

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

Venue Committee Room 4 - Civic Centre, St Peter's Square, Wolverhampton WV1 1SH

Membership

Chair Cllr Paul Sweet (Lab)

Labour

Cllr Obaida Ahmed
Cllr Jasbinder Dehar
Cllr Celia Hibbert
Cllr Welcome Koussoukama
Cllr Peter O'Neill
Cllr Caroline Siarkiewicz
Cllr Clare Simm
Cllr Martin Waite

Conservative

Cllr Udey Singh

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 Shelley Humphries
Tel/Email Tel: 01902 554070 or shelley.humphries@wolverhampton.gov.uk
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Wolverhampton WV1 1RL

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

Agenda

Part 1 – items open to the press and public

- | <i>Item No.</i> | <i>Title</i> |
|-----------------|--|
| 1 | Apologies for absence |
| 2 | Declarations of interests |
| 3 | Minutes of the previous meeting - 22 March 2018 (Pages 3 - 10)
[To approve the minutes of the previous meeting as a correct record and sign] |
| 4 | Matters arising
[To consider any matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting] |
| 5 | Schedule of outstanding matters (Pages 11 - 14)
[To consider and comment on the schedule of outstanding matters] |
| 6 | Introduction to Corporate Parenting
[Presentation by Alice Vickers, Corporate Parenting Officer] |
| 7 | Children in Care Council and Care Leavers' Forum Workshops
[Workshops for Young People and Councillors] |
| 8 | Corporate Parenting Board Work Plan 2018 - 2019 (Pages 15 - 18)
[Alice Vickers, Corporate Parenting Officer to present] |
| 9 | Corporate Parenting Strategy 2018 - 2021 (Pages 19 - 38)
[Alice Vickers, Corporate Parenting Officer to present, followed by a presentation of the Draft Action Plan for Looked After Children] |
| 10 | Performance Monitoring Information (Pages 39 - 54)
[Andrew Wolverson, Head of Service to present report] |
| 11 | Exclusion of the press and public
[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 | Councillor Visits to Establishments
[To consider Councillor visits to establishments] |
|----|---|

CITY OF
WOLVERHAMPTON
COUNCIL

Corporate Parenting Board

Minutes - 22 March 2018

Attendance

Chair Cllr Val Gibson (Lab)

Labour

Cllr Welcome Koussoukama
Cllr Lynne Moran

Cllr Peter O'Neill
Cllr Rita Potter

Cllr Paul Sweet

Conservative

Cllr Christine Mills

Employees

Emma Bennett
Fiona Brennan
Dawn Deans
Sarah Smith
Helen Tambini
Alice Vickers
Laura Wood

Director of Children's Services
Designated Nurse, Looked After Children
Senior Social Work Manager - Adoptions
Head of Strategic Commissioning
Democratic Services Officer
Corporate Parenting Officer
Senior Social Work Manager

Emma Jane Kisby, Foster Carer attended as an adviser to the Board.

The Chair welcomed Debbie Carter, Assistant Director, Children's Social Care and Safeguarding and Neil Picken, Democratic Services Officer at Walsall Council who were attending the meeting as observers.

Item No. *Title*

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Martin Waite and from Councillor Jasbir Jaspal in her capacity as Chair of the Health Scrutiny Panel.

Apologies for absence were received from Tracy Kenny, Foster Carer and from Kyron Hughes, Care Leavers Forum.

2 Declarations of interests

There were no declarations of interest made.

3 Minutes of the previous meeting - 18 January 2018

Resolved:

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 18 January 2018 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

4 Matters arising

In respect of minute 10, Performance Monitoring Report/Children Looked After Return Initial Analysis 2016-2017, Fiona Brennan, Designated Nurse, Looked After Children (LAC) advised that the comments made regarding a dip to 86% in respect of health should refer to LAC Health Assessments.

5 Schedule of Outstanding Matters

Helen Tambini, Democratic Services Officer presented the report on current progress on matters previously considered by the Board.

Emma Bennett, Director of Children's Services confirmed that the Council did use some private residential establishments and details of those establishments would be forwarded to the Board.

Resolved:

1. That the report be noted.
2. That details of the private residential establishments used by the Council be circulated to the Board.

6 Quality Assurance and Compliance Update

Sarah Smith, Head of Strategic Commissioning presented the Quality Assurance and Compliance Update and highlighted key points.

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

- None of the Council's in-house residential children's homes had been identified as inadequate by Ofsted. Of the private residential homes used by the Council, some had been given an Ofsted rating 'Requires Improvement'.

- The Council would never place a child into a home which was rated inadequate, the Council always tried to seek good providers. A robust procedure was in place and following an inspection, if an establishment was deemed inadequate, then the Council would make an assessment and decide if any children placed there should be moved. In some cases, it was considered better for a child to remain as further changes could be more detrimental and the situation would continue to be monitored to ensure their welfare.
- Officers were aware of the issues raised by Ofsted and areas requiring improvements as they were given copies of the Ofsted reports.
- Officers from the Social Work and Commissioning teams worked together to ensure that children were not at risk and any concerns raised by Ofsted were addressed by providers.
- Officers were working with the Independent Fostering Agency which had received an inadequate rating.

Resolved:

1. That the update on the Council's arrangements for monitoring the quality of registered care services in the city be noted.
2. That the Board continue to support the work of the Quality Assurance and Compliance Team, hosted by Wolverhampton within Social Care Commissioning.
3. That the continued improvement in the quality of registered care and support services in Wolverhampton be noted.
4. That the continued commitment of the Council to work with the provider market to improve the quality of care provided for the direct benefit to the users of these services, their relatives and carers be noted.
5. That the excellent working relationship with the statutory regulator of care provision - Care Quality Commission (CQC) and the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and other partners that has also been established be noted.

7 Care Leavers up to the age of 18 that are pregnant or teenage parents

Laura Wood, Senior Social Work Manager presented the report on Care Leavers up to the age of 18 that are pregnant or teenage parents and highlighted key points.

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

- It was difficult to compare statistics between the general population and Looked After Children (LAC) and Care Leavers (CL) as there was no national reporting framework to cover that. There was also always a lag in reporting as the figures were linked to public health.
- Many events were held to celebrate the successes of LAC and CL and extensive press and public promotion of those events took place. Social media was also widely used to share messages and achievements.
- The Council had very high aspirations for its LAC and CL. The number of LAC and CL achieving improved exam success and attending university was increasing. Considerable work was taking place with children in Years 6 and 7 to encourage those aspirations and at the last Children in Care Council (CiCC) meeting, the high aspirations of that group were identified in a piece of work undertaken by Alice Vickers, Corporate Parenting Officer.

- Further celebratory events were being held, with multi-agency partners attending. Nominations have been made to the Prince's Trust awards and for the Express and Star awards, with any opportunities to raise awareness being taken.
- The I Awards on 20 April 2018 was an annual event which recognised the achievements of young people. Gareth Rafferty, who won the Young Citizen Award would be making a speech.
- Lack of self-esteem among young people and in particular women was a concern and self-esteem workshops were offered to provide support, with counselling sessions for older children.

Resolved:

That the report on Care Leavers up to the age of 18 that are pregnant or teenage parents be noted.

8 **Adoption Agency Interim report**

Dawn Deans, Senior Social Work Manager – Adoptions presented the Adoption Agency Interim report and highlighted key points.

