looked after Children (LAC), by placing the child at the centre of care provided, the clinician allocated to work with a child prior to their care placement will continue to support the child following placement rather than allocation to a new clinician.

The service is able to access specialist medical expertise and systemic family psychotherapy and the Jigsaw Clinic when it is needed, alongside this service wide support for LAC, there is some limited therapeutic capacity provided by a small number of clinicians, who have some of their time dedicated exclusively to children who are looked after and require therapeutic work. A further highly specialist Clinical Psychologist has recently been appointed (0.48 wte.) who has extensive experience of working in this area of practice.

1.0 Looked After Children's Team

The looked after children's team has positive staff retention with longstanding staff members and consists of the following:

Fig 1. Looked After Children's Team

WTE	Professional Title
1.0	Social Worker
1.0	Child Psychologist
0.64	Highly Specialist Clinical Psychologist (LAC & LD)
0.48	Highly Specialist Clinical Psychologist (CAMHS & LD)
0.48	Consultant Clinical Psychologist (Team Manager) (LAC & CAMHS)

Fig 2. Current Caseload

Open Cases	118
New Referrals – November 2015 – October 2016	68
Discharges – November 2015 – October 2016	68

Following assessment the average length of care episode is 451 days correlating with the highly complex needs and care required suggested by research, clinical experience and knowledge.

2.0 Clinical Activity

All referrals to the LAC team are screened on a daily basis this involves a LAC clinician undertaking an initial assessment and where necessary further research and collation of information to ensure that all relevant clinical information is available for the professionals meeting at which point the referral will be discussed and allocated accordingly. Information relating to the originating authority is also established in order to ensure relevant funding is sought to support the child's intervention and care within the service particularly when a child has been placed from 'out of area'

The information required includes:

- Current context and reasons for child or young person coming into care
- Chronology of events and Genogram
- List of all professionals and contact details
- Care plan

Following collation of the above a professionals meeting is facilitated (5 per month), each professional involved in the child's life is invited to attend to ensure consideration of all relevant information pertaining to the child is available to inform recommendations for care required.

Due to the highly complex needs and nature of referrals correlating with care required suggested by research, clinical experience and knowledge, the average length of episode of care is 85 weeks with the average wait time at 9.1 weeks.

Fig 3. Wait times & length of consultations

Average Wait Time - Referral to First Contact (in weeks)

November 2015 – October 2016

Data Source: Oasis

Average of Wait Team Description	Seen Month												Average
	Nov-1	Dec-1	Jan-1	Feb-1	Mar-1	Apr-1	May-1	Jun-1	Jul-1	Aug-1	Sep-1	Oct-1	
CAMHS LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN WOLVERHAMPTON	10.8	8.8	11.4	10.5	10.3	12.5	9.5	10.7	11.1	16.1	12.0	8.8	11.1
Average	10.8	8.8	11.4	10.5	10.3	12.5	9.5	10.7	11.1	16.1	12.0	8.8	11.1

Average length of episode (patients with at least one contact)

November 2015 – November 2016

Data Source: Oasis

Average Length of Episode Team Description	Discharge month												Average
	Nov-1	Dec-1	Jan-1	Feb-1	Mar-16	Apr-1	May-1	Jun-1	Jul-1	Aug-16	Sep-1	Oct-1	
CAMHS LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN WOLVERHAMPTON	71.4	57.9	89.8	55.3	9.0	49.2	65.4	63.2	66.4	95.4	45.0	101.1	62.6
Average	71.4	57.9	89.8	55.3	9.0	49.2	65.4	63.2	66.4	95.4	45.0	101.1	62.6

3.0 Consultation

The service offers weekly consultation to Social Workers at the Beldray Buildings through bookable appointments, one day per week (8 slots) to support and facilitate attendance.

Consultation is available for all Social Workers across the city who have Looked after children and/or adopted children on their caseload.

Monthly consultation is offered on site to Merridale unit staff to support and facilitate attendance.

3.1 Direct therapeutic work

Direct therapeutic work involves the following according to the needs of the child:

- Child on their own
- Child and carer together
- Carer on their own
- A worker to see the child and another to see the carer

Clinical interventions aim to integrate attachment, systemic, psychodynamic and psychoanalytic traditions in practice recognising the individual needs of the child or young person. This approach involves working with others involved in their care (foster carers, residential workers, looked after children's nurses) as an approach to actively engage them within the service.

For the young people who actively engage in individual appointments a number of approaches are utilised e.g. theraplay, psychotherapy, dyadic developmental psychotherapy the benefits of which for the child or young person include,

- Feeling listened to and understood
- Able to talk or be quiet depending on what feels right for them at the time
- Assistance to make sense of often difficult, painful and confusing feelings
- Exploration of relationships with significant others i.e. carers, with the young person directly or with the carer separately with another worker.

Additional benefits include stabilisation of placements through effective exploration and thus understanding of relationships whilst also achieving improved school attendance and attainment. Other benefits include enabling the child and young person to achieve a happy and fulfilled life in the immediate future and longer term.

Sometimes outcomes can be more limited as therapy is challenging and can prove painful for the child or young person, which may result in a requirement for extended exploration and containment prior to being able to achieve noticeable outcomes following therapeutic consultations. Each child is unique and following a thorough assessment will have an understandable plan which will be developed with colleagues and the child/young person.

4.0 Training Program – Nurturing Attachments & Complex Trauma

The service has developed and delivered a training program for foster carers who foster children/young people who meet the criteria for specialist CAMHs, in order to equip them with the necessary knowledge and skills to provide attachment focused parenting.

Criteria: Children have an active file with the CAMHs LAC team and have a presentation that meets Specialist CAMHs (Tier 3) services.

Programme: 3.5 hrs weekly week course for an 18 week duration with 2 experienced clinicians.

Aim: To support development of foster carers knowledge and skills in attachment focused parenting.

Group 1 9 Foster carers of 10 children looked after attended

Group 2 September 2015 – February 2016- Foster carers of 9 children attended and discussed 8 children looked after.

5.0 Service Developments

The service has developed a questionnaire for the children/young people to provide feedback to the service and enable consideration of positive experiences whilst also providing insight into areas for potential improvement. This will be implemented during 2016/17 the results will be included in the next annual report.

6.0 Outcomes

It is challenging to capture and measure outcomes in this complex area of work. Although, we use both the Honosca and SDQ (Strength and Difficulties questionnaires), it is questionable to whether that this accurately reflects the actual situation the team works with.

The work undertaken by the team can involve 'slowing down' difficulties in a placement, or maintaining a fragile situation. When placements break down it creates uncertainty, change and confusion. The focus of the work therefore relates to supporting the young person reacting to the current changes rather than making sense of the past.

7.0 Summary

The CAMHs LAC team are passionate about providing a therapeutic service to looked after and adopted children who have suffered trauma in order to support them to look back and to try and make sense of their lives whilst somehow integrating their complex and changing circumstances.

