

**Time** 5.30 pm **Public Meeting?** YES **Type of meeting** Oversight  
**Venue** Training Room - Ground Floor - Civic Centre, St Peter's Square, Wolverhampton  
WV1 1SH

## Membership

**Chair** Cllr Val Gibson (Lab)

### Labour

Cllr Julie Hodgkiss  
Cllr Milkinderpal Jaspal  
Cllr Welcome Koussoukama  
Cllr Lynne Moran  
Cllr Peter O'Neill  
Cllr Rita Potter  
Cllr Paul Sweet  
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 Services team:

**Contact** Helen Tambini  
**Tel/Email** Tel: 01902 554070 or [helen.tambini@wolverhampton.gov.uk](mailto:helen.tambini@wolverhampton.gov.uk)  
**Address** Democratic Services, Civic Centre, 1st floor, St Peter's Square,  
Wolverhampton WV1 1RL

Copies of other agendas and reports are available from:

**Website** <http://wolverhampton.moderngov.co.uk>  
**email** [democratic.services@wolverhampton.gov.uk](mailto:democratic.services@wolverhampton.gov.uk)  
**Tel** 01902 550320

Please take note of the protocol for filming, recording and use of social media in meetings, copies of which are displayed in the meeting room.

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	<b>Apologies for absence</b>
2	<b>Declarations of interests</b>
3	<b>Minutes of the previous meeting - 9 November 2017</b> (Pages 5 - 12) [To approve the minutes of the previous meeting as a correct record]
4	<b>Matters arising</b> [To consider any matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting]
5	<b>Schedule of outstanding matters</b> (Pages 13 - 16) [To consider and comment on the schedule of outstanding matters]
6	<b>Care Leavers Forum - Reducing Care Leaver Isolation on Birthdays</b> [A presentation by representatives of the Care Leavers Forum]
7	<b>Children in Care Council - Feedback from Take Over Day</b> [A presentation by representatives of the Children in Care Council]
8	<b>Virtual School Head Annual Report 2016-2017</b> [Darren Martindale, Virtual School Head for Looked After Children and Youth Offending to present report] [TO FOLLOW]
9	<b>Performance Monitoring Report/Children Looked After Return Initial Analysis 2016-2017</b> (Pages 17 - 40) [Emma Bennett, Director of Children's Services to present report]
10	<b>Corporate Parenting Board - Proposed Amendment to Terms of Reference</b> (Pages 41 - 44) [To consider a proposed amendment to the terms of reference of the Board]
11	<b>Exclusion of the press and public</b> [To pass the 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 falling within paragraph 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972]

## PART 2 - ITEMS NOT OPEN TO THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

12	<b>Councillor Visits to Establishments</b>
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## Attendance

**Chair** Cllr Val Gibson (Lab)

## Labour

Cllr Julie Hodgkiss  
Cllr Martin Waite  
Cllr Peter O'Neill

Cllr Lynne Moran  
Cllr Milkinderpal Jaspal  
Cllr Welcome Koussoukama

Cllr Paul Sweet

## Conservative

Cllr Christine Mills

## Employees

Alice Vickers  
Alison Hinds  
Darren Martindale

Dr Roberta Fry

Dr Stephanie Simon  
Emma Bennett  
Fiona Brennan  
Helen Tambini  
Joginder Shoker Kang  
Mandy Lee  
Nicola Hale  
Paulette Morris

Corporate Parenting Officer  
Head of Looked After Children  
COPE Team Manager/Virtual School Head, Community  
Directorate  
Consultant Clinical Psychologist - Black Country Partnership  
NHS Foundation Trust  
Designated Doctor, Looked After Children  
Director of Children's Services  
Designated Nurse, Looked After Children  
Democratic Services Officer  
CAMHS Looked After Children's Team  
Safeguarding Manager  
Independent Reviewing Officer  
Service Manager Specialist Mental Health CYP&F

*Item No.*     *Title*

**1        Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Potter and Waite.

**2        Declarations of interests**

There were no declarations of interest made.

**3        Minutes of the previous meeting - 14 September 2017**

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 14 September 2017 be confirmed as correct record and signed by the Chair.

**4        Matters arising**

The Chair asked if any foster carers had expressed an interest in attending future meetings.

Alison Hinds confirmed that two foster carers had expressed an interest and although they were unable to attend the meeting this evening, in future one or both would be attending.

**5        Schedule of outstanding matters**

The Chair presented the report on current progress on matters previously considered by the Board.

Helen Tambini, Democratic Services Officer confirmed the reports that were scheduled for the meeting in January 2018.

Alice Vickers, Corporate Parenting Officer confirmed that Kyron Hughes was now attending meetings as the representative of the Care Leavers Forum.

Emma Bennett confirmed that work was progressing with the format of future Performance Monitoring reports.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

**6        Annual Report of the Independent Reviewing Officer Service 2016-2017**

Mandy Lee, Safeguarding Manager and Nicola Hale, Independent Reviewing Officer attended the meeting and Mandy Lee presented the Annual Report of the Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) Service 2016-2017 and highlighted key points.

Mandy Lee confirmed that the IRO service had remained stable, with an experienced and capable team and the team's positive contribution had been recognised by OFSTED.

She confirmed that there had been a slight reduction in the timeliness of reviews and that appeared to be due to a spike in sickness and bereavements. That situation had now improved and it was a priority for 2017-2018 to improve that further.

The participation of children and young people in their Looked After Children (LAC) reviews also fluctuated and improving participation was another priority for next year.

Quality assurance had also improved, with access to quality assurance data, with quarterly review reports provided to the Children's Services Management team. Future Action Plans would be looked at based on that data.

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

- Work was underway to try and improve the uptake of the Mind of My Own (MOMO) app. There appeared to be a discrepancy with the reporting as the data for the MOMO 1 app was only being picked up on the Dashboard; however, there was a further app, MOMO Express which many more children and young people were using. An Action Plan had been produced and those using the app had been approached for input and the work formed part of several task groups.
- The possibility of using current users as ambassadors was being considered as a way forward.
- The MOMO Express was originally targeted for younger children and those with more specialised needs as it was more flexible and interactive; however, it had been found that many young people preferred it to the more two dimensional MOMO 1 app. Feedback had been given to MOMO to try and make it more interactive.
- If a young person was remanded then they were considered to be a LAC. The number was usually small, at around 2% of all LAC.
- If an IRO found evidence of good or excellent Social Work practice, then an Awards Form would be completed and recognition given to appropriate officers through the Line and Service Manager. The service did not share best practice as a matter of course; however, the manager might choose to share it.
- In respect of drift and delay, a permanence plan should be in place by the second review. If the IRO found that that was not in place, they would be monitoring progress closely and escalating any concerns to managers. Sometimes there were unavoidable delays, outside of the control of social workers; however, they would always be kept under review.

The Chair referred to paragraph 2.5 in the report and the reference to the change in legislation in 2011 and asked that in future reports the wording could be updated to reflect the current timescales.

Resolved:

That the Annual report of the Independent Reviewing Officer Service for 2016-2017 be noted.

## **7 Educational Achievement of Looked After Children**

Darren Martindale, Virtual School Head for Looked After Children presented the report for Educational Achievement of Looked After Children (LAC) and highlighted key points.

He confirmed that the report provided an up to date summary and the full Annual Report to be considered by the Board in January 2018, would provide further details, as some of the data was un-validated it needed to be acknowledged that that might change. The report highlighted the significant improvement in Key Stage 1, the slight dip in Key Stage 2 and the continued improvement in Key Stage 4.

Last year a disparity in performance for children living out of the city had been identified. Following the investment of additional resources, that disparity had now levelled out. Post 16 education was good, with two care leavers achieving degrees, one 2.1 and one 2.2. They were both hoping to carry on with master post-graduate studies.

He referred to the work of Virtual Heads trying to identify more meaningful ways to show progress, with a more holistic and wider response as the current data could only show part of the picture. He confirmed that the general direction was very positive and officers were aware of the areas which required focus.

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

- The Annual Report would cross-reference a cohort of characteristics, including information on any gender disparities. The gender analysis did confirm that in Key Stage 1 girls were better at reading and writing across all school cohorts.
- The data for Key Stage 2 had highlighted that in all but two cases, LAC who had not achieved their target had made above expected levels of progress which was encouraging.
- Stability was the key, as it was known that change did affect academic success and it was a priority to find better ways of working together to ensure stability.