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

- In respect of interagency placements, the cost was £27,000 for one child and £43,000 for a sibling group of two. The figure was set through the Department for Education and was based on a methodology in respect of the costs of recruiting and supporting adopters. Through the Regional Adoption Agency, it was hoped to reduce the Council's need as it would have a larger 'pool' to choose from. It has also been identified as an area of budget pressure and has therefore seen growth funding, which has helped to address that pressure.
- The social worker responsible for a child would usually be the person who initially considered if an open adoption would be suitable. As part of the Care Plan for that child all relevant issues would be considered, together with extensive work with the potential adopters. If it worked, open adoption was the best way forward; however, it was dependent on individual circumstances and would not be suitable in some cases. Early assessments were made and if an open adoption was not deemed to be suitable it would not be considered.
- A child being allowed to keep a connection with their birth parent(s) and or family might be difficult for foster carers and adopters and they would need additional support.
- There was always a risk that any child could try and contact their birth family through social media without being monitored which could lead to problems. The open adoption system provided support and protection and could be monitored.
- It was essential that before an open adoption took place, external agencies that provided support were well prepared as there had been previous cases when that had not occurred.
- It was hoped that over time, through open adoptions regular interaction would take place between the extended families, with acceptance and empathy being key elements. There had already been several positive stories from open adoptions.

- Open adoption did not equate to sharing parental responsibility, that responsibility remained with the adoptive parents.

Resolved:

That the Adoption Agency Interim report be noted.

9 **Children and Social Work Act 2017**

Emma Bennett, Director of Children's Services presented the Children and Social Work Act 2017 report and highlighted key points.

She advised that on 21 March 2018, officers had met with Mark Riddell MBE, the National Implementation Advisor, who for the next two years would be supporting local authorities regarding the Care Leaver Offer. Although the City of Wolverhampton Council was already rated as Good, Mark Riddell MBE was invited to share his ideas and challenge the Council, with the aspiration of the Council moving forward to be rated Outstanding.

The challenge for the Council was to consider if what was offered to Care Leavers (CL) would be acceptable for their own children. Several ideas were linked to Corporate Parenting and tied in with the changes that he had made at Trafford Council.

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

- When CL reached the age of 25 support would still be available, if appropriate, through Adults Services, including any disability concerns which would be addressed.
- The Council had been notified today in respect of the amount of 'Burden' money it would be entitled to and as expected it would not meet the costs of the additional responsibilities for the Council. The money would be available for the next four years. A thorough exercise would be undertaken to try and anticipate the number of CL who would require support. It was hoped that if young people received a good offer initially, it might mitigate the numbers who required support up to the age of 25. The Young Persons Advisors (YPA) were highly regarded by young people and the level of support could simply equate to a text message from a YPA once a week.
- It should be noted that the additional accreditation and assessments required to be undertaken by social workers would have resource implications and that would require monitoring.
- The key to supporting CL after the age of 25 was that everyone had at least one person who would be in touch with them and stay in their life.
- In respect of mental health issues, the statutory CL Health Summary would hopefully identify the needs of young people and smooth the transition into Adult mental health and if a young person did not meet the criteria, they would be signposted to other services. That would be embedded in the Care Leaver Offer.

Resolved:

That the Children and Social Work Act 2017 report be noted.

10 **Corporate Parenting Strategy Update**

Alice Vickers, Corporate Parenting Officer presented the Corporate Parenting Strategy Update and highlighted key points.

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

- It was acknowledged that significant numbers of young people at HM Prison Brinsford had been Looked After Children (LAC) and further support and dialogue could be offered to prisons including Brinsford. As part of the Action Plan, there would be a change to the national framework so that each Care Leaver (CL) would receive an element of offender management. It was hoped that the E-Learning package would support the practice of individuals who were responsible for CL. A mentor at Drake Hall had been very positive and supportive to other young people. Two young women who were CL leads were nearing release and they would be monitored as an example of good practice.
- Once the draft Action Plan was completed it would be submitted to the Board.

Resolved:

1. That the Corporate Strategy Update be noted.
2. That once completed, a copy of the draft Action Plan be submitted to the Board.

11 **Performance Monitoring Information**

Emma Bennett, Director of Children's Services presented the Performance Monitoring Information report and highlighted key points. She confirmed that as of today there were 649 Looked After Children (LAC). Two further Unaccompanied Asylum Seekers had arrived last week.

She advised that in respect of the recording of the proportion of eligible LAC with an up to date Personal Education Plan (PEP), the 77% figure was low; however, that was due to a recording issue and would be addressed through the new E-PEP system launched in November 2017.

Resolved:

That the Performance Monitoring Information report be noted.

12 **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 item of business as it involved 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.

13 **Councillor visits to establishments**

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

14 **AOB**

On behalf of the Board, Councillors Christine Mills thanked the Chair for her hard work and dedicated service over the years and for the huge impact she had made.

Councillor Gibson thanked Board members and confirmed that she would be standing down from her role as Cabinet Lead Member for Children and Young People in May 2018. She stated that she had enjoyed working with the Board and was proud of the achievements that had been made.

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CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL	Corporate Parenting Board 24 May 2018
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Report title	Schedule of Outstanding Matters	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Paul Sweet Children and Young People	
Wards affected	All wards	
Accountable director	Emma Bennett, Director of Children's Services	
Originating service	Governance	
Accountable employee(s)	Shelley Humphries	Democratic Services Officer
	Tel	01902 554070
	Email	shelley.humphries@wolverhampton.gov.uk

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.

DATE OF MEETING	SUBJECT	LEAD MEMBER/ OFFICER	CURRENT POSITION
18 January 2018	Performance Monitoring Report	Emma Bennett	To be submitted to next meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Breakdown of initial health check and review figures – this has been added to the Performance Monitoring Report to be presented at the meeting of 24 May 2018• Details of care proceedings and comparisons with Wolverhampton's statistical neighbours – this will be sent to Emma Bennett
18 January 2018	Councillor visits to establishments	Emma Bennett	List of residential establishments used by the Council to be circulated to the Board – this has been circulated

DATE OF MEETING	SUBJECT	LEAD MEMBER/ OFFICER	CURRENT POSITION
22 March 2018	Corporate Parenting Strategy Update	Alice Vickers	A copy of the draft action plan for Looked After Children is to be submitted to the Board on completion – this is still in draft form and is to be submitted to the Board in the form of a presentation

3.0 Financial implications

- 3.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.
- 3.2 The financial implications of each matter will be detailed in the individual report submitted to the Board.
[NM/14052018/S]

4.0 Legal implications

- 4.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.
- 4.2 The legal implications of each matter will be detailed in the individual report submitted to the Board.
[RB/13052018/A]

5.0 Equalities implications

- 5.1 There are no direct equalities implications arising from this report.
- 5.2 The equalities implications of each matter will be detailed in the individual report submitted to the Board.

6.0 Environmental implications

- 6.1 There are no direct environmental implications arising from this report.
- 6.2 The environmental implications of each matter will be detailed in the individual report submitted to the Board.

7.0 Human resources implications

- 7.1 There are no direct human resources implications arising from this report.
- 7.2 The human resources implications of each matter will be detailed in the individual report submitted to the Board.

8.0 Corporate Landlord implications

- 8.1 There are no direct Corporate Landlord implications arising from this report.
- 8.2 The Corporate Landlord implications of each matter will be detailed in the individual report submitted to the Board.

9.0 Schedule of background papers

- 9.1 Minutes of previous meetings of the Board and associate.

CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL	Corporate Parenting Board 24 May 2018
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Report title	Corporate Parenting Board Work Plan 2018 - 2019	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Paul Sweet Children and Young People	
Wards affected	All wards	
Accountable director	Emma Bennett, Director of Children's Services	
Originating service	Looked After Children	
Accountable employee(s)	Alice Vickers	Corporate Parenting Officer
	Tel	01902 553005
	Email	Alice.Vickers@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by	Children in Care Council	28 February 2018

Recommendation for action:

The Corporate Parenting Board is recommended to:

1. Consider the enclosed proposed Work Plan outlining the Corporate Parenting Board's activities for next 12 months.

Recommendation for reviewing, commenting and feedback:

The Corporate Parenting Board is asked to review, comment and feedback on:

1. The 12 month Work Plan of the Corporate Parenting Board.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 For the Corporate Parenting Board to set clear strategy and political direction in meeting the Council's corporate parenting responsibilities.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The Corporate Parenting Board meet regularly and, as it's the beginning of the political year, a new Work Plan needs to be considered.