It is often challenging to demonstrate the qualitative outcomes of the service that cannot be measured through quantitative metrics, observation of the work the team undertakes would enable this to be demonstrated, we would welcome appropriate observation of the work undertaken by the team through:

- Professional meetings
- Team meetings
- Nurturing attachments training group

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Corporate Parenting Board

24 November 2016

Report title	Annual Report of the Independent Reviewing Officer Service 2015-16	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Val Gibson Children and Families	
Wards affected	All	
Accountable director	Linda Sanders – People	
Originating service	Safeguarding	
Accountable employee(s)	Dawn Williams	Head of Service – Safeguarding
	Tel	01902 550655
	Email	Dawn.williams@wolverhampton.gov.uk
	Mandy Lee	Safeguarding Manager-Children
	Tel	01902 550654
	E-mail	Mandy.lee@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by	Children in Care Council 28/09/2016 and 26/10/2016 People Leadership Team 31/10/16	

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The Corporate Parenting Board is recommended to:

1. Utilise this report to inform strategic planning for Wolverhampton's Looked After Children population
2. Hold the Safeguarding Service to account in their delivery of services to Looked After Children

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 Wolverhampton Safeguarding Service has statutory responsibility for overseeing and ratifying the care plans for Looked after Children (LAC) via the activity of the Independent Reviewing Officers. As a result, the service is duty bound to provide the Corporate Parenting Board with an annual report that outlines the activity of the service, the impact for children and recommendations for service improvement that will enhance young people's experiences.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The Children and Young Persons Act 2008 reinforced and strengthened the role of the Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO), enabling more effective independent oversight and scrutiny of the child's case. It has ensured that the child is able to meaningfully participate in planning for their own care and that the care plan that the local authority prepares for them is based on a thorough assessment of the individual child's needs.
- 2.2 In March 2010 the Government issued statutory guidance, The IRO Handbook, for Local Authorities and IROs on care planning and reviewing arrangements for LAC. The IRO Handbook states that the statutory duties of the IRO are to:
- monitor the Local Authority's performance of their functions in relation to the child's case;
 - participate in any review of the child's case;
 - ensure any ascertained wishes and feelings of the child concerning the case are given due consideration by the appropriate authority;
 - perform any other function which is prescribed in regulations.
- 2.3 The guidance became effective on April 1, 2011, as a revision to the Children Act 1989. Volume 2 of the 'Care Planning, Placement and Case Review Regulations and statutory guidance 2010'. There is an expectation that IROs are more involved with children who are looked after, not just in the Looked After Children review meeting. More contact with the child, the carers and the staff involved is also expected. This is particularly the case in matters where the IRO has concerns about the case and needs to monitor the matter between statutory reviews.
- 2.4 All looked after children, including children who are in an adoptive placement prior to an Adoption Order, are covered by the legislation. This applies to all children who are the subject of a care order (under section 31 of the Children Act 1989), or who are voluntarily accommodated for a period of more than 24 hours (section 20 of the Children Act 1989), including those described in this report as in Short Break Care, or who are placed for adoption under the Adoption and Children Act 2002. It also covers those who are compulsorily looked after, such as those remanded by the court to local authority accommodation. Since the publication of the Legal Aid Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act (LASPO) in December 2012, it has been the responsibility of the Local

Authority to look after all young people who are remanded into custody. These young people now require an allocated IRO and LAC reviews in their place of custody.

3.0 Progress, options, discussion, etc.

3.1 The annual report provides an outline of activity covering the period 2015/16 and determines actions to be progressed in 2016/17.

4.0 Financial implications

4.1 There are no direct financial implications from this report.

5.0 Legal implications

5.1 None – the annual report meets legal requirements TC/07112016/K

6.0 Equalities implications

6.1 The Annual report recognises issues of equality for Children who access the safeguarding service and how equality is represented within the service.

7.0 Environmental implications

7.1 None

8.0 Human resources implications

8.1 None

9.0 Corporate landlord implications

9.1 None

10.0 Schedule of background papers

10.1 The annual report for 2015/16 is attached. The Corporate Parenting Board has received Annual reports in preceding year.

CITY OF
WOLVERHAMPTON
C O U N C I L

Annual report

Safeguarding Service

Looked After Children
2015- 2016

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The IRO Handbook (issued in March 2010) is the statutory guidance for Independent Reviewing Officers (IRO) and local authorities on their functions in relation to case management and review of children in care, known as looked after children (LAC). It states that the IRO Manager (known as the Safeguarding Manager – Children, in Wolverhampton) should be responsible for the production of an annual report for the scrutiny of the members of the Corporate Parenting Board. It should also be available to the public on the Council website.
- 1.2 This report covers the period from April 2015 – March 2016. This is the 7th annual report. The report follows the format recommended by the National IRO Managers Group.
- 1.3 The Safeguarding Service is based at the Priory Green Building in Pendeford, Wolverhampton.
- 1.4 Dawn Williams is the Head of Safeguarding (HOS) and has overall responsibility for the IRO functions and ensures independence from the line management of cases and the allocation of resources within Children and Families Services. Mandy Lee is the Safeguarding Manager-Children, who commenced in September 2014. The management of the IRO team involves the provision of supervision to the IROs and responsibility for the team including ensuring that reviews are held on time and that they are correctly administered. The Safeguarding Manager also manages an IRO who undertakes foster home reviews.
- 1.5 As prescribed by the national IRO Managers Group, this report will endeavour to ‘highlight areas of good practice and areas which require improvement, identify emerging themes and trends, describe areas of work which the service has prioritised during the year, and will prioritise in the coming year.’
- 1.6 The IROs have a key role in assuring the quality of the case planning for those children and young people who are looked after by the local authority. The purpose of this report is to provide information on the work undertaken by the IROs in 2015 – 16 and to outline the priorities for the next year.

2. Purpose of service and legal context

- 2.1 The arrangements for the statutory reviews of children in care, known as looked after children (LAC) in Wolverhampton, were amended and updated by Section 118 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002. The Act introduced the new statutory role of the Independent Reviewing Officer. In September 2004, local authorities were required to appoint Independent Reviewing Officers with the remit of:
 - chairing the authority’s LAC reviews
 - monitoring the authority’s review of the care plan
 - and where necessary, referring cases to the Children and Families Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS) to take legal action as a last resort if the failure to implement the care plan might be considered to breach the child’s human rights.

In addition, there is an expectation that the IROs will quality assure the local authority's care planning for children in care.

- 2.2 Legislation for the reviewing of LAC cases is supported by detailed guidance which has been taken into account in making arrangements in Wolverhampton. The guidance includes Every Child Matters, Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (England) Regulations 2010 and Statutory guidance, the IRO Handbook.