Resolved:

That the report on the recent educational attainment of Looked After Children be noted.

## **8 Health Services for Looked After Children Annual Report**

Fiona Brennan, Designated Nurse for Looked After Children and Dr Stephanie Simon, Designated Doctor for Looked After Children presented the Health Service for Looked After Children Annual Report and highlighted key points.

Fiona Brennan referred to the core activities that required commissioning for Looked After Children (LAC) relating to statutory duties, including the Initial Health Assessments (IHA), the Review Health Assessments (RHA), Care Leaver Summaries (LCS) and Adoption Reports.

She confirmed that there were 630 LAC, which was a high number when compared to other local authorities, with almost 60% living outside of the city. She also referred to the breakdown of 'Out of Authority' placements.

She confirmed that up until June 2017, she had been undertaking health assessments for LAC placed in neighbouring boroughs; however, she had stepped down as her role was more strategic and that work was now being undertaken by the Royal Wolverhampton (NHS) Trust. There were huge challenges in respect of quality and timeliness and if the criteria were not met they were returned. It was hoped that by February 2018, the Trust would cover all LAC assessments.

She advised that in respect of initial health assessments, only 18% had been completed out of date, as the remaining outstanding assessments had not been due until a later date.

Dr Stephanie Simon advised that due to staff leaving it had been a challenge to undertake all the health assessments; however, it had been covered by other senior medical staff.

She referred to the many improvements, including the introduction of the Health Passports, the establishment of Care Leaver Summaries and a named nurse engaging closely with LAC, which included attending drop in sessions at The Way.

She confirmed that some assessments had not been undertaken as LAC had left care, or figures had been included in adoption figures. Some LAC were also hard to reach or refused contact and in those circumstances the named nurse would offer support.

She referred to the Family Nurse Partnership and the current review of commissioning arrangements. She confirmed that the new service would be called The Partnering Families Team.

Fiona Brennan referred to the Care Quality Commission (CQC) and OFSTED inspections undertaken in July 2016 and January 2017 respectively. The CQC inspection found the service to be adequate and made several recommendations. The OFSTED inspection found the service to be good; however, it highlighted the inequality of care for children placed a distance from the city. She confirmed that all the actions had been addressed and implemented.

She advised that she would now be sitting on the National Expert Group for the West Midlands and she would share and highlight best practice.

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

- There was no specific data in relation to obesity in respect of LAC; however, if it was an issue it would have already been escalated.
- It would be helpful if more general statistics on health issues for LAC could be included in future reports.
- In respect of a health presence during reviews, a balance had to be struck to ensure that there was not a large adult presence, as it was essential that children felt at ease during the process.

- When a LAC was placed outside of the city it was vital that they received the same support. Good communication was the key to ensure that delays were kept to a minimum.
- Uptake at The Way was beginning to increase, with a 'drop in' session every Friday from 1-4pm. The named nurse provided a vital link to the most vulnerable and her involvement was part of the package of support.

Resolved:

1. That the Health Service for Looked After Children Annual Report be noted.
2. That future Annual Reports include general statistics on health issues for LAC.

## 9 **Performance Monitoring Report**

Emma Bennett, Director of Children's Services presented the Performance Monitoring Report for September 2017 and highlighted key points.

Emma Bennett confirmed that it was envisaged that the new format for the report would be available for the next financial year, in line with the new Dashboard.

She confirmed that the number of Looked After Children (LAC) remained at 630. At the next meeting details of national returns would be available highlighting 903 outcomes for Children in Care. The number continued to be high compared to comparator authorities. Wolverhampton was now fourteenth highest nationally and second highest in the West Midlands after Stoke on Trent. She advised that it should be noted that the number of LAC continued to increase nationally; however, in Wolverhampton it had previously fallen and was now stable.

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

- The social worker referred to being allocated one case was most likely allocated that case as a primary worker, as most cases were allocated with co-workers. It was therefore a recording issue and that social worker would have other cases.
- A bid had been made and awarded from the Controlling Migration Fund to ease the pressure on local services from recent migration and that was being used to support the asylum seekers in the city. That cohort was doing well, especially those who had attended the Royal Wolverhampton School.
- Both financial and legal support was given to those asylum seekers waiting for their status to be dealt with by the Home Office. It was a concern nationally that the process was long and protracted.
- On the Council's Learning Hub there were case studies available to view on Corporate Parenting E-Learning – Our Journey into Care.

A member of the Board asked for clarification regarding the measurement of the percentage of LAC known to the local authority 30 days prior to becoming LAC, as it did not seem clear what the 88% referred to.

Emma Bennett advised that it was the way the figure had been measured historically; however, she would check the details and advise the Board.

Resolved:



1. That the report and comments raised be noted.
2. That the Director of Children's Services confirm details of the percentage of LAC known to the local authority 30 days prior to becoming LAC.

10 **Exclusion of the press and public**

Resolved:

That in accordance with Section 100A 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 2 of the Act, namely information that is likely to reveal the identity to an individual.

11 **CAMHS Looked After Children's Mental Health report**

Dr Roberta Fry, Consultant Clinical Psychologist, Joginder Shoker Kang, CAMHS Looked After Children's Team and Paulette Morris, Service Manager Specialist Mental Health CYP & F, Black Country Partnership NHS Foundation Trust presented the report and highlighted key points.

Resolved:

1. That the report be noted.
2. That the Board's concern regarding the current referral waiting times be noted.
3. That future Annual Reports include more detailed information on referral waiting times both inside and outside the city.

12 **Councillor Visits to Establishments**

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

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<b>CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL</b>	<b>Corporate Parenting Board</b> <b>18 January 2018</b>
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<b>Report title</b>	Schedule of Outstanding Matters	
<b>Cabinet member with lead responsibility</b>	Councillor Val Gibson Children and Young People	
<b>Wards affected</b>	All	
<b>Accountable director</b>	Emma Bennett, Children and Young People	
<b>Originating service</b>	Governance	
<b>Accountable employee(s)</b>	Helen Tambini Tel Email	Democratic Services Officer 01902 554070 Helen.Tambini@wolverhampton.gov.uk

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**Recommendation for action:**

The Corporate Parenting Board is asked to consider and comment on the schedule 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.

## 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>
13 July 2017	Care Leavers up to age 18 that are pregnant or teenage parents	Laura Wood	Update report be submitted to the Board in March
9 November 2017	Performance Monitoring Report	Emma Bennett	That the Director of Children's Services confirm details of the percentage of LAC known to the local authority 30 days prior to becoming LAC

## 3.0 Financial implications

- 3.1 There are no direct financial implications as a result of this report.
- 3.2 The financial implications of each matter will be detailed in the individual report submitted to the Board.  
[NM/04012018/A]

## 4.0 Legal implications

- 4.1 There are no direct legal implications as a result of this report.
- 4.2 The legal implications of each matter will be detailed in the individual report submitted to the Board.  
[TC/05012018/R]

## 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 associate

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<b>CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL</b>	<b>Corporate Parenting Board</b> <b>18 January 2018</b>
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<b>Report title</b>	Performance Monitoring Information/Children Looked After Return Initial Analysis 2016-2017
<b>Cabinet member with lead responsibility</b>	Councillor Val Gibson Children and Young People
<b>Wards affected</b>	All
<b>Accountable director</b>	Emma Bennett, Children and Young People
<b>Originating service</b>	Communications, Insight and Performance Team
<b>Accountable employee(s)</b>	Helena Kucharczyk Insight and Performance Manager Tel 01902 555440 Email <a href="mailto:Helena.Kucharczyk@wolverhampton.gov.uk">Helena.Kucharczyk@wolverhampton.gov.uk</a>
<b>Report to be/has been considered by</b>	Corporate Parenting Board 18 January 2018

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**Recommendation for action or decision:**

The Corporate Parenting Board is recommended to consider the report and request any additional indicators or data items that they would like to see reported in future performance updates.

**Recommendation for noting:**

The Corporate Parenting Board is asked to note the most recent performance relating to Looked After Children and Care Leavers.

## **1.0 Purpose**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Corporate Parenting Board on the latest performance relating to Looked After Children and Care Leavers.