3.0 Financial implications

- 3.1 There are no financial implications as a result of this report.
- 3.2 Any costs associated with the Work Plan will be contained within existing budgets within the Children and Young People's Service.
[NM/08032018/H]

4.0 Legal implications

- 4.1 The Corporate Parenting Board Work Plan has no legal implications.
[RB/06032018/W]

5.0 Equalities implications

- 5.1 There are no equality implications.

6.0 Environmental implications

- 6.1 There are no environmental implications.

7.0 Human resources implications

- 7.1 There are no human resources implications.

8.0 Corporate Landlord implications

- 8.1 There are no Corporate Landlord implications.

9.0 Schedule of background papers

- 9.1 Corporate Parenting Board Work Plan 2018 – 2019.

Corporate Parenting Work Plan 2018 – 2019

Date CPB meeting	Date of PLT	Date of CiCC	Deadline for Submission to report mailbox	Agenda Items	Invitees
24/05/18	16/04/18	25/04/18	10/05/18	Corporate Parenting Strategy Report Corporate Parenting Board 12-month Work Plan Total Respect and CiCC	Alice Vickers Andrew Scragg Puja Taloy
19/07/18	18/06/18	27/06/18	05/07/18	RAA report Sufficiency Strategy Fostering Annual Report Foster Carers Forum	Alison Hinds Nick Price Lisa Whelan Esther Douglas
20/09/18	23/07/18	25/07/18	13/09/18	Adoption Annual Report Care Leavers Local Offer CLIC (Care Leavers Forum)	Dawn Deans Carron Kilworth Puja Taloy
22/11/18	22/10/18	31/10/18	08/11/18	Health IRO report	Fiona Brennan Dr Stephanie Simon Mandy Lee
24/01/19	10/12/18	28/11/18	10/01/19	CiCC/CLIC Virtual School Report	Puja Taloy and Andrew Scragg Darren Martindale
28/03/19	18/02/19	27/02/19	14/03/19	Adoption interim Corporate Parenting Strategy Report	Dawn Deans Alice Vickers

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CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL	Cabinet 25 April 2018
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Report title	Corporate Parenting Strategy 2018 - 2021	
Decision delegation	RED	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Val Gibson Children and Young People	
Key decision	Yes	
In forward plan	Yes	
Wards affected	All Wards	
Accountable director	Emma Bennett, Director, Children's Services	
Originating service	Looked After Children	
Accountable employee(s)	Alice Vickers Tel Email	Corporate Parenting Officer 01902 553005 Alice.Vickers@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by	People Leadership Team Strategic Executive Board Corporate Parenting Board	9 April 2018 10 April 2018 24 May 2018

Recommendations for decision:

That Cabinet recommends that Council:

1. Approve the Corporate Parenting Strategy for three years from April 2018 to March 2021.
2. That authority be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, in consultation with the Director of Children's Services, to make any final amendments before publication.

Recommendations for noting:

The Cabinet is asked to note:

1. That the Corporate Parenting Strategy will be presented at the Corporate Parenting Board on 24 May 2018.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 That Cabinet considers and approves the Corporate Parenting Strategy 2018-2021 for children and young people in or leaving care and endorses its use across the Council and its partners in order to prioritise the needs of this vulnerable group of children and young people.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The City of Wolverhampton Council approved a two year Corporate Parenting Strategy in December 2015, which ceased on 31 March 2018.
- 2.2 The concept of Corporate Parenting was introduced by the Government in 1998 as part of a drive to improve the lives of children who are looked after by the local authority. The Corporate Parenting responsibility was reiterated and reinforced in 2007 with the release of the White Paper Care Matters-Time for Change and the underpinning legislation, Children and Young People Act 2008.
- 2.3 The Children and Social Work Act 2017 compels local authorities to evidence how they meet the seven Corporate Parenting Principles as they are statutory in relation to looked after children and care leavers. These seven Corporate Parenting Principles include:
- To act in the best interests, and promote the physical and mental health and well-being, of those children and young people.
 - To encourage those children and young people to express their views, wishes and feelings.
 - To take into account of the views, wishes and feelings of those children and young people.
 - To help those children and young people gain access to, and make the best use of, services provided by the local authority and its relevant partners.
 - To promote high aspirations, and seek to secure the best outcomes, for those children and young people.
 - For those children and young people to be safe, and for stability in their home lives, relationships and education or work.
 - To prepare those children and young people for adulthood and independent living.

3.0 Progress

- 3.1 It is envisaged that this new strategy will give a clear and concise framework to inform children and young people, in or leaving care, of what level of Corporate Parenting they can receive from the City of Wolverhampton Council and its partners. In addition, it gives Wolverhampton's Corporate Parents clear and constructive guidance to ensure services and support is good enough for children and young people in or leaving care.
- 3.2 Consultation with young people will take place annually, to ensure the relevance and development of the action plan that supports the Corporate Parenting Strategy. This

consultation will be with children and young people in or leaving care and a sample of their corporate parents.

- 3.3 Every good parent wants the best for their child, the Corporate Parenting Strategy 2018 sets a clear commitment from the City of Wolverhampton Council to its children and young people in or leaving care.

4.0 Evaluation of alternative options

- 4.1 Responses to the new act and its implementation by other authorities have been researched, but currently no other council has amended their Corporate Parenting Strategy in line with the new duties.

5.0 Reasons for decision

- 5.1 Approving the Corporate Parenting ensures compliance with the new Children and Social Work Act 2017 and endorses the Council's commitment to its children and young people in or leaving care. The strategy's purpose is to ensure the council is confident in delivering its corporate parenting responsibilities and is able to scrutinise services and support ensuring:

- Is this good enough for my child?
- Would this have been good enough for me as a child?
- Is this the best that we can achieve?

6.0 Financial implications

- 6.1 There are no financial implications attached to the Corporate Parenting Strategy, as the provision is covered within existing budgets.
[AS/05042018/W]

7.0 Legal implications

- 7.1 The Corporate Parenting Strategy ensures the Council complies with its statutory duties as defined in the Children and Social Work Act 2017.
[RB/0902018/Q]

8.0 Equalities implications

- 8.1 The Corporate Parenting Strategy's purpose is to mitigate the inequalities that children and young people who are in or leaving care face. An initial Equalities Analysis has been completed.

9.0 Environmental implications

9.1 There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

10.0 Human resources implications

10.1 There are no human resources implications arising from this report.

11.0 Corporate Landlord implications

11.1 There are no Corporate Landlord implications arising from this report.

Corporate Parenting Strategy 2018 - 2021





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“

We are children who were not looked after properly and we need to be cared for so we can grow up properly”

Quote from one of our young people

1

Definition



The City of Wolverhampton Council has a unique responsibility to children who are cared for by the authority and care leavers as their 'corporate parents'. In simple terms, a corporate parent is intended to carry out many of the roles a parent would. The Council may not be able to provide everything a loving parent can, but they should still be able to provide the children and young people they are responsible for with the best possible support and care.

The City of Wolverhampton Council will encourage council leaders, members, officers and partner organisations to do as much as they can to make sure children and young people feel in control of their lives and able to overcome the barriers they face. This is a high support/high challenge methodology embedded in the council and has an emphasis of working with people, rather than doing things for them or to them. The City Council has a strong commitment to corporate parenting making it a priority for everyone in the City from the Managing Director down to front line staff, as well as Councillors and the wider City community, as if they were our own children and young people.