Looked After Children:

- 2.3 The Children and Young Persons Act 2008 reinforced and strengthened the role of the IRO, enabling more effective independent oversight and scrutiny of the child's case. It has ensured that the child is able to meaningfully participate in planning for their own care and that the care plan that the local authority prepares for them is based on a thorough assessment of the individual child's needs.
- 2.4 In March 2010 the Government issued new statutory guidance, The IRO Handbook, for Local Authorities and IROs on care planning and reviewing arrangements for LAC. The IRO Handbook states that the statutory duties of the IRO are to:
- monitor the Local Authority's performance of their functions in relation to the child's case;
 - participate in any review of the child's case;
 - ensure any ascertained wishes and feelings of the child concerning the case are given due consideration by the appropriate authority;
 - perform any other function which is prescribed in regulations.
- 2.5 Since April 2011 there has been an expectation that IROs are more involved with children who are looked after, not just in the LAC review meeting itself. More contact with the child, the carers, and the staff involved is expected. This is particularly the case in matters where the IRO has concerns about the case and needs to monitor the matter between statutory reviews.
- 2.6 All looked after children, including children who are in an adoptive placement prior to an adoption order, are covered by the legislation. This applies to all children who are the subject of a care order (under section 31 of the Children Act 1989), or who are voluntarily accommodated for a period of more than 24 hours (section 20 of the Children Act 1989), including those described in this report as in Short Break Care, or who are placed for adoption under the Adoption and Children Act 2002. It also covers those who are compulsorily looked after such as those remanded by the court to local authority accommodation. Since the publication of the Legal Aid Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act (LASPO) in December 2012, it has been the responsibility of the Local Authority to look after all young people who are remanded into custody. These young people now require an allocated IRO and LAC reviews in their place of custody.

3. Quantitative information about the service

- 3.1 The Service has an establishment of 9 FTE IRO's. The team has been fully staffed since December 2014. A further 0.5 IRO post has been established, on a temporary basis, with the secondment of a 0.5 Foster Home Reviewing Officer to an IRO post. This will be reviewed in September 2016 and it is proposed that this will be made permanent. There have been additional agency IRO's in post in order to manage high caseloads arising from high numbers of looked after children. There was one additional IRO up until July 2015 and three additional IRO's since September 2015.
- 3.2 The team has remained stable, other than the use of three agency workers, over the period, and is increasingly experienced. The majority of the team have a mixed caseload of LAC and Child Protection. 3.5 of the permanent IROs only hold LAC cases. The makeup of caseloads is regularly reviewed.
- 3.3 The IRO Handbook recommends IRO caseloads of 50 – 70 children per IRO. The appointment of additional agency IRO's and reducing LAC population has meant that this has been achieved this year. The average caseload (including LAC, children on a CP plan, and those receiving care through short breaks (S20) on 31 March 2016 was 70 children. This compares to 106 at March 2015.
- 3.4 The team is made up of 3 men and 10 women. The team is made up of IROs from different ethnic backgrounds (3 black/Asian, 1 black Afro/Caribbean/mixed heritage and 9 white British). This adequately reflects the children we are serving. The looked after children of Wolverhampton were from the following backgrounds on 31.3.16. 65% white British, 4% Asian, 13% black Afro/Caribbean, 19% other.
- 3.5 The service also has 1 Independent Foster Home Reviewing Officer who is responsible for chairing Foster Home reviews.

Quantative information regarding the LAC population & CP population

- 3.6 The gender and age of the LAC in Wolverhampton at 31/3/16 is as follows (last years in brackets): Female 277/42% (349/45%) Male 376/58% (429/55%) Age: under 5 –140/21% (203/26%) 5 -9 year olds 162/25% (203/26%) 10 – 15 year olds 253/39% (260/33%) and 16-17 year olds 98/15% (109/14%). This shows a reduction in the numbers of young children coming into care, whilst the proportion of older children has increased. This may be the result of effective plans to move young children on to permanence, whilst there is remaining legacy of older young people who will not leave care until adulthood.
- 3.7 The legal status of the looked after children at 31/3/16 is as follows (last years in brackets): Care Order 487/75% (492/63%) Interim Care Order 54/8% (81/10%) Placement Order 61/9% (119/15%) Section 20 – 81/12% (82/11%) Remand 0/0% (4/1%). This shows the percentage of all children remaining subject to Care Orders has increased, whilst the proportion subject to Placement Order has decreased. The latter may be due to increased scrutiny by the courts in

relation to plans of adoption, and efforts by the local authority to discharge Placement Orders when adoption ceases to be the plan. The number on section 20 has remained static.

4 Qualitative information about the IRO service

- 4.1 Under the provisions of the *Review of Children's Cases Regulations (1991)*³ local authorities are required to review the case of any child who is Looked After or provided with accommodation as follows:
- First review must take place within 28 days of the date upon which the child begins to be looked after or provided with accommodation;
 - Second review must be carried out no later than 3 months after the first review; and
 - Subsequent reviews shall be carried out not more than 6 months after the date of the previous review.
- 4.2 The date of the next review should be brought forward:
- If there is an unplanned change of placement or other substantial changes to the care plan.
 - If the IRO has specific concerns about a child and directs that the review be brought forward.
 - Any request from the child or parent(s) for a review to be brought forward should be given serious consideration.
- 4.3 90% of all LAC in 2015/16 were reviewed in line with statutory timescales (91% in 2014/15). This is a very slight decrease on the previous year, but still excellent performance, given the high numbers of looked after children. This should improve as caseloads reduce in 2016/17. A proportion of LAC reviews will always go outside of timescales due to practical considerations, such as sickness of key participants or other crisis on the day.
- 4.4 A total of 1834 (1832) Looked after Children (LAC) reviews took place in the relevant period- 95% of which were in timescale.
- 4.5 An IRO is allocated to all LAC within 24 hours of the Safeguarding Service being informed of that child's entry into care. Written information about the IRO and the reviewing service is shared with the child prior to their first review, in the form of child friendly postcard type information booklets. Children can make direct contact with their IRO's mobile phone by calling, by text or by email.
- 4.6 The majority of sibling groups, whether placed together or not, are allocated to the same IRO. This ensures consistency of information exchange, oversight of care planning and decision-making, including sibling contact, and is particularly of benefit when children have different social workers.
- 4.7 The involvement of children in their own reviews is regarded as an essential part of the process. *'A key task for the IRO will be to ensure that the review processes, and particularly*

review meetings, remain child and family centred' (IRO Guidance, Adoption and Children Act 2002.) The IRO has an important role in ensuring that the child:

- can make a meaningful contribution to their review;
- speaks for themselves if they are able and willing to do so; and where this is not possible that their views are conveyed by someone else on their behalf or by an appropriate medium; and
- has been given the opportunity to make a written contribution to the meeting, particularly if they have chosen not to attend or are unable to attend for some other reason.

4.8 The recorded achievement in this area of activity is also a measure of local authority performance, although no longer a national performance indicator.

At 31 March 2016 92% of children participated in their reviews. This is a reduction on 2015, when the figure was 98%. The reason for this drop has been investigated and it would appear that there was misunderstanding among staff regarding the recording of participation, which led to some inaccuracy and over reporting. This has now been resolved. The service aims to improve this level of participation and has taken steps to improve recording of children's contribution to reviews. Reduced caseloads mean that IRO's are much more able to meet with children outside of reviews and seek their views.

92% is a truer reflection of actual participation level at that time, though the service continually strives to improve. The aim is to achieve 94/95% next year.

4.9 Children aged 7 and over receive a written invitation to their review meeting along with the consultation document inviting their contribution to the review. The IRO is required to speak with the child alone prior to the first review and before every subsequent review (regulation 36). The requirement for direct contact with the child extends to observation of babies and younger children.