## **2.0 Background**

- 2.1 The Corporate Parenting Board has regularly received a performance report. The report in its current format has been presented to the Board since January 2015, with some additions and enhancements made to the report over time at the request of the Board.

## **3.0 Update**

- 3.1 All current indicators in the report have been updated with data as at November 2017.

Please note that some 2017-2018 out-turn data remains provisional and will not be confirmed until statutory data is published by the Department for Education.

- 3.2 Where available national and comparator data has been updated, including:

- Population data
- Looked after Children numbers
- Absence Data - *please note there was an error in previous reports where persistent absence was underreported this has now been corrected and updated with 2016 data*
- Care Leavers Data.

- 3.3 Additionally this month a briefing note has been included which provides an initial analysis of Wolverhampton's Looked After Children performance as reported in the Children Looked After (903) statutory return. This data has been published by the Department for Education and benchmarks Wolverhampton's performance against national, regional and statistical neighbours.

## **4.0 Financial implications**

- 4.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.  
[NM/04012018/U]

## **5.0 Legal implications**

- 5.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.  
[TC/10012018/E]

## **6.0 Equalities implications**

- 6.1 The report contains some demographic data, however, there are no direct equalities implications arising from this report.



## **7.0 Environmental implications**

7.1 There are no direct environmental implications arising from this report.

## **8.0 Human resources implications**

8.1 There are no direct human resources implications arising from this report.

## **9.0 Corporate landlord implications**

9.1 There are no direct corporate landlord implications arising from this report.

## **10.0 Schedule of background papers**

10.1 There are no background papers related to this report.

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**CITY OF  
WOLVERHAMPTON  
COUNCIL**



## Key Points to Note

### Demographics

Demographic data has been updated with the 2016 mid-year population estimates. A considerably lower proportion of LAC are from BME backgrounds compared to the Wolverhampton CYP population.

2017 comparator data has been updated for the number of Looked After Children (LAC). The number of LAC remains static after decreases through early 2016. Further reduction is required to bring Wolverhampton in line with our comparators. Wolverhampton LAC population has remained between 625-650 for the past 18 months.

### Placements

In-house Foster Carers trend data shows that the percentage of children placed with in-house foster carers has increased over the past two months.

The proportion of LAC placed more than 20 miles from home increased slightly to 16%.

The indicators that look at placement stability have remained strong in the month against a backdrop of static LAC numbers and increased adoptions. 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 of Looked After Children in Wolverhampton has seen a decrease in recent months with 81% up to date.

Reviews completed on time has increased in the month to 95% from 82% at year end 2016-17. The percentage of children that participated in their reviews has increased after lower rates of performance in early 2017/18 and stands at 93%.

### Education

The 2016 KS2 and KS4 results show that Wolverhampton LAC performed better than LAC nationally, regionally and within statistical neighbours, however, there remains a significant gap between the performance of LAC and all Wolverhampton children.

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.

Attendance data has been updated for 2016 - attendance of Wolverhampton LAC at school is better than that of comparators. please note there was an error in previous reports where persistent absence was under-reported

**Health**

The percentage of children with up to date dental checks remains at 91% and is in line with year out-turn 2016/17. The 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 decreased in the month to 86% compared to 91% at year out-turn 2016/17. Most children who do not have up to date health checks are placed outside of the city.

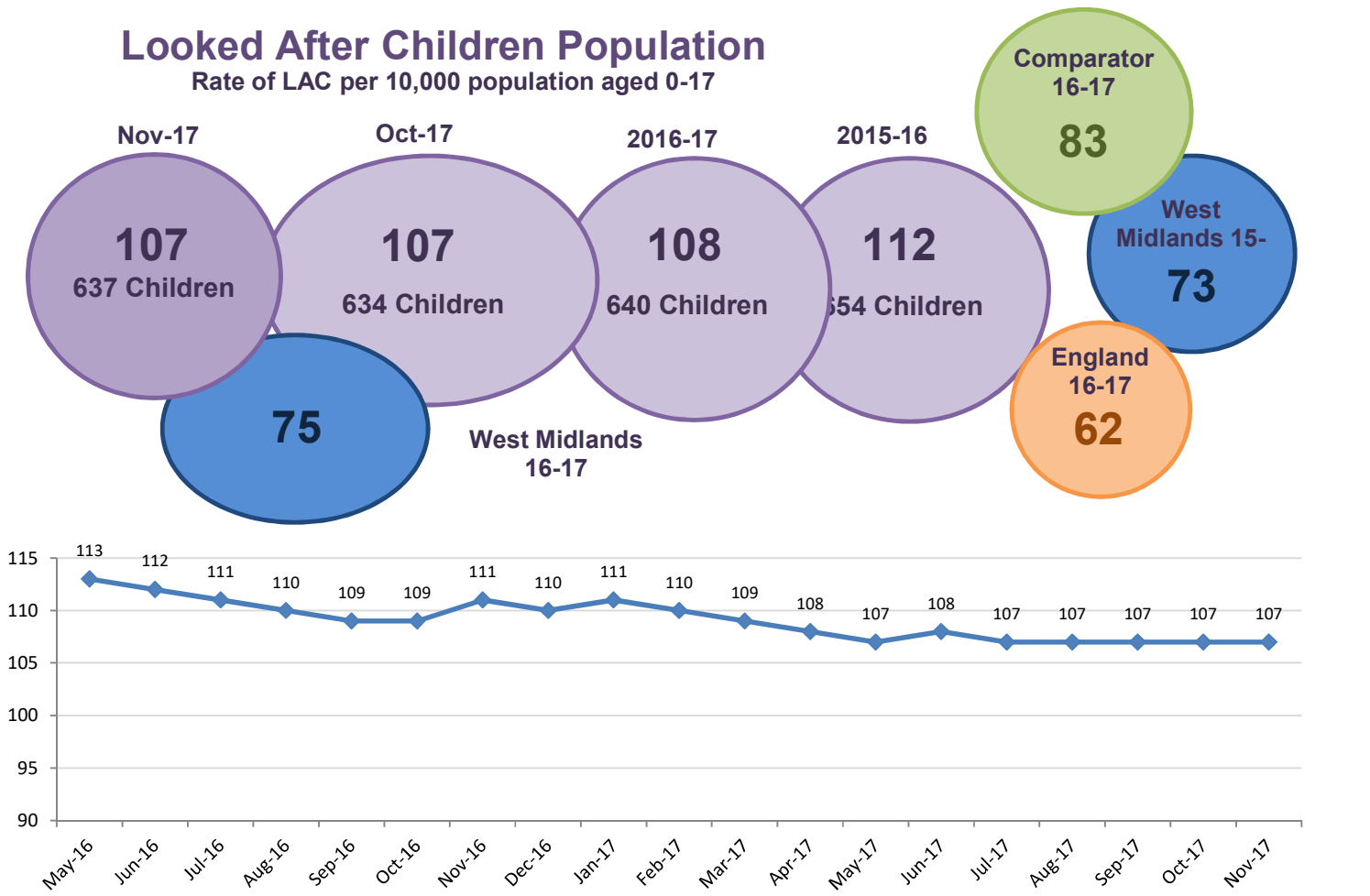
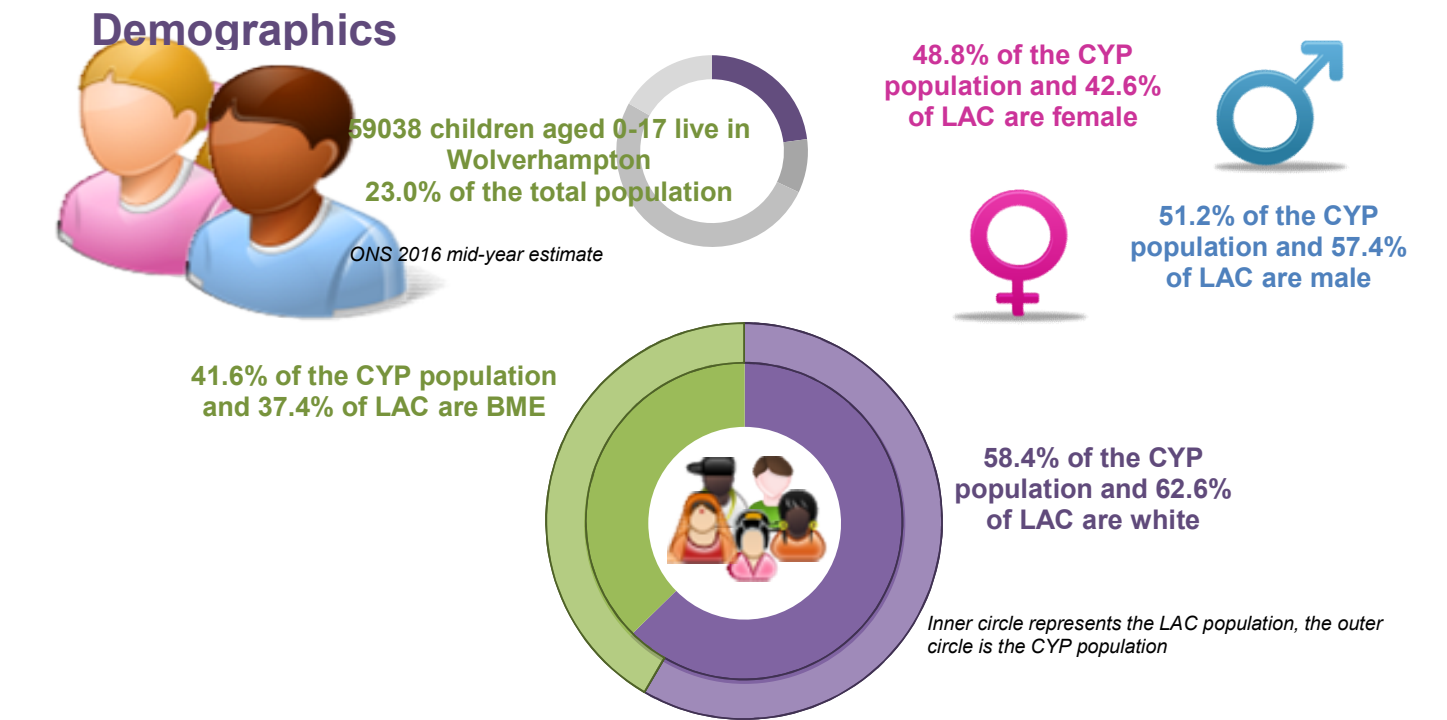
**Leaving Care****Adoption**