“
*the opportunity to be
 loved and cared for,
 a second chance*”

Quote from one of
 our young people

The concept of Corporate Parenting was introduced by the Government in 1998 as part of a drive to improve the lives of children who are looked after by the local authority. The Corporate Parenting responsibility was reiterated and reinforced in 2007 with the release of the White Paper Care Matters-Time for Change and the underpinning legislation, Children and Young People Act 2008. The Children and Social Work Act 2017 now compels local authorities to evidence how they meet the seven Corporate Parenting Principles as they are statutory in relation to looked after children and care leavers.



2

The Corporate Parenting Principles

The Corporate Parenting Principles set out seven fundamental requirements for looked after children and care leavers, as follows:

- To act in the best interests, and promote the physical and mental health and well-being, of those children and young people
- To encourage those children and young people to express their views, wishes and feelings
- To take into account of the views, wishes and feelings of those children and young people
- To help those children and young people gain access to, and make the best use of, services provided by the local authority and its relevant partners
- To promote high aspirations, and seek to secure the best outcomes, for those children and young people
- For those children and young people to be safe, and for stability in their home lives, relationships and education or work
- To prepare those children and young people for adulthood and independent living.

“

The local authority takes its responsibilities as a corporate parent very seriously. The Children in Care Council and the care leavers' forum have been influential in shaping the way in which services are developed and delivered.

Ofsted

”

Success will be...



Children in care and care leavers

- To feel that their health and wellbeing is considered as important and that they are supported effectively by those caring for them
- To feel able to share their views, wishes, feelings and opinions freely
- To feel that their views, wishes, feelings and opinions are being considered
- To be able to access, and get the best use of services provided for them by the City of Wolverhampton Council and their partners
- To know that the City of Wolverhampton has high aspirations for them and wants the best for them
- To feel safe and stable at home in their relationships, and school or work
- To be supported in preparing for adulthood and living independently



Corporate Parents

- To feel confident that they are acting in children and young people's best interests, and promoting the physical and mental health and well-being of children and young people in or leaving care
- To be able to encourage children and young people in or leaving care to express their views, wishes and feelings
- To be able to evidence that professionals have taken account of the views, wishes and feelings of those children and young people in or leaving care
- To feel confident in helping children and young people in or leaving care to gain access to, and make the best use of, services provided by the City of Wolverhampton Council and its partners
- To feel confident in promoting high aspirations, and seek to secure the best outcomes, for children and young people in or leaving care
- To feel confident in the safety and stability of children and young people in or leaving in their home lives, relationships and education or work
- To feel able to help prepare our children and young people in or leaving care for adulthood and independent living.

How will we make sure this success happens?

In order to ensure this success for children and young people in care or leaving care, the following questions will be used to scrutinise services and support:

- What more can we do to ensure looked after children and care leavers feel listened to and their views are acted on?
- To what extent are the needs and priorities of looked after children and care leavers reflected in local strategic needs assessments, local service provision, and development plans?
- How can we collectively deliver services to looked after children and care leavers in a way that is joined-up and which supports young people to make a successful transition to adulthood?
- Are the children and young people in our care enjoying happy, fulfilled childhoods and looking forward to their adult lives, with positive foundations and stable relationships? If not, why not and what can we do to address this?
- How can we deliver services to looked after children and care leavers in a way that mirrors as far as possible the way a good parent would support their child?
- How can we deliver services in a way that recognises the unique circumstances of looked after children and care leavers?

The Corporate Parenting Board will use the above questions to monitor, evaluate and ensure the City is achieving the Corporate Parenting Principles to a high standard through an action plan. Both the Corporate Parenting Board and Strategic Group will be directed and challenged by the Children in Care Council and Care Leavers' forum (who represent the care population of Wolverhampton), to ensure that the action plan is relevant and making the differences it is designed to achieve.

3

The Role of Partners

The Corporate Parenting Board and Strategic Group will promote a strong corporate parenting ethos and consider how services can be delivered differently to meet the needs of the care population as effectively as possible. To be successful the City of Wolverhampton Council will recognise, celebrate and promote the importance of its partners in the statutory, private and third sector. The City of Wolverhampton Council alone cannot meet the needs of Looked after Children and Care Leavers and needs to work effectively with partners to implement the statutory Corporate Parenting Principles. Whilst this strategy is a City of Wolverhampton Council document it is hoped that it will be adopted by our partners and the resultant action plan will be owned by all sectors.







“

*Reports to the corporate parenting board are routinely scrutinised and agreed by the CiCC before they are presented to the board. The authors of those reports are required to attend the CiCC in person and, on a number of occasions, have had to amend their reports in line with feedback from the CiCC. When inspectors met with members of the CiCC, **every young person said that they felt that they had been listened to.**”*

Ofsted

”

4

The Corporate Parenting Board

The Corporate Parenting Board is chaired by the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People with cross-party membership of 10 Councillors. In addition, a care experienced young person and two foster carers are co-opted onto the board. The board meets six times per year to consider and provide clear strategic and political direction and challenge in relation to corporate parenting. This includes satisfying themselves that:



- All Councillors and the City of Wolverhampton Council Service Groups are proactively fulfilling their roles and responsibilities as corporate parents and making a demonstrable commitment to prioritising the needs of looked after children and young people.
- The City has high ambitions and aspirations for all looked after children and care leavers.
- This includes satisfying themselves that; regular monitoring of the outcomes associated with the seven Corporate Parenting Principles and monitoring the work of and evaluating the progress of the Senior Officers Group.

“ *Being in care I feel more secure and safe. I also like it because I can make new friends with neighbours, I also feel that it's a place where I can be myself.* **”**

Quote from one of our young people

5

The Strategic Group



The Strategic Group is made up of colleagues from the Council, Police, Fire Service, Health Services, the Voluntary Sector and other relevant organisations. This group is chaired by the Strategic Director, People. These colleagues are at an appropriate senior level within their organisation to be able to influence policy and strategy within their organisation to assist with the raising of opportunities and aspirations of our care population in line with the seven Corporate Parenting Principles. The actions and recommendations agreed by this group will be shared with the Corporate Parenting Board, the Children in Care Council and the Care Leavers Forum.

6

The Governance Structure for Corporate Parenting



7

Conclusion

Every year of the three years of this strategy, consultation will take place to ensure the relevance and development of the action plan that supports it. This consultation will be with children and young people in or leaving care and a sample of their corporate parents. Every good parent wants the best for their child, the Corporate Parenting strategy 2018 sets a clear commitment from the City of Wolverhampton Council to its children and young people in or leaving care.





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City of Wolverhampton Council, Civic Centre, St. Peter's Square,
Wolverhampton WV1 1SH

CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL	Corporate Parenting Board 24 May 2018
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Report title	Performance Monitoring Information	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Paul Sweet Children and Young People	
Wards affected	All wards	
Accountable director	Emma Bennett, Director of Children's Services	
Originating service	Communications, Insight and Performance Team	
Accountable employee(s)	James Amphlett	Business Intelligence Manager
	Tel	01902 551033
	Email	James.Amphlett2@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by	Corporate Parenting Board	24 May 2018

Recommendations for noting:

The Corporate Parenting Board is asked to note:

1. The Performance Monitoring report and request any additional indicators or data items that they would like to see reported in future performance updates.
2. 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 March 2018. Please note that this data is provisional and may not directly reflect the end of year out-turn which will not be confirmed until statutory returns are submitted at the end of June.
- 3.2 A new indicator showing a comparison between the timeliness of initial health checks and reviews has been added as requested.