4.10 The Independent Reviewing Officers Guidance, Adoption and Children Act 2002, states that '*The IRO has an important role in ensuring that all parties to the review are able to make an effective contribution.*' In order to assist in this aim, age appropriate consultation papers continue to be sent to the child/young person, and to parents and carers, prior to a review. The child's consultation paper provides the IRO with a comprehensive picture of the child's feelings about the various aspects of their care and the services he/she is receiving, and assists the IRO in ensuring the child's voice is heard. This is also a way of ensuring that parental contributions are taken into account by the IRO, particularly if they are unable or unwilling to attend the review. IRO's are also increasingly speaking with parents outside of the review meeting, if their presence is not in the best interests of the child, to ensure they can represent their reviews both in the meeting and in the record of the meeting.

4.11 2 children were reviewed by IROs under the Short Break Statutory Guidance (Section 20(4) of the Children Act 1989) in 2015/16 (8 in 2014/15).

5. Conduct of the organisation in relation to the review

5.1 From August 2013 new quality assurance questions were asked of IROs following LAC reviews. This was to enable more detailed quality assurance information and data to be collected from CareFirst (CF), the electronic database used. It was hoped that this report would include the more detailed information, including the following:

- Quality of preparation for review by social worker, including report preparation, preparation of the child/young person and sign off by manager,
- Quality of care planning, including how up to date the care plan is,
- Quality of contribution by the child/ young person and other attendees, to review,
- Quality of management decision making on key issues affecting young people (care placements/school placements/funding issues)

The delivery of this detailed information from CareFirst has been challenging and work continues to provide reports. Reports will be available in 2017.

5.2 The RAG(Red/Amber/Green) quality rating system, in respect of the LAC reviews, including the progress of plans, preparation for the meeting and the quality of reports has been used consistently in Wolverhampton since August 2014. Forms are completed on the CareFirst database before the review record is completed. In 2015-16, RAG ratings were issued in relation to 1813 (2098 in 2014-15) LAC reviews. 1524/84% (1832/87%) were awarded Green ratings, 203/11% (222/11%) were awarded Amber ratings and 86/5% (44/2%) were awarded Red ratings).

5.3 A notification is automatically sent to the responsible social workers and Social Work Unit manager, and ensures they are alerted to the status (red, amber or green) of the child's plan. It identifies any concerns the IRO has about a child or their care plan, and should be a clear and valuable part of the quality assurance of the Local Authority's work which is provided by the IRO. There is an expectation that the responsible Children's Social Care manager responds to the IRO in all red and amber cases. Where the IRO feels their concern is not being addressed, they would commence the agreed dispute resolution process.

5.4 The IROs complete a Recognition of Excellent or Good Practice notification when there is evidence of high quality practice. 42 notifications were awarded in 2015-16 (5 Excellent, 37 Good). This compares to four notifications in 2014-15. The IRO's have recognised the positive impact that recognition of good work has on teams, and therefore actively seeks to improve recognition.

6. Conduct of the organisation in relation to Case Management

6.1 During 2015 - 16 a number of formal dispute resolution protocols were implemented in Wolverhampton. This protocol commences when the IRO identifies serious concerns about drift or delay in a child's case and is unable to resolve the difficulty with the social worker or

their manager. The procedure was revised in 2015 to take account of structural changes. There were 6 informal stage meetings, 3 formal stage 1 meetings and 2 formal stage 2 meetings.

Case example

A sibling group of four children now aged 15,12,9,5 (3 boys, 1 girl) were placed with their grandmother, who was approved as a 'Connected person' foster carer. She had 3 bedrooms in her home. This meant the three boys were sharing a bedroom which was too small, and with the older boys growing into adolescence, they did not have the privacy they needed. There was delay in gaining agreement to support the grandmother with the building of an extension. Formal Dispute Resolution meetings were held with the Head of Service and the managers of the fostering team and the Child Protection/Child in Need team in order to gain agreement for funding to be agreed and to set timescales for matters to be progressed.

The extension has now been completed and there are now 4 bedrooms and the older boys have the space and privacy they need.

6.2 Reduced caseloads have meant that the IRO's are now more effectively able to monitor cases between reviews. In September 2015 audit found that there was little clear evidence of how the IRO was monitoring and intervening in case outside of the review process. Since that time, a revised recording procedure has been put in place and IRO's regularly record their actions on the child's file. Audit now shows that the IRO 'footprint' on the child's file is well evidenced.

7. Core Entitlements for Looked After Children

The All Party Parliamentary Group for Looked After Children and Care Leavers conducted an inquiry with the Who Cares Trust in 2013/4 which found that looked after children and care leavers did not always know their rights and entitlements. There are ten core entitlements: Five for looked after children and five for care leavers. These are:

- You must have a care plan which says what your needs are now and how they will be met.
- The care plan must include your views and these must be taken into consideration
- No important decisions about you should be taken without a review meeting unless it's an emergency
- Looked after children aged 16-19 should get a £1,200 bursary if staying in full time education.
- When a social worker visits you, they must speak to you alone, unless you refuse, it's not appropriate at the time, or the social worker is not able to.
- You can ask your authority for £2000 for the setting up home allowance.
- Your local authority must give you help with the costs of getting and keeping a job
- You must be given a copy and an explanation of your assessment and Pathway Plan
- If you are in higher education, your local authority must provide you with vacation accommodation.

The National IRO Partnership has pledged to work to increase the knowledge of the core entitlement and IRO services are challenged to demonstrate how these are being promoted. These entitlements are available in Wolverhampton, but further work is needed to show how young people are made aware of them and to ensure there is evidence that they are provided. The National IRO Partnership recommend that this information is included in the IRO Annual Report. It is not possible to report on this this year, however, the aim is to report on progress in 2017.

8. Consultation with Young People- Feedback from the Children in Care Council

- The young people shared that they didn't like the booklet that is sent out by IRO's that the boxes on the document are too big and therefore they aren't clear about what information to add. The CiCC shared that questions aren't detailed enough and are vague. 8 out of 8 CiCC members said they didn't like the booklet.
- Some young people in the CICC don't see their IRO's before their meet and 5 out of 8 members didn't feel they had a relationship with their IRO.
- None of the young people were clear of the role of their IRO.

9. Review of last year's priority areas for improvement and action

- 9.1 Aim for full implementation of the IRO handbook. Increased staffing in 2015-16 and reducing numbers of LAC should enable full implementation. ***Increased agency staffing and reduced LAC have mean caseloads have been within statutory guidance, this has enabled IRO's to deliver the duties of the IRO handbook in relation to more effective monitoring of cases and improved consultation with children.***
- 9.2 Monthly reporting of key information to be provided to the IRO service. It remains a priority for improved and more regular reporting to the Safeguarding service in respect of:
- Timeliness of reviews/conferences
 - Participation
 - Quality assurance information
 - RAG ratings and timeliness of responses
- A monthly performance scorecard is under development by Business Intelligence and quarterly reporting on key quality assurance data is also under development.***
- 9.3 Develop Quality Standards for IRO records against which IRO performance can be monitored. ***Completed and an audit process is now in place.***
- 9.4 Revised Quality Assurance and RAG rating process to be implemented and incorporated in to the LAC Review procedure. ***Completed***

9.5 Complete a service self-assessment using the National Association of Independent Reviewing Officers Toolkit and develop action plan to address any identified shortfall. **Completed**

9.6 Improve capacity of the service to report on IRO challenge to the delivery of the Who Cares Trust Five entitlements for Looked After Children and Five entitlements for Care Leavers. ***This has not yet progressed. At this stage, the achievement of essential basic performance information needs to take priority.***

10. Priorities for 2016-17

10.1 Monthly reporting of key information to be provided to the IRO service. It remains a priority for improved and more regular reporting to the Safeguarding service in respect of:

- Timeliness of reviews/conferences
- Participation
- Quality assurance information
- RAG ratings and timeliness of responses

10.2 Improve proportion of children participating in reviews and develop performance reports in relation to IRO consultation with children. The IRO service will fully support the roll out of the electronic new child consultation tool 'Mind Of My Own' app (MOMO).