Adoption timeliness in the year 2017-18 show signs of improvement and are close to national targets for the first year. There have been 28 adoptions in 2017/18 with 65% within A1 indicator timescales. Average timescales are within 90 days of national targets, a result even more impressive when considering three longer term LAC adoption took place in the year of over 1500 days.

**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 November 2017 61% of 17-21-year olds were in Education, Employment or Training. NALM (not available for the labour market Work continues in this area to ensure that education, employment and training information is recorded and updated. Impressive results from the National LAC return shows Wolverhampton are currently ahead of regional, statistical and national comparators

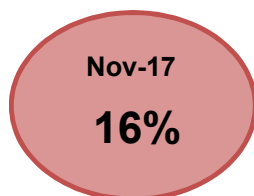
The proportion of care leavers currently deemed to be in suitable accommodation is also included and shows that 91% of the cohort are currently in suitable accommodation.



## Placements

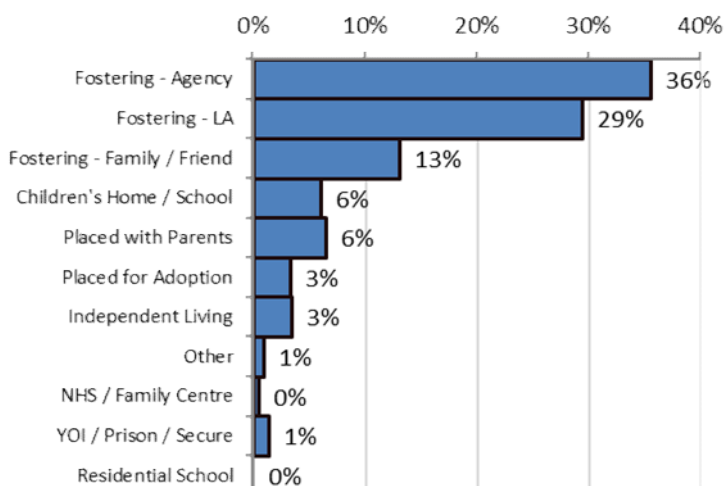


% LAC Placed 20 miles + from home

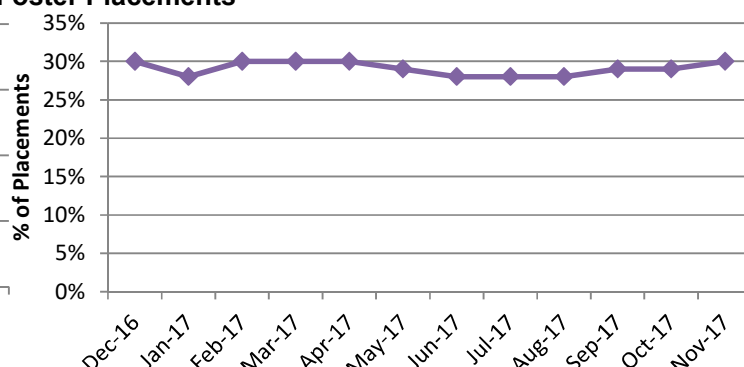
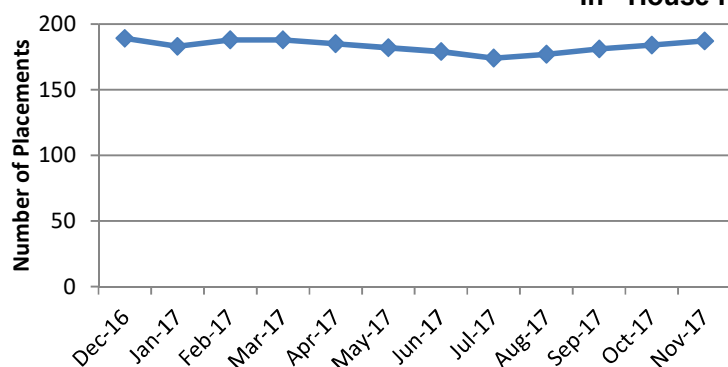


2016-17 Out-turn = 14% 2015-16  
Out-turn = 16% 2014-15 Out-turn =  
16%

### LAC Placements



### In - House Foster Placements

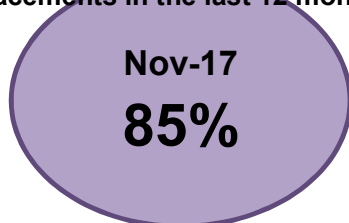


The proportion of LAC Placed with in-house foster carers has increased in the past two months and is now at 30%  
The gap has narrowed between the proportion of internal and agency foster placements.

### Placement Stability



LAC with fewer than 3  
placements in the last 12 months



Wolves 16-17 (Provis) = 86%  
Wolverhampton 15-16 = 87% West  
Midlands 15-16 = 90% Comparator  
15-16 = 90% England 15-16 = 90%

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



Wolves 16-17 (Provis) = 67%  
Wolverhampton 15-16 = 68% West  
Midlands 15-16 = 69% Comparator  
15-16 = 69% England 15-16 = 68%

Performance shows that Looked After Children in Wolverhampton benefit from largely stable packages  
although percentages of stable relationships has decreased in the current year

## Routes into Care and Ofsted Ratings



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

92%

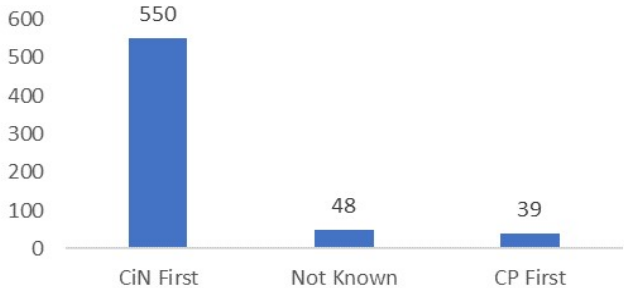
% of LAC who are Asylum Seekers

1.7%

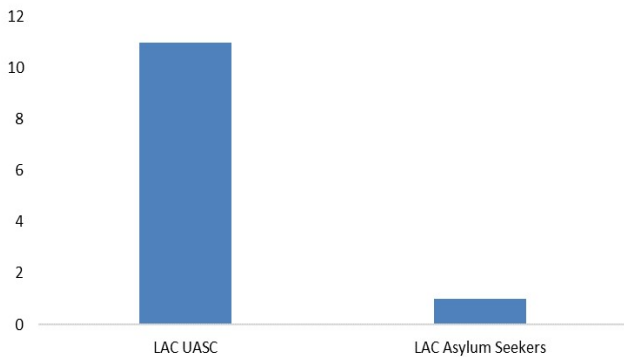
% of LAC in Good or Outstanding Children's Homes

