

**Agenda for a meeting of the Children's Services
Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be held on
Wednesday, 15 March 2023 at 4.30 pm in Council
Chamber - City Hall, Bradford**

Members of the Committee – Councillors

LABOUR	CONSERVATIVE	LIBERAL DEMOCRAT	BRADFORD INDEPENDENT GROUP
Alipoor Humphreys Berry Shafiq Thirkill	Winnard Pollard	J Sunderland	Sajawal

Alternates:

LABOUR	CONSERVATIVE	LIBERAL DEMOCRAT	BRADFORD INDEPENDENT GROUP
Mukhtar Walsh Johnson Regan	K Green Felstead	Stubbs	Elahi

VOTING CO-OPTED MEMBERS:

Church representative:

Joyce Simpson (CE)

Parent Governor Representatives:

Fauzia Raza & Shifa Simab

NON VOTING CO-OPTED MEMBERS:

**Teacher Secondary School
Representative**

Tom Bright

Children's Social Care: Dr Samina Karim

Notes:

- This agenda can be made available in Braille, large print or tape format on request by contacting the Agenda contact shown below.
- The taking of photographs, filming and sound recording of the meeting is allowed except if Councillors vote to exclude the public to discuss confidential matters covered by Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972. Recording activity should be respectful to the conduct of the meeting and behaviour that disrupts the meeting (such as oral commentary) will not be permitted. Anyone attending the meeting who wishes to record or film the meeting's proceedings is advised to liaise with the Agenda Contact who will provide guidance and ensure that any necessary arrangements are in place. Those present who are invited to make spoken contributions to the meeting should be aware that they may be filmed or sound recorded.
- If any further information is required about any item on this agenda, please contact the officer named at the foot of that agenda item.

From:

Asif Ibrahim

Director of Legal and Governance

Agenda Contact: Kanwal Amrez/Farzana Mughal

Phone: 07929 070288/07811504164

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A. PROCEDURAL ITEMS

1. ALTERNATE MEMBERS (Standing Order 34)

The Director of Legal and Governance will report the names of alternate Members who are attending the meeting in place of appointed Members.

2. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

(Members Code of Conduct – Part 4A of the Constitution)

To receive disclosures of interests from members and co-opted members on matters to be considered at the meeting. The disclosure must include the nature of the interest.

An interest must also be disclosed in the meeting when it becomes apparent to the member during the meeting.

Notes:

- (1) *Members must consider their interests, and act according to the following:*

Type of Interest	You must:
<i>Disclosable Pecuniary Interests</i>	<i>Disclose the interest; not participate in the discussion or vote; and leave the meeting <u>unless</u> you have a dispensation.</i>
<i>Other Registrable Interests (Directly Related)</i> OR <i>Non-Registrable Interests (Directly Related)</i>	<i>Disclose the interest; speak on the item <u>only</u> if the public are also allowed to speak but otherwise not participate in the discussion or vote; and leave the meeting <u>unless</u> you have a dispensation.</i>
<i>Other Registrable Interests (Affects)</i> OR <i>Non-Registrable Interests (Affects)</i>	<i>Disclose the interest; remain in the meeting participate and vote <u>unless</u> the matter affects the financial interest or well-being (a) to a greater extent than it affects the financial interests of a majority of inhabitants of the affected ward, and (b) a reasonable member of the public knowing all the facts would believe that it would affect your view of the wider public interest;</i>

in which case speak on the item only if the public are also allowed to speak but otherwise do not participate in the discussion or vote; and leave the meeting unless you have a dispensation.

- (2) *Disclosable pecuniary interests relate to the Member concerned or their spouse/partner.*
- (3) *Members in arrears of Council Tax by more than two months must not vote in decisions on, or which might affect, budget calculations, and must disclose at the meeting that this restriction applies to them. A failure to comply with these requirements is a criminal offence under section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.*
- (4) *Officers must disclose interests in accordance with Council Standing Order 44.*

3. INSPECTION OF REPORTS AND BACKGROUND PAPERS

(Access to Information Procedure Rules – Part 3B of the Constitution)

Reports and background papers for agenda items may be inspected by contacting the person shown after each agenda item. Certain reports and background papers may be restricted.

Any request to remove the restriction on a report or background paper should be made to the relevant Strategic Director or Assistant Director whose name is shown on the front page of the report.

If that request is refused, there is a right of appeal to this meeting.

Please contact the officer shown below in advance of the meeting if you wish to appeal.

(Kanwal Amrez – 07929 070228)

4. REFERRALS TO THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The following referrals have been made to this Committee up to and including the date of publication of this agenda.

The Committee is asked to note the referrals listed above and decide how it wishes to proceed, for example by incorporating the item into the work programme, requesting that it be subject to more detailed examination, or refer it to an appropriate Working Group/Committee.

B. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ACTIVITIES

5. BRADFORD SUFFICIENCY STRATEGY REPORT 1 - 46

The Director of Children's Services will submit a report (**Document "X"**) which provides an update on the **Bradford Sufficiency Strategy**

Recommended -

That Members to review and consider the report and progress update.

(picklu.roychoudhury@bradford.gov.uk)

6. DRAFT CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN 47 - 84

The Strategic Director for Children presents a report (**Document "Y"**) which provides an update on the development of a new Children and Young People's Plan (CYP Plan) for Bradford District, building on the themes within the interim plan (published in 2021). The draft Children and Young People's Plan is contained in the appendix.

Recommended –

That Members consider the Draft Plan and feedback comment to Officers.

(Kate Welsh - 07811 503285)

7. CHILDREN'S SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - WORK PROGRAMME 2022/23 85 - 98

The report of the Chair of the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee (**Document "Z"**) includes the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee work programme for 2022/23.

Recommended –

- i. **That Members consider and comment on areas of work included in the work programme.**
- ii. **That Members consider any detailed scrutiny reviews that they may wish to conduct.**

(Mustansir Butt - 01274 432574)

THIS AGENDA AND ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTS HAVE BEEN PRODUCED, WHEREVER POSSIBLE, ON RECYCLED PAPER

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Report of the Director of Children’s Services to the meeting of Children Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee to be held on Wednesday 15 March 2023

X

Subject: Update on the Bradford Sufficiency Strategy

Summary statement:

The Children Act 1989, the Sufficiency Statutory Guidance (2010) and the Care Planning, Placement and Case Review Regulations (2010) places a duty of ‘Sufficiency’ upon Local Authorities (or their Trusts). Under this duty Local Authorities (or their Trusts) must, so far as is reasonably practicable, ensure that there is a range of locally available placements, either by direct provision or commissioned services, sufficient to meet the needs of all children in care.

Last March the Sufficiency Strategy and an action plan was shared with this Committee. At that meeting it was agreed that officers would return in March this year to provide an update of progress.

Annex 1 provides that update. Progress has generally been good and there are important areas of work where the Sufficiency Strategy Action Plan has underpinned real improvements in the care of children looked after such as the improvements to the Council’s residential care and better support for family members looking after children under Special Guardianship Orders. Whilst there are many positive developments there are also areas where more work needs to be done, for example implementing strengthened ‘edge of care’ services and improving support for young people in supported accommodation.

Since the last Overview & Scrutiny, a new Sufficiency Strategy was approved. It will be important that the new Trust works with children and young people, carers, and wider stakeholders to fully implement the new Strategy in partnership with the Council.

EQUALITY & DIVERSITY:

As a Corporate Parent Bradford Council needs to provide for a broad range of needs within its population of looked after children. The placement options available therefore need to be sufficiently diverse and targeted to respond to the differing needs of individuals with the development of the necessary expertise to appropriately care for children and young people with complex care requirements. The population of children looked after in Bradford is changing, for example with more children with British Asian heritage becoming looked after. It will be important that the next Sufficiency Strategy reflects and responds to the increasing diversity of looked after children in Bradford.

Marium Haque
Director Children Services

Report Contact:
Picklu Roychoudhury
Assistant Director Improvement
E-mail: Picklu.Roychoudhury@bradford.gov.uk

Portfolio:

Children & Families

Overview & Scrutiny Area:

Children’s Services

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 Members are asked to consider the update of progress on work to support the Bradford Sufficiency Strategy which sets out how the Council will work to ensure that children looked after in the District have stable homes that enable them to thrive.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Children Act 1989, the Sufficiency Statutory Guidance (2010) and the Care Planning, Placement and Case Review Regulations (2010) places a duty of 'Sufficiency' upon Local Authorities (or their Trusts). Under this duty Local Authorities (or their Trusts) must, so far as is reasonably practicable, ensure that there is a range of locally available placements, either by direct provision or commissioned services, sufficient to meet the needs of all children in care.
- 2.2 This is an important responsibility for Local Authorities and this is particularly the case for Bradford where the number of children looked after has risen sharply in recent years. In March 2017 there were 926 children and young people looked after in the District. By March 2022 there were 1,447, a rise of 56%. The population of children looked after is also changing, for example more British Asian heritage children are becoming looked after.
- 2.3 The last Bradford Sufficiency Strategy 2020-2023 was updated with an action plan to set out the priorities for change. This was shared with this committee in March and a commitment was made to return in a year to review progress.
- 2.4 A revised and refreshed Placement and Sufficiency Strategy 2022-2025 (see Appendix A) was created and approved. An Action Plan was developed to map and track progress against key areas of delivery within the Strategy.

2.5 Progress against the Strategy

- 2.5.1 The progress against the strategy is attached to this report as Appendix B.

2.6 Next Steps

- 2.6.1 The recent OfSTED inspection considered sufficiency, noting recent progress but continuing pressures. There were two recommendations relating to the Council's sufficiency duty recommending improvements to:

- Foster carer morale, training, recruitment and retention, including the support offered to special guardians.
- The quality and safety of in-house residential provision, including safer recruitment.

These recommendations will be addressed through the OfSTED Improvement Plan but should also help shape the next Sufficiency Strategy.

3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

3.1 No other relevant considerations.

4. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL

4.1 There are no direct financial implications from this report.

5. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES

5.1 If there are no significant risks arising out of the implementation of the proposed recommendations it should be stated but only on advice of the Assistant Director Finance and Procurement and the City Solicitor.

6. LEGAL APPRAISAL

6.1 There are no legal issues arising from this report.

7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

7.1 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

None.

7.2 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS

None.

7.3 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

None.

7.4 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

None.

7.5 TRADE UNION

There are no direct Trade Union issues from this report.

7.6 WARD IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct ward implications from this report.

7.7 IMPLICATIONS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Corporate Parenting is an integral element of the Sufficiency Strategy on which the Corporate Parenting Panel will maintain an oversight

7.8 ISSUES ARISING FROM PRIVACY IMPACT ASSESMENT

None.

8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS

8.1 None.

9. OPTIONS

9.1 Not applicable.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 Members are recommended to review the consider the report and progress update.

11. APPENDICES

11.1 Appendix A – Sufficiency Strategy 2022-2025.

11.2 Appendix B – Bradford Sufficiency Action Plan.

12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

12.1 None.

APPENDIX A – SUFFICIENCY STRATEGY 2022-2025

See separate document.

APPENDIX B – SUFFICIENCY STRATEGY ACTION PLAN

Recommendation	Actions	Timescale	Progress Update March 2023
Review current edge of care provision to develop a cohesive all age edge of care offer that ensures timely intervention and support to maintain children and young people at home wherever possible and appropriate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete review of BPP and Intensive Family Support services by Peopletoo. Bring service development proposal to DMT/CMT. 	<p>March 2022</p> <p>April 2022</p>	<p>AMBER: – Reviews have been completed but a final approach has not yet been implemented. We have worked with Leeds colleagues to learn from their experience and develop a structured approach. Implementation is a priority for the next six months.</p>
Carry out further analysis of the underlying factors in the disproportionate volume of emergency care admissions in order to tighten care planning processes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carry out additional audit activity on cohort of care admissions. 	<p>April 2022</p>	<p>GREEN: Audit completed and this has informed development of an emergency unit to provide short term therapeutic care for children alongside intensive work with the child and family to support successful reunification.</p>
Progress a programme of reviews to identify children placed at home on orders where the discharge of those orders should be appropriately sought.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete baseline audit with Warrington BC. Progress care discharge applications on identified cases via CIC planning process. 	<p>April 2022</p> <p>May 2022 onwards</p>	<p>GREEN: Audit completed. Children’s needs have been fully considered and we are working proactively with CAFCASS, IROs and the Court to progress discharge of orders where this is in the interest of the child. This work to discharge orders has not progressed as quickly as we would like due to significant pressures within the Family Court after the pandemic.</p>
Agree a revised SGO (Special Guardianship Order) policy that permits some children placed with friends and family connected carers to exit the care system.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subsequent to legal and regional sign off bring revised SGO policy to DMT/CMT. 	<p>May 2022</p>	<p>GREEN: complete and new policy in place.</p>
Consolidate our schedule of fostering payments to ensure that we remain competitive with neighbouring Local Authorities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subsequent to legal sign off bring updated schedule of allowances to Executive. 	<p>April 2022</p>	<p>GREEN: this was completed and presented to executive last year. The payment has been employment and we are seen to be comparative in the regime.</p>

Recommendation	Actions	Timescale	Progress Update March 2023
Develop an annual fostering recruitment strategy that is sufficiently targeted to recruit carers in line with our priority placement needs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop an annual fostering recruitment strategy for approval by DMT. 	May 2022	GREEN: We have invested in the Fostering Team and have recruited new managers with a successful track record including in recruitment and retention. The team are now working on a range of projects to improve recruitment.
Implement an advanced fostering level for children with specific and/or complex needs who would otherwise be placed in residential care.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incorporated within updated schedule of allowances being brought to the Executive. 	April 2022	GREEN: We have developed improve support and a pathway for training and development for 'Level 4' Foster Carers who work with children with additional needs.
Strengthen the range and volume of placement support options to maximise our ability to hold children in family placements liaising with health colleagues on the clinical elements of this.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop breadth and volume of localised family placement options both in house and commissioned. 	April 2022 onwards	AMBER: we have agreed and developed a Level 4 progression criteria but we are still in talks with partner agency around the support need of these carers. We have also implemented 1 constellation of Mocking Bard and have plans to expand by 2 more constellations. We are also developing localised support
Complete a review of our current residential provision to ensure clarity on homes individual statements of purpose and resulting capacity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review individual statement of purpose for each children's home. 	March 2022	GREEN: Completed. There has been extensive work with partners to review current residential provision. This has informed a revised strategy.
Develop a longer term strategy for the growth of the Council's internal residential portfolio which is cost effective and geared towards our identified placement needs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Present residential strategic development plan to DMT/CMT. 	April 2022	GREEN: There is a comprehensive plan for the expansion and development of residential care in Bradford. This has involved extensive work with stakeholders and will be submitted for approval to Executive Board later in the Spring.
In producing this residential strategy there will be an emphasis on smaller group home provision making full use of the new regulatory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incorporate this aspect within the residential strategic development plan. 	April 2022	GREEN: The revised residential plan includes more small homes where research suggests children do better.

Recommendation	Actions	Timescale	Progress Update March 2023
permissions to cluster a number of homes under one registered manager.			
Engage with health partners to put in place clinical wrap around support for those homes providing care to children and young people with high end emotional health needs or needs arising from behaviours linked to autism and learning disability.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress through Children's and Young People's Board (CYPB). 	July 2022	AMBER: Discussions have taken place but as yet a joint plan has not yet been confirmed. This will continue to be discussed at the Improvement Board with an aim to agree a way forward before the Summer.
Integrate the existing placement coordination team with the fostering family finding workers to form a single point of placement finding activity that fully maximises use of internal capacity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress any necessary consultation process and accommodation issues. 	June 2022	GREEN: The change has taken place and is working well. This will be strengthened further with the team's co-locating.
Undertake market testing of commissioning options for in district small group homes tailored to individual categories of need minimising risk of unavoidable use of unregulated placements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subject to DMT/CMT approval progress tendering exercise. 	June 2022	AMBER: Initial discussions have taken place but at present we are prioritising expansion and reform of the Council's own provision. This will be reconsidered once improved BMDC homes are in place.
Progress the introduction of a revised Bradford specific purchasing framework for 16+ supported accommodation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bring proposals to Overview and Scrutiny and progress implementation. 	April 2022	RED: Due to changes in legislation regarding the care of over 16s we have paused this work until national guidance from DfE and OfSTED is available.
Engage with the external market pro-actively to develop strong relationships with good	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress active dialogue and engagement with existing and potential local providers. 	Ongoing	GREEN: There has been extensive work with external providers but this is in a very difficult context locally and nationally for external

Recommendation	Actions	Timescale	Progress Update March 2023
quality providers and encourage localised capacity building in line with our strategic placement priorities.			provision.
Broaden services that are made available to disabled children and their families as part of a re invigorated short term break strategy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refresh and consult upon local offer for short term breaks. 	August 2022	AMBER: Council for Disabled Children reviewed commissioned and report and recommendations submitted. Board and 5 workstream's established. Exploration and scoping exercises underway and links being established with other Programme cross overs i.e. Early Help and SEND.

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PLACEMENT AND SUFFICIENCY STRATEGY

2022-25



BRADFORD CHILDREN'S SERVICES



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BRADFORD DISTRICT SHARED VALUES

WE PROTECT
each other and the world we share so that everybody can be happy, healthy and safe

WE SHARE
ideas, resources, knowledge and skills as well as our challenges and opportunities

WE RESPECT
ourselves, each other and our communities

WE CARE
for each other and treat each other with kindness

FOREWORD



Cllr Susan Duffy
Lead Portfolio Member for Children
City of Bradford
Metropolitan District
Council

I am delighted to introduce Bradford Council's Sufficiency Strategy for children and young people looked after so that they can access the care, support and accommodation to meet their needs. This strategy sets out how Bradford meets the duty in ensuring there are sufficient resources to meet the needs of children, young people and families where:

- children are at risk of becoming looked after
- children are looked after and,
- children are leaving care

The strategy ensures that Bradford council is in a position to effectively fulfil our role as corporate parents. It highlights what we already know about the numbers and needs of children at risk of becoming looked after and of our children who are looked after in Bradford and what we are doing to address the challenges we face. We recognise that further work needs to be done to broaden our understanding around the needs of our children in care.

We will ensure that we work alongside children, young people and families in designing and developing the right support, in the right place at the right time. The strategy provides direction on the

arrangements we will put in place to provide the right quality and range of services to achieve the following commitments:

- We will strive to safely reduce the rising number of children and young people looked after.
- We will increase the number of children and young people supported to live safely with their families.
- We will reduce our reliance on services away from Bradford where these are not in the best interest of the child and young person.
- We will increase the numbers of kinship carers.
- We will increase the number of Bradford Council Foster Carers.
- We will work positively with Independent Fostering Agencies.
- We will increase the range of local residential services to meet children with more complex needs.
- We will improve the way we commission services.

Most importantly, the strategy provides the basis for our children, young people and families to achieve better outcomes, and live better lives as a result.

The strategy ensures that Bradford council is in a position to effectively fulfil our role as corporate parents



INTRODUCTION

ROLE AS CORPORATE PARENTS

The Children and Social Work Act 2017 says that when a child or young person comes into the care of the local authority, or is under 25 and was looked-after by the authority for at least 13 weeks after their 14th birthday, the authority becomes their corporate parent. This means that they should:

- act in the best interests, and promote the physical and mental health and wellbeing, of those children and young people
- encourage them to express their views, wishes and feelings, and take them into account, while promoting high aspirations and trying to secure the best outcomes for them
- make sure they have access to services
- make sure that they are safe, with stable home lives, relationships and education or work
- prepare them for adulthood and independent living

Bradford takes its responsibility as corporate parents very seriously and is committed to working with local partners to meet the needs of our looked after children, young people and care leavers. We strive to achieve the best outcome to ensure our Children and young people thrive and reach their full potential. Placing children at the heart of all we do and listening to their voice, we ensure children and young people are part of shaping future services and feel that they are heard and valued.



VISION

The Council wants to do what is right for all looked after children, which includes being able to provide somewhere safe, caring and suitable for their needs if they are not able to remain at home. This might only be for a few days or it might be for the duration of their childhood, depending on circumstances. The council places an on prevention and early intervention, and strives to offer a range of services tailored to each family’s needs and strength, that will give children the best possible outcomes.

The Bradford Sufficiency Strategy details how Bradford City Council intends to meet the ‘Sufficiency Duty’ 1 set out in Section 22G of the Children Act 1989.

It sets out the Council’s vision and approach to meeting its responsibilities to provide secure, safe and appropriate accommodation to children in need, children in care and care leavers over the next three years, is informed by current and anticipated sufficiency requirements, market changes, gaps and opportunities, drawing on a wide range of available national, regional and local data, and identifies the key challenges that we face in achieving sufficiency and our approach to overcoming them.