10.3 Institute an annual process of seeking and evaluating social worker feedback in relation to IRO performance.

10.4 To institute a task group with the LAC service in relation to the delivery and reporting of the Who Cares Trust Five entitlements for Looked After Children and Five entitlements for Care Leavers.

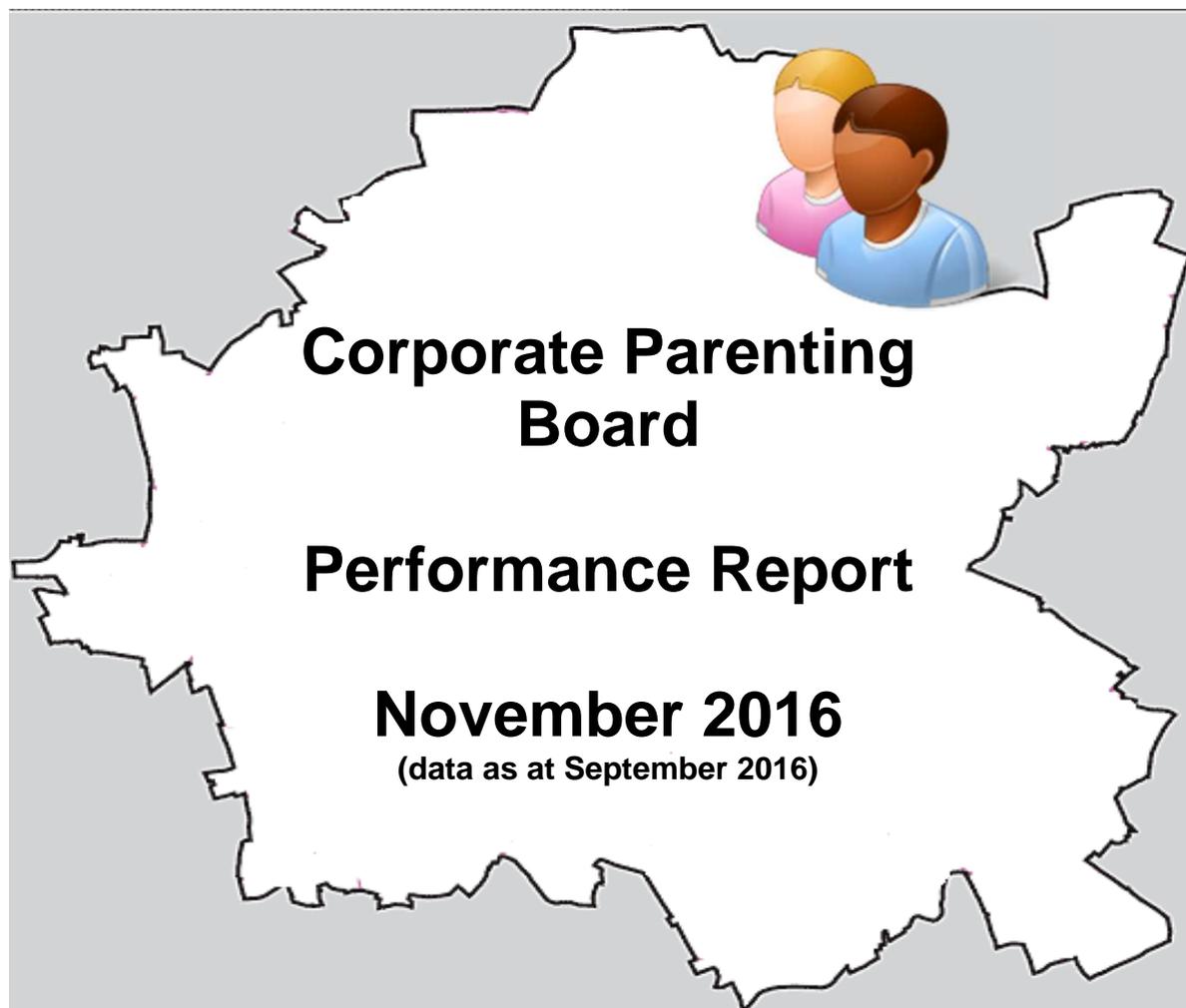
10.5 To explore more ways to help young people have greater awareness of the role of the IRO, such as through social media and Children in Care website.

11. Conclusion.

11.1 This report has highlighted the work of the IROs in Wolverhampton from April 2015 to March 2016 and is an update on the last annual report.

11.2 The service needs to evidence, through the enhanced quality assurance role, RAG rating and dispute resolution that they are an effective service with a culture of intervening and challenging when there is drift and delay or issues effecting children's human rights and/or their safety. This report shows the service has improved in this respect. However, further improvement is needed for the service to be more effective in identifying trends and patterns in practice and therefore more effectively contribute to whole service development.

11.3 The next report will cover the period from 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017.



Key Points to Note

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 has increased in the past month after a steady decline since May 2016.

The proportion of LAC placed more than 20 miles from home, has fallen to 13%.

The indicators that look at placement stability have remained static in the month against a backdrop of 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.

Routes into Care and Ofsted Ratings

This data shows which proportion of LAC were known to children's services in the 30 days prior to becoming looked after and the proportion of LAC that are asylum seekers and UASC (unaccompanied asylum seekers). Please note that children are classed as CiN if they are in the process of being assessed and may not have been CiN for very long or the subject of formal CiN plans. On-going work is being undertaken to identify how many children were also known to Early Help services and it is anticipated that this will be available by the end of the year.

The report now also shows the number of children placed in children's homes and the Ofsted ratings of those homes - of the 36 children currently placed in children's homes, 29 (80%) are in homes that are rated good or outstanding.

Assessments and Reviews

Assessments and Reviews of Looked After Children in Wolverhampton remain generally up to date although performance has dropped in the past few months to 94%. The percentage of children that participated in their reviews remains at 93% which is the same as the year out turn 2015/16 result of 93%.

Education

The 2015 KS2 results show that performance of Wolverhampton LAC has deteriorated compared with 2014 across reading, writing and maths. 2015 comparator data has now been updated and shows that Wolverhampton performed slightly worse in KS4 but better in GCSEs.

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 85% at the end of September. 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 is 87% at the end of September, a slight decrease on the year end out-turn 2015/16 of 88%. The majority of children who do not have up to date health checks are placed outside of the city.

Leaving Care

Adoption - Adoption timeliness in 2016/17 continue to perform below national targets. There have been 20 adoptions so far in 2016/17, 68% of being within timescales.