80%

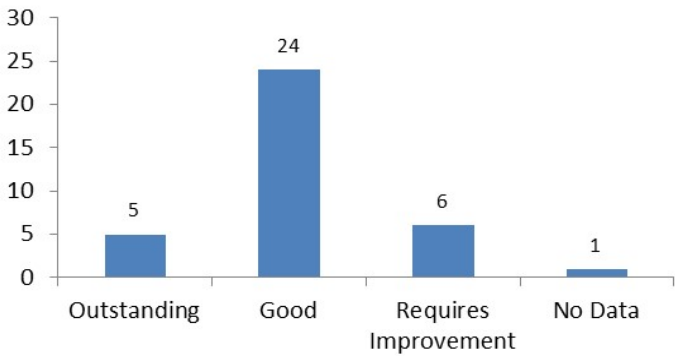
Knowledge of Child Pre LAC (30 Days)



How many LAC are Asylum Seekers



Number of Children in Residential Care Homes by OFSTED Rating





## Assessments & Reviews

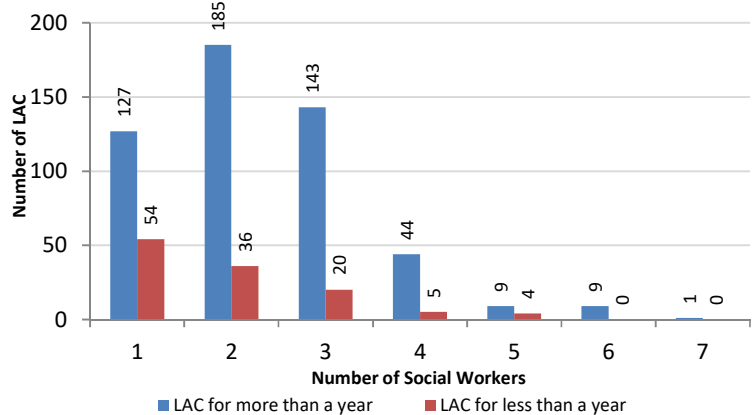


Average caseload of LAC children for LAC social workers

20

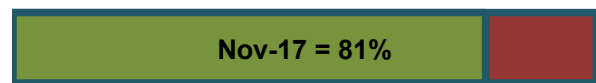
The most cases assigned to a social worker is 24. 13 social workers hold over 20 cases. The fewest cases allocate to a worker is 1.

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



### Looked After Children with up to date assessments

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

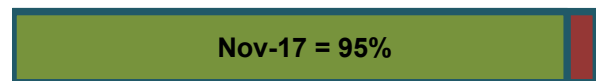


2016-17 Out-turn = 98%

2015-16 Out-turn = 97%

### Looked After Children whose reviews have been completed on time

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



2016-17 Out-turn = 82%

2015-16 Out-turn = 90%

81% of LAC assessments are currently up to date, compared with 98% at the end of March 2017

In the month, 120 reviews have been completed with only 6 not completed within timescales.

The proportion of LAC reviews where the child was present or contributed by other means since 1 April 2017

94%

Nov-17

Performance in LAC participation in reviews since year end has increased to 93%

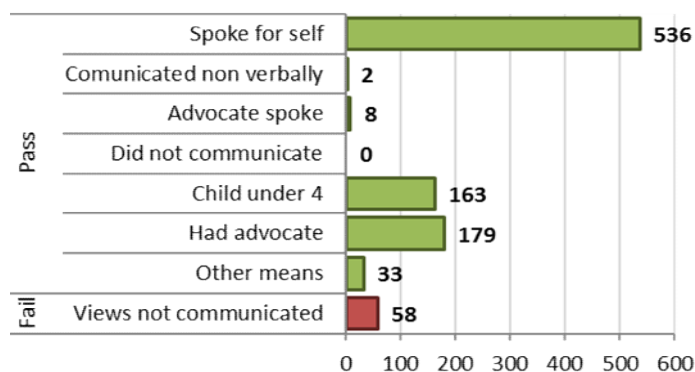
90%

2016-17 Out-turn

93%

2015-16 Out-turn

Full Answers for Participation



## Education



KS2 Expected Standard	Maths	Reading	Writing	Reading, Writing and Maths	Key Stage 4	GCSE A* - C in Eng & Maths	Attainment 8	Progress 8
Wolverhampton LAC 2016	51%	60%	58%	37%		20.0%	24.1	-1.16
Wolverhampton 2016	70%	65%	75%	53%		58.8%	47.7	-0.13
West Midlands 2016	41%	38%	43%	23%		17.1%	23.4	-1.07
Statistical Neighbours 2016	40%	35%	43%	25%		18.0%	22.2	-1.17
England 2016	41%	41%	46%	25%		17.5%	22.8	-1.14

**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 2016 performed better than regional, statistical neighbour and national results. Performance in GCSEs is also better. However, there remains a significant gap between the performance of all children and LAC.

Detailed analysis of LAC educational performance was presented to the Panel via the Virtual School Head teacher report. Please note that there are 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)



**95%**  
2016-17 Out-turn

**90%**  
2015-16 Out-turn

**82%**  
PEPS (Years 1 -11)  
- Nov-17

**LAC Absence from School - 2016**  
(taken from nationally published data)

**71%**  
PEPS (Years 12 and 13)  
- Nov-17

\* Children looked after for 12 months or more

**Unauthorised Absence \***

**0.6%**

West Midlands - 0.8%  
Statistical Neighbours - 1.1%  
England - 1.0%

**Overall Absence \***

**3.3%**

West Midlands - 3.8%  
Statistical Neighbours - 3.9%  
England - 3.9%

**LAC Persistent Absence**

**6.7%**

West Midlands - 8.2%  
Statistical Neighbours - 9.4%  
England - 9.1%

There has been an decrease in the number of PEP's in the month and both indicators still show a strong result. The new E-PEP system is due to go live from the start of November 2017.

\* Absence data has been updated - please note there was an error in previous reports where persistent absence was under-reported

LAC Health



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

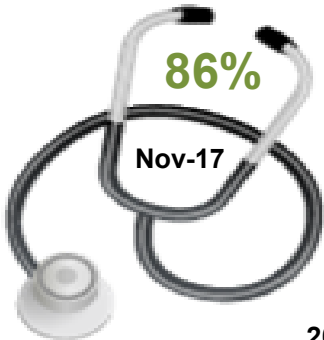
Dental Checks



2016-17 Out-turn = 81%

2015-16 Out-turn = 89%

Health Checks



2016-17 Out-turn = 91%

2015-16 Out-turn = 88%

There has again been a increase in performance since year out turn in dental checks and results in this area remain strong as a result of improved working with the CCG and RWT.