4.0 Financial implications

- 4.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.
[NM/14052018/W]

5.0 Legal implications

- 5.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.
[RB/11052018/G]

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

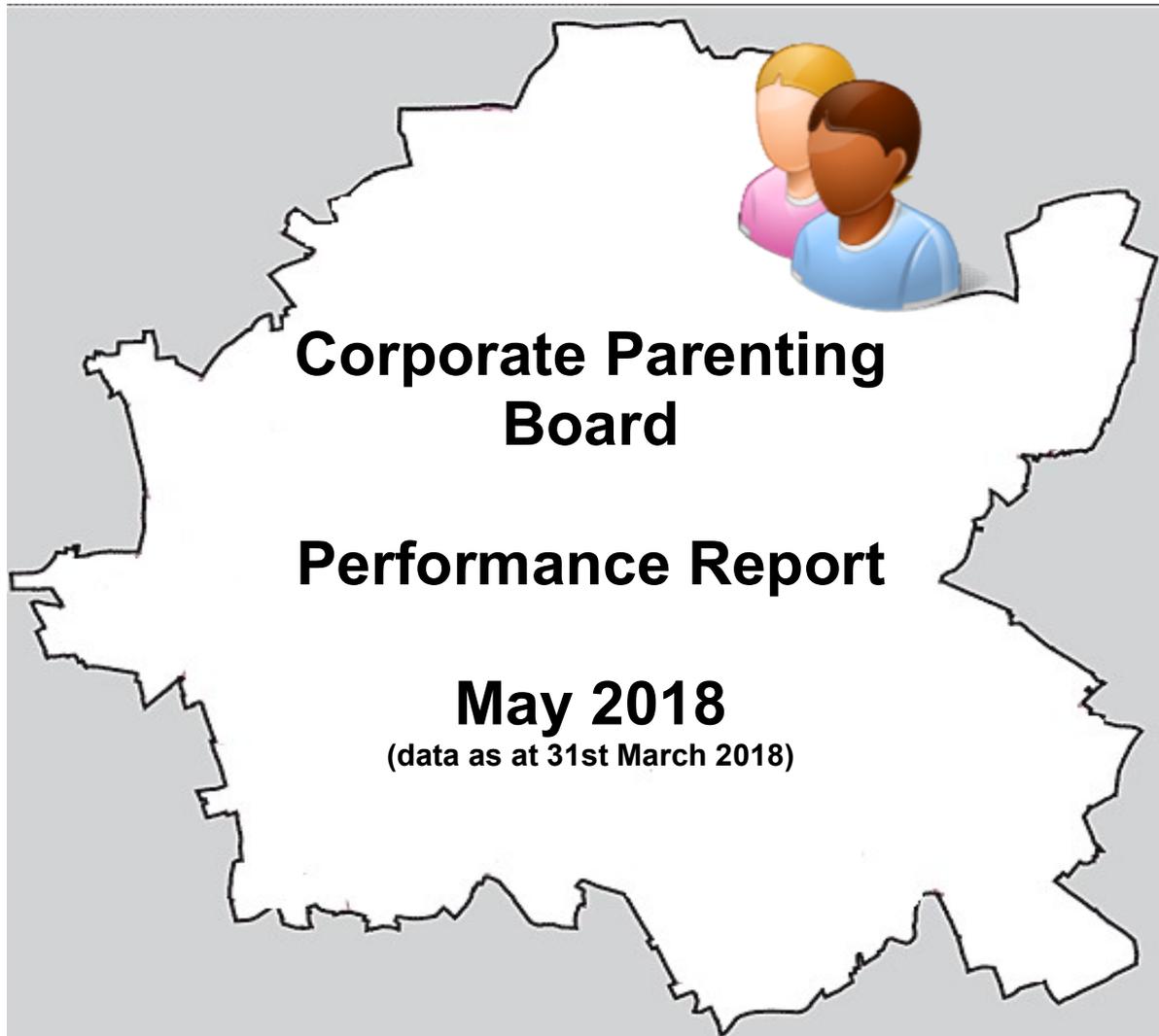
9.1 There are no direct Corporate Landlord implications arising from this report.

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 has increased over the past 6 months and now is higher than at any point in the previous year and a half. The rate of LAC starts is not increasing however the rate of LAC ends has slowed down. A reduction is required to bring Wolverhampton in line with our comparators.

Placements

In-house Foster Carers trend data shows that the percentage of children placed with in-house foster carers has increased over the past quarter. The gap between the number of children placed with internal foster carers and those with agency foster carers is at its lowest in over three years.

The proportion of LAC placed more than 20 miles from home remains at 15%.

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 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

Performance in timeliness of assessments of Looked After Children in Wolverhampton has increased to 80% however this is considerably lower than performance in 2016-17. Reviews completed on time in the year have increased 92% compared to 82% in 2016-17 year out turn. The percentage of children that participated in their reviews has increased after lower rates of performance in early 2017/18 and stands at 95%.

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 decreased in the month to 82% and is now considerably lower than year out-turn 2016/17. The result however 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 to 84% but is still favourable against year out-turn 2016/17. Performance in initial checks is lower than those being reviewed.

Leaving Care**Adoption**

Adoption timeliness has improved in the year against all three major adoptions indicators. Despite this improvement the average time taken to match and place children for adoption in Wolverhampton is still higher than national targets.

Wolverhampton compares favourably to comparators in regard to the adoption of hard to place children.

Care Leavers

The percentage of Care Leavers in Employment Education and Training cohort has changed to include all children and young adults who turn 17 to 21 in the year. At the end of March 2018 60% of 17-21-year olds were in Education, Employment or Training. NALM (not available for the labour market). 81% of care leavers are available for work with 19% (41 young people) not available due to pregnancy or young motherhood, illness or disability or because they are in custody. The proportion of care leavers currently deemed to be in suitable accommodation is also included and shows that 88% of the cohort are currently in suitable accommodation.

Demographics



59038 children aged 0-17 live in Wolverhampton
23.0% of the total population

ONS 2016 mid-year estimate

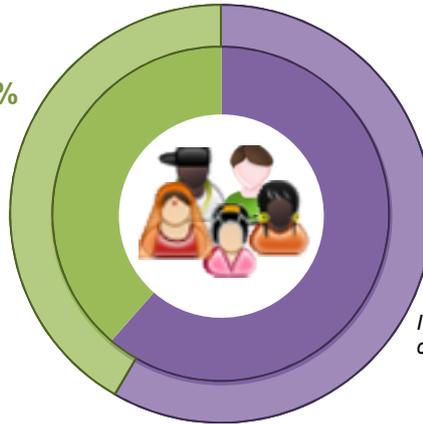
48.8% of the CYP population and 44.3% of LAC are female