The adoption pipeline shows that there are currently 70 children with a plan of adoption, 38 of which have placement orders or are currently placed for adoption. The placements and plans for some of the 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 September 53% of 17-21 year olds were in Education, Employment or Training. NALM (not available for the labour market) data has now been included and shows that out of 145 care leavers in the cohort, 81% of care leavers are available for work with 19% (36 young people) not available due to pregnancy or young motherhood, illness or disability or because they are in custody.

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

The proportion of care leavers currently deemed to be in suitable accommodation is also included and shows that 90% of the cohort are currently in suitable accommodation.

Demographics



58167 children aged 0-17 live in Wolverhampton
22.9% of the total population

ONS 2014 mid-year estimate

48.8% of the CYP population and 41.4% of LAC are female



51.2% of the CYP population and 58.6% of LAC are male

41.6% of the CYP population and 36.1% of LAC are BME

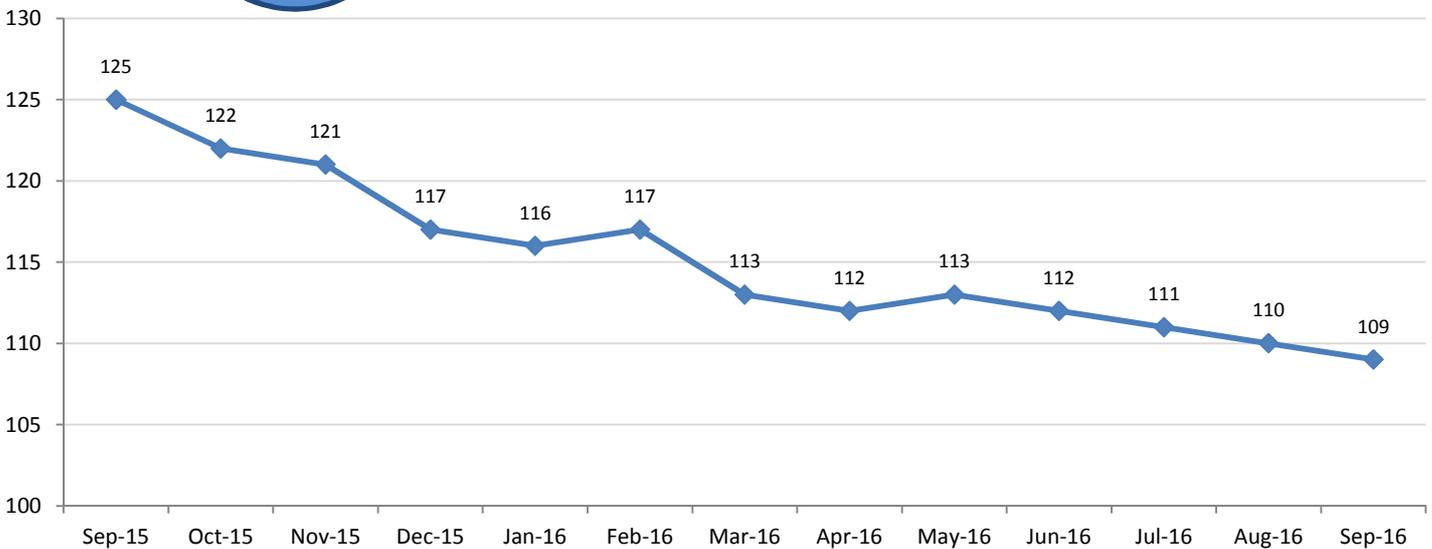
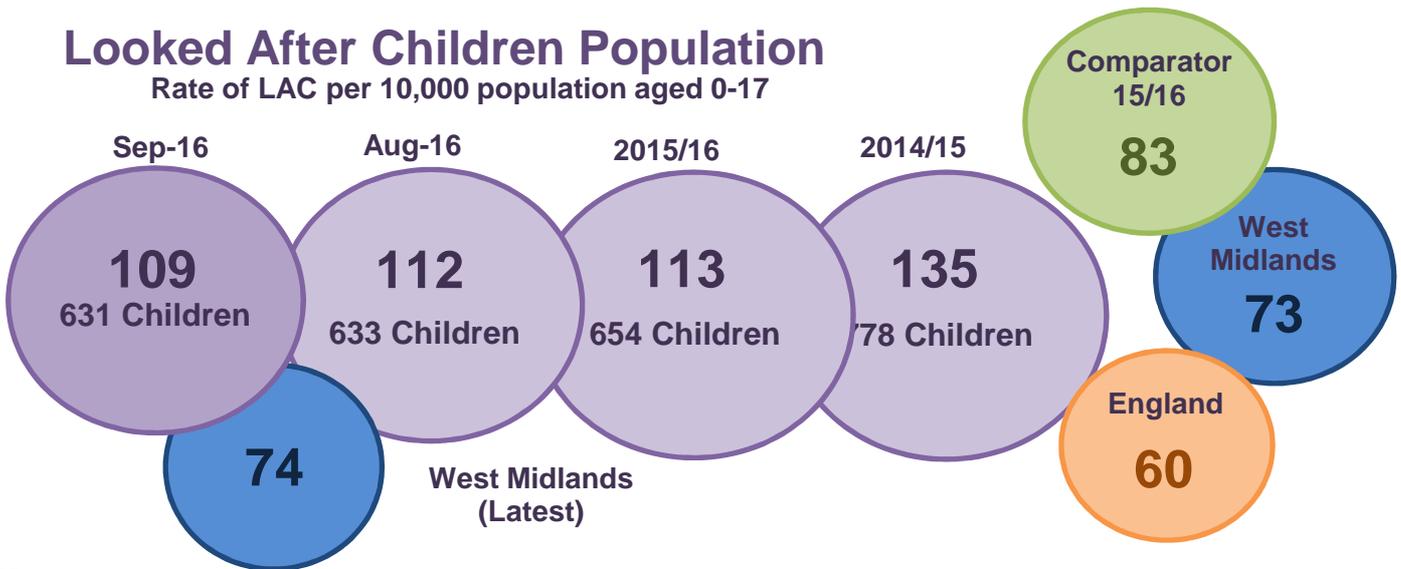