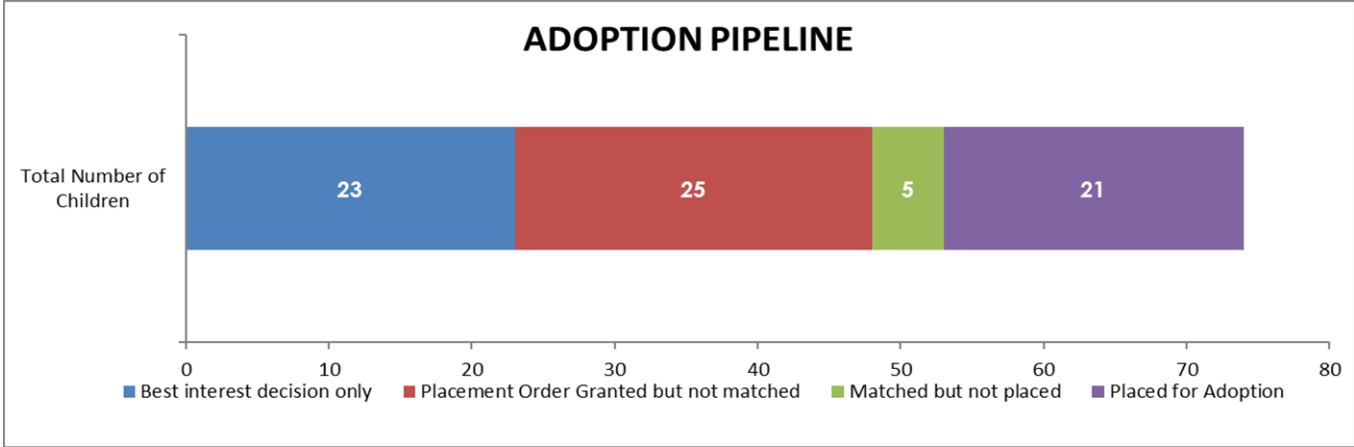
Performance of Health Checks remains strong however has seen decreased since year out-turn.

# Leaving Care



## Adoptions

Children Adopted	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	November 2017
	51	61	47	28



### 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**

**603 Days**  
3 Year avg 2015-2018  
(672 days 2013-2016)  
Target - 428 days

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

**230 Days**  
3 year avg 2015-2018  
(242 days 2013-2016)  
Target - 121 days

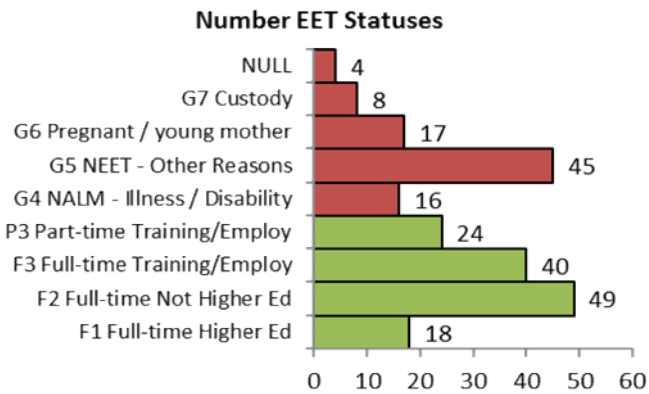
**A10 - Average time between a child entering care and moving in with their adoptive family (stopped at point of fostering for foster carers adoptions)**

**501 Days**  
3 year avg 2015-2018  
(508 days 2013-2016)  
Target - 428 days

Single year performance 2016-17	Single year performance (2017-18 as at 31 May)
<b>A1</b> - 651 days with 64% of children adopted within timescales <b>A2</b> - 238 days <b>A10</b> - 518 days	<b>A1</b> - 514 days with 75% of children adopted within timescales <b>A2</b> - 246 days <b>A10</b> - 451 days

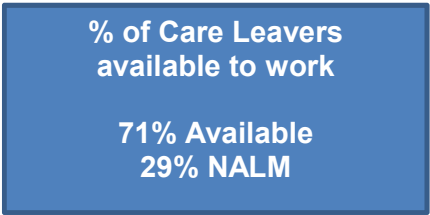
The adoption scorecards for 2013-16 were published in March 2017. Wolverhampton were once again rated 'double red' in the two key indicators, however, performance around adopting hard to place children including those over the age of 5 and from BME backgrounds continues to be better than performance nationally. Detailed analysis of the results has been undertaken and is available.

Care Leavers



Care Leavers in Education, Employment and Training

**Current - 61%**  
**Wolverhampton (16/17) - 56%**  
**West Mids (16/17) - 46%**  
**Statistical Neighbours (16/17) - 47%**  
**England (16/17)- 50%**



*(34 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 increased slightly at 61% compared with year out turn 2015-16.

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# CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON C O U N C I L

## Children Looked After Return Initial Analysis

November 2017

**Produced by:**

**James Amphlett**  
**Insight and Performance Team**  
Communications  
City of Wolverhampton Council

For further information please contact:  
[Insightandperformance@wolverhampton.gov.uk](mailto:Insightandperformance@wolverhampton.gov.uk)

## **Background**

The aim of the Children Looked After Return (SSDA903 return), is to collect information about children who were looked after by local authorities during the year ending 31 March 2017, those who have left care in the year and information as to the whereabouts of care leavers on their 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th or 21st birthday.

An SSDA903 return is required for two groups of children:

- Every child who is looked after by your local authority at any time during the year ending 31 March 2017;
- Relevant and former relevant young people whose 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th or 21st birthday falls within the collection period. For the 2016 to 2017 collection, this therefore covers young people whose date of birth fell between 1 April 1995 and 31 March 2000.

For children who were looked after during the year, the information relates to their placement, legal status and adoption from care (where appropriate). For those who have recently left care, the information required relates to their current activity and accommodation. The purpose of the SSDA903 is to provide the government with the necessary information to evaluate the outcome of policy initiatives and to monitor objectives on looked after children, both during their time in care and on reaching adulthood. The data collected is used in the provision of information for research and statistical information in response to parliamentary questions.

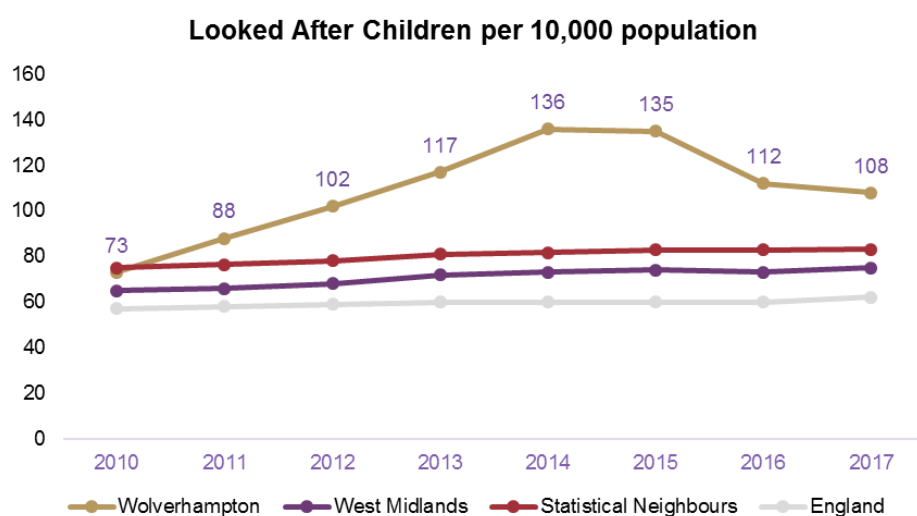
From this information Insight and Performance can analyse the performance of LAC services in Wolverhampton compared to the average results of our regional and statistical neighbours, along with the national averages for the country.

In October 2017, the government released initial data from the SSDA903 return showing performance relating to numbers of LAC children and percentage of care leavers in suitable accommodation, education, training or employment.