PURPOSE

The purpose of Bradford’s placement and sufficiency strategy is to provide looked after children with the best possible placements.

The sufficiency strategy is part of our improvement programme for the whole of Children’s Services. There are many changes taking place and planned, which means that the strategy is ambitious but also has to be flexible. For example, we do not know the full impact of COVID-19 on public services. But the strategy sets out the planning and procedures that we think necessary to guide placement developments over the next three years.

The strategy will allow us to achieve four broad aims:

- increasing our understanding of children’s needs
- developing alternatives to children becoming or remaining looked after, through earlier intervention and at ‘the edge of care’

- improving placement and care planning, to minimise the number of disrupted placements and unplanned moves
- developing the local authority residential care and fostering agency offers, to provide more placements within the district

The strategy outlines how these aims will be achieved.

The strategy links with many others designed to promote children’s health, safety and welfare. Its success will depend on the energy and vision on colleagues working across the Council and in partner agencies. We will work hard to achieve placements for children that are more than sufficient.



CURRENT PROFILE OF LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN

NUMBERS OF LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN

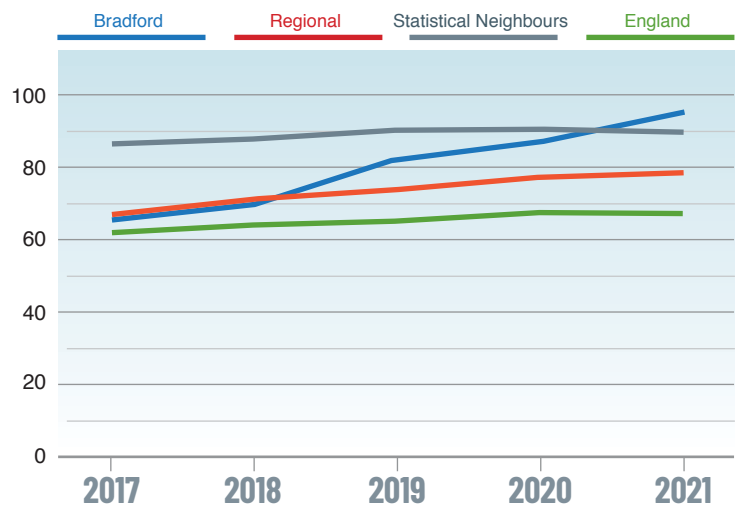
Children in care per 10,000 population under 18

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Change from 2020 to 2021	Change from 2017 to 2021
Bradford	66.0	70.0	82.0	87.0	95.0	+9.2%	+43.9%
Regional	67.0	71.0	74.0	77.0	78.0	+1.3%	+16.4%
Statistical Neighbours	86.6	88.2	90.3	90.7	89.9	-0.9%	+3.8%
England	62.0	64.0	65.0	67.0	67.0	0.0%	+8.1%

Bradford District saw notable increases in the number of Children in Care, per 10,000 children under 18, during the periods 2018 to 2019 and 2020 to 2021. The five-year period 2017 to 2021 saw a much greater increase than the comparators. These changes have resulted in a position where Bradford District has a higher rate per 10,000 than its statistical neighbours, the region and nationally.



Number of children under 18 in care at 31 March per 10,000 population



Children in care (total number)

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Change from 2020 to 2021	Change from 2017 to 2021
Bradford	926	986	1,159	1,245	1,348	+8.3%	+45.6%
Regional	7,720	8,190	8,570	8,970	9,210	+2.7%	+19.3%
Statistical Neighbours (average)	510	524	534	542	618	+13.9%	+21.3%
England	72,610	75,370	78,140	80,080	80,850	+1.0%	+11.3%

Over the five-year period, 2017 to 2021, the District saw a 46% increase in the number of children in care compared to a 21% increase seen by its statistical neighbours, and a 19% and 11% increase seen

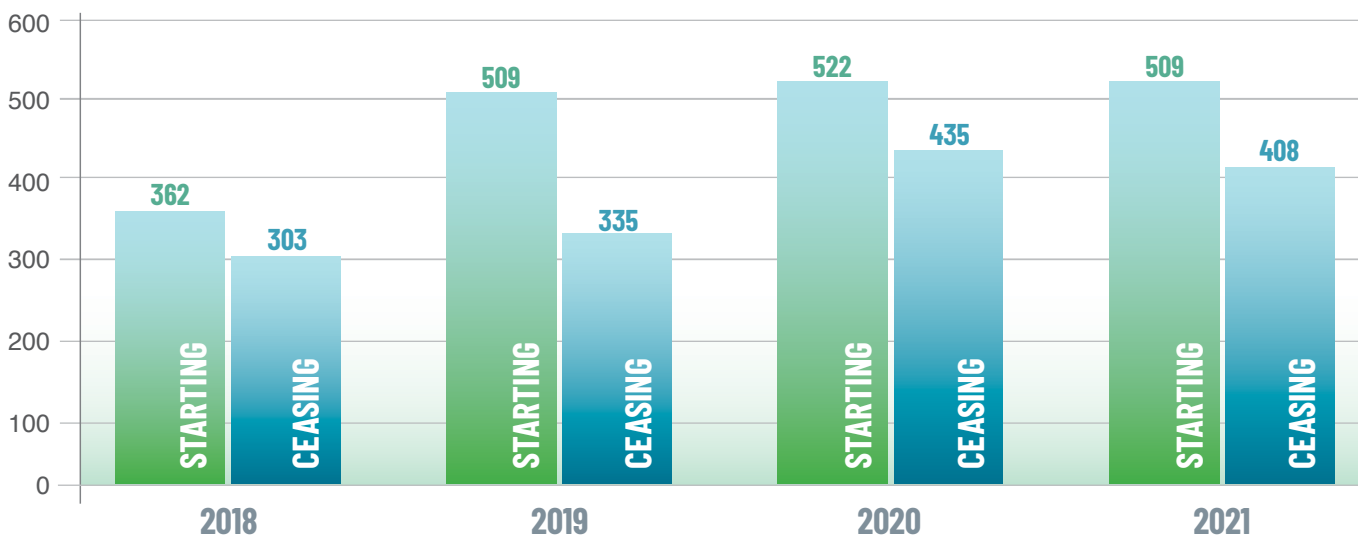
regionally and nationally. The District saw notable increases in the number of children in care between 2018 to 2019 when compared to its statistical neighbours, as well as the regional and national trends.

Percentage change in Children in Care population



This upturn was due to an increase in the numbers of children starting to be looked after since 2018/19 period without an equal increase in the number of children ceasing care in the same period neighbours, as well as the regional and national trends.

Children starting and ceasing care

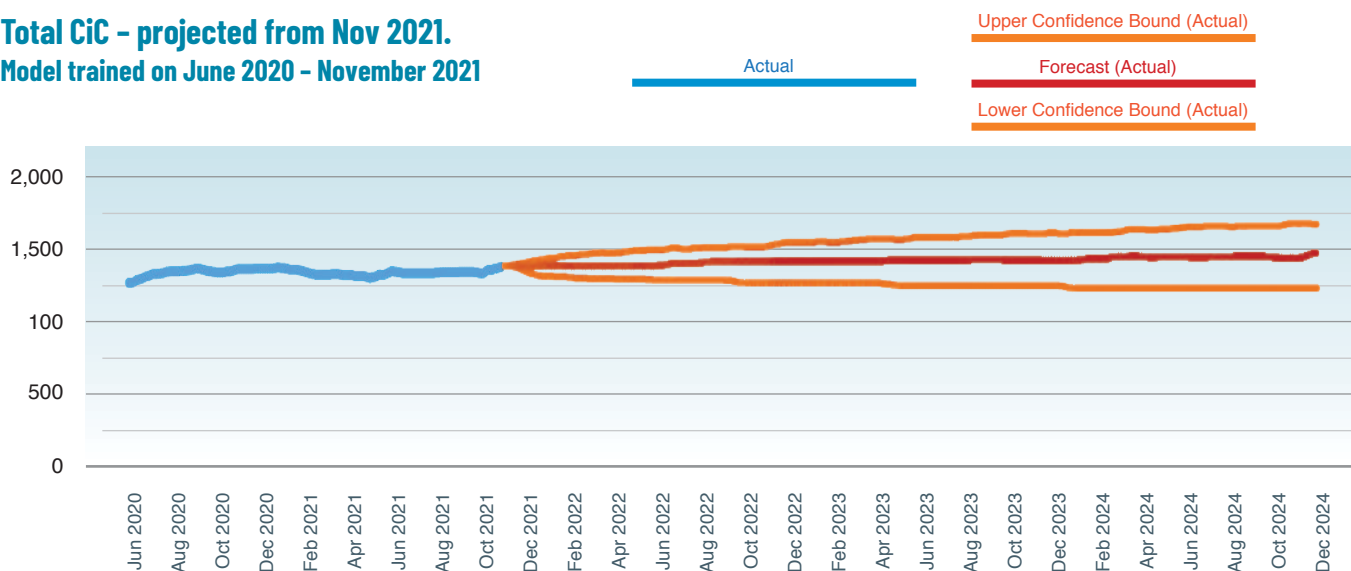


FORECAST PROJECTION

Historically, Bradford District has presented an upward trend in the numbers of children in care; whilst this was consistent with the wider picture, it occurred at a far accelerated rate in comparison to statistical and regional neighbours, and national trends. Forecasting,

to December 2024, based on this trend suggests a continued increase of the Children in Care population, or, a decrease to below June 2020 levels of children in care based on lower confidence.

Total CiC - projected from Nov 2021. Model trained on June 2020 - November 2021



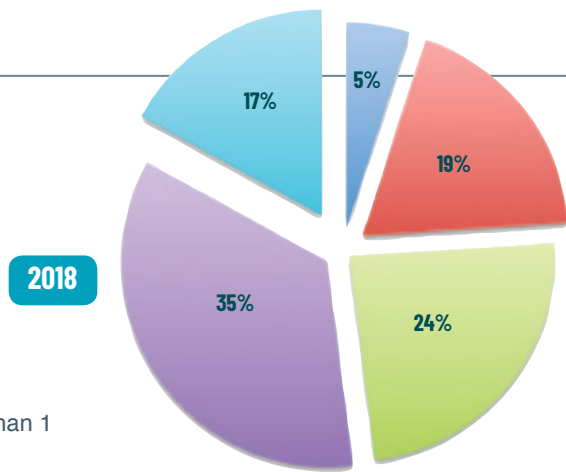
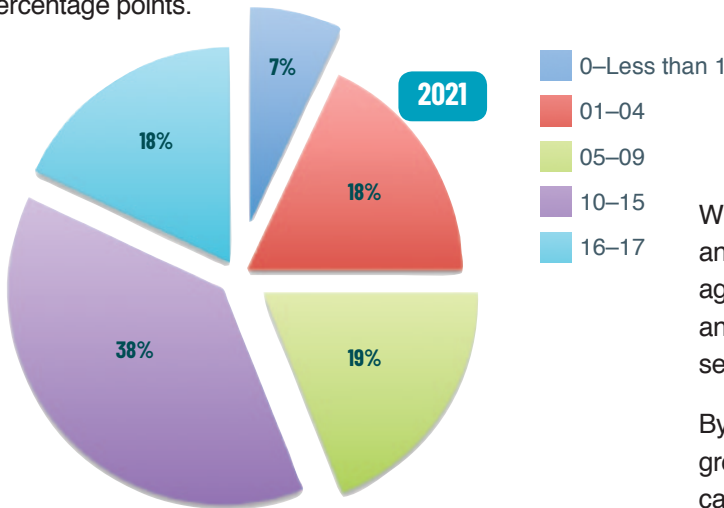
Forecasting data

Lower Confidence Bound (Actual)	Actual	Forecast (Actual)	Lower Confidence Bound (Actual)	Upper Confidence Bound (Actual)	Lower Confidence Bound (Actual)	Actual	Forecast (Actual)	Lower Confidence Bound (Actual)	Upper Confidence Bound (Actual)
	Nov-21	1,395	1,395	1,395		Jun-23	1,424	1,287	1,560
	Dec-21	1,394	1,360	1,428		Jul-23	1,425	1,286	1,565
	Jan-22	1,396	1,350	1,442		Aug-23	1,427	1,284	1,570
	Feb-22	1,398	1,342	1,453		Sep-23	1,429	1,282	1,575
	Mar-22	1,399	1,336	1,463		Oct-23	1,430	1,280	1,580
	Apr-22	1,401	1,330	1,471		Nov-23	1,432	1,279	1,585
	May-22	1,402	1,325	1,479		Nov-23	1,434	1,277	1,590
	Jun-22	1,404	1,321	1,487		May-22	1,402	1,325	1,479
	Jul-22	1,406	1,317	1,494		Jun-22	1,404	1,321	1,487
	Aug-22	1,407	1,313	1,501		Jul-22	1,406	1,317	1,494
	Sep-22	1,409	1,310	1,508		Aug-22	1,407	1,313	1,501
	Oct-22	1,411	1,307	1,514		Sep-22	1,409	1,310	1,508
	Nov-22	1,412	1,304	1,521		Oct-22	1,411	1,307	1,514
	Dec-22	1,414	1,301	1,527		Nov-22	1,412	1,304	1,521
	Jan-23	1,416	1,299	1,532		Dec-22	1,414	1,301	1,527
	Feb-23	1,417	1,296	1,538		Jan-23	1,416	1,299	1,532
	Mar-23	1,419	1,294	1,544		Feb-23	1,417	1,296	1,538
	Apr-23	1,420	1,292	1,549		Mar-23	1,419	1,294	1,544
	May-23	1,422	1,290	1,555		Apr-23	1,420	1,292	1,549

DEMOGRAPHICS

AGE

Over the period 2018 to 2021 the proportion of children in care aged 5-9 has grown by 5 percentage points, the proportion of children in care aged 10-15 has dropped 3 percentage points.



2018

With the exception of the under 1's all age groups saw an increase in numbers between 2018 and 2021. The age group with the largest increase, both numerically and proportionally was the 5-9s. The 1-4 group saw the second highest increase in proportion, 45%.

By 2024, we can anticipate that the 10-15 and 16-17 groups will have grown further as those children entering care in 2018/19 onwards get older.

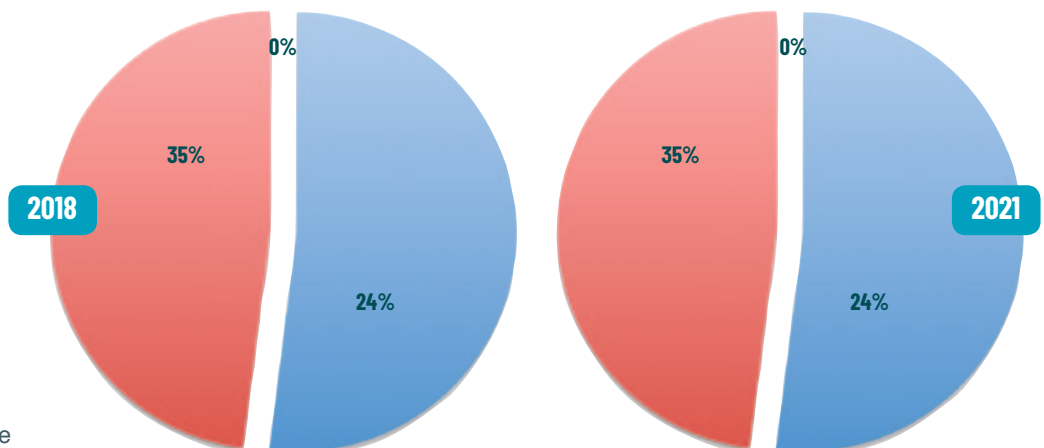
Age of Children in Care

	2018	2019	2020	2021	% difference 2018 to 2021	Difference 2018 to 2021
0 - less than 1	64	67	73	65	2%	1
01 - 04	179	213	242	260	45%	81
05 - 09	190	243	274	317	67%	127
10 - 15	373	425	429	473	27%	100
16 - 17	179	210	228	231	29%	52
Total	985	1,159	1,246	1,347	37%	362

GENDER

The gender profile of the District's children in care has not changed between 2018 and 2021

- Male
- Female
- Transgender Male
- Transgender Female



ETHNICITY

Bradford District's Children in Care population is predominantly white (58% at March 2021), this has remained relatively consistent over recent years. However, when considered against the wider District population there is evident inconsistency; the District's population is 2.5% mixed and 1.5% other, whereas young people from these communities represent over 27% of the children in care population.



Ethnicity of Children in Care

	2018	2019	2020	2021
White British	584	683	757	780
Other White groups	78	95	112	138
Asian / British Asian	109	138	133	159
Black / Black British	28	34	33	43
Mixed heritage	165	183	184	197
Other ethnic groups	15	18	21	20
Not stated / not yet obtained	6	8	6	10
Total	985	1,159	1,246	1,347

CiC Ethnicity by Percentage

	2018	2021
White British	59%	58%
Other White groups	8%	10%
Asian / British Asian	11%	12%
Black / Black British	3%	3%
Mixed heritage	17%	15%
Other ethnic groups	2%	1%
Not stated / not yet obtained	1%	1%

All children in the district

	Aged 0-9	%
White: English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British	76,021	51%
Other White groups	4,018	3%
Mixed/multiple ethnic group	7,312	5%
Asian/Asian British	57,926	39%
Black/African/Caribbean/Black British	2,445	2%
Other ethnic group	2,563	2%
All children in district	150,285	

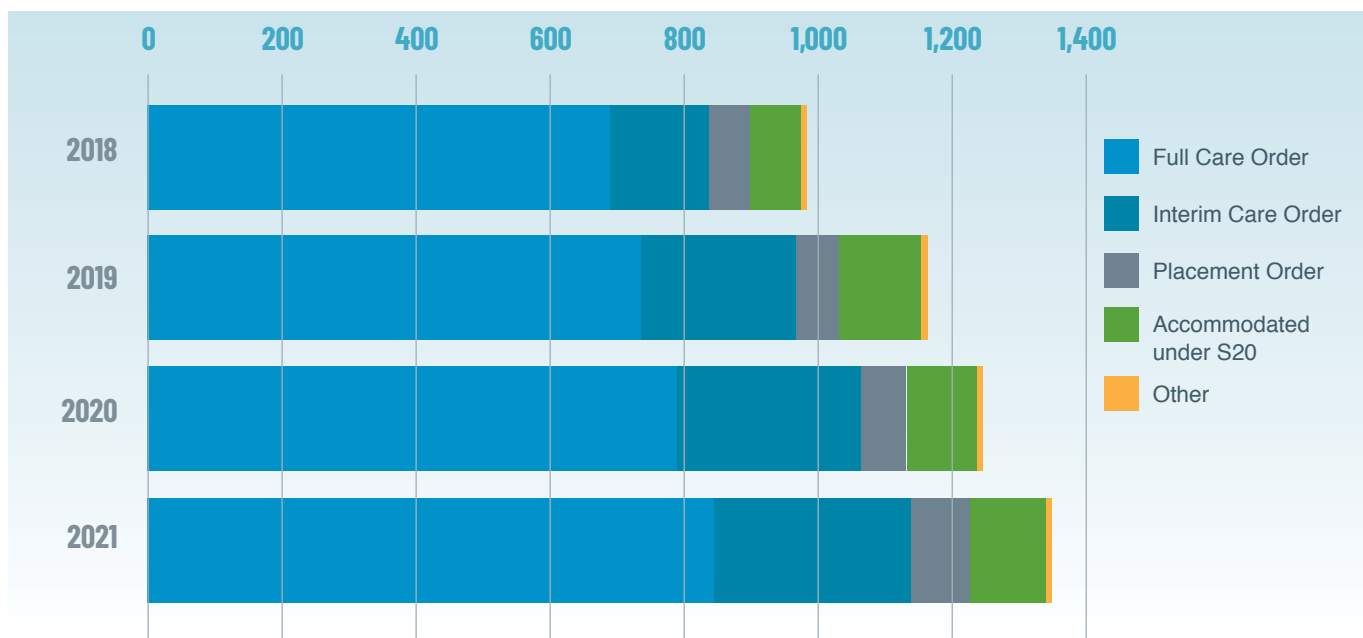
LEGAL STATUS

The number of children placed on Interim Care Orders doubled between 2018 and 2021. The number of children subject to Placement Orders grew by 50%.



Full and Interim Care Orders account for the majority of the increase in children in our care over the 2018-21 period.