51.2% of the CYP population and 55.7% of LAC are male



41.6% of the CYP population and 38.5% of LAC are BME

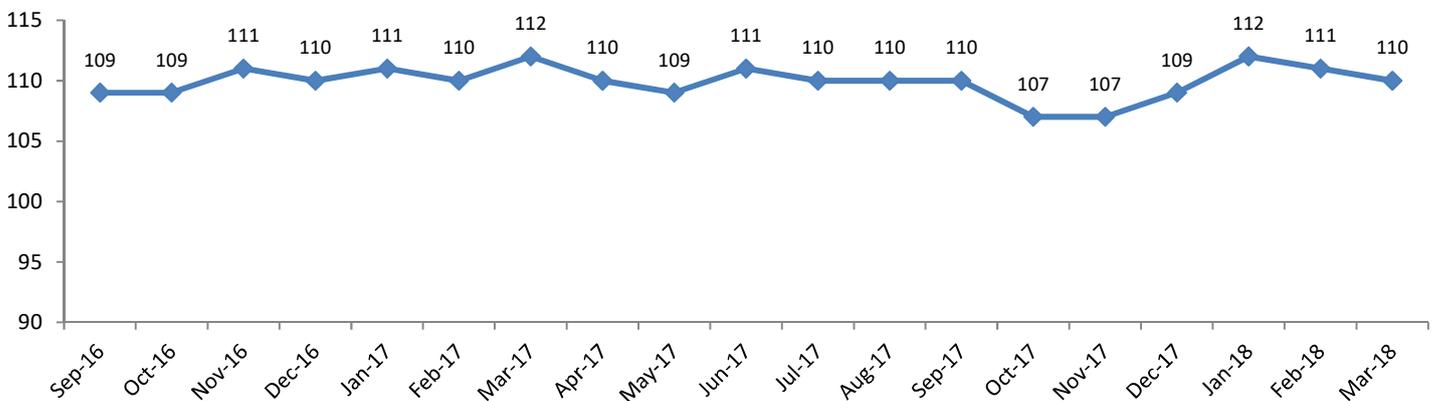
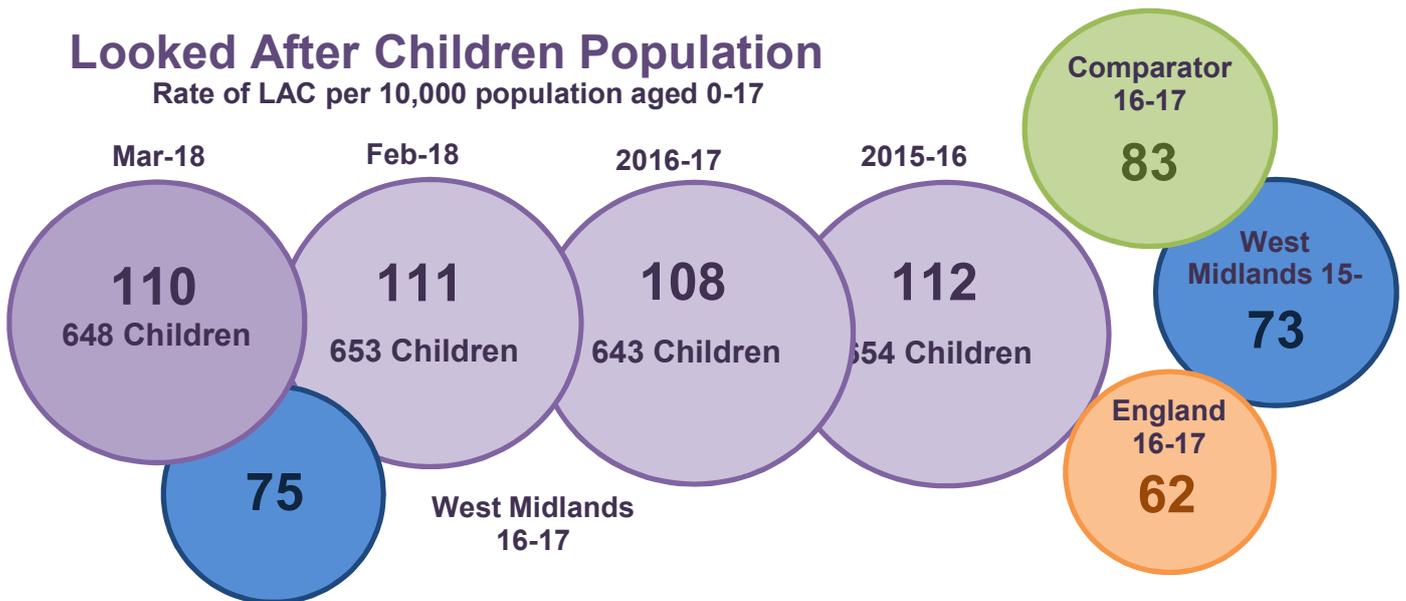


58.4% of the CYP population and 61.5% of LAC are white

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

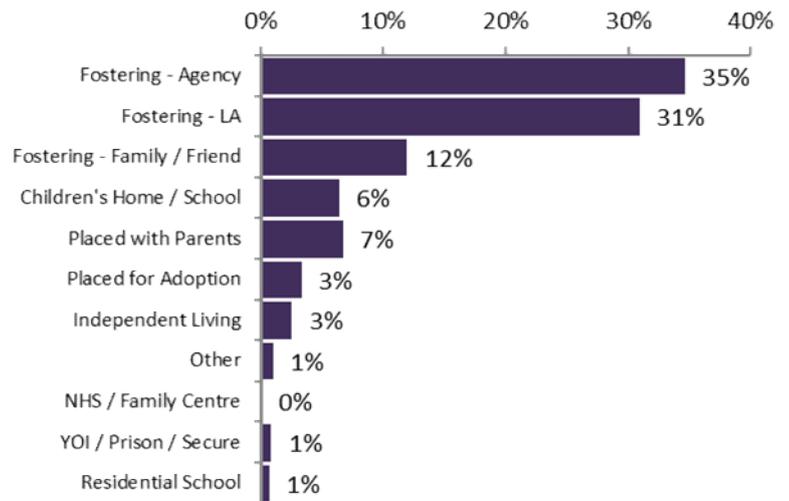


% LAC Placed 20 miles + from home

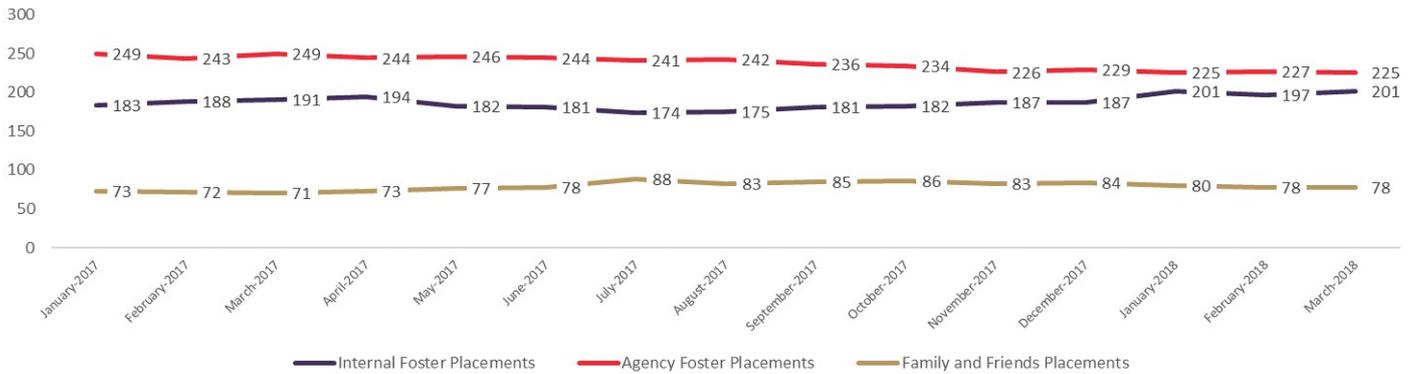


2016-17 Out-turn = 14%
2015-16 Out-turn = 16%
2014-15 Out-turn = 16%

LAC Placements



In - House Foster Placements



The proportion of LAC Placed with in-house foster carers has increased in the past quarter and is now at 31% 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



Wolves 16-17 = 87%
Wolverhampton 15-16 = 87%
West Midlands 15-16 = 90%
Comparator 15-16 = 90% England 15-16 = 90%

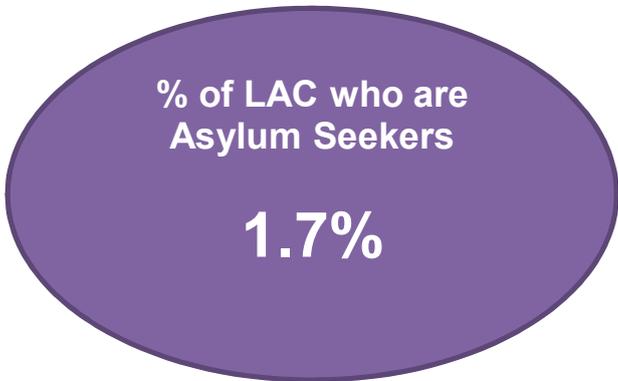
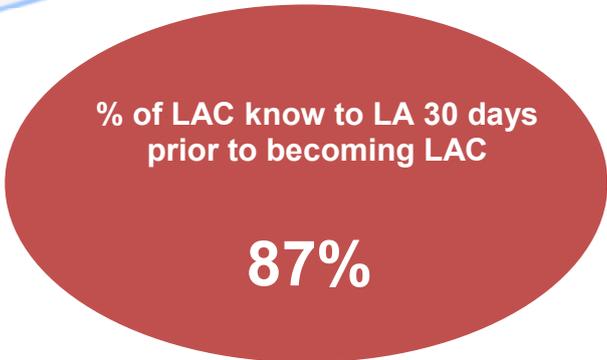
% of children in same placement for 2 years or more or placed for adoption (when looked after for more than 2.5 years)