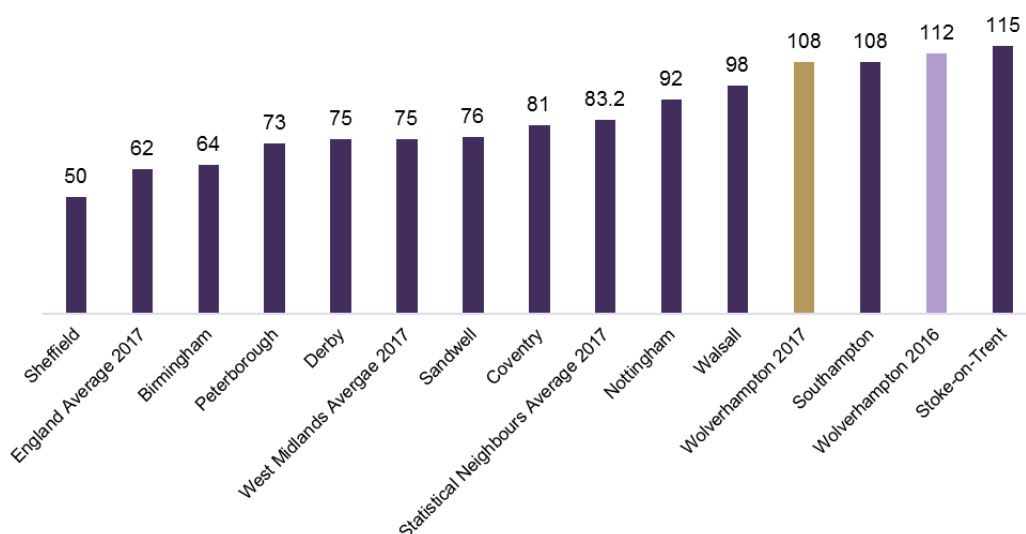
## Numbers of Looked After Children

	Looked After Children per 10,000 population								Trend
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	
<b>Wolverhampton</b>	73	88	102	117	136	135	112	108	↓
<b>West Midlands</b>	65	66	68	72	73	74	73	75	↑
<b>Statistical Neighbours</b>	75.1	76.5	78	80.9	81.8	83	82.9	83.2	↑
<b>England</b>	57	58	59	60	60	60	60	62	↑



Numbers of Looked After Children in Wolverhampton considerably remain higher than regional, statistical and national averages in 2017. In the region Wolverhampton has the second highest amount of LAC per 10,000 population with only Stoke on Trent (115 per 10,000 population) having a higher rate. In comparison to statistical neighbours Wolverhampton has the third highest amount of LAC with Southampton (108 per 10,000 population) and Stoke on Trent (115 per 10,000 population) having a higher rate

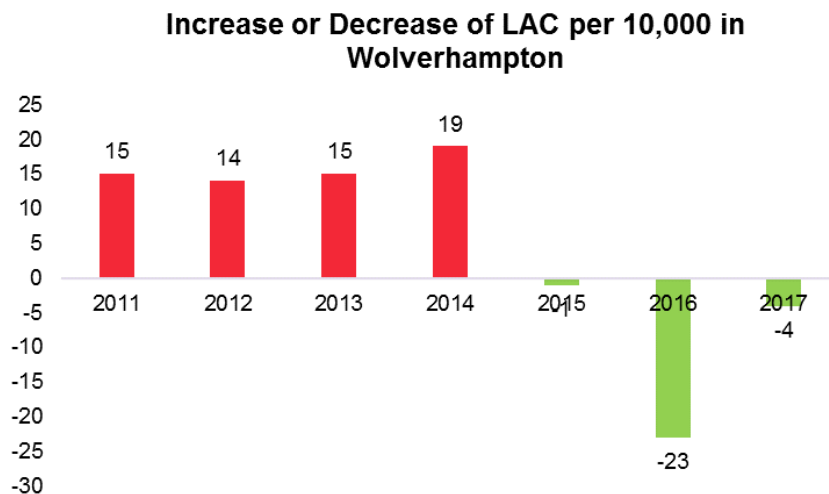
**Statistical Neighbours LAC number per 10,000 population**



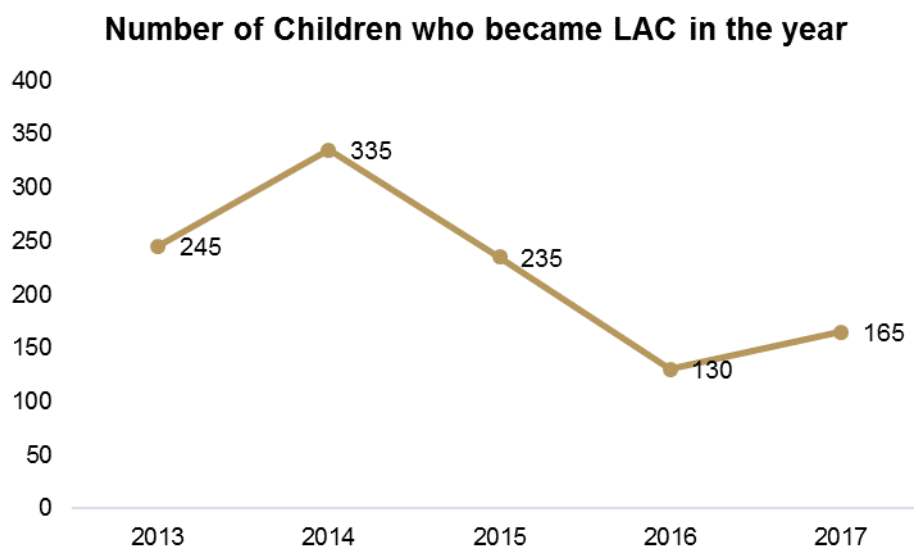
The chart shows that in comparison to our statistical neighbours Wolverhampton has over double that of the authority with the fewest Looked After Children (Sheffield). Geographically our nearest statistical neighbours are Birmingham, Sandwell, Walsall and Stoke on Trent. Birmingham have the fewest LAC per 10,000 population however Walsall and Stoke-on-Trent (who like Wolverhampton have Staffordshire borders) are also higher than regional, national and statistical averages.

Despite the numbers of LAC being higher than comparators, there is a more positive picture to be seen when analysing trends in the data. 2017 is the third consecutive year that Wolverhampton has seen a decrease in the LAC population; decrease 28 children per 10,000 population since 2014.

	Increase or Decrease in LAC Population in Year						
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Wolverhampton</b>	↑	↑	↑	↓	↓	↓	↓
<b>West Midlands</b>	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↓	↑
<b>Statistical Neighbours</b>	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↓	↑
<b>England</b>	↑	↑	↑	↔	↔	↔	↑



In 2017 Wolverhampton again saw decreases in the LAC population against increasing trends seen by regional and statistical neighbours as well as nationally. In the West Midlands, Wolverhampton was one of only four authorities that saw a decrease in LAC numbers, although 3 of these four authorities still had the largest amount of LAC in the region despite these increases. This suggests that the authorities with lower LAC rates are now finding it harder to find exit plans for LAC children as previous reductions in LAC has meant their current LAC cohort is more complex



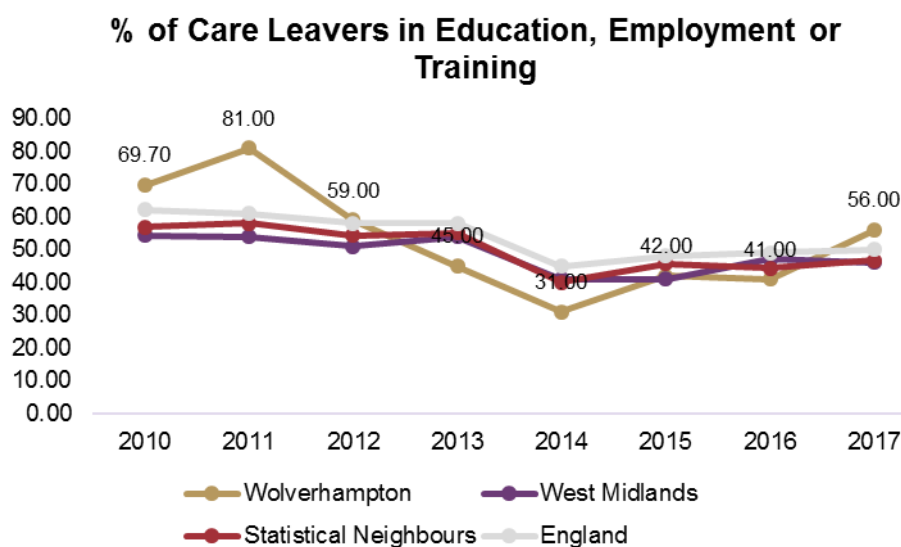
The number of LAC starts in the year increased from 130 in 2015/16 to 165. Despite this increase numbers of LAC starts have seen a large decrease over the past four years with over half the number of children being LAC in 2016/17 compared to 2013/14. This would indicate that prevention work is being successful in ensuring children remain out of care and that thresholds are being more stringently monitored to ensure children only come into care if all other options have been exhausted. In the year the increase of 35 LAC starts also includes an increase of 11 custodial sentences for young people over the same term meaning an increase of 24 LAC through the traditional social care route in the year.