Number of children under 18 in care at 31 March per 10,000 population



Legal Status of Children in Care

	2018	2019	2020	2021	% difference 2018 to 2021	Difference 2018 to 2021
Full Care Order	695	740	792	846	22%	151
Interim Care Order	144	231	272	295	105%	151
Placement Order	61	65	73	92	51%	31
Accommodated under S20	81	118	107	112	38%	31
Other	4	5	2	2	-50%	-2
Total	985	1159	1246	1347	37%	362

LENGTH OF TIME IN CARE

Changes to the length of time a child has been in care align with the increases in number of children in care in the periods 2018 to 2019 and 2020 to 2021.

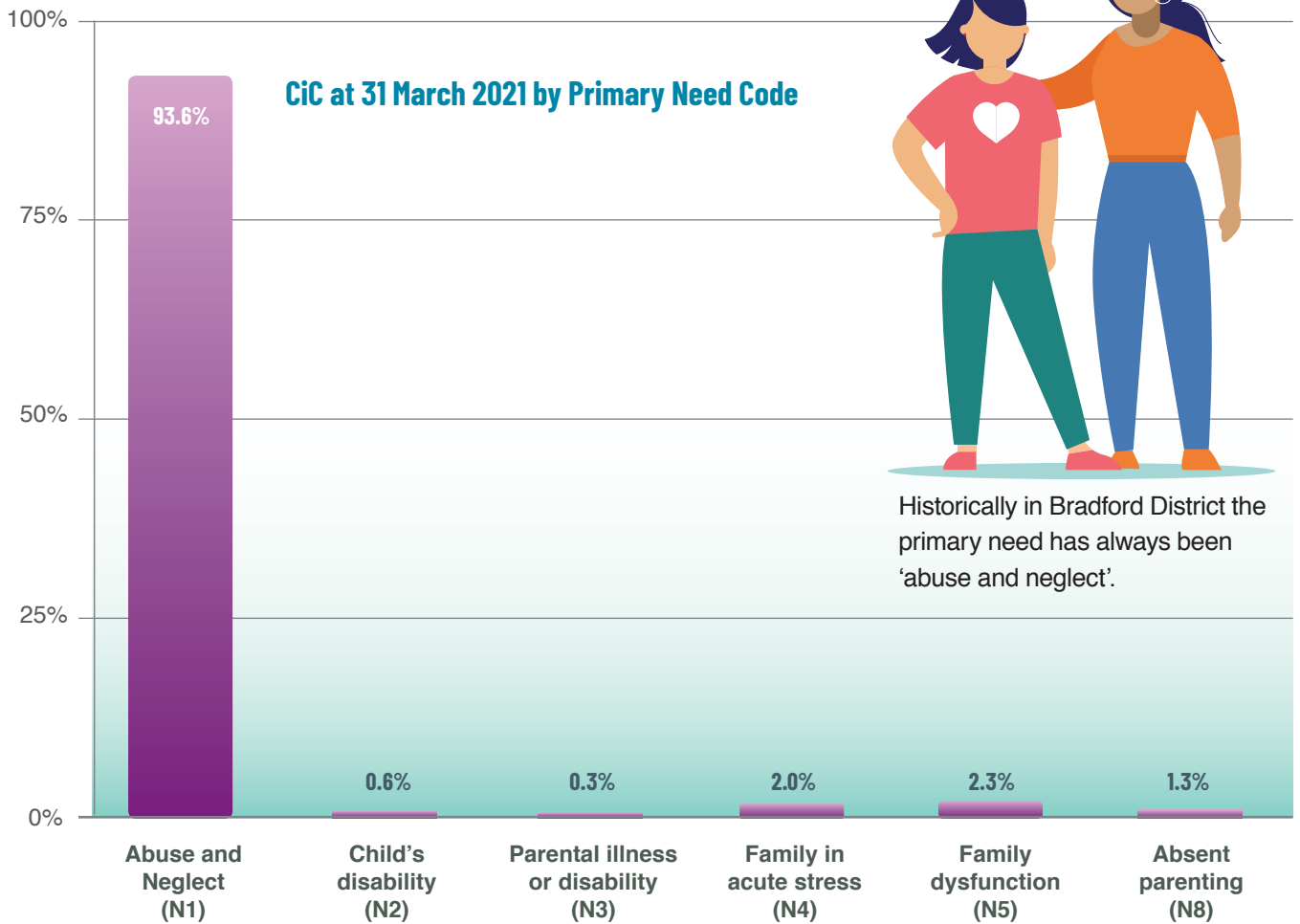
	2018	2019	2020	2021	Difference 2018 to 2021
0-5 months	131	260	187	179	48
6 up to 12 months	104	134	205	220	116
1 up to 2 years	207	168	253	280	73
2-5 years	248	310	306	377	129
5+ years	296	287	295	291	-5

Since 2018 the number of children in care for 5+ years, at the end of each fiscal year, has remained the same.

The chart above shows the big increase in care entrants in the year to March 31st 2019, as the increase in the

'0-5 months' category. This 'group' of children has gradually moved through the categories and currently are within the '2-5 years' category. These children will appear in the '5+ years category' in 2024.

PRIMARY NEED WHEN ENTERING CARE



ENTRANTS TO CARE - PLACEMENT REQUESTS

The data set started to be collated in March 2021, at this time we have 11 months data relating to requests for a new placement (new to care).

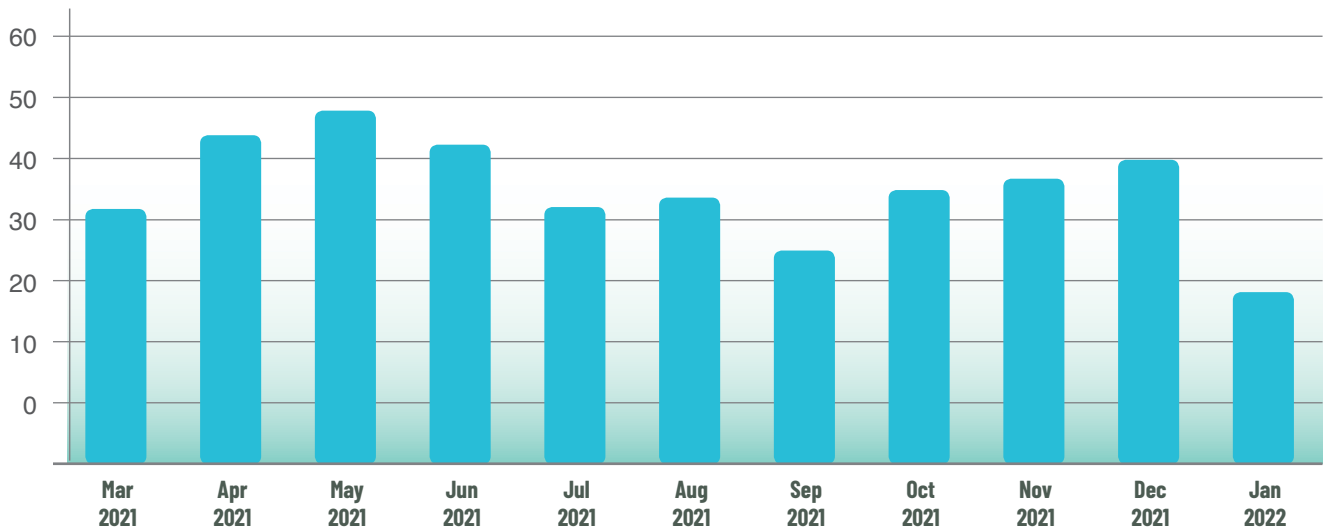
Number of requests for new placements March 21 to Jan 22

In the 11 months period we had 385 requests for new placements. This data includes care leaver requests for UASC children and S17 accommodation cases.

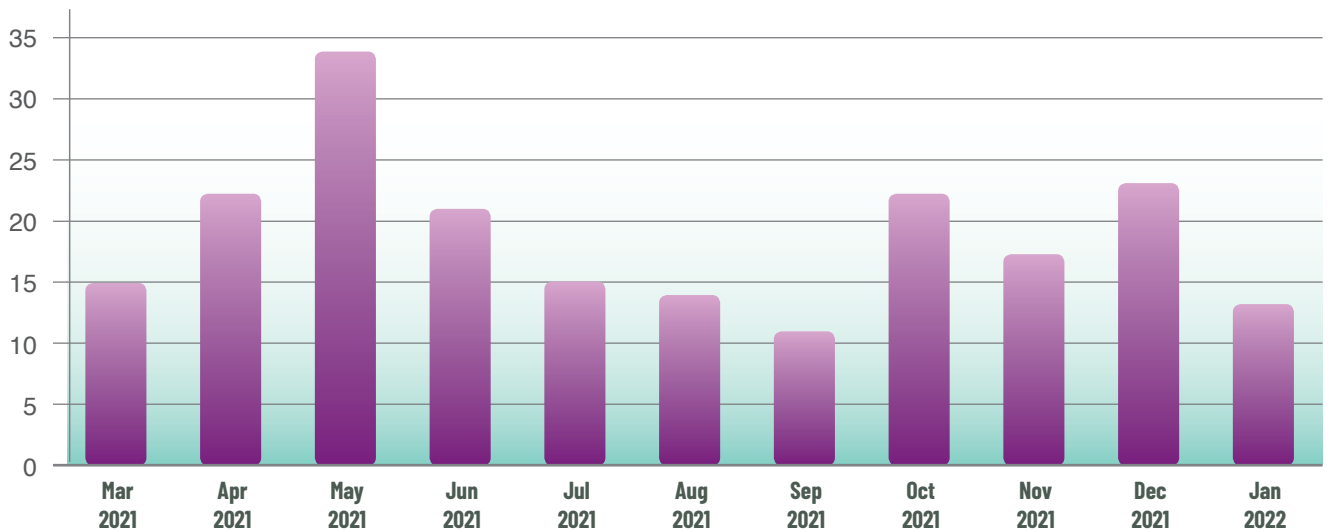
For reference new placement requests make up 47% of the demand for placements for 11 month period (Mar 21 to Jan 21)



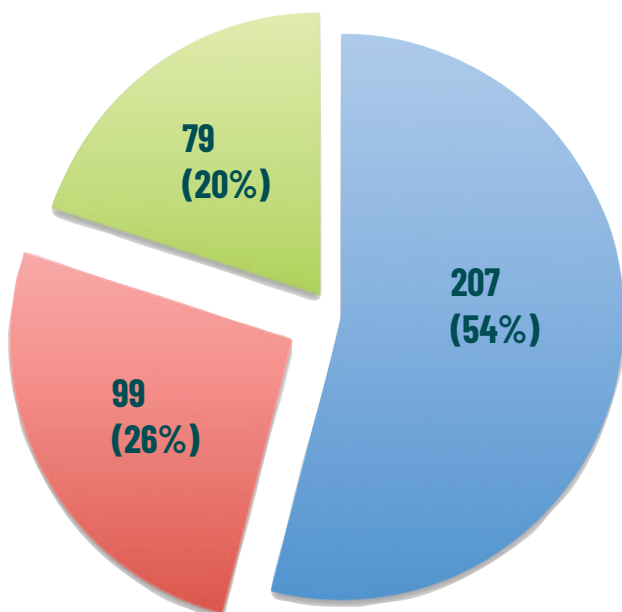
Placement Requests for New Care Entrants - March 2021 to Jan 2022



Emergency Placement Requests for New Care Entrants - March 2021 to Jan 2022



Number of requests for new placements by category for 11 months (March 21 to Jan 22)



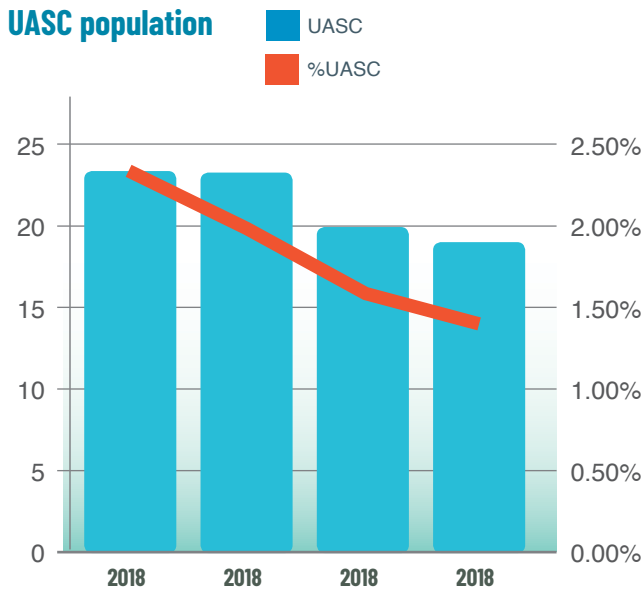
These figures represent a disproportionate volume of emergency requests for placement. Whilst acknowledging that there will always be trigger events such as an injury to a child which will require immediate response, for the most part one would expect admission to care to be a planned process as part of child protection and Public Law Outline (PLO) processes.

This volume of emergency placement requests will constrain placement choice and matching at point of care admission.

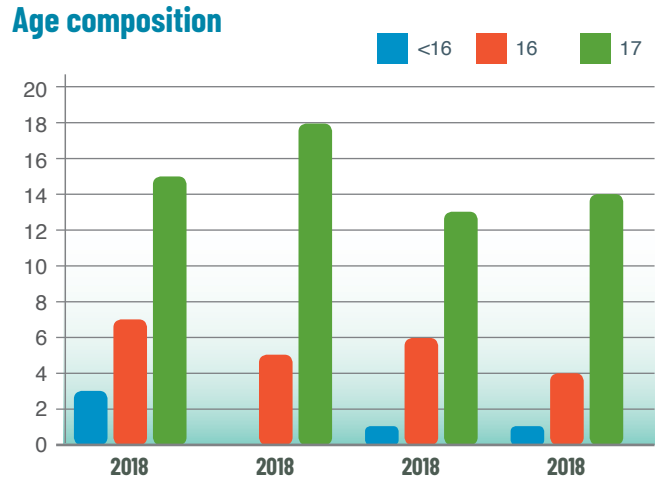
- Emergency – Same Day
- Routine – Over 72 hours
- Urgent – Within 72 hours

UNACCOMPANIED ASYLUM SEEKING CHILDREN (UASC)

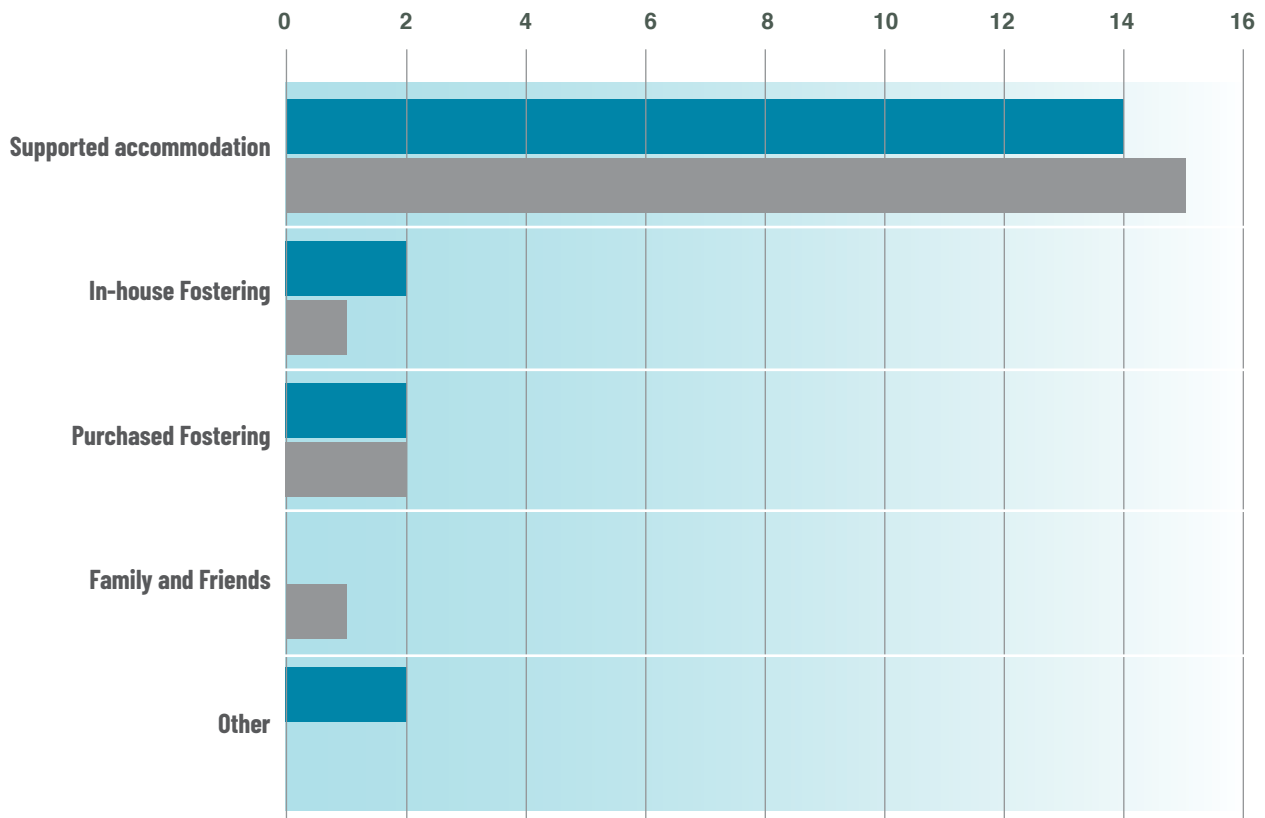
The number of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children has decreased in Bradford District since 2018.



In terms of age profile, the majority of UASC remain seventeen year olds and they are almost predominantly male



Percentage change in Children in Care population



The end of 2021 saw a change in patterns of UASC numbers due to changes in Government policy. A number of young men placed in Bradford by the Home Office challenged their assessment of age as a result of which we assessed them as minors. The National Transfer Scheme for UASC which has up until now been a voluntary arrangement has recently been made mandatory by the Government. This is likely to lead to an increase in UASC numbers for Bradford.

ADOPTION

Bradford is part of an adoption consortium with four other Local Authorities that form One Adoption West Yorkshire. (OAWY) Aside from Bradford the consortium consists of Calderdale, Wakefield, Kirklees and Leeds who administer the partnership on behalf of the other Authorities.

OAWY are responsible for all adopter recruitment across the five authorities with centralised assessment and panel functions. This provides the benefit of a larger pool of prospective adopters. Family finding responsibilities are also held by the consortium though each Local Authority retains its own decision making accountability for should be placed for adoption decisions for individual children and the matching of children to adopters.

The numbers of children leaving care through adoption in Bradford has fluctuated in recent years with a gradual decline since 2017. However, the trend for the current

performance year to date is upwards with third quarter figures bringing Bradford back in line with regional neighbours.

The timeliness with which children are placed for adoption is also a performance area that has seen variability in monitoring. There are two key indicators relating to this measure the length of time between a child entering care and being laced with adopters and the length of time between the making of a placement order and the child being matched with adopters.

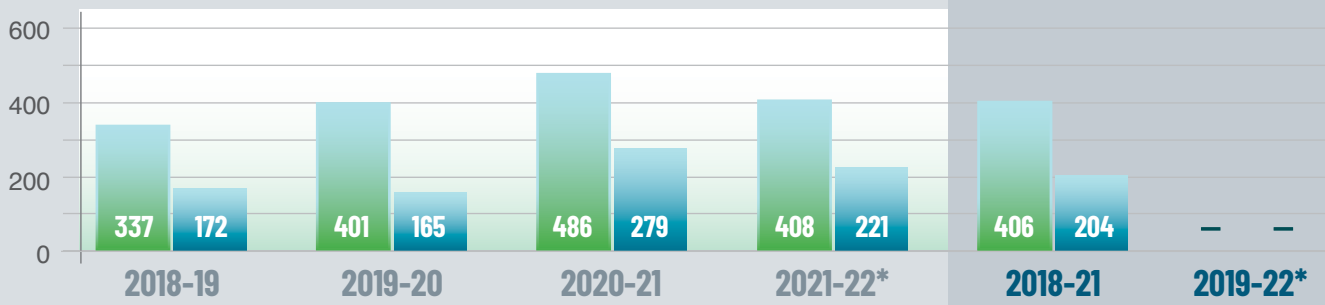
Whilst the last twelve months has seen an improvement for Bradford in respect of both indicators we remain behind statistical neighbours. There will be a number of contributory factors that form the underlying cause of this but most notable will be delays in care planning processes or the family finding process for more hard to place children.