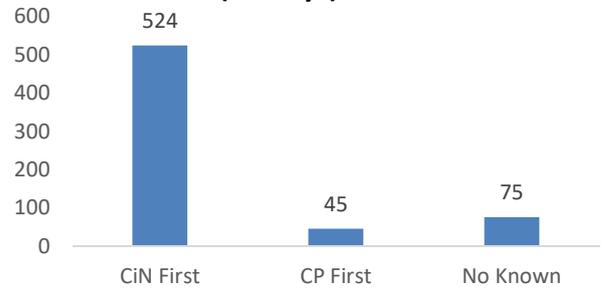
Wolves 16-17 = 65%
Wolverhampton 15-16 = 68%
West Midlands 15-16 = 69%
Comparator 15-16 = 69% England 15-16 = 68%

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

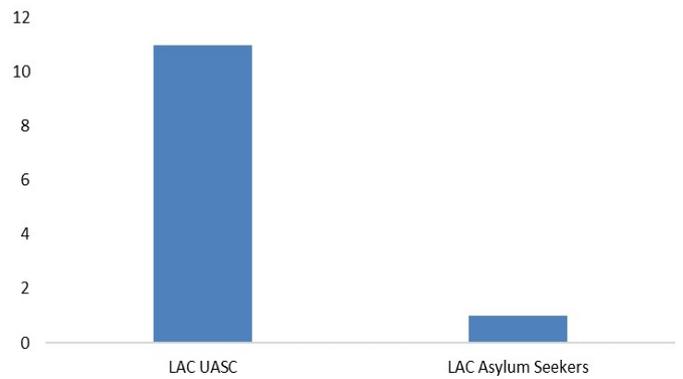
Routes into Care and Ofsted Ratings



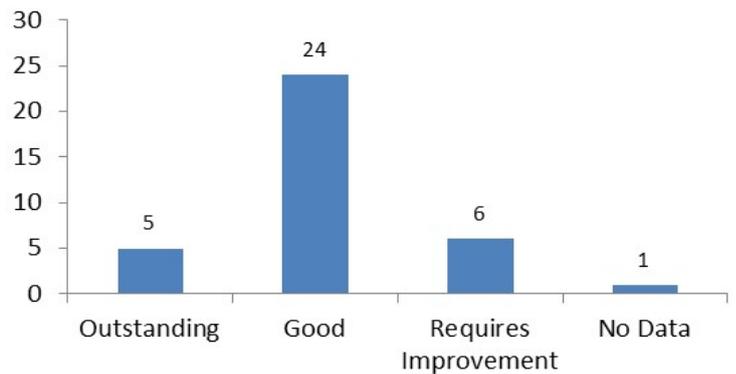
Knowledge of Child Pre LAC (30 Days)



How many LAC are Asylum Seekers



Number of Children in Residential Care Homes by OFSTED Rating



Assessments & Reviews

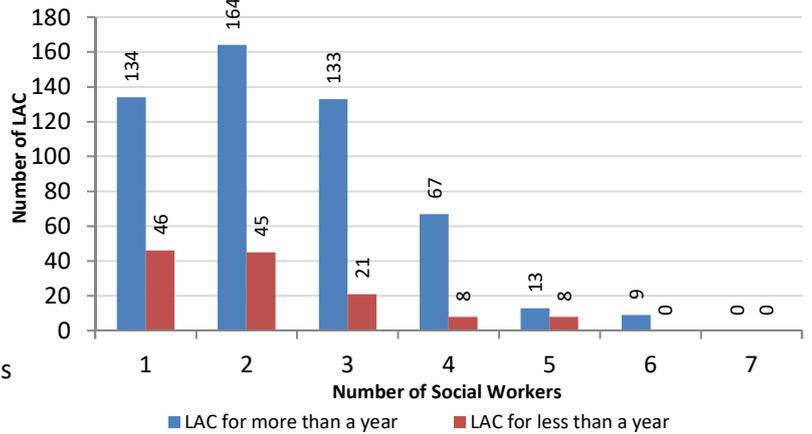


Average caseload of LAC children for LAC social workers

21

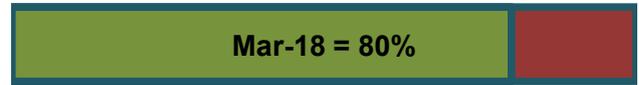
13 social workers hold over 20 cases. The fewest cases allocate to a worker is 1.

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.

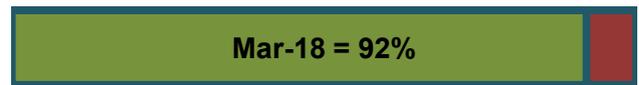


2016-17 Out-turn = 98%

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%

80% of LAC assessments are currently up to date, compared with 98% at the end of March 2017

Currently 94% of LAC reviews are up to date, this includes 50% of Adoption reviews and 97.50% of all LAC reviews.

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

95%

Mar-18

Performance in LAC participation in reviews since year end 2016/17 has increased to 95%

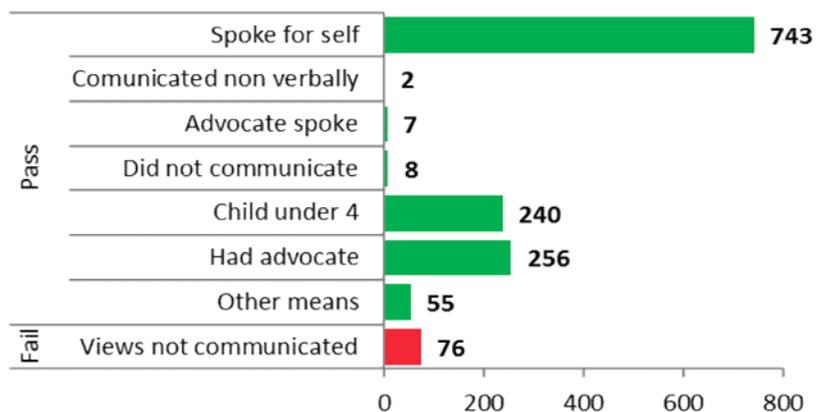
90%

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 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)



95%
2016-17 Out-turn

90%
2015-16 Out-turn

80%
PEPS (Years 1 -11)
- Mar-18

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

80%
PEPS (Years 12 and 13)
- Mar-18

* 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 increase in the number of PEP's in the month and both indicators show a strong result. This is the highest performance since the new E-PEP system went live at the start of November 2017.

LAC Health



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

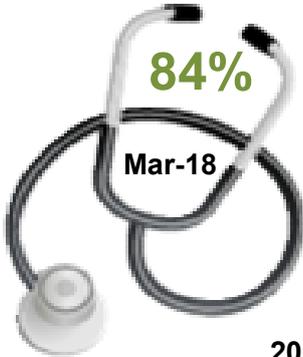
Dental Checks



2016-17 Out-turn = 91%

2015-16 Out-turn = 89%

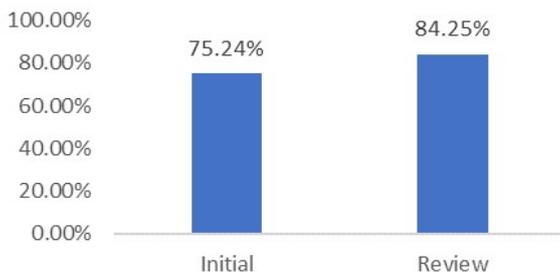
Health Checks



2016-17 Out-turn = 82%

2015-16 Out-turn = 88%

% Medical Checks Completed



There been a slight increase in performance over the year in dental checks and results in this area remain strong as a result of improved working with the CCG and RWT.