58.4% of the CYP population and 64.0% of LAC are white

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

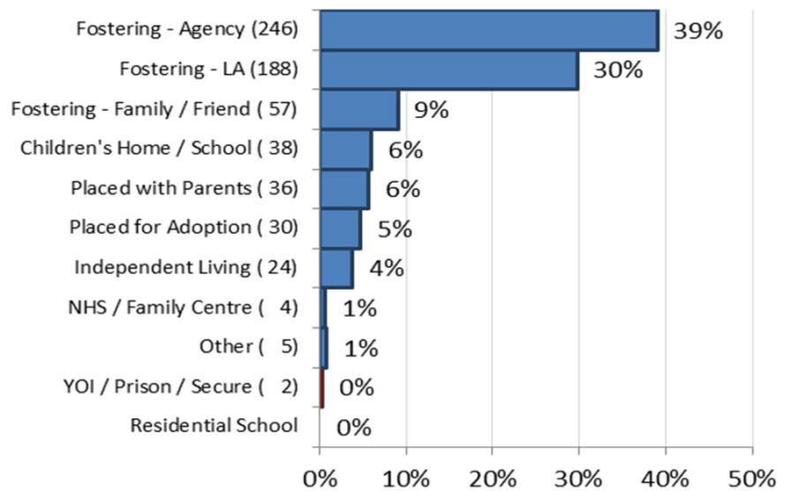


% LAC Placed 20 miles + from home

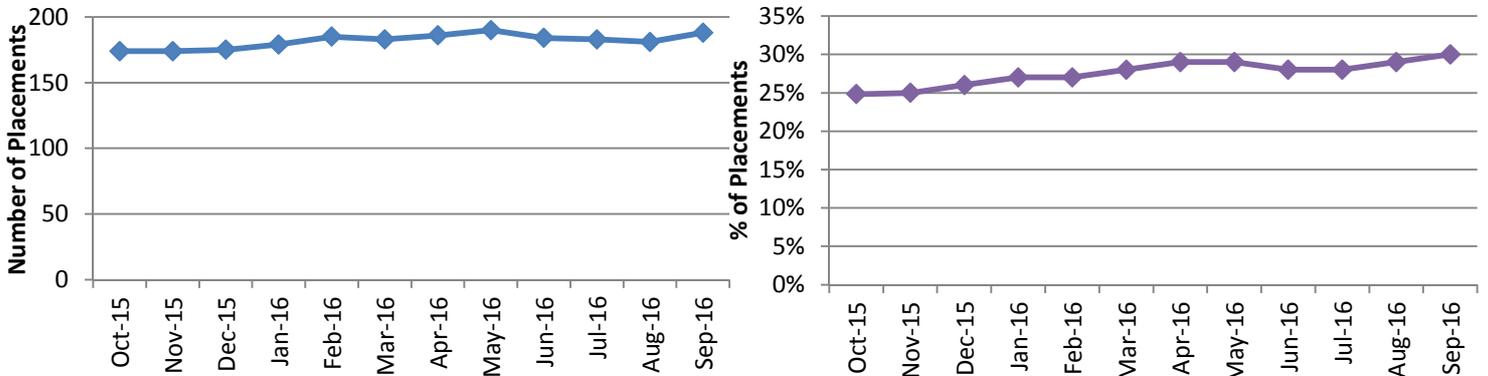


2014/15 Out-turn = 16%
2013/14 Out-turn = 13%
2013/14 Comparator = 15%
2013/14 England = 13%

LAC Placements



In - House Foster Placements



The proportion of LAC Placed with in-house foster carers remains high due to decreases in other placements. The number of in-house foster care placements increased in the month after a period of decline to 188

Placement Stability



LAC with fewer than 3 placements in the last 12 months



2015/16 (Provisional) = 85%
2014/15 Out-turn = 88%
2014/15 Comparator = 89%
2014/15 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)



2015/16 (Provisional) = 67%
2014/15 = 67% 2013/14
Comparator = 67% 2013/14
England = 67%

Performance shows that Looked After Children in Wolverhampton benefit from largely stable packages and percentages of stable relationships has increased slightly in the year

Routes into Care and Ofsted Ratings



% of LAC know to LA 30 days prior to becoming LAC

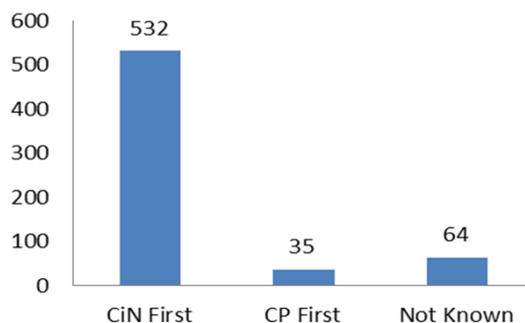
90%

% of LAC who are Asylum Seekers

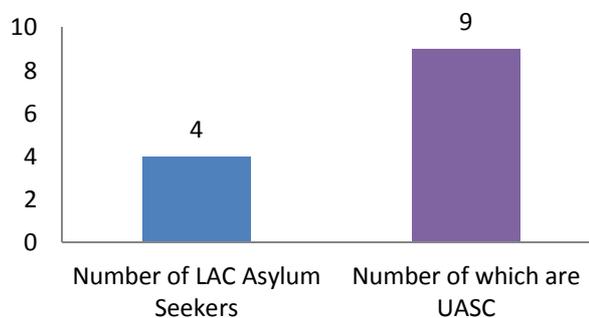
0.92%

% of LAC in Good or Outstanding Children's Homes

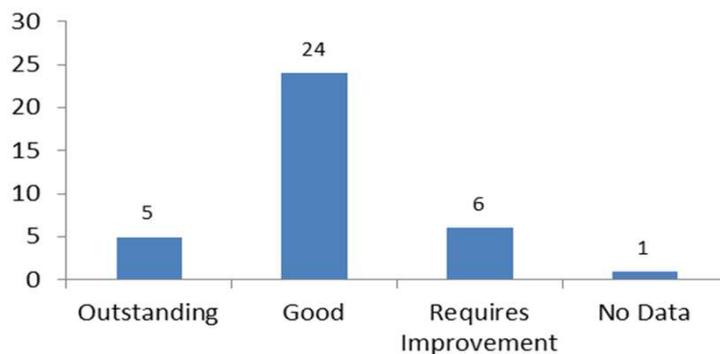
Knowledge of Child Pre-LAC (30 days)



How many LAC are Asylum Seekers



Number of Children in Residential Care Homes by OFSTED Rating



Assessments & Reviews



Average caseload of LAC children for LAC social workers

21

21% of young people who have been looked after for more than a year and 13% 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

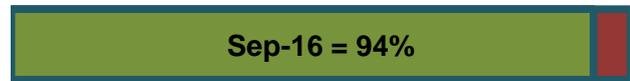
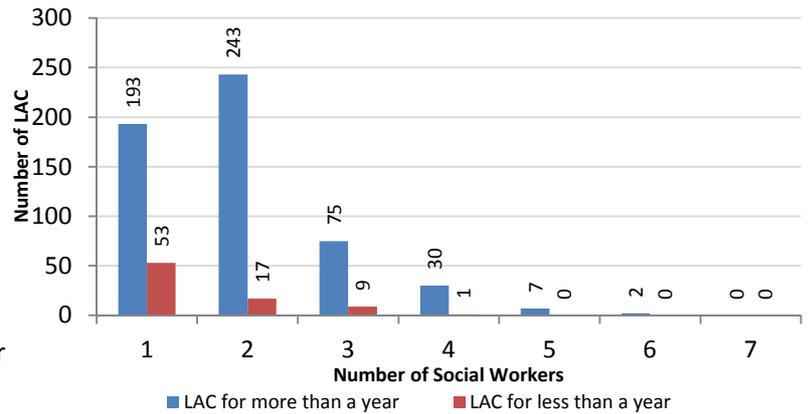
Looked After Children with up to date assessments

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

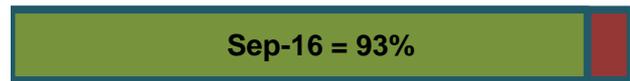
Looked After Children whose reviews have been completed on time

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



2015/16 Out-turn = 97%
2014/15 Out-turn = 96%



2015/16 Out-turn = 90%
2014/15 Out-turn = 91%

94% of LAC assessments are currently up to date, a decrease from 97% at the end of March 2016

Since 1st April 2016, 692 reviews have been completed with only 46 not completed within timescales.