Percentage of Looked After Children adopted in a year

Local Authority, Region and England	2017	2018	2019	2019	2021	31 Dec 2021
380 Bradford	15.00	10.00	10.00	8.00	7.00	13.00
982 Yorkshire and The Humber	17.00	16.00	15.00	14.00	12.00	-
Statistical Neighbours	21.00	17.10	17.30	17.60	14.30	-
970 England	14.00	13.00	12.00	12.00	10.00	-

The percentage ceasing care in 2021 for adoption has been falling compared to the previous years. Bradford also compares unfavourably to the Statistical Neighbours and England Average figures. However as at 31 Dec 2021 the percentage for adoption is at 13%.

Adoption Scorecard figures



A10 Average time between a child entering care and moving in with its adoptive family, adjusted for foster carer adoptions

The average time from a child entering care and moving in with its adoptive parents has fallen, 408 days as at 30 September 2021 compared to 486 days as at March 2021.

A2 Average time between Placement Order and the LA deciding on a match to an adoptive family

The average time between Placement Order and match to adoptive family has also fallen. 221 days as at 30 September 2021 compared to 279 days at March 2021.

The 3 year average 2018-2021 for this indicator is 204 days. This compares unfavourably with the 3 year average in 2017-2020 of 160 days for Bradford, 186.60 for the Statistical neighbours and 175 for the England average.

SPECIAL GUARDIANSHIP

In terms of permanence options, it should be noted that the increase in children placed in care with connected carers is in part a reflection of a lack of clarity as regards the financial and support package that is made available to special guardianship carers. For many of these children there is no necessity for them to be in Local Authority care in that they are being well cared for within their extended family.

OAWY are working on a regional SGO (Special Guardianship Order) policy that will be available for approval shortly. This will provide both clarity and equity in terms of the financial offer that is made to SGO carers. Once the policy is approved we will make use of the child in care reviewing process to identify those connected carers who are willing to consider applying for an SGO and progress accordingly.



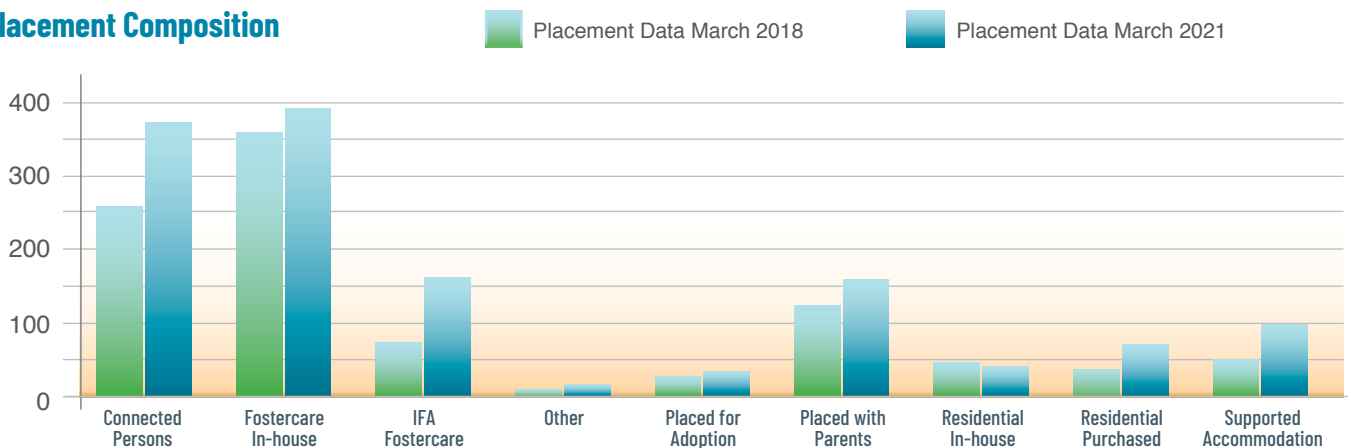
PROFILE OF CURRENT PLACEMENTS

Placement types	2018	2019	2020	2021
Connected Persons	258	339	353	373
Foster care In-house	360	365	372	394
IFA	73	86	137	164
Other	3	8	3	7
Placed for Adoption	29	25	24	35
Placed with Parents	123	158	150	161
Residential In-house	47	53	50	45
Residential Purchased	41	51	68	70
Supported Accommodation	51	74	89	98
Total	985	1159	1246	1347



Since 2018 it is placements with Connected Persons and IFA foster care that have seen the largest increases, the increases in these two placement types account for more than half of the increase in numbers of Children in Care.

Placement Composition



In March 2021, of those 1,347 children in care, 673 were recorded as having either a foster or residential placement (47%).

Of those 673 CLA the breakdown for Foster (commissioned -v- internal) and Residential (commissioned -v- internal) is:



The biggest increase in placements was for IFA placements for the 5-9 age group followed by in house fostering placements for 1-4s and 5-9s. The increase in in-house foster placements for the lower age groups may have caused the authority the need to purchase placements for the older age groups.

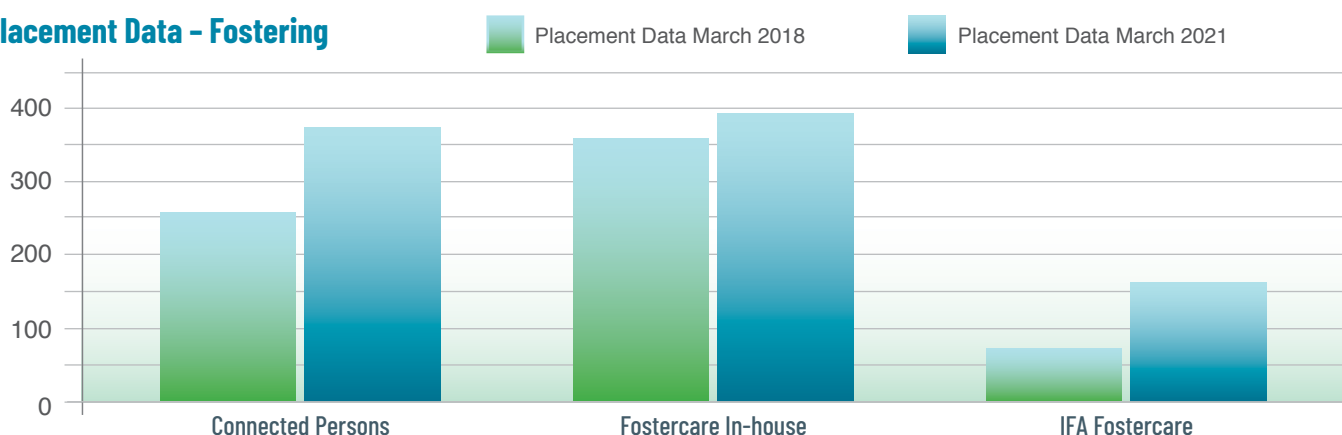
The numbers of children placed at home with parents under legal orders is considerable and substantially in excess of what one would expect. This is falsely inflating our looked after numbers. It is also poor practice to have children on orders in these situations for long periods of time as it represents a constraint on normal family life for the families involved.

We are also seeing a significant increase in numbers of children placed with family and friend connected carers. This is a good outcome for the children involved as they are growing up within their extended family but in many instances it is unnecessary for this to require the children to be in care. This again constitutes a constraint on family life and is requiring considerable resources to maintain in terms of social work and IRO time. The lack of a clear policy on payments to SGO carers (special guardianship order) is currently preventing carers from seeking these orders whereby the children would be appropriately discharged from Local Authority care.

Age profile of placement types 2021, difference from 2018 in ()

	0 - less than 1	01 -04	05-09	10-15	16-17	18+ and in Community home	Grand Total
Family and Friends	12 (-1)	86 (+19)	108 (+33)	134 (+50)	33 (+14)		373 (+115)
Fostercare In-house	33 (-5)	80 (+36)	95 (+35)	149 (-29)	36 (-4)		394 (+34)
Fostercare Purchased	6 (+1)	33 (+23)	56 (+44)	55 (+24)	14 (-1)		164 (+91)
Other	3 (+3)	1 (+1)		1	2		7 (4)
Placed for Adoption	1 (-6)	29 (+11)	5 (+1)				35 (+6)
Placed with Parents	9 (+8)	31 (-9)	45 (+14)	55 (+25)	21		161 (+38)
Residential In-house			6 (-2)	31 (+7)	8 (-7)		45 (-2)
Residential Purchased	1 (+1)		2 (+2)	48 (+23)	19 (+3)		70 (+29)
Supported Accommodation					98 (+47)		98 (+47)
Grand Total	65 (+1)	260 (+81)	317 (+127)	473 (+100)	231 (+52)	1	1347 (+362)

Placement Data - Fostering



Over the period 2018-2021 demand for IFA placements has increased for those children aged 5-9.

As regards the location of IFA placements 68 are inside Bradford District. A further 66 placements are in the immediate surrounding Local Authority areas.

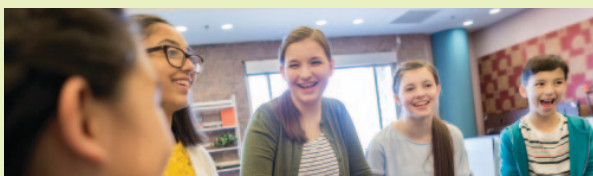
The majority of IFA placements (156) have been made inside the White Rose EMP commissioning framework. Twenty-five IFA placements are outside of the White Rose EMP

Age composition of IFA Placements

	March 2018	March 2019	March 2020	March 2021
0 - less than 1	5	2	8	6
01 - 04	10	16	28	33
05 - 09	12	26	52	56
10 - 15	31	31	33	55
16 - 17	15	11	16	14
Total	73	86	137	164

RESIDENTIAL

The biggest increase in purchased residential placements was for the 10-15 age group



Residential Purchased Children's Homes

	2018	2019	2020	2021
0 - less than 1	0	0	0	1
01 - 04	0	0	0	0
05 - 09	0	0	1	2
10 - 15	25	38	51	48
16 - 17	16	15	16	19

Residential purchased placements by location

Twelve purchased residential placements are inside Bradford District. Twenty-two are in neighbouring authorities.

Thirty-seven (including twelve placed in Bradford) placements are inside the White Rose commissioning framework. Thirty placements are outside of the White Rose EMP.

Placement Stability

As numbers of children in Care increased, short term placement stability decreased with more children having 3 or more placements in a year. Between 2020 and 2021 short term stability improved and whilst not in-line with statistical neighbours it is in-line with regional and national performance.

Local Authority, Region and England

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2019	2021
Bradford	9.00	10.00	11.00	12.00	13.00	9.00
Yorkshire and The Humber	10.00	11.00	11.00	11.00	11.00	9.00
Statistical Neighbours	7.50	8.70	8.60	9.10	9.60	7.20
England	10.00	10.00	11.00	11.00	11.00	9.00

Long term stability dropped between 2018 and 2020, as it did with the comparator groups. Long term stability Improved by 5pp between 2020 and 2021 and is nearly back to 2018 levels.

Local Authority, Region and England

	2018	2019	2019	2021
Bradford	71.00	69.00	65.00	70.00
Yorkshire and The Humber	69.00	68.00	67.00	70.00
Statistical Neighbours	69.90	69.70	68.20	70.80
England	69.00	68.00	68.00	70.00

CARE LEAVERS

The number of care leavers has increased by over a third in the period 2018 to 2021 placements was for the 10-15 age group

	2018	2019	2020	2021
Total Care Leavers	495	525	611	685

Projection - Care Leavers	
Month	Projection
Mar-2022	727
Mar-2023	811
Mar-2024	889



ACCESS TO HOUSING PROCESS

Young people eligible for a Leaving Care Service are able to register their housing application with Bradford Home online from the age of 16 years alongside the general population. In order to register the young person requires their National Insurance Number, an email address and details of their current accommodation.

Young people who are looked after require assistance from their Social Worker to apply for their National Insurance Number.

Bradford Homes will apply Priority 1 status only where the young person has identified as having care leaver eligibility.

The Joint Housing and Leaving Care Protocol is being co-developed. The protocol focuses on homelessness prevention and early intervention as well as services in reach. Housing applications will progress sooner (from 16 years) to ensure care leavers have the best possible starting position on the register and are not disadvantaged by delayed applications.

General Accommodation Issues for Care Leavers

Priority 1 Status: regardless of the date of application; Priority 1 will only apply from the age of 18 years; we have explored with housing options whether this could be applied from day 1/ backdate to 16th birthday and age of eligibility, but current processes will not allow.

Availability of suitable 1-2 bedroom properties: Housing stock is an issue when supporting young people in their transition from supported accommodation to independent living. At this time [January 2022] there are 71 young people (18+) identified as care leavers with an open housing application with Bradford Homes- initial date of applications stem back to 2020. Young people reside in a range of accommodation including semi-independent placements that continue to be funded by Children's Social Care to prevent homelessness. This often leads to a route of private landlords even when this is not the most suitable/affordable or secure option.

Bridging Accommodation: there are few options available to young people who are 18+ and are not ready to have their own place. Staying Put and Staying Close provide options for some young people but there continues to be a gap in services (this includes supporting young parents and those who do not meet the threshold of adult social care in respect of supported accommodation needs).

Release from prison/ custody: early release planning is promoted however care leavers continue to be at risk of homelessness on release from prison. If the young person has previously been a tenant within an In-Communities tenancy; depending on the duration of sentence and/or nature of offence, In-communities will seek possession. Young people in prison/ custody are unable to claim Universal Credit and therefore are likely to breach their tenancy agreement regardless of sentence/ nature of offence due to defaulting on rent payments. The only route to guarantee social housing accommodation is to declare as homeless on release and options often include shared accommodation. This is in conflict with efforts made to plan from the point of sentencing.

Exceptions for care leavers: the service have experience of supporting young people in attending housing assessments in preparation for adulthood. Circumstances may lead to young people not wanting to work through the assessment meeting and appear to 'self-sabotage' when there are often a range of other contributing factors. When this has happened the assessment has been rejected and bidding therefore cannot take place. The young person is then unable to reapply for a period of 6 months when circumstances may well have changed.

Access to Tenancy support: Existing contract with Centre-point only applies to young people already open to service prior to their 18th birthday. Whilst there are some low level outreach options young people moving to their first home would benefit from prioritised tenancy/befriending support to overcome challenges experienced of living in their own home.

Current Arrangements

We currently have a Commissioned Dynamic Purchasing System in place with 70 Providers who provide semi-independent group living and supported tenancy placements to care leavers. We currently have sufficient options in post 16 to meet the demands for semi-independent placements for care leavers.

The quality assurance arrangements for this contract have been developed and enhanced over the last 18 months and are as follows:

1. Annual DBS checks
2. Tracking tool to ensure up to date health and safety documentation is held on file (Gas, electric, fire safety and insurances)
3. Annual Quality assurance visits to Providers undertaken by our Reg.44 officers (similar format to Reg.44 adjusted to reflect support not care) – commenced May 2021
4. Quality assurance office post in PC team – appointed in Jan 2021.
5. Announced and unannounced visits by QA officer and PC leadership.
6. On boarding new properties/providers – Locality risk Assessment, full checks of documentation (as in 1 &2), visit in person or virtual or in emergency photographs with follow up visit.



CURRENT PROVISION

IN-HOUSE FOSTERING SERVICE

In March 2021 Bradford’s in house fostering service entered in to a twelve month contract with Bright Sparks, an independent company, to assist with the recruitment of foster carers by increasing our visibility on social media and therefore increasing the number of enquiries. The contract has the option to extend for a maximum of 1 further year in 2 six month periods. Whilst there has been an increase in the number of enquiries this has not yet translated in to a significant increase in the number of potential foster carers in assessment. There continues to be a need to recruit foster carers for children aged 8+, sibling groups, and children with a range of complex needs. The in-house fostering service and Bright Sparks will ensure future marketing will focus on these areas.

FOSTERING HOUSEHOLDS

During the period from March 2018 to March 2021 the fostering service has grown by 59 households, however the vast majority of this growth has been in Connected Persons fostering. Connected Persons households have increased by 47. Mainstream households decreased from 283 in 2017-18 to 280 in 2018-19 but has increased by 15 households to 295 in the period 2019 to 2021. There is an urgent need to increase recruitment activity for mainstream foster care.

The average utilisation rate in mainstream fostering is 1.75. i.e. the average number of children placed per household. Over the last 4 years the number of children in care in Bradford has increased by 362, an average of

90.5 children per year. At least 70% (63.5) of these will require foster care. Therefore, in order to keep pace with this demand, the in house fostering service will need to grow by at least 38 fostering households per year. Over the next three years the fostering service increase by at least 114 fostering households.

CHILDREN PLACED

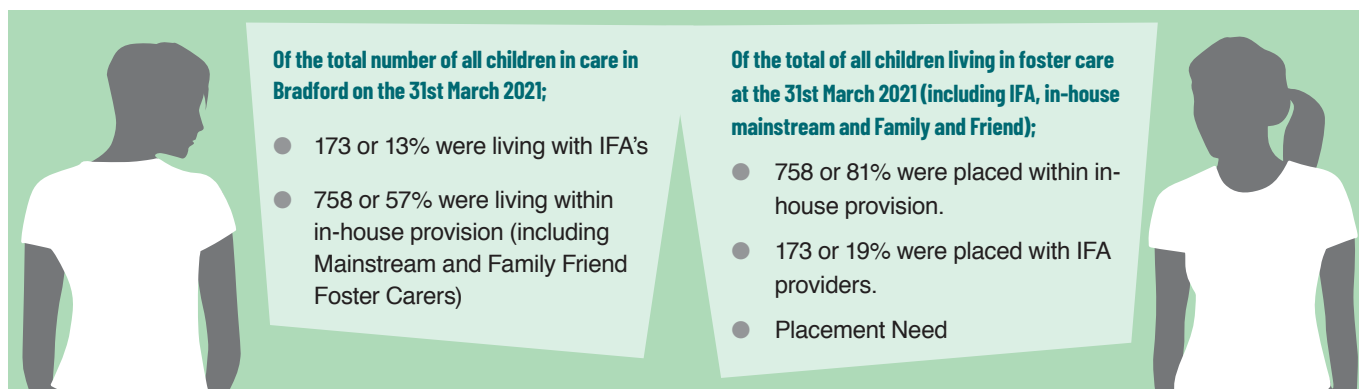
During the reporting period 2020/21 492 children and young people were placed with Bradford’s in-house fostering service. Of these 236 were placed with Mainstream Foster Carers and 256 children were placed with family and friend (connected Person’s) foster carers. In the same period, 430 children left in-house fostering provision; 198 children and young people left mainstream foster care and 232 children and young people left family and friends foster care.

Of the 1,347 Children in Care in Bradford on the 31st March 2021 931 (69%) were living with foster carers (including in house, connected persons and IFA placements). This percentage has reduced slightly from 70% in March 2018. The rapid growth in the number of children and young people in care between 2018 and 2021 has significantly increased the demand for foster care placements. Between March 2018 and March 2021 there has been a 50% increase in the number of Children in Care in Bradford.

Growth in fostering households & children looked after in in-house foster care

(Source: Ofsted Data returns)

Year	Mainstream Households	Children Placed Mainstream Households	Connected Person Households	Children Placed Connected Persons Households	Total Households	Total Children Placed
2017/18	283	508	148	203	431	559
2018/19	280	495	169	235	449	730
2019/20	281	492	175	263	456	755
2020/21	295	510	195	289	490	799



With the exception of the under 1's all age groups saw an increase in numbers between 2018 and 2021. The age group with the largest increase, both numerically and proportionally was the 5-9s. The 1-4 group saw the second highest increase in proportion, 45%.

Age of Children in Care

	2018	2019	2020	2021	% difference 2018 to 2021	Difference 2018 to 2021
0 - less than 1	64	67	73	65	2%	1
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10 - 15	373	425	429	473	27%	100
16 - 17	179	210	228	231	29%	52
Total	985	1,159	1,246	1,347	37%	362

COMMISSIONED FOSTERING PROVISION

Bradford Metropolitan District Council (MDC) has an in house fostering service but commissions provision from external agencies via the White Rose Electronic Market Place (EMP). The EMP is a pseudo Dynamic Purchasing System set up by the White Rose Partnership (WRP). The WRP is a well established strategic alliance between Bradford, Leeds, Wakefield, Kirklees, Calderdale, Sheffield, Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham, Hull, North Lincolnshire, North East Lincolnshire, York and the East Riding of Yorkshire councils designed to secure sufficient placements for children and young people in care within the region. This includes Independent foster care, specialist SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities), and residential placements. The WRP was initially established in 2011 and has subsequently been reviewed and updated since this time.