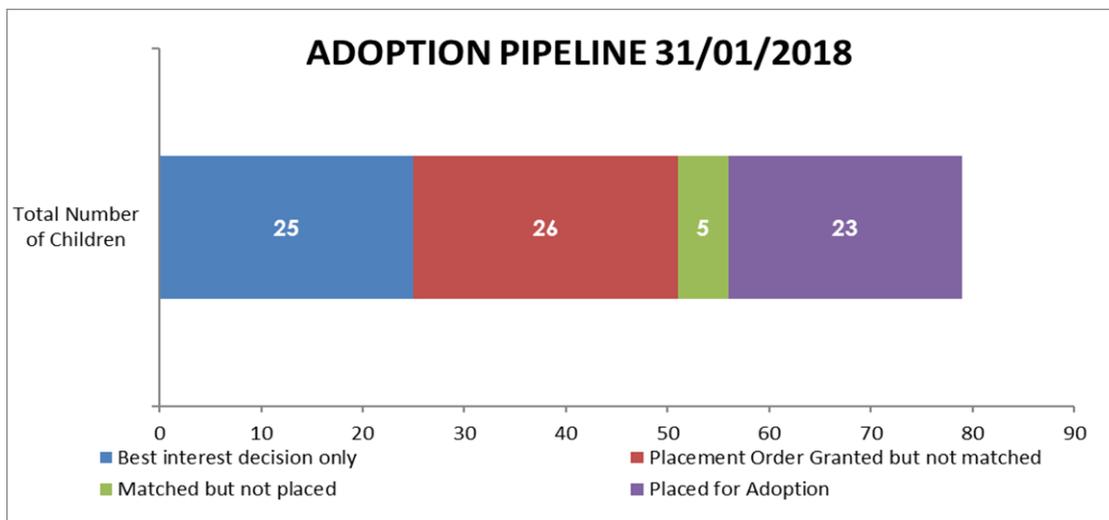
Performance of Health Checks has decreased with initial checks particularly low in the year.

Leaving Care



Children Adopted	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	March 2018
	51	61	47	35

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

605 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

235 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)

498 Days

3 year avg 2015-2018

(508 days 2013-2016)

Target - 428 days

Single year performance 2016-17

A1 - 651 days with 64% of children adopted within timescales

A2 - 238 days

A10 - 518 days

Single year performance (2017-18 as at 31 March)

A1 - 547 days with 59% of children adopted within timescales

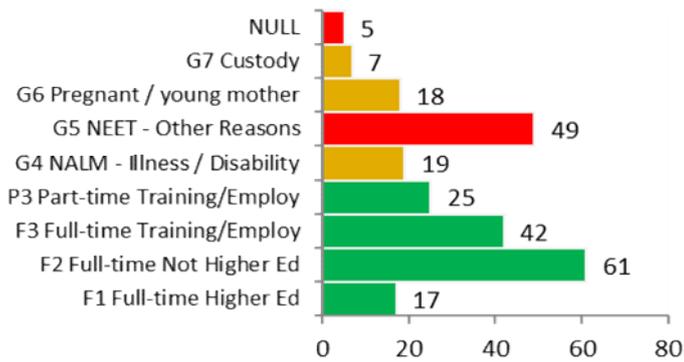
A2 - 265 days

A10 - 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

Number EET Statuses



Care Leavers in Education, Employment and Training

Current - 60%
Wolverhampton (16/17) - 56%
West Mids (16/17) - 46%
Statistical Neighbours (16/17) - 47%
England (16/17)- 50%

% of Care Leavers in Suitable Accommodation

88%

% of Care Leavers available to work

81% Available
19% NALM

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

Appendix 1 - Cafcass Care application demand and number of subject children by Local Authority

Local Authority	Number of Care Applications per LA										Number of Subjects on Care Applications per LA									
	2016/17					2017/18					2016/17					2017/18				
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	T	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	T	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	T	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	T
Birmingham	69	76	76	75	296	58	54	60	78	250	110	115	121	113	459	98	86	95	121	400
Coventry	18	36	31	31	116	29	36	39	15	119	32	60	47	52	191	42	60	70	18	190
Dudley	23	24	19	19	85	33	29	24	16	102	32	34	27	28	121	50	40	40	29	159
Herefordshire	10	14	21	9	54	11	16	9	20	56	15	23	32	12	82	16	33	13	34	96
Sandwell	28	28	23	26	105	24	31	49	48	152	53	48	48	47	196	39	51	109	90	289
Solihull	14	22	9	17	62	14	15	14	12	55	23	38	15	36	112	21	27	27	24	99
Staffordshire	42	46	41	39	168	40	60	54	53	207	70	76	53	68	267	59	111	90	81	341
Stoke-on-Trent	19	30	25	22	96	23	26	23	35	107	41	48	36	34	159	34	43	33	58	168
Telford & Wrekin	21	20	22	20	83	14	15	9	6	44	38	34	43	28	143	23	24	14	12	73
Walsall	25	21	22	26	94	29	45	19	16	109	32	27	32	43	134	38	84	26	19	167
Warwickshire	33	34	23	28	118	33	32	31	28	124	47	50	36	43	176	54	58	47	55	214
Wolverhampton	16	14	22	19	71	18	14	28	26	86	32	17	32	33	114	26	18	44	34	122
Worcestershire	32	37	47	34	150	37	34	29	38	138	55	56	82	55	248	58	68	43	55	224

The number of Cafcass Care applications increase in the year from 71 in 2016/17 to 86 in 2017/18. The number of applications in Wolverhampton is 4th lowest in the region. The 86 applications related to 122 children. Again, this was the 4th lowest in the region.

Page 54 Cafcass Care and Supervision Application Average Duration in Calendar Weeks: 2012-13 to Q3 2017-18

LA	1617										1718									
	Average duration					Disposals					Average duration					Disposals				
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YTD	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YTD	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YTD	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YTD
Birmingham	49	37	41	40	42	68	59	65	84	276	41	40	40		40	81	61	63		205
Coventry	36	45	46	31	39	31	30	22	33	116	34	39	42		38	36	31	22		89
Dudley	34	41	32	38	36	28	21	26	34	109	45	26	31		36	26	17	18		61
Hertfordshire	29	32	36	37	34	53	59	63	51	226	37	36	29		34	50	39	35		124
Sandwell	41	44	35	33	38	14	21	22	31	88	44	35	43		41	25	21	21		67
Solihull	20	28	26	26	26	7	16	15	10	48	38	33	30		34	15	15	14		44
Staffordshire	27	25	30	27	27	47	41	39	54	181	27	27	27		27	45	48	40		133
Stoke-on-Trent	28	32	31	35	31	23	16	29	26	94	31	33	32		32	30	22	21		73
Telford & Wrekin	29	28	25	34	28	11	11	25	13	60	27	37	38		33	25	13	18		56
Walsall	43	33	39	28	36	25	27	24	24	100	34	26	33		32	22	19	27		68
Warwickshire	34	31	31	32	32	31	30	25	31	117	31	30	30		31	31	27	34		92
Wolverhampton	36	51	26	52	42	24	20	13	15	72	38	32	35		35	20	18	23		61
Worcestershire	33	26	27	26	28	28	28	36	31	123	25	26	24		25	52	38	23		113

The average duration of a Cafcass Care application has decreased in the year from 42 weeks to 35 weeks. This is still slightly above the average for the region however a marked improvement on 2016/17.