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

93%

Sep-16

Performance in LAC participation in reviews since year out turn 15/16 has remained stable at 93%. This is still lower than year out turn 14/15

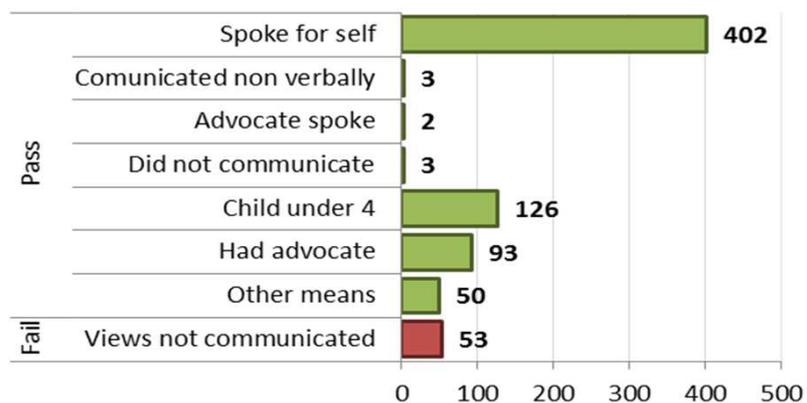
93%

2015/16 Out-turn

98%

2014/15 Out-turn

Context: Full Answers for Participation



Education



KS2 Level 4	Maths	Reading	Writing	Reading, Writing and Maths	GCSEs	5+ GCSE A* - C inc Eng & Maths
Wolverhampton LAC 2015	60%	67%	53%	50%		20.0%
Wolverhampton 2015	86%	89%	86%	80%		51.6%
Wolves LAC 2014	74%	78%	81%	70%		17.0%
West Midlands 2015	63%	69%	58%	51%		14.3%
Statistical Neighbours 2015	61%	68%	55%	51%		16.7%
England 2015	64%	71%	61%	52%		13.8%

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. Please note that there is some discrepancies when nationally published data is compared with locally held data - it is the national data that is presented here.

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



90%
2015/16 Out-turn

89%
2014/15 Out-turn

79%
PEPS (Years 1 -11)
- Sep-16

70%
PEPS (Years 12 and 13)
- Sep-16

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

* Children looked after for 12 months or more

Unauthorised Absence *

1.2%

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

Overall Absence *

4.0%

West Midlands - 3.70%
Statistical Neighbours - 3.69%

LAC Persistent Absence

5.0%

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

There has been a slight decrease in the number of PEP's in the month however both indicators still show a strong result.

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

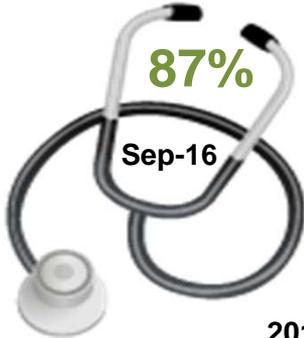
Dental Checks



2015/16 Out-turn = 89%

2014/15 Out-turn = 81%

Health Checks



2015/16 Out-turn = 88%

2014/15 Out-turn = 82%

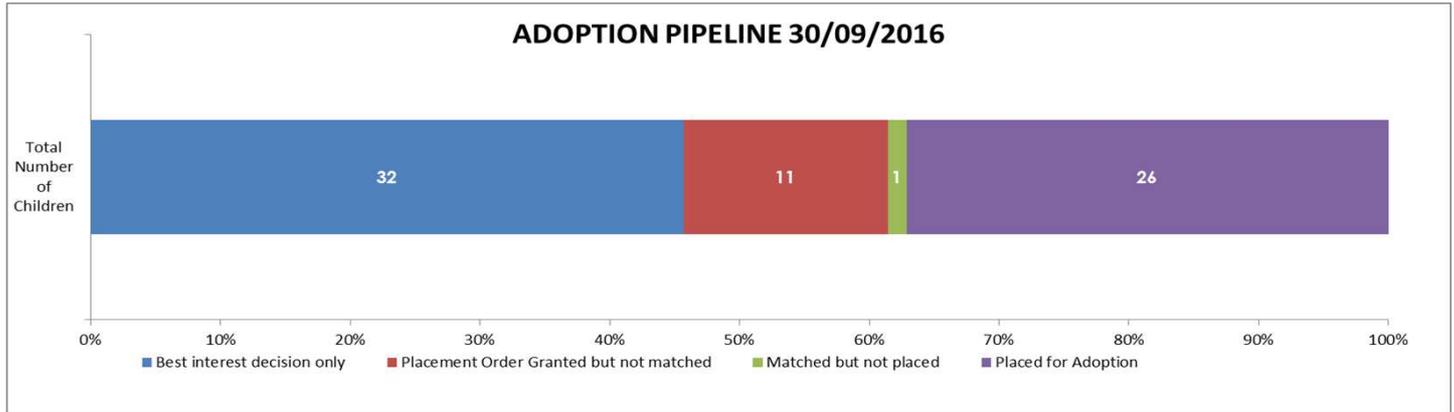
There has again been a slight decrease
in performance since year out turn
however results in this area remain
strong as a result of improved working
with the CCG and RWT

Leaving Care



Children Adopted	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17 (to date)
	50	51	61	20

Adoptions



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

620 Days

3 Year avg 2014-2017

(734 days 2012-2015)

Target - 428 days

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

243 Days

3 year avg 2014-2017

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)

474 Days

3 year avg 2014-2017

(488 days 2012-2015)

Target - 428 days

Single year performance (2015/16 - Provisional)

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

A2 - 238 days

A10 - 518 days

Single year performance (2016/17 as at 31st July)

A1 - 534 days with 68% of children adopted within timescales

A2 - 271 days

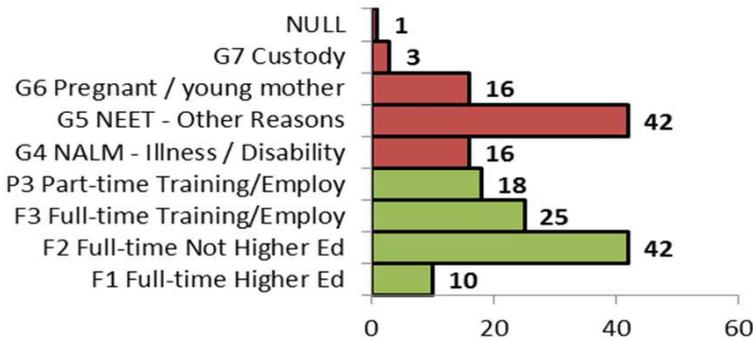
A10 - 502 days

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

Context: Number EET Statuses



Care Leavers in Education, Employment and Training 2015/16

Wolverhampton - 60%
West Mids (14/15) - 41%
Statistical Neighbours (14/15) - 46%
England (14/15) - 48%

September 2016:
53%

% of Care Leavers in Suitable Accommodation

90%

% of Care Leavers available to work

81% Available
19% NALM

(29 Care Leavers are NALM (not available for the labour market) due to illness / disability, pregnancy or young mothers or being in custody)

The percentage of children and care leavers in education, employment or training (EET) has decreased in the year to date to 53% from 60% at year out turn.

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