The WRF offers Bradford MDC access to 29 Independent Fostering Agencies (IFA) providers (as at March 2021); these providers have over 2700 registered carers nationally and are registered to provide 5600

placements. It should be noted that this demonstrates the number of registered carers and approved fostering 'beds' cumulatively across the WRF, either occupied or vacant, but as would be expected, availability changes on a daily basis.

The majority of this provision is outside of Bradford's borders. 68 IFA children are placed within IFA's in the Bradford District. 156 (including the 68 in within Bradford District) are placed with the WRF footprint and 25 children and young people are placed outside of this area. Commissioning and the in-house fostering service continue to work to develop the availability of local, good quality fostering homes for our Children and Young People.

Nationally the fostering market is significantly impacted by a lack of supply to meet demand coupled with an aging foster carer population; despite the potential for Bradford to access in excess of 5000 placements, vacancies are not consistently readily available. During the 2020/2021 period, Bradford made 119 placements with IFA providers. In the same period 73 children and young people left IFA placements. For some children this will have meant one or more placements within that

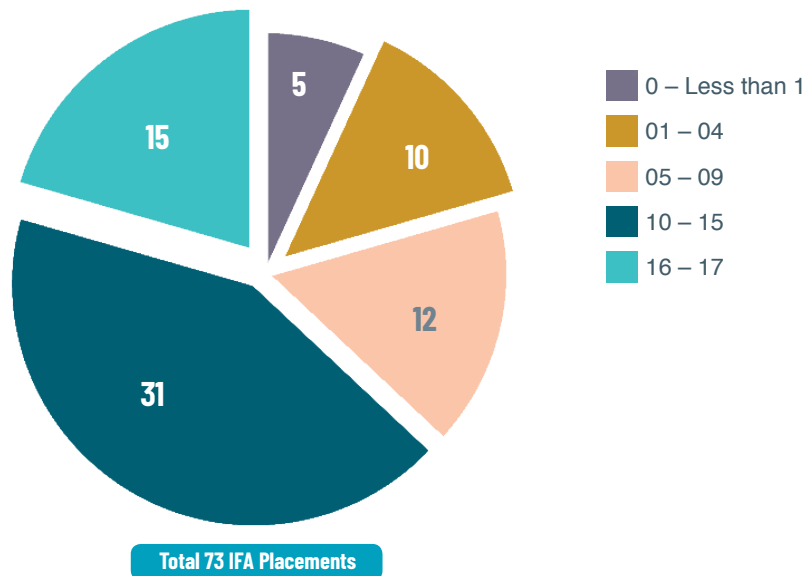
period within IFA provision. At the end of March 2021 173 Bradford children were living with IFA Foster Carers. All but two of these were procured through the WRF.

The WRF has supported Bradford to ensure good quality; 98% of IFA providers on the DPS at March 2020

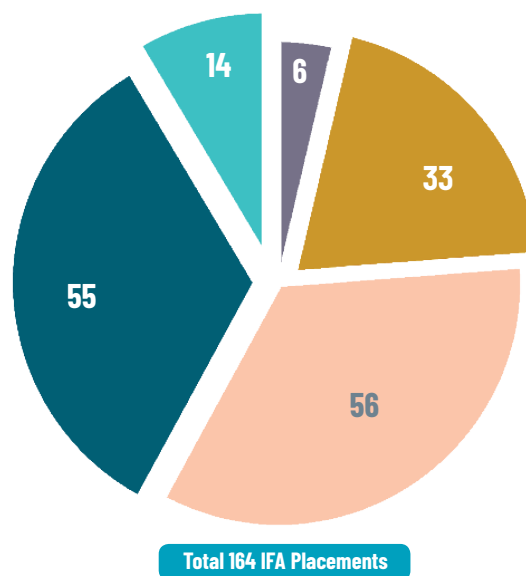
were judged to be 'Good' or 'Outstanding' by Ofsted. In House Fostering

This is also reflected in the numbers of Bradford children placed with IFA's.

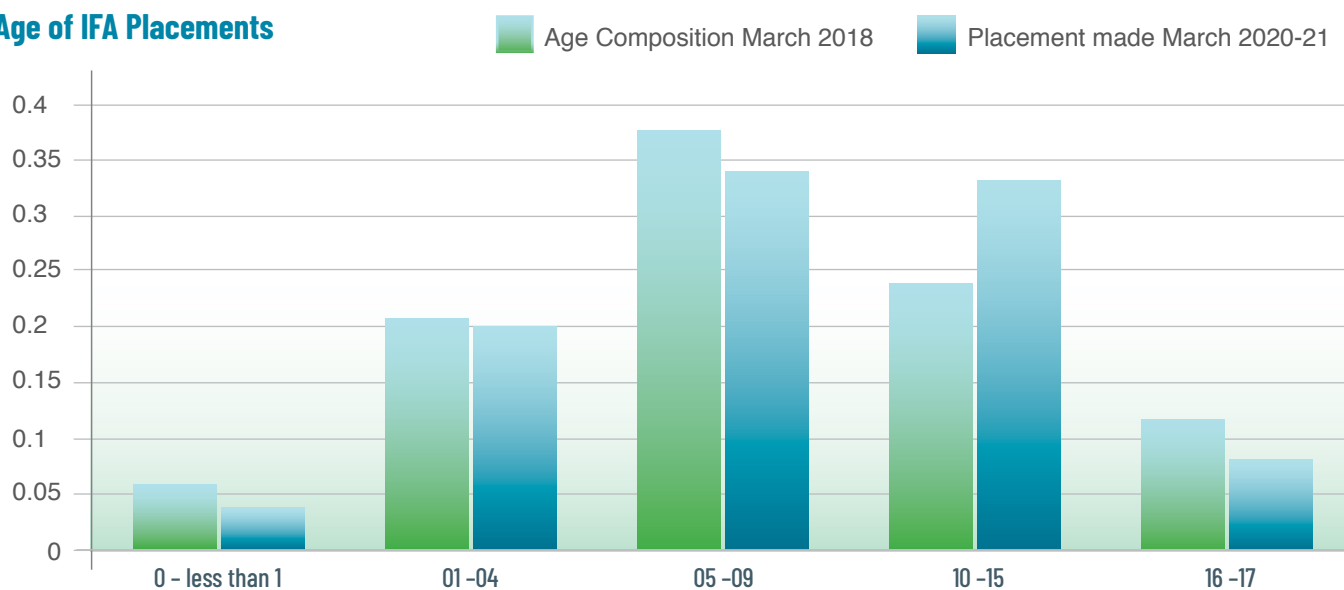
IFA Placements at March 2018



IFA Placements at March 2021



Age of IFA Placements



FOSTERING

Challenges / Gaps

- Lack of availability of local foster carers.
- Lack of availability of foster carers able to meet the needs of children and young people aged 8+, and those young people with complex and challenging behaviours.
- Lack of foster placement for teenagers either within in-house provision or independent sector. This may have an impact on the number of young people looked after in residential homes
- Fostering placement breakdowns, and short term 'bridging' placements, affecting stability for children and young people.

Actions Required

- Continued development of Bradford's in-house Fostering Service, with focus on recruitment of carers to support older children and young people, and those young people with complex needs and challenging behaviours in our local area.

Impact

- Increased availability of local provision, which in turn will offer greater stability to children and young people requiring short, medium or long term placements.

IN-HOUSE FOSTERING

Challenges / Gaps

- Increase of in house foster carers required, with particular focus on resilient foster carers able to offer placements to older children and young people aged 8+ and those with complex needs/ challenging behaviours.

Actions Required

- Focused and targeted recruitment of prospective foster carers for Bradford's In House Fostering Service.

Impact

- Increased availability of local foster carers to meet the needs of Bradford's children and young people in care.
- Support demand pressures, enable children and young people to maintain networks and have their needs met by local services close to home.

LOCAL PROVISION

Challenges / Gaps

- Need for greater in area, good quality, local placements available via the WRF, to meet the needs of our children and young people and adhere to our sufficiency duty.

Actions Required

- Ensure that all local Fostering Agencies have an awareness of the WRF, how Bradford sources placements, and how to submit a tender to join the WRF.
- Engagement with those providers who offer provision within the Bradford District to promote exploring vacancies with Bradford prior to other Local Authorities

Impact

- Increased availability of local provision will support children and young people to live in 'in area' provisions (where it is suitable to do so).
- Children and young people are better supported to maintain local networks, education provision, health services, specialist health provision [CAMHS].
- Increased opportunity for permanency/rehabilitation.
- Reduction in costs and resources associated with out of area placements.

CURRENT IN-HOUSE RESIDENTIAL PROVISION

Bradford currently operates eleven Ofsted registered Children's Homes and one unregulated placement, which is in the process of being registered with Ofsted for one young person.

Two homes offer provision for children with disabilities short breaks, Wedgewood Hall, which is part of Wedgewood currently offers full time residential care for three young people. This provision was registered with Ofsted in July 2021.



Residential Home	Location	Residential category and total bed availability	Current occupancy
Clockhouse	BD21 1QX	Mixed 5-17 year olds Short breaks / respite CWD for up to 6 children	
Hollybank	BD7 4QL	Mixed 11-18 year olds planned admissions. 4 beds	4 young people
Meadowlea	LS29 6HP	Mixed 5-10 year olds Currently no admissions are being accepted for this age group to residential care. 7 beds	6 children
Newholme	BD10 9LE	Mixed 12-18 year olds planned admissions. 4 beds	4 young people
Owlthorpe	BD18 2TG	Mixed 11-18 year olds planned admissions. 6 beds	5 young people
Rowan House	BD13 3NS	Mixed 12-18 year olds planned admissions. 6 beds	4 young people
Sky View House	BD20 5SB	12-18 year olds planned admissions. 6 beds	5 young people
The Hollies	BD12 OTD	8-14 year olds planned admissions. 6 beds	5 young people
The Willows	BD2 2DU	1 bed registered specifically for the young person currently in placement. Previously registered for 4 young people as short term emergency admissions 11-18 years	1 young person
Valley View / BEST	BD2 4LL	1 bed registered specifically for the young person currently in placement	1 young person
The Bungalow	BD4 OLH	1 bed to be registered specifically for the young person currently in placement	1 young person
Wedgewood House	BD4 ONQ	5-18 year olds short break respite care. 7 beds	
Wedgewood Hall		Mixed 5-18 year olds planned admissions. 3 beds	3 young people

IN HOUSE CHILDREN'S HOMES

Challenges / Gaps

We currently have no Edge of Care short break respite provision and no capacity for emergency admissions. Due to Ofsted challenges and our own review, all current provision can only take planned admissions. The majority of provision is larger 6 bedded group care provision, which is not suited to manage children and young people with differing and highly complex needs.

Recruitment to Registered Manager and Residential Practitioner posts remains a challenge, and is impacting on our ability to take new admissions to one home.

We are also running high levels of sickness which has been exacerbated by additional absences due to Covid outbreaks. Staff training has suffered during the pandemic and due to resourcing challenges. There is a need for a focused training offer specifically tailored for residential homes staff.

Actions Required

- Review BPP/Willows to develop short stay Edge of Care provision.
- Move our 5 -10 year olds from residential care to foster care and repurpose the home for admissions of older children.
- Repurpose a home to be able to admit and manage emergency admissions linked to BPP/Willows.
- Agree closure of Valley View/BEST and review need and current capacity for CWD short break provision.
- Develop additional capacity in house and via commissioning arrangements for smaller 1,2, and 3 bed homes to develop provision for children and young people with high levels of vulnerability and complex needs.
- Improve recruitment, training and retention.

Impact

- Improvement to Edge of Care services and reduction in family breakdown.
- Increase of residential places for older children with less complex needs.
- Create capacity and resources to meet demand for emergency/crisis admissions .
- Increase in placement choice and availability.
- The development of a skilled stable work force that is equipped with the knowledge and ability to meet the needs of complex children and young people.



COMMISSIONING

CURRENT POSITION

Regional Arrangements

The current arrangements to commission external placement make us of regional arrangements for procurement of placements from external suppliers. The White Rose partnership is managed by Leeds City Council and is a consortium of 14 local authorities across Yorkshire and Humber that work together to put in place shared commissioning arrangements for placements for Children in Care. There are separate Pseudo-DPSs and frameworks in place for:

- Residential provision
- Independent Fostering Agencies
- SEND residential / school placements

Regional Arrangements

IFA – the White Rose system is used to purchase IFA placements. A small number of placements are made with IFA providers outside of the White Rose framework (13.8% of IFA placements are outside White Rose).

Residential – As well as use of the White Rose EMP to spot purchase placements we also have a block contract for 10 beds across 2 homes for young people displaying low to medium levels of need. This

contract is effective and places are purchased at a 15% lower price than the price for a spot purchased placement.

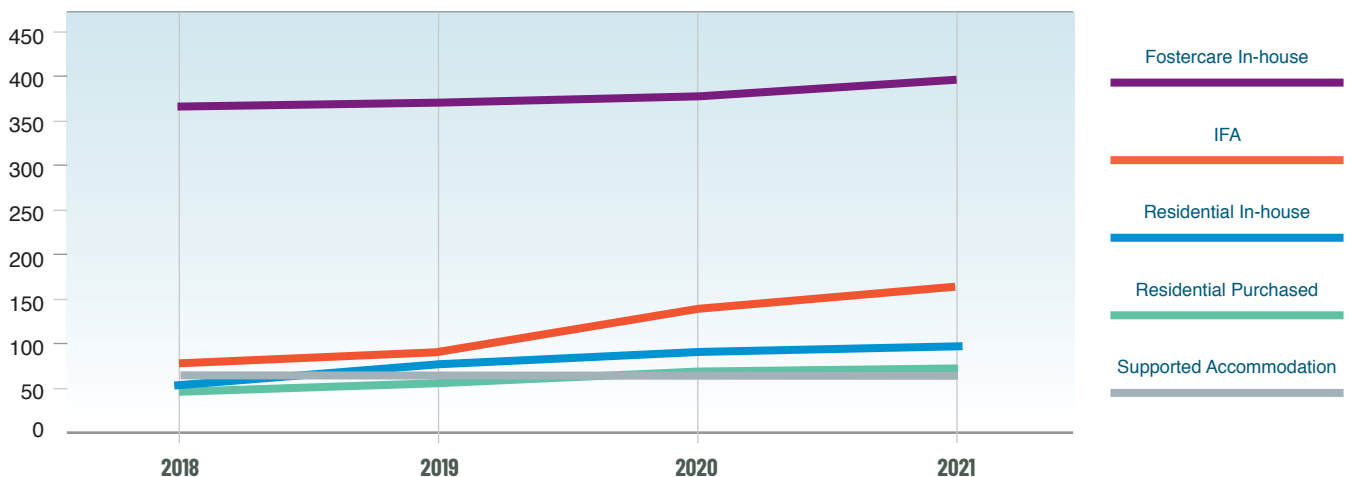
It is not possible to spot purchase to meet all the demand for residential placements from the White Rose EMP. For this reason off-framework placements are also made with other external organisations with due diligence checks undertaken by the Placements Team.

Post 16 – We currently have an arrangement with Calderdale and Wakefield where we have a joint Purchasing System for commissioning of Accommodation and Support for 16-18 year olds. Recent review of this arrangement has taken place and the need for more robust contractual arrangements for Bradford has been identified. There will be a tender process undertaken to put a new Framework for 16-18 year old accommodation and support which will start to operate in September 2022. This new framework will have a much improved ability to ensure high quality provision from providers on the framework, in the right locations for young people, and will set agreed pricing levels to control the prices being paid for post-16 placements.

We also have two block contracts for 12 beds each across 4 homes for support and accommodation for young people displaying low to medium levels of need.

CURRENT NEEDS

Numbers in type of placement



There has been a significant increase in demand for placements in Bradford over the past 4 years, in line with the increasing number of children in care. The biggest number of children are placed in in-house foster care but the largest increase has been in use of IFA, with in-house foster care, residential purchased and supported accommodation also seeing increases.

The young people who are most difficult to identify a suitable placement for are young people (age 10 or older) who require a response that is based on understanding their experience of trauma. The cohorts (which are not mutually exclusive) where there can be difficulty in identifying a suitable placement are:

- Young people at risk of / involved in criminal exploitation
- Young people at high risk of / involved in CSE
- Young people with significant emotional / mental health support needs
- Young people with significant needs in terms of neuro-diversity and experience of trauma

FUTURE REQUIREMENTS

There is a requirement for on-going work with colleagues through the White Rose partnership to ensure procurement and contract arrangements put in place on a regional basis meet the needs of Bradford Council. Further analysis is required of the number of placements made for medium need residential provision in order to assess whether there would be any benefit in further block contract arrangements for this type of provision.

When the new Post-16 framework arrangements are in place in 2022 further consideration will be given to the use of block contracts for some post-16 provision. The current block contracts that are in place for young people will be retendered, with consideration given to whether additional capacity is required that can be created through additional block contract arrangements.

The time taken by Placements Team to identify suitable placements for young people with significant needs creates a significant use of resources within the team. It is the case that a small proportion of the children and young people requiring a placement take the majority of time available to Placement staff. Improvements in availability of placements to meet these needs, and improved working relationship with trusted, high quality



providers, would allow the Placements team staff to operate more effectively and efficiently. This could improve the quality of placements identified for all children and young people.

We know that the availability of enough of the right kinds of placement for young people with significant experience of trauma is especially challenging, given the national scarcity of secure accommodation and a lack of private providers able and prepared to care for them. Because of this, the need to address the specific care requirements of these young people should be a specific feature of our sufficiency work. There is a need to identify a different solution to provide suitable and effective placements and support for young people with higher levels of need due to experience of trauma. Commissioning activity is required to understand needs and best practice in meeting needs, including a multi-agency approach with partner agencies. This would allow the commissioning of high quality placements to ensure provision is available to meet needs when required.

Multi-agency work will be undertaken with key partners in health and education to explore options for flexible provision, including placements and support services, that can be adapted to meet individual needs of a young person. This is likely to involve the commissioning of new smaller bedded homes, as well as partnership work to consider the support models that would be effective for these young people.

DISABILITY / SHORT TERM BREAKS

Children open to CCHDT are able to access a short break at one of two short break children's homes in Bradford or through specialist fostering short breaks.

A growing number of children and families receive a personalised budget via direct payments for short break provision

Wedgewood House

Wedgewood House is a 10-bedded Unit, which provides 24hr Specialist Short Break care for up to 7 days a week. The type of Specialist Short Break Care offered ranges from day care, overnights, weekends, mid-weeks and teatime visits. The Unit also runs summer holiday activities as an additional family support, for children who currently receive a Specialist Short Break Service. It has been specifically adapted to meet the needs of children and young people with disabilities and/ or complex health needs. Children with the most complex health needs are referred to Wedgewood House.

In Jan 2020 Wedgewood House was providing a short break to 22 children consistent with their assessed needs.

In January 2022 Wedgewood House is currently providing 11 children with a short break. 5 of the children are receiving a full package that they were assessed to receive and 6 children are receiving a proportion of their assessed packages.

A further 16 children have had a short break requested at Wedgewood or previously attended Wedgewood prior to the pandemic and are not currently able to access the resource.



Families have been offered an alternative care package in lieu of access to Wedgewood and 9 of the 16 children are in receipt of direct payments. A number of families have chosen not to have a personalised budget and continue to wait for Wedgewood House

There have been several barriers which have reduced the service delivery, including:

- Increasingly complex needs of children
- Children with a range of needs which has limited the number of children accessing the resource at any given time
- Staff shortages and recruitment pressure
- Challenges relating to the training of staff to meet the complex medical needs of children
- Some children have increasing size of care package which reduces wider availability of resource

Clockhouse

Clockhouse is a Specialist Short Break centre based in Keighley offering provision for children and young people aged 5-18 years old with learning, physical or sensory disabilities and complex health needs. Clockhouse offers residential Specialist short break for children and young people who need a break from their families/carers. This can be an overnight stay, tea time stay or day time stay during the weekends and school holidays

The service provision at Clockhouse is back to the same level as pre-covid. The number of children currently accessing a short break at Clockhouse is 30, with a further 3 children waiting to access the provision over the next few weeks. In 2020 there were 32 children registered for a short break at Clockhouse.

Challenges to service provision exist which include:

- Providing holiday respite for children placed in foster care
- Increasing sizes of care packages for the children already attending Clockhouse
- Children accessing block stays and emergency short break provision due to bereavements or lack of other support available

Valley View House

Valley View was closed by Ofsted in July 2021.

The main function of Valley View House was a 7-bed residential home for children and young people aged 5-18 with a learning disability or difficulty. The service provided long term and shared care placements alongside providing 2 beds for specialist short breaks.