The increase in LAC starts can also in part be linked to the increase in UASC in the year with 10 UASC children making up the LAC cohort at year end. This is the highest amount of UASC recorded in Wolverhampton since recording began. Despite this increase Wolverhampton has the second lowest amount of UASC compared to statistical neighbours, 110 less than Birmingham. Data shows that the number of UASC in an authority is linked to the proximity of service stations on major motorways or the traditional major cities of the country.

## Care Leavers

Care Leaver performance for 2016/17 has shown significant improvement with Wolverhampton now ranked as the 37<sup>th</sup> best performing authority for Care Leaver performance out of 152. Wolverhampton's 2017 performance is above all national, regional and statistical comparisons for all three of the care leavers indicators currently released. These are percentage of care leavers in education, employment or training, % of care leavers in higher education and % of care leavers in suitable accommodation

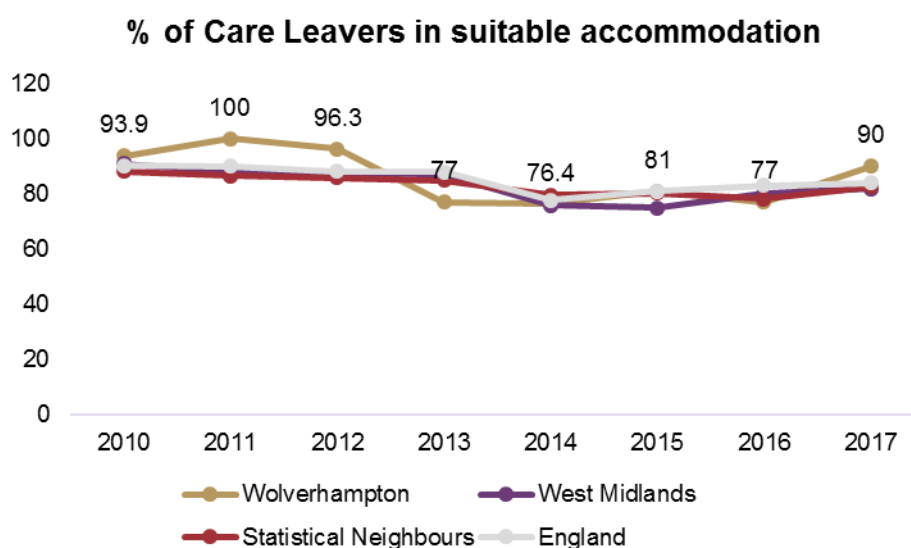
	% of Care Leavers in Education, Employment or Training							
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Wolverhampton</b>	69.70	81.00	59.00	45.00	31.00	42.00	41.00	56.00
<b>West Midlands</b>	54.40	54.00	51.00	54.00	41.00	41.00	47.00	46.00
<b>Statistical Neighbours</b>	56.82	58.10	54.30	55.10	40.00	45.70	44.40	46.70
<b>England</b>	62.10	61.00	58.00	58.00	45.00	48.00	49.00	50.00



The percentage of care leavers in education, employment or training has increased from 31% in 2013/14 to 56% in 2016/17. This is against a national, regional and statistical trend of poorer performance. Current performance puts Wolverhampton above target against all comparator averages.

Regionally, Wolverhampton has the 4<sup>th</sup> highest EET percentage rate behind Shropshire, Dudley and Telford and Wrekin. In the year Wolverhampton saw the largest increase in performance in the region. Against statistical neighbours, Wolverhampton has the second highest EET percentage rate behind Nottingham. Wolverhampton again saw the largest increase in performance against statistical neighbours. Wolverhampton also has a high percentage of care leavers in higher education. Wolverhampton has the joint highest percentage of care leavers in higher education compared to regional and statistical neighbours

	% of Care Leavers in suitable accommodation							
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Wolverhampton</b>	93.9	100	96.3	77	76.4	81	77	90
<b>West Midlands</b>	91	88	87.7	87	75.8	75	80	82
<b>Statistical Neighbours</b>	88.24	86.7	85.85	85	79.67	80.4	78.3	82.6
<b>England</b>	90.3	90	88.3	88	77.8	81	83	84



Performance has also increased in the percentage of care leavers in suitable accommodation. 90% of the care leaving cohort are currently in suitable accommodation. This is an impressive performance that puts Wolverhampton above regional, national and statistical averages for the year. Wolverhampton's performance is ranked 37<sup>th</sup> out of 152 authorities. In the year Wolverhampton's performance has increased from 77% to 90% the fifth highest increase across all authorities.

Regionally, performance is high and Wolverhampton are ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> behind Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin for % of care leavers in suitable accommodation. Wolverhampton's increased performance year to year is the largest out of any authority. This trend continues against statistical neighbours with Wolverhampton again ranked joint 2<sup>nd</sup> in regard to performance behind Peterborough.

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<b>CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL</b>	<b>Corporate Parenting Board</b> <b>18 January 2018</b>
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<b>Report title</b>	Corporate Parenting Board – Proposed amendment to terms of reference	
<b>Cabinet member with lead responsibility</b>	Councillor Val Gibson Children and Young People	
<b>Wards affected</b>	All	
<b>Accountable director</b>	Emma Bennett, Children and Young People	
<b>Originating service</b>	Governance	
<b>Accountable employee(s)</b>	Helen Tambini Tel Email	Democratic Services Officer 01902 554070 Helen.Tambini@wolverhampton.gov.uk

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**Recommendation for action:**

The Corporate Parenting Board is asked to consider and approve the amendment to the terms of reference of the Corporate Parenting Board.

## **1.0 Purpose**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to confirm an amendment to the terms of reference of the Corporate Parenting Board.

## **2.0 Background**

- 2.1 The terms of reference of the Corporate Parenting Board need to be updated to incorporate a reference to foster carers being invited to attend future Board meetings as advisers.
- 2.2 A draft of the revised terms of reference is attached as an Appendix.

## **3.0 Financial implications**

- 3.1 None arising directly from this report.  
[NM/04012018/M]

## **4.0 Legal implications**

- 4.1 None arising directly from this report.  
[TC/05012018/X]

## **5.0 Equalities implications**

- 5.1 None arising directly from this report.

## **6.0 Environmental implications**

- 6.1 None arising directly from this report.

## **7.0 Human resources implications**

- 7.1 None arising directly from this report.

## **8.0 Corporate landlord implications**

- 8.1 None arising directly from this report.

## **9.0 Schedule of background papers**

- 9.1 None



## **Appendix**

### *Terms of Reference Corporate Parenting Board*

#### **1. Terms of Reference – Corporate Parenting Board**

- 1.1 Provide clear strategic and political direction in relation to corporate parenting.
- 1.2 Ensure that all Councillors and City of Wolverhampton Council Service Groups are all fulfilling their roles and responsibilities as corporate parents proactively.
- 1.3 Make a demonstrable commitment to prioritising the needs of looked after children and young people and their carers.
- 1.4 Show ambition and aspirations for all looked after children and care leavers.
- 1.5 Undertake regular monitoring of the outcomes associated with the above priorities as they are articulated in the 'Corporate Parenting Pledge'.
- 1.6 Set objectives for monitoring the work of and evaluating the progress of the Corporate Parenting Senior Officers Group.
- 1.7 To receive regular reports on the level and quality of services to looked after children and care leavers from the Children and Young People's Service Group and other Service Groups and external organisations.
- 1.8 Ensure that Councillors undertake a programme of visits to children's homes.
- 1.9 Promote achievement and acknowledging the aspirations of children and young people looked after by supporting celebration events.
- 1.10 Champion the provision of Council based work placements and apprenticeships for looked after young people.
- 1.11 To determine ways in which the role of corporate parenting can be improved, using examples from other local authorities and countries.
- 1.12 To be responsible for ensuring that the views of children and young people and their carers are involved in the assessment, development and delivery of services.
- 1.13 Engaging with children and young people who are looked after or who have left care including inviting them to act as advisers to the Board on a regular basis.
- 1.14 Engaging with foster carers including inviting them to act as advisers to the Board on a regular basis.

- 1.15 Meeting with Government inspectors where appropriate, for their input into overall inspections such as the Annual Performance Assessment (APA) and individual inspections of fostering/adoption services and children's homes.
- 1.16 Approve a work plan, reviewing progress, membership of the Board and attainment of its role and terms of reference.
- 1.17 Through appropriate mechanisms, to report to Cabinet or other appropriate bodies on the work of the Board.