Prior to the pandemic all of the available beds at Valley View were providing either full time or 50:50 care packages. It is the view of both the regulator and the Local Authority that the premises at Valley View are not fit for purpose in providing residential care for children.

BEST

The Behavioural Evaluation Support Team (BEST) project is a behavioural support service run in partnership with CAMHS that aims to enable children and young people, aged 5-18 years who have a learning disability and challenging behaviour, to remain at home with their families. The project is adjoined to Valley View and provides a managed environment for children and young people to be assessed and supported through behaviour evaluation and interventions.

BEST is four-bedded home, which allows children and young people to be assessed at night, including assessment of their sleeping.

Following assessment, behaviour management plans are implemented that aim to address areas of difficulty. These plans are then transferred to other settings including home, other respite units, education and the child's community.

BEST is not currently being used to provide this service to children following the decision by Ofsted to close Valley View House. This service is health funded and an agreement has been made that this funding should divert to the learning disability trauma based treatment team that has picked up the work previously carried out by BEST.

Shared Care (fostering)

Shared Care is a fostering service offering short breaks to children with complex disabilities and health needs and consists of a team of approved carers.

When the pandemic began, the number of children accessing Shared Care was limited to three.

In previous years the service had a much larger number of approved fostering households providing this type of short break to children in Bradford.

There are currently 13 children open to CCHDT who are accessing a short break through the Shared Care scheme. This is provided by 4 fostering households.

A further 2 households are currently undergoing assessments which would create further capacity for short breaks via this service.

Personalised Budgets via Direct Payments

There has been successive annual growth in the number of care packages for children utilising direct payments.

The overall spend on direct payments has also increased year on year and by over 100% within the last 3 years. The increased use of direct payments is evidenced by 177 children's care packages accessing some element of direct payments in 2018-2019, increasing to 249 by Jan 2022 for the 2021/2022 financial year.

Whilst the growth in children open to CCHDT will account for some of these increases, a number of children have had direct payments offered as a result of a decline in availability of specialist short breaks during covid-19 and more generally.

The majority of direct payments packages are used by families to secure the services of a personal assistant for their children. It is understood that some families may not be aware of the different options of using direct payments to access services for their children.

Further analysis should be undertaken to understand how well utilised personal budgets have been and whether they are helping to achieve the desired outcomes for children in Bradford.

Whilst maintaining disabled children within their families and communities is our primary aim there will be some who will require Local Authority care. The sourcing of appropriate placements for children with complex needs arising from autistic spectrum diagnosis with associated behavioural challenges is consistently problematic sometimes resulting in their being placed some distance from their family. As part of the development of localised residential options, both internal and commissioned, priority should be given to this group of children and young people. Given the complexity of need of these children and young people this will require partnership working in particular with health colleagues to ensure that wrap around clinical support is available to care providers.

EDGE OF CARE / EARLY HELP

All services in the Bradford District will offer Early Help support. This might be signposting or ensuring that a step down to the most universal point is completed by statutory services but we will all work together to identify every child, young person and their family that require support. We will ensure that this whole family support is provided at the right time, in the right place, by the right practitioner.

Children and young people need time and space to enjoy their childhood and adolescent years, to grow up to be responsible citizens who contribute to the City, they should be supported to develop independent skills which allows them to become fulfilled adults.

Bradford's Early Help Strategy underlines the Councils vision to promote economic growth and jobs and protect the most vulnerable.

Early help is not a specific service but a collaborative approach across all agencies that work with children, young people and their families. It's an approach which brings together people from different services who work well together to support whole families. Early Help is the support provided by a trusted person for children, young people and their families to respond when difficulties emerge or to stop their problems developing in the future. The trusted person will help identify and build on a family's' strengths, they will work with others to help and support families to resolve their own difficulties, develop skills and better manage future challenges. Early Help is a high priority both nationally and at a local level. This is reflected in the Council's plan 2021-2025 as well as the Children's and Young People's plan 2021-2022.

Bradford's approach to Early Help reflects the widespread recognition that it is better to identify and deal with concerns early, rather than to respond when difficulties demand action by statutory or crisis services. Early identification of children and families who would benefit from a coordinated early help assessment is pivotal for improving outcomes for children and families as a whole.

The Family Hubs contribution to Early Help

Family and Young Persons Information (FYI) directory. This is a service in development but will provide an accessible directory of current and sustainable information, guidance and services for children, young people and their families. It will provide support to any professional delivering early help.



Access and take-up for early years childcare and funding

Providing support and guidance to families who are entitled to free childcare for 2,3,4 year olds, as well as signposting to local and voluntary services and support.

Early Help Co-ordinators (EHC)

There are 12 EHC for the Bradford district, they support both universal services and lead practitioners (Levels 1 & 2) to deliver Early Help. They provide consultancy and support to ensure good quality assessments and plans are achieved and meet the needs of the whole family. They have access to befriending services, family aid workers and domestic violence support for families.

Family key workers

Complete assessments for children/families where there are complex and/or multiple needs. They provide 'key' work which offers focused support addressing a wide range of issues. They will carry out the lead practitioner role (Level 3) and coordinate the 'team around the family' meetings. Family Key workers are allocated cases either via a referral for targeted Early Help or when a case has been stepped down from Children's Social Care.

Parenting Support workers

Provide access and delivery of high quality, evidence based parenting programmes to support families from pregnancy to adulthood.

B POSITIVE PATHWAYS (BPP)

BPP is a multi-disciplinary service which provides both residential care, outreach support and therapeutic input to families in crisis where this is a high risk of a child coming into care or where a child has already entered care.

BPP is a model of care for looked after children and young people with the most complex needs, through specialist care hubs consistently supported by workers who have been specifically trained in the most effective therapeutic models including PACE (Playfulness, Acceptance, Curiosity & Empathy) approach, Signs of Safety and Team Teach

The BPP hub consists of specialist practitioners, including Outreach Practitioners, Specialist Teacher, Psychologists, Speech and Language Therapists, Occupational Therapist, Therapeutic Social Workers and PCSO.

The model works in partnership with professionals, families, parents, carers, children and young people to explore the current situation, identifying areas where support is needed and exploring what support is already in place. A bespoke package of support is then offered to compliment what is already in place to create positive and sustainable changes for the family, child or young person.

BPP offer families, parents, carers, children and young people a 24 hour, 7 days a week service, including Bank Holidays.

Referrals are made via social workers and reviewed by the BPP Referral Panel on a weekly basis. If the referral is accepted an action plan is discussed followed by an initial visit and assessment by a health specialist. This then determines the package of support required.

Referrals that are rejected, feedback is provided to the social worker with recommendations.

Package of care includes the following support:

Outreach Practitioners – equipped with a vast amount of experience, knowledge and know-how to support families. Including specialist knowledge in Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE), Parenting Support including Implementing routines, boundaries, rewards and consequences, Basic Care and Healthy Eating.

Specialist Teacher – supports families with children who are experiencing education difficulties through consultation; to help families understand the education process and support available; to support young people with education assessments and to help identify any special education needs and to support families and schools with Education Health Care assessments where appropriate

Speech and Language Therapists – work with young people to improve their speaking and listening skills; will identify the young person's communication strengths, as well as the things they find difficult. They can visit young people at home, in school or college or other places in the local community.

Psychologists – help assess the difficulties that children are faced with, and their psychological needs and uses evidence based psychological knowledge to assist; offers advice to families and professionals about how to go on during and after difficult crisis situations, based on psychological theory and evidence about what works; works with the young people, their families, carers, and other professionals to address anxiety, mood, relationships, and behavioural issues.

Occupational Therapist – explore the young person's meaningful engagement in activity. An occupational therapy assessment is holistic and can address issues





with education, self-care, and play/ leisure activities. Our occupational therapist is also a trained sensory integration (SI) therapist and so involvement often centres on regulating a young person's sensory experiences in the home, community or at school.

Therapeutic Social Workers offer – therapeutic thinking time (TTT) - a reflective space for thinking about the child, difficulties & strengths, and what would be helpful going forward; fostering/placement support clinic (FPSC) - support for foster carers and residential workers to get support in managing and understanding children and young people's complex behaviours; dyadic developmental psychotherapy (DDP) - support and guidance for foster carers to improve their relationships with the children/young people they are caring for (using the principles of PACE to help families feel safe and secure, build attachments, and help children/young people to repair relationships); theraplay - a practical approach to helping children and their carers which is active and playful and promotes closeness. Theraplay can offer ideas for how carers can connect with children and help them to find ways to move forward together.

PSCO – safeguard young people, reduce missing episodes, share relevant intelligence with social care, conduct key work session with young people around relevant issues (Child sexual exploitation, Criminal exploitation, county lines, online safety, knife crime awareness, drugs and many more).

Intervention

BPP offers a number of courses to those families on the edge of care. Some examples are CSE/CE courses, Healthy Relationships, Positive Parenting, Substance Misuse, and Specialist / Education Support. BPP keyworkers also complete direct sessions with young people and parents/carers exploring the risk and vulnerabilities using resources such as Real Love Rocks, CEOP, NSPCC. Keyworkers will deliver parenting sessions and sessions with young people.

The courses which were most frequently recorded from January – December 2021 are Healthy Relationships, CSE Courses, PACE, and Placement or Transition support when returning home, or moving to a new location. In this time period, there were 105 closed outreach cases and 45 families were recorded (42%) of engaging in the above courses.

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

SUMMARY

The data currently available demonstrates a continuing upward trend in the numbers of Children in Care in Bradford. Whilst this is consistent with the wider national picture, the increase has occurred at a far more accelerated rate in comparison to statistical and regional neighbours and national trends. The age group with the largest increase, both numerically and proportionally is the 5-9s. The 1-4 age group saw the second highest increase in proportion at 45%. This highlights the need for Bradford to work swiftly in identifying and providing placements that will focus on permanency and stability.

In terms of permanency Bradford is part of the One Adoption West Yorkshire (OAWY) consortium. This is generally working well with an increased pool of adopters. Numbers being placed for adoption have fluctuated in recent years but appear to be on the increase again. The timeliness with which children are placed with adopters is inconsistent and this needs to be carefully monitored so that we can be clear as to the factors that are contributing to this.

Whilst an increase in care numbers is an expected pattern where Local Authorities are under Ofsted intervention the accelerating trajectory should be of concern as is the volume of emergency admissions. A more cohesive early help strategy and offer needs to be put in place with current resources reviewed.

The numbers of children placed at home with parents is excessive and represents over 10% of the care population. This is falsely inflating our children in care numbers and is not consistent with best practice. Bradford also has a growing number of children placed with family and friend connected carers. In many instances these children do not actually need to be in care and a revised SGO (Special Guardianship Order) policy would appropriately move a number of these children out of the care system.

There is also a lack of breadth, volume and coordination in our short term break offer to families with a disabled child. This needs to be addressed by building upon existing resources with health partners and engaging actively with parent/carer forums.

Bradford District's Children in Care population is predominantly white (58% at March 2021), this has remained relatively consistent over previous years.

However, when considered against the wider District population there is evident inconsistency; the District's population is 2.5% 'Mixed' and 1.5% 'Other', though young people from these communities represent over 27% of the Children in Care population.

In-house fostering is our first choice of placement for children, allowing those children to be nurtured in a natural family environment within their home community. Additionally, placements through in-house fostering present significantly better value for money than the cost of commissioned care. There is insufficient in house fostering capacity across all areas. There is also an over reliance on the use of residential care as we are unable to maintain children with more complex needs in foster care. Recruitment campaigns for foster carers need to be re invigorated with annual targets alongside the development of a tier of foster carers who are able to provide for those children with more complex needs.

We still require residential care in Bradford as occasionally we have to acknowledge that foster care placements are not the most suitable for some children in care and therefore we must also ensure we have sufficient, robust and supportive packages outside of fostering. The current portfolio of homes needs to be consolidated with clear statements of purpose and a development plan put in place for future growth. There needs to be an emphasis on smaller group homes with targeted needs groups such as Tier 4 hospital step down and high end disability/autism as analysis indicates that these groups are the most difficult to place. Close engagement with health colleagues will be required in planning these homes.

In terms of commissioned placements, we accommodate the majority of children in the Bradford area within the White Rose EMP. However, our use of out of area provision is steadily rising. The market for commissioned placements is becoming increasingly competitive as a result of the national increase in children in care numbers. There is a need for Bradford to pro-actively manage market engagement with local providers to develop placement choice and capacity within the District. This is particularly true of residential care options and 16+ supported accommodation where a revised purchasing framework is proposed. This is of particular importance given Ofsted's intention to begin the regulation of supported accommodation from 2023 onwards.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Review current edge of care provision to develop a cohesive all age edge of care offer that ensures timely intervention and support to maintain children and young people at home wherever possible and appropriate.
- Carry out further analysis of the underlying factors in the disproportionate volume of emergency care admissions in order to tighten care planning processes.
- Progress a programme of reviews to identify children laced at home on orders where the discharge of those orders can be appropriately sought
- Agree a revised SGO (Special Guardianship Order) policy that permits some children placed with friends and family connected carers to exit the care system.
- Consolidate our schedule of fostering payments to ensure that we remain competitive with neighbouring Local Authorities.
- Develop an annual fostering recruitment strategy that is sufficiently targeted to recruit carers in line with our priority placement needs.
- Implement an advanced fostering level for children with specific and/or complex needs who would otherwise be placed in residential care.
- Strengthen the range and volume of placement support options to maximise our ability to hold children in family placements liaising with health colleagues on the clinical elements of this.
- Complete a review of our current residential provision to ensure clarity on homes individual statements of purpose and resulting capacity.
- Develop a longer term strategy for the growth of the Councils internal residential portfolio which is cost effective and geared towards our identified placement needs.
- In producing this residential strategy there will be an emphasis on smaller group home provision making full use of the new regulatory permissions to cluster a number of homes under one registered manager.
- Engage with health partners to put in place clinical wrap around support for those homes providing care to children and young people with high end emotional health needs or needs arising from behaviours linked to autism/learning disability.
- Integrate the existing placement coordination team with the fostering family finding workers to form one single point of placement finding activity that fully maximises use of internal capacity.
- Undertake market testing of commissioning options for in district small group homes tailored to individual categories of need minimising risk of unavoidable use of unregulated placements.
- Progress the introduction of a revised Bradford specific purchasing framework for 16+ supported accommodation.
- Engage with the external market pro-actively to develop strong relationships with good quality providers and encourage localised capacity building in line with our strategic placement priorities.
- Broaden services that are made available to disabled children and their families as part of a re invigorated short term break strategy.



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Report of the Strategic Director for Children to the meeting of Children's Overview and Scrutiny to be held on Wednesday 15 March 2023

Y

Subject: Draft Children and Young People's Plan

Summary statement:

This paper provides an update on the development of a new Children and Young People's Plan (CYP Plan) for Bradford District, building on the themes within the interim plan (published in 2021). The draft Children and Young People's Plan is contained in the appendix.

EQUALITY & DIVERSITY:

The Children's, Young People and Families Executive (CYPF Executive), along with its district partners, is committed to ensuring that all our children and young people have equity of access to the support available to meet their needs, that they are treated fairly, that services and provision meet their diverse needs, and that they have opportunities to meet with children and young people from different backgrounds and have opportunities to benefit from services and activities either offered to all, or those available to meet their specific needs.

The draft Children and Young People's Plan 2023-25 has been informed by children and young people, partners and other stakeholders. It has drawn on statistical data and research provided through our research partners to develop its ambitions, outcomes and priorities.

Data and evidence has shown that inequality experienced by babies, children and young people can have an enduring negative impact into and throughout adulthood.

A main focus of this plan is to reduce the impact of inequality on babies, children and young people's lives and life chances.

Marium Haque Strategic
Strategic Director Children and Young
People

Portfolio: Children and Families

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Overview & Scrutiny Area: Children's

1. SUMMARY

This report brings forward the draft Children and Young Peoples Plan refresh for consideration by Scrutiny. This is a Bradford District Plan that sets out our ambitions for children and young people at a strategic level.

2. BACKGROUND

An interim Children and Young People's Plan for the District was place to the end of 2022. A working group composed of partners' representatives from across the partnerships has worked together on the development of a new child-friendly, co-produced, partnership led plan for the District. The work is closely linked to our commitment to Child Friendly Bradford as well as the need for improved partnership-led governance and accountability arrangements for children, young people and families across Bradford District.

2.1 Engagement with Children and Young People

The process of developing the plan has been driven by the voices of children and young people. We engaged with children, young people and families during summer 2022, supported by the Holiday Activities Fund (HAF):

- Better Start Bradford
- Bradford Libraries
- Sangat Centre Keighley
- Peak Tuition

2.2 Engagement with professionals and partners

The development of the plan is informed by collaboration and engagement with many partners and professionals across Bradford District. Some were directly involved in the working group and others were consulted on as part of the process of identifying priorities and updating the themes from the interim plan.

- Education Partnerships:
 - Carlton Bolling Academy
 - Dandelion
 - Motive8
 - Schofield Sweeny
- Bradford VCS Young Lives Forum:
 - AWARE - Airedale and Wharfedale Autism Resource
 - Barnardos
 - BD4 Community Trust
 - Bradford Council
 - Bradford District Museum and Galleries
 - Carers' Resource - Bradford
 - Community Action
 - Dance United Yorkshire
 - JAMES
 - Play Bradford
 - Step 2 Young People's Health
 - The Linking Network
- JU:MP

- SAFE Bradford Taskforce
- Born in Bradford and Age of Wonder
- National Literacy Trust
- Bradford Metropolitan District Council’s Children’s Service teams, including Children’s Social Care, Early Help and Prevention, Youth Service, SEND services, etc.; Public Health; Employment and Skills; Place, etc.
- Bradford Libraries
- Bradford Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
- Airedale NHS Foundation Trust
- Bradford District Care Trust
- Bradford District and Craven Integrated Care Board (ICB)
- West Yorkshire ICB
- West Yorkshire Police
- Consultation with partnership boards, including the Youth Justice Board, Prevention and Early Help, Children and Families Health and Care Board, SEND Strategic Partnership, Employment and Skills, etc.

2.3 The Children and Young People’s Plan

The CYP Plan is currently in draft form and identified the following four themes that needed to be addressed:

Education	Physical and mental health	Safe Homes places & Communities	Skills Development & Communities
<p>1. Improved partnership working between preschool childcare, schools, statutory services and the voluntary and community sector that prioritises the needs of the child and family.</p> <p>2. All children enjoy learning and school, have good attendance, and that those who need additional support can and do access it.</p> <p>3. Children are ready for the next stage (Early Years, Primary, Secondary or Post 16) by improving educational outcomes and access to ‘skills for life’ education; in particular, for pupils who have SEND, are disadvantaged, are care experienced or have other vulnerabilities.</p>	<p>1. Babies (and new mothers), children and young people have early access to and a good experience of wellbeing and mental health support.</p> <p>2. Families’ access to affordable and healthy food.</p> <p>3. Children and young people can access active spaces and enhance opportunities to engage with sports and other physical activities to have fun and reduce sedentary behaviour</p>	<p>1. Babies, children’s and young people’s homes, and the wider physical, social and digital environments are safe, clean and sustainable. Children are protected from all types of harm.</p> <p>2. Children and young people have opportunities to have fun and enjoy their local leisure, social, and cultural opportunities.</p> <p>3. Children and young people have safe, clean, well-lit and accessible places and spaces where they can play, socialise and be physically active.</p> <p>4. Children and young people are confident to be themselves in different spaces and be supported to be safe and have a sense of belonging wherever they may be.</p>	<p>1. Young people leave school with the right qualifications and skills, including life, social and independence skills, to pursue their chosen education, employment or training pathway and to live healthy, happy, fun, safe and fulfilling lives</p> <p>2. Children, young people and families have access to digital resources, provision and skills. Services must also be tailored and accessible, according to need.</p> <p>3. Lift families out of poverty and into better paid work through targeted skills improvement and employment support.</p>

There is an accessible version of the plan in development: an animation commissioned through Child Friendly Bradford. The Children, Young People and Families Executive (the children’s systems board that reports to the Wellbeing Board) will have oversight of the implementation of the plan and associated implementation plans.

2.4 Proposed Outcomes Framework

It is proposed that the success of the CYP plan will be monitored through the following outcomes indicators.

Theme 1: Education

ID	Measure	Source
1.1	Early Years Foundation Stage: Percentage/number of children achieving a Good Level of Development and key groups	DfE
1.2	Key Stage 2: Percentage/number of pupils achieving reading, writing and maths at the end expected standard and key groups	DfE
1.3	Key Stage 4: Percentage/number of pupils achieving English and maths at grade 4+/5+ and key groups	DfE
1.4	Attendance and Persistent Absence rates and key groups	DfE
1.5	Suspension rates and number of permanent exclusions	DfE
1.6	SEND: Numbers of CYP being assessed for an EHCP in Bradford	DfE

Theme 2: Physical and Mental Health

ID	Measure	Source
2.1	Breastfeeding prevalence at 6-8 weeks after birth - current method	NHS England
2.2	Reception: Prevalence of obesity (including severe obesity)	NHS Digital
2.3	Year 6: Prevalence of obesity (including severe obesity)	NHS Digital
2.4	Rate of children admitted to hospital for accidental and deliberate injuries (combined; per 10,000)	OHID
2.5	Rate of children admitted to hospital for accidental and deliberate injuries (combined; per 10,000)	OHID

Theme 3: Safe homes, places and communities

ID	Measure	Source
3.1	First time entrants to the youth justice system	MoJ
3.2	Homelessness - households with dependent children owed a duty under the Homelessness Reduction Act	DLUHC

3.3	Children in care	DfE
3.4	Children killed and seriously injured (KSI) on England's roads	DfT
3.5	Proportion police calls to domestic violence at home where child present	Police
3.6	Rate of child mortality (1-17 years) per 1000	ONS

Theme 4: Skills Development

ID	Measure	Source
4.1	16 to 17 year olds not in education, employment or training (NEET) or whose activity is not known	DfE
4.2	Children in absolute low income families (under 16s)	DWP
4.3	Children in relative low income families (under 16s)	DWP
4.4	Proportion of 19 year olds achieving Level 3 qualifications	DfE
4.5	Proportion of adults qualified to Level 3 or above	ONS

3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

The draft plan is coming to Overview and Scrutiny to ask for views and feedback

4. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL

There are no immediate finance and resource issues.

5. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES

This plan is a partnership one and will be monitored through the Children's Executive and Wellbeing Board.

6. LEGAL APPRAISAL

There are no financial implications

7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

None at this stage

7.1 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

None at this stage

7.2 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS

None at this stage

7.3 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

None at this stage

7.4 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

None at this stage

7.5 TRADE UNION

None at this stage

7.6 WARD IMPLICATIONS

Delivery in wards will be critical to the delivery of the ambition

7.8 IMPLICATIONS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

This plan relates to ambitions for all children including those who are Looked After.

7.9 ISSUES ARISING FROM PRIVACY IMPACT ASSESMENT

Undertake a Privacy Impact Assessment to determine whether you need to deal with data protection and information security matters arising from the proposal/decision.- pending

8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS

None

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

That Members consider the Draft Plan and feedback comment to Officers.

11. APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Draft Children and Young People's Plan
Appendix 2: Plan on a Page

Bradford District Children and Young People’s Strategy 2023-2025

For the happy, healthy development and success of our babies, children and young people. For them to grow-up in safe and supportive: families, homes, communities, education establishments, leisure and outdoor spaces.

DRAFT

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Foreword

By Cllr Duffy and Cllr Khan (Co-chairs of the Children and Young People and Families Executive) (to be developed once the rest of the content of the Strategy agreed by Wellbeing Board)

The Children and Young People's Strategy will be the overarching strategy for children and young people in the district.

Introduction

This strategy supports our collective district ambition to ensure all babies, children and young people have equity of access to the resources and support available to help them reach their full potential and our vision is for Bradford District to be a wonderful place for children to thrive, grow up, live and work.

It identifies the priorities for the Children and Young People and Families Executive (CYPF) and its partners to support babies, children and young people to be: happy and healthy, able to develop to their full potential, and have successful lives. The strategy covers people aged 0-25 years-old, and all public sector and voluntary and community organisations that support and work with: babies, children, and young people, and their families in our district.

Its overarching aim is to ensure, that no matter their background, family, personal or other circumstances, all babies, children and young people are able to develop to their full potential and have fair access to all the opportunities the district offers.

The ambitions and priorities have been developed through listening to the voice of children and young people; consultation with other stakeholders; data and other evidence; and harnessing the experience and expertise of key district partners, who will be delivering against its outcomes.

We will also ensure children and young people have opportunities to be involved in decision-making across the range of our district's strategic public sector partnerships, through the implementation of Child Friendly and building on what has gone before.

We will support children to be healthy and well, we will reduce inequalities in physical and mental health, social and emotional development and educational attainment and actively look to tackle discrimination, the normalisation of bullying and hate crime as these can have detrimental and adverse impacts on a child's long term opportunities and health.

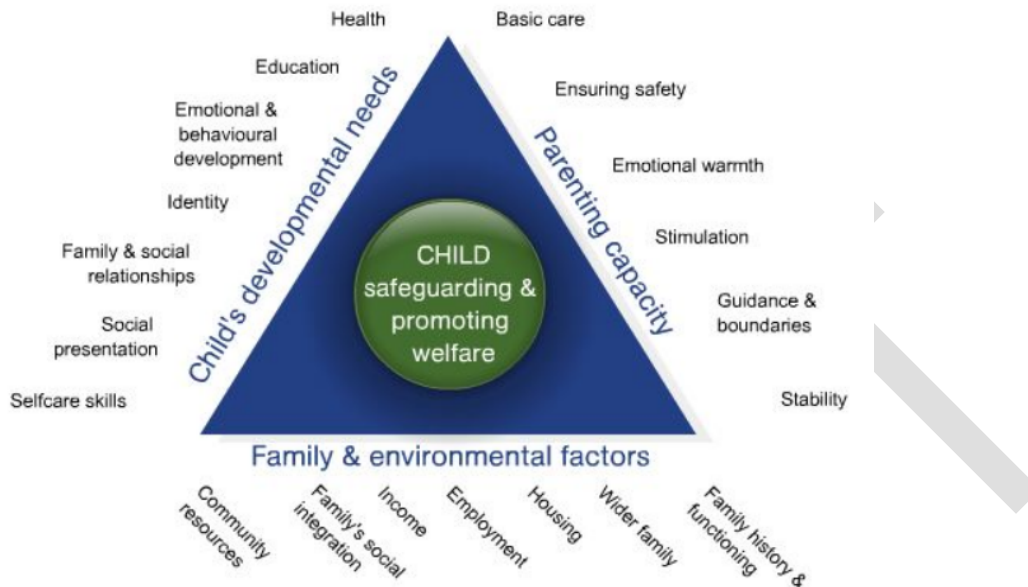
We will listen to how children and young people are doing in terms of their happiness, their health and wellbeing, their feelings about where they live, whether they feel they belong, their relationships with family, friends, people of different backgrounds and statutory services, such as health and the Police, their educational achievement and skills, and their hopes for adult life.

We will support children and their families to build resilience, to embed the Bradford Adversity, Trauma & Resilience Strategy and, more specifically, support babies, children, young people and their families to recognise and build on these factors.

Factors that promote resilience during childhood (see Figure 1) include: fostering a protective relationship with an adult caregiver where the adult recognises and

responds to the baby's/child's needs; developing social and emotional skills; accessing peer support; and participating in communities and activities.

Figure 1 Protective factors in childhood



Bradford District's success in securing the City of Culture 2025 is in large part due to the energy, creativity and commitment of our young people. Going forward, their continued involvement in the City of Culture and with our Child Friendly initiative will be key to both being successful and sustainable.

This Strategy sits within the context of the United Nations international human rights and the United Nation Convention on the Rights of the Child and the rights of children and young people with disabilities which are encompassed in the United Nations convention on the rights of Persons with Disabilities.

In seeking to meet the needs of and in designing services for children and young people, partners are asked to consider the values, principles and priorities set out in this document.

Whilst this strategy will have a clear action plan to tackle identified issues, the Children, Young People and Families Executive (CYPF Executive) and partners will also champion babies, children and young people in other district arenas, such as: Wellbeing Board, the district's Anti-Poverty Co-ordination Group, Sustainable Food Partnership, Start for Life, Living Well, and through links with the West Yorkshire Health and Care Partnership's priorities for children, young people and families, etc. This will ensure that a wider set of challenges can be addressed and enable children and young people to focus on their happiness and success.

The action plan to be developed alongside this strategy aims to ensure delivery against its outcomes and priorities.

About Bradford District

Nearly a third of our population is aged under 20, making us one of the youngest district's in the UK. We are also diverse, with those from ethnic minority backgrounds

also forming a third of our 546,400 strong population, and with more than 150 languages being spoken within the district.

Geographically, our district includes the city of Bradford itself, the large town of Keighley and a number of smaller towns and village, many with their own strong and distinctive identities.

Outstanding landscapes complement historically important architecture alongside a rich heritage and vibrant contemporary cultural scene. Ilkley Moor, Haworth and Brontë Country, Saltaire World Heritage Site and the National Science and Media Museum in Bradford city centre, amongst a host of other sites, attract 10m visitors each year.

We are one of the best connected cities in the UK internationally and the scale, diversity and productive potential of our district is reflected in its strong, broad-based, innovative and entrepreneurial business community, which is part of an overall local economy worth in excess of £9.5bn.

The district has a strong and committed network of voluntary and community organisations with an estimated 30,000 regular volunteers and 100,000 occasional volunteers. The spirit of our communities is a tangible asset that we want to build on to develop and deliver our shared objectives.

Public services and the voluntary and community sector in the district have a strong track record of working together in mature and effective partnerships and its work to bring communities together and promote participation is among the most innovative to be found anywhere in the world.

We have excellent assets to help us support our children and young people to be happy, healthy, and to develop to their full potential, such as: the expertise of Born in Bradford, award winning youth and social cohesion projects; such as The Linking Network, integrated careers and vocational skills programmes, the University of Bradford's achievement as the number one UK University for social mobility, fantastic programmes such as the Bradford for Everyone Programme (one of five integration pilot areas in the country), Better Start Bradford, ActEarly, JU:MP, the regions first Adversity, Trauma and Resilience Programme and the Department of Education's Priority Education Investment Area programme to tackle attainment in the district.

The challenges the District must overcome

There are also significant challenges to overcome if we are to achieve our ambition for our children and young people, such as:

Inequalities:

There are inequalities that exist within all our challenges. Inequalities can start early in life, in terms of the economic and social environment that children are born into. They can be exacerbated by varying levels of access and attendance in education, health-care, community and service settings, such as:

- Bradford District's rate of infant mortality is the 10th highest in England and the highest in Yorkshire
- Bradford District has the 4th highest rate of child poverty in the UK.
- Two in five children here grow up in poverty

- One in eight children have a diagnosable mental health disorder
- Bradford District is young and growing and it is expected that the onset of mental health difficulties will grow by 10 percent in the next 10 years
- One in five child deaths could be avoided if children living in the most deprived areas had the same mortality rate as those living in the least deprived
- Children living in the most deprived areas of the district are four times as likely to die as those in other areas
- A quarter of the district's 10-11 year- olds are obese.

To effectively close the health and attainment gap, a multi-faceted, determined and collective effort is required. Early interventions and prevention of poor health during childhood will be key, as will more focused support for the children, families, communities and groups who experience the most acute inequality and marginalisation.

Poverty: Whilst the district includes some of the wealthiest areas in northern England, it is also the fifth most income-deprived in the country. Some 266,000 people live in the poorest areas and nearly one third of our children currently live in poverty.

Education and skills inequalities: Progress in closing the attainment gaps in primary, secondary and Post 16 education has slowed. The gaps in educational attainment between the district and the national average are the same or worse than pre-pandemic. However, whilst the adult skills base remains relatively low, it is slowly improving. The most obvious and quickest way to lift families out of poverty is to ensure that adults are able to work, and that work is well paid, meaningful and with progression opportunities.

Move to a Children and Families' Trust: The rate of improvement by the Council in its provision of children's social care has led to the creation of Bradford Children and Families' Trust which is due to be operational from April 2023. Whilst considered positive, resources are being used to: manage the process, manage staff uncertainty, and to ensure partner organisations and all stakeholders are engaged.

The pandemic and its legacy: We also know that many of our children, young people and their families were negatively impacted through the Covid-19 pandemic – some saw their education suffer, others felt isolated, many experienced their mental health declining, many saw their families' standard of living reduce, experiencing stress and depression directly or through those around them. Some will have lost loved ones, or are experiencing long Covid, or are experiencing life with their parents, guardians or care-givers who are suffering from long Covid.

The pandemic also exposed and widened inequalities that were already there: with those families living on low incomes, those from minority backgrounds and those people and families living with disabilities, being more severely negatively affected than other groups.

Research¹ completed during the Covid-19 pandemic by Born in Bradford highlighted how a national health crisis could exacerbate inequalities. For example, an estimated one in three of families across Bradford District worried about their job security, one

¹ <https://www.bradfordresearch.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/BiB-Covid-19-First-1000-Briefing-V2.0.pdf>

in four worried about paying their rent or mortgage during the pandemic, with one in 10 experiencing severe financial and food insecurity. Local research² during this time also exposed these key inequalities in our district:

- social, emotional and mental health impact
- educational disadvantage
- digital exclusion, and
- food poverty.

Cost of living crisis and the economy: The legacy of the pandemic, and other international events, has brought about the worst inflation in the UK for over 40 years along with the highest interest rates for 14 years. The stress and pressure experienced by our families, who were already experiencing low income, is increasing, and many families who were previously 'getting by' are now also facing hardship.

Resources: The district has high levels of need and demand for public services and a limited ability to raise income locally. This can lead to more resources being needed to manage crises rather than to develop and improve provision and support.

Our children and young people are our greatest asset, and if they are to have the opportunity to realise their full potential, we must all work together to ensure better life chances are secured for them.

² <https://www.bradfordresearch.nhs.uk/family-and-community-impacts-of-covid-19/>

What we have been told is important

By our children and young people

Education

What matters to our children and young people?

- Recognition of the pressures on young people, sometimes compounded by school, and its impact on wellbeing and mental health. Children want to enjoy lessons and learning.
- An emphasis on support to improve attendance and behaviour, including alternatives to punitive school behaviour policies such as isolation.
- A rich curriculum offer that recognises subjects such as art.
- Racism: children and young people told us that racism is a concern.
- Celebrating Bradford District's culture, history and future through City of Culture 2025.
- Offer from schools of more vocational education and better preparation for life and work. This includes teaching young people how to get the jobs that they want, more vocational education and better preparation for life and work.
- Having access to high quality, tailored and planned life skills development as well as careers advice and guidance. Aspirations are low because jobs are low paid.
- Employer recruitment practices should focus on competencies and skills not time or experience.
- Families lack resources to support young people and access to basic services such as transport and digital are limited by affordability.

Physical and Mental Health

What matters to our children and young people?

- Greater recognition of mental health issues and issues around identity, sexuality and race. Safe spaces in schools and the community for young people.
- More, better and earlier availability of support services for wellbeing and mental health. This includes ensuring schools train staff and students as ambassadors for mental health, and mental health first aiders.
- Young people know what good emotional support from their friends, families, communities and services should look like and want to be involved in designing services. Waiting times for mental health services are unacceptable. More community support, e.g. youth cafes, and opportunities for the arts.
- Some children and young people experience their environment and lives very differently to others: girls, and LGBTQ+ children and young people report lower levels of happiness, healthiness and safety than their peers. Young people aged 16+ years report lower levels of satisfaction with their physical and mental health than their younger peers. Children and young people in inner city areas report more dissatisfaction with the levels of crime, cleanliness and litter in their environment; those in towns or rural areas report fewer activities and opportunities.

“It’s harder for my mum to get meals together because stuff is too expensive.”

Safe Homes, Places and Communities

What matters to our children and young people?

- To live in clean and safe spaces, free from fear of crime and intimidation, and with more community action and cohesion.
- More affordable or free services in their local community; particularly youth services that develop their social networks and connections.
- Children want to be involved in their communities but don’t always know how to do this.
- Community hubs to support children and their families where they live, including access to learning resources, internet access and digital skills.

“Bigger children and teenagers sometimes go to the parks and they make me feel scared.”

- Children’s families and friends are very important to them. They want to live and thrive in safe and warm homes. When they leave their homes they want the whole community to take care of their environment. They want street lighting and to be able to safely move around either on their own or with friends.
- Young people report that they want clean streets, no litter and clean air. They want traffic to be reduced and drivers to take care and not speed.
- Parks and green spaces and playgrounds are very important to children and young people and meet a variety of needs. Teenagers want places to hang out with friends that are safe and accessible.
- Children and young people want to be able to shop and access services locally. They want affordable options in terms of what to do, what to eat and where to hang out.

Participation and Voice

What matters to our children and young people?

- Young people want more involvement in decision making and the opportunity to have a voice and influence by working directly with councillors and decision makers
- They want to see evidence that their voice has an impact and leads to change
- Young people with SEND tell us that they want to be more involved in decisions that affect them and be able to access information in the way they find easiest - this might be in person as well as online.

- Children and young people want adults and organisations to ensure their voices are heard before policies are formed and to “always tell us what you are doing for us and why. And to do this forever”.

Through Bradford’s Citizen Panel of young people and the Pandemic Recovery Summary we have also heard that:

- Wellbeing and mental health needs to be supported
- Racism impacts young people
- The cost of living crisis is impacting young people and their families

From younger children through their parents, service providers and other advocates:

- Access to good quality childcare and funded places for two year-olds for those that are eligible.
- Access to family hubs, health visitors, play and learn sessions, support for healthy weight and nutrition, speech and language development.

What our children and young people would like to change about schools:

- Pressure and stress from school impacts on health, mental health and wellbeing.
- They sometimes receive a hard time for attendance
- They struggle to enjoy lessons.
- Schools start too early and young people find it hard to concentrate.
- Issues around sexuality, identity and race not taken seriously enough.
- Struggle to assert individuality through hair, dress, uniform, etc.
- Cost of living crisis is affecting them
- The CYP Mental Health coalition raised concerns re. punitive approaches and subsequent impact on mental health and wellbeing

By our services, partners and professionals

What matters to our children, young people and families from the view of our services, partners and professionals

- There are increasing pressures on parents/carers. The cost of living crisis, on top of other crises, i.e. Covid-19 and the impact of mental health.
- Inequalities are getting worse.
- Children and young people are becoming isolated due to costs of IT and transport.
- Diagnoses, e.g. of autism, doesn’t always provide the support that is expected.
- The ‘snowball effect’ impact that the withdrawal of services can have on communities.

What our services, partners and professionals would like to change:

- There is a lack of support and capacity for mental health needs in the system. Waiting lists are too long.

- Better communication and joining up of services between all partners, this includes:
 - Ensuring that families are directed to the right services at the earliest opportunity
 - Ensuring children with SEND and their families access the Local Offer
 - English language skills development is needed by people born in the UK as well as those accessing ESOL
 - Expectations around information sharing for vulnerabilities and incidents should be standard for all partners, including the VCS
 - Reducing the burden on schools through better signposting to statutory services and VCS.
- Longer term plans and more sustainability to ensure:
 - Resources are maximised and shared more effectively
 - Services don't end suddenly and then restart, and
 - Risk of losing 'organisational memory' is reduced.
- Partnership working with schools - VCS organisations report that they cannot always have the right conversation at the right time with the right person
- Schools' inconsistent approaches to the VCS can mean delays or inconsistencies in the support provided to children and families
- A more joined up approach to supporting improving attendance for children and young people, including understanding the root causes of poor attendance and persistent absence
- Improving parental engagement in schools and their children's education and development
- Ensuring that the opportunities and risks of digital provision are understood. For example, mental and physical health promotion, protection from harm including gaming and gambling.

What the data and other evidence tells us

Other relevant quantitative and qualitative analysis is provided in Appendix 2: Data and Evidence Summary.

Our guiding principles



The strategy and action plan have been developed with regard to the following principles and Bradford District's Shared Values, which are:

- We **RESPECT** ourselves, each other and our communities
- We **CARE** for each other and treat each other with kindness
- We **SHARE** ideas, resources, knowledge and skills as well as our challenges
- We **PROTECT** each other and the world we share so that we can be happy healthy and safe

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

The Children's, Young People and Families Executive (CYPF Executive), along with its district partners, is committed to ensuring that all our children and young people have equity of access to the support available to meet their needs, that they are treated fairly, that services and provision meet their diverse needs, and that they have opportunities to meet with children and young people from different backgrounds and have opportunities to benefit from services and activities either offered to all, or those available to meet their specific needs.

Safeguarding and Early Intervention

Safeguarding is everybody's responsibility.

We want to ensure that our most vulnerable and marginalised children and young people are protected from harm, and that they and their families are provided with the services and support to enable them to secure their rights to maximise their potential. We recognise that many children's and families' needs are complex, that a lack of financial and other resources, and or language or cultural obstacles, can make it difficult for families to access support or care.

Intervening early, through recognised and effective Prevention and Early Help mechanisms is key to ensuring babies, children, young people and families are supported. Prevention and Early Help is a high priority both nationally and at a local level, and in Bradford District we are fully committed to going further in our Family Hubs Start for Life programme within Bradford District's Prevention and Early Help Strategy.

This is a collaborative approach, focusing on the first 1001 days and prevention and promotion of health, to avoid problems either before they happen or from getting worse. We will identify needs early but we also recognise that it's never too late for early help to make a difference.

We will promote healthy, open and honest relationships; within families, between families and the workers providing support, and across our partnerships. How people get along with and support each other is key, particularly to support each other through times of change and or difficulty. We recognise that fostering and building positive social connections are essential to everyone's wellbeing.

The babies, children and young people who are most in need in the district deserve better. Children must have outstanding social work support. We will work in partnership with families and agencies to safely reduce the number of children who are in care/subject to Child Protection Plans and the children in need, open to statutory services.

Child Friendly Bradford District: Giving children, young people and families a voice and influence

We have an ambition to put the voice and influence of children, young people and families at the heart of everything we do. In November 2022, we launched our Child Friendly Bradford District initiative. This approach, rooted in Article 12 of the United

Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child, states that children and young people should have a voice and influence when adults make decisions that affect their lives.

The district's Child Friendly initiative will seek to create an organisational culture where children and young people are informed of their rights and where services enable them to have a meaningful voice and influence, working restoratively with them as equal stakeholders and empowering them to have a sense of ownership over our district and the services they access.

In Spring 2022 as part of a Foundational Year working with UNICEF UK, we undertook a localities survey to inform the contents of this strategy. Working with partners in the Youth Service and Localities Teams, over 4,000 children and young people were asked face-to-face what their priorities were for the district. We have used these views to shape this strategy and will continue to work with them to enable them to have a voice and influence over the actions we will take to address these priorities.

A summary of what we have heard during our consultations can be found in the section above 'What we have been told is important' and in Appendix 2 - Evidence and Consultation Summary.

Child Friendly Bradford District

Our vision to create a more Child Friendly district is based on the underpinning principles of the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child. We have an ambition for all our children and young people to be aware of their rights and for the organisations across our district-wide partnership to help ensure these rights are met.

We want all our children and young people to have the opportunity to be active citizens who have a voice and influence. We want them to understand our systems of democracy and governance and to be empowered to work in partnership with us to help create better outcomes for them and their peers.

In a Child Friendly District, we will create a culture where we celebrate their achievements and will engage with a wide range of organisations to unlock new partnerships and create more opportunities to make our district a better place for children and young people to live and grow up in.

Voice and participation of children and families

We have engaged with children, young people, their advocates and practitioners to ensure the voice of the child is reflected in this strategy. Some of what we have heard can be found in the section above 'What we have been told is important' and in Appendix 1: Methodology and Consultation Summary. We have also talked to some families and family practitioners.

We also engaged with over 700 families to help shape the new 'Good Food strategy' and 'Physical Activity strategy'. These two strategies play a key role in contributing towards the 'physical and mental health' ambition of the Children and Young People's Strategy.

The Children, Young People and Families Executive (CYPF Executive) and its partners welcome the district's Child Friendly Initiative. We will support and work

closely with it as a way in which the voice and participation of children and young people can continue, that they can influence how this strategy is implemented, and that children and young people are able to effect change locally.

Research and evidence informed practice

This strategy has been informed by a wealth of research findings and other quantitative and qualitative evidence: Appendix 2 provides a summary of this research and evidence along with a list of its sources.

The Children, Young People's and Families Executive (CYPF Executive) and its partners will continue to seek and make available evidence to inform practice and will continue to engage with and draw on evidence from ActEarly, Born in Bradford, Better Start Bradford, Public Health, Centre for Applied Education Research, the Alliance for Life Chances, etc. It will also participate with the district's new Council-led Health Determinants Research Collaboration (HDRC).

The collaboration, spanning research, university and public sector organisations, will research the causes and impact of health inequality with the aim of informing local, regional and national policy to tackle the impacts of this inequality.

The CYPF Executive will support HDRC and will ensure it considers its findings in its strategies, plans and actions.

Partnership working

Partnership has been crucial to development of this strategy. It has been developed in partnership with children, young people and families. It has also been developed collectively by a range of strategic partners covering the local authority, police, health, education (early years, primary, secondary, tertiary, higher education), voluntary sector, and private sector.

Partnership working will be critical to the success of this strategy. All partners will have crucial roles in developing, supporting, embedding, evaluating and challenging this strategy. Specific actions will be outlined in the action plan developed to implement this strategy. We need to build on the strengths and assets that individual partners bring and support them and challenge them appropriately.

However, to really make a difference for children and young people, agencies, organisations, teams, departments, and services must act collectively and be "acting as one". The collective ownership of this strategy needs to be maintained and enhanced. There is more to do to develop, deepen, and strengthen partnership working. Inspections have recognised that there is still much to do in improving and developing how partners work together. There is also much to do in ensuring partnerships are equitable and effective, and genuinely deliver in the best interests of children, young people, and families. This includes ensuring:

- Partnership with children, young people and families is meaningful, comprehensive, inclusive and effective
- All the Districts' strategic partnerships are aligned to, and engaged with delivering this strategy
- Further strategies and planning take account of this strategy
- Areas of partnership practice are identified and built upon

- Barriers to effective partnership working and areas for improvement are addressed and identified.

Specific actions in the action plan aim to address improving and developing partnership working.

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Themes, priorities and impact - Links to other strategies and plans



Themes and Sustainable Development Goals

The table below maps the Children and Young People’s Strategy’s themes to the United Nations Sustainable Developmental Goals.

UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS BY THEME

Children & Young People's Plan Theme	Sustainable Development Goals
Education	<p>4 QUALITY EDUCATION</p>  <p>Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.</p>
Physical & Mental Health	<p>3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING</p>  <p>Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all, at all ages.</p>
Safe Homes Places & Communities	<p>5 GENDER EQUALITY</p>  <p>Achieve gender equality & empower all women and girls.</p> <p>11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES</p>  <p>Make cities & human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient & sustainable.</p> <p>16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS</p>  <p>Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels</p>
Skills Development	<p>4 QUALITY EDUCATION</p>  <p>Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.</p> <p>8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH</p>  <p>Decent work & economic growth</p> <p>10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES</p>  <p>Reduce inequality within and among countries</p>

Education

Our ambition

We want all our children and young people to enjoy learning throughout the whole of their childhood, whether this is: in their home, pre-school or other educational establishment settings, digital settings, libraries, youth and community settings, parks and play areas, or other outdoor settings.

Each child should have the opportunity to reach their full educational potential regardless of their background or circumstances.

This strategy aims to ensure the learning and education of those children and young people who have special or additional needs, who are more vulnerable, or who are on the fringes of vulnerability, is supported and not compromised as a result of their vulnerability. This includes access to skills for life learning such as: sex and relationships, healthy lifestyles, citizenship and democracy, climate action and sustainability, and diversity and community cohesion.

We will ensure children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) receive the support they require in school and at home, and to access other activities.

Priorities

- 1. Improved partnership working between preschool childcare, schools, statutory services and the voluntary and community sector that prioritises the needs of the child and family**
- 2. Ensure that all children have the opportunity to: enjoy learning and school, have good attendance, and that those who need additional support can, and do access it**
- 3. Ensure that children are ready for the next stage (Early Years, Primary, Secondary or Post 16) by improving educational outcomes and access to 'skills for life' education; in particular, for pupils who have SEND, are disadvantaged, are care experienced or who have other vulnerabilities, and that for these groups this carries through to support for their transition to adulthood.**

Physical and mental health

Our ambition

We want all our children and young people to enjoy the best physical, emotional and mental health possible. For this they need to live in supportive and protective home, educational and community environments. We want them to have opportunities to develop habits and routines that will support their health throughout the whole of their lives.

For children and young people living in different circumstances and with different needs, this will mean taking different action. Therefore, we will tailor actions to ensure they are suitable and equitable across the range of circumstances, needs and settings that children and young people experience and occupy. As well as equity of opportunity we also aim for our children and young people to have equity of outcomes.

Our actions for positive and sustainable outcomes for children and young people are structured around the four pillars of Bradford District and Craven's health and care plan: Better Births, Prevention, Pathways and Services, and Complex Care. The work within these pillars reaches into the life and home of every family in the District; however, success is dependent upon effective partnerships and collaboration.

Priorities

- 1. Ensure babies (and new mothers), children and young people have early access to, and a good experience of, wellbeing and mental health support**
- 2. Improve families' access to affordable and healthy food**
- 3. Ensure all children and young people can access active spaces and enhance opportunities to engage with sports and other physical activities to have fun and reduce sedentary behaviour.**

Safe Homes, Places and Communities

Our ambition

We want all our children and young people to be safe and feel safe in all places and settings both within and outside of the district – including digital spaces. We want them to have the opportunity to have fun and enjoy themselves wherever they are.

We want them to be proud of their identity and to feel free and safe to express who they are, wherever they are.

We want our young people to have the opportunity to develop healthy intergenerational relationships within their own families, communities and those who provide services or work with them.

We also want them to have safe places they can go to remove themselves from harm, and to have people they can turn to for support at times appropriate to them.

We know that children and young people consider clean streets and lighting are important in making them feel safe, we will ensure that they are able to influence local decisions.

Priorities

- 1. Ensure that babies', children's and young people's homes, and their wider physical, social and digital environments are safe, clean and sustainable. Children are protected from all types of harm**
- 2. Ensure children and young people have opportunities to have fun and enjoy their local leisure, social, and cultural opportunities**
- 3. Ensure that our children and young people have safe, clean, well-lit and accessible places and spaces where they can play, socialise and be physically active**
- 4. Ensure our children and young people are confident to be themselves in different spaces and be supported to be safe and have a sense of belonging wherever they may be.**

Skills Development

Our ambition

We want all our young people to have opportunities to develop and gain the skills needed to attain decently paid and sustainable work and to live healthy, fun, safe, and fulfilling lives.

Regardless of their background or circumstances, we want them to be aware of what opportunities are available to them – both locally and further afield, the skills and education they need to enable them to take up those opportunities and how to access skills and educational support so that they have the opportunity to apply for work and careers that will meet their needs and aspirations.

We want to work with others, such as West Yorkshire Combined Authority, Department of Work and Pensions, The West and North Yorkshire Chamber of Commerce etc. to ensure the basics required to support our young people to make their aspirations a reality are in place, such as flexible recruitment practices, affordable transport, and opportunities to participate in relevant work experience.

Priorities

- 1. Ensure young people leave school with the right qualifications and skills, including life, social and independence skills, to pursue their chosen education, employment or training pathway and to live healthy, happy, fun, safe and fulfilling lives**
- 2. Ensure all children, young people and families have access to digital resources, provision and skills. Services must also be tailored and accessible, according to need**
- 3. Lift families out of poverty and into better paid work through targeted skills improvement and employment support.**

Impact Statements (How we will know that we have made a difference)

- Every child to start out with the foundations for good health and wellbeing throughout their lives. We will have a 0-5 prevention and early help offer for families from birth to starting school. This will offer integrated and high quality early years care for all. It should help families provide warm, supportive and nurturing environments and ensure access to early play and learning opportunities for all children, especially those most in need. Success here will lead to a higher percentage of children starting school with a good level of development and succeeding in school.
- More of our children educated in good or outstanding schools, with high attendance rates, increased educational attainment and, most importantly, a reduction in the educational attainment gap between the most and least advantaged.
- Our young people making successful transitions into adult life; to reach adulthood with a sense of belonging, purpose, wellbeing and the skills and resilience they need to succeed. This means higher numbers of young people in school getting access to vocational courses in schools, more apprenticeships, higher attainment at Level 3 and a reduction in the numbers of young people not in education, training or employment.
- Our young people enjoying healthy childhoods which lay the foundations for long and healthy adult lives. This means living in communities which promote healthy living and have services to support those in need. This will be reflected in lower

obesity rates, increased physical activity, better support services for young people with mental health problems and fewer families living in poor housing.

- Our communities to be safe, inclusive and sustainable. This will be reflected in lower crime rates, increased sense of community safety, better housing conditions, development of green spaces, parks and play facilities, the development of a full cultural engagement strategy and movement toward integrated local service provision.
- Our young people to have a voice through newly created and improved participation and engagement structures. These may include new political engagement forums for children and young people, such as: citizens' juries, local community impact assessments, a youth council and youth overview and scrutiny committee.
- Children and young people across the district will have access to positive, enjoyable and regular out-of-school hours' activities and opportunities.

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Appendix 1: Methodology and Consultation Summary

Evidence gathering

Evidence to inform the objectives and priorities in the Strategy came from a number of sources, including:

- Bradford District's interim Children and Young People's Plan 2021
- Published data on the demographics and needs of Bradford District's children and families, e.g. LAIT, ONS data, DfE data on special needs, performance, attendance, exclusions, etc.
- Published data on the performance of local partners, e.g. City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council, school performance statistics
- Research undertaken by Born in Bradford and the Centre for Applied Education Research
- Local organisations' research with families, e.g. Better Start Bradford, National Literacy Trust, The Linking network
- Data from council-commissioned surveys of children and young people's views, e.g. public health surveys, localities surveys, etc.
- Local and national government policy and strategy documents, e.g. Our Plan for Bradford District 2021-25, the UK Government's Levelling Up white paper, DfE Priority Investment Areas
- Information underpinning the Child Friendly Bradford District initiative.

Engagement with children and families

We engaged with children, young people and families during summer 2022, supported by the Holiday Activities Fund (HAF):

- Better Start Bradford
- Bradford Libraries
- Sangat Centre Keighley
- Peak Tuition

Engagement with professionals and partners

The development of this strategy has been informed by collaboration and engagement with many partners and professionals across Bradford District. Some were directly involved in the working group and others were consulted on as part of the process of identifying priorities and updating the themes from the interim Children and Young people's plan 2021, those involved or consulted:

- Education Partnerships:
 - Carlton Bolling Academy
 - Dandelion
 - Motive8
 - Schofield Sweeny
- Bradford VCS Young Lives Forum:
 - AWARE - Airedale and Wharfedale Autism Resource
 - Barnardos
 - BD4 Community Trust

- Bradford Council
- Bradford District Museum and Galleries
- Carers' Resource - Bradford
- Community Action
- Dance United Yorkshire
- JAMES
- Play Bradford
- Step 2 Young People's Health
- The Linking Network
- JU:MP
- SAFE Bradford Taskforce
- Born in Bradford and Age of Wonder
- National Literacy Trust
- City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council's Children's Service teams, including Children's Social Care, Early Help and Prevention, Youth Service, SEND services, etc.; Public Health; Employment and Skills; Place, etc.
- Bradford Libraries
- Bradford Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
- Airedale NHS Foundation Trust
- Bradford District Care Trust
- Bradford District and Craven Integrated Care Board (ICB)
- West Yorkshire ICB
- West Yorkshire Police
- Consultation with partnership boards, including the Youth Justice Board, Prevention and Early Help, Children and Families Health and Care Board, SEND Strategic Partnership, Employment and Skills, etc.

Appendix 2: Data and Evidence Summary

The impact of inequalities on children and their families

- **Child poverty in Bradford District:** 38 percent of children under 16 live in low income families - 60,000 children. 47,000 children aged under 16 live in families classed as being in absolute poverty. 3rd highest percentage of children in relative poverty in the country and 2nd highest percentage in absolute poverty (before housing costs).
- **Persistent disadvantage:** Children who experience persistent disadvantage leave school on average 18-22 months behind their peers. A child has an 80 percent chance of passing maths and English at GCSE if they neither live in poverty nor require the support of a social worker. This figure drops to 65 percent when a child lives in poverty or needs a social worker.
- **Deprived areas and child protection plans:** Research has shown that children living in the most deprived areas are up to 10 times more likely to require a Child Protection Plan than their peers (so reducing the multiple stresses that poverty brings is key to our strategy).
- **Unemployment claimant count rates:** Bradford District has the 8th highest local authority claimant count unemployment rate in the country. It has the 3rd highest of all city authorities (after Birmingham and Wolverhampton). For young people, Bradford District has the 3rd highest rate in the UK of all local authorities and the 2nd highest of all city authorities (after Wolverhampton).
- **Life expectancy - low and high incomes:** There is a ten-year gap in life expectancy between the poorest and the wealthiest in our district. The poorest in our communities can expect to live 21 years of their lives in poor health.
- **Child death rates:** Rates of child deaths are roughly four times higher in the most deprived area than the least deprived areas. (and infant mortality is two-thirds higher than the average in England. The rate of child deaths for those from South Asian backgrounds is three times higher than from White ethnic backgrounds. Data analysis from Bradford District child death reviews show this excess is associated with a mixture of genetic and social factors.
- **Negative impact of poverty at birth:** National research has shown that even a transient experience of poverty at birth increases the risks of dying in early adulthood by 50 percent. For every one percent increase in child poverty, there was a 5.8 per 100,000 increase in infant mortality. Whole family wellbeing around birth is crucial, as children whose mothers were stressed in pregnancy are twice as likely to have mental health problems as teenagers.
- **Income related benefits and impact on mental health:** The prevalence of disorders such as anxiety and depression is twice as high in children living in households receiving income related benefits and three times as high for children living in households in receiving disability related benefit (NHS Digital 2017).
- **Toxicity of poverty:** National research shows living in persistent poverty is absolutely toxic for a whole range of children's health outcomes. These children have three to four times the risk of mental health problems, double the risk of obesity and double the risk of long-term chronic illness. Living in persistent poverty doubles the risk of death in early adulthood, death from suicide, accidents and cancers.

- **Obesity and our young people:** A quarter of 10 to 11-year-olds in Bradford District and Craven are obese.

Children and young people's health and wellbeing

- **Demand outstrips capacity:** Healthy Families at Home reports that capacity vs demand is high – number of referrals, take up of offer and retention within the intervention all higher than expected. The end result is large numbers waiting for service and due to length of intervention waiting time is up to one year.
- **Rising prevalence of childhood obesity:** Since COVID-19 (NCMP): across reception to year six the total prevalence of excess weight has increased from 31 percent in 2018/19 to 37 percent in 2020/21.
- **Deprived areas see increased rates of obesity:** Children living in the most deprived areas were more than twice as likely to be obese than those living in the least deprived areas. Bradford District is the 13th most deprived local authority area (out of 317) (2019 Indices of Multiple Deprivation).
- **District's children less active than their England peers:** In 2020/21 33.2 percent of children and young people in Bradford District were classed as 'less active', that is, they do less than 30 minutes of exercise per day compared to 32.4 percent of their peers in England.
- **Higher sedentary time:** The various Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions (NPIs) aimed at curbing the spread of COVID19 have also led to higher levels of sedentary time. i.e. Time spent sitting or stationary.
- **Factors contributing to excess weight:** Low levels of physical activity and high sedentary time are two contributing factors leading to excess weight, however we know it is also influenced by a wide range of other factors including; gender, how old we are, the genes we've inherited from our parents and grandparents, how we live our day to day lives, whether we're able to access healthy food or have a good network of friends, family or other support, and crucially where we live, work and play.
- **Low proportions of first feed breastmilk:** Bradford District was 59.3 percent in 2018/19 compared to England average of 67.4 percent [Child and Maternal Health - Data - OHID \(phe.org.uk\)](https://phe.org.uk/)
- **Special educational needs:** In 2021, approximately 19k 0-25 year olds in Bradford District had an identified educational health care plan or a special educational need supported by their school or setting.
- **Take up of immunisations:** In some wards one in four children are not up to date with their immunisations.
- **Poor oral health:** By age five, many of our children are starting to present with very poor oral health. Access to dentists is an issue locally as in 2017 only 42 percent of 0-4 year olds in Bradford District had seen a dentist in the previous 12 months (the England average was 38 percent).
- **Exacerbated mental health challenges:** There is mounting concern that the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated existing challenges with mental health services. Even before the pandemic, the prevalence of mental disorders in

children and young people was increasing. The rate of probable mental disorder has increased in 5-16 year-olds, from one in nine in 2017, to one in six in 2020, nationally. In particular, demand for support for eating disorders has risen in the last few years, and self-harming presentations from young people at hospital is rising.

Children's Social Care

- **Rate of children in care:** Bradford District's rate of Children in Care is significantly higher than national or regional averages: 103 per 10,000 in 2022, compared with 70 per 10,000 in England and 81 per 10,000 in Yorkshire and Humberside. The rate in Bradford District rose dramatically between 2021 (94 per 10,000) and 2022; this reflects the level of need in the district and the impact of the challenges outlined in the body of the strategy.
- **Children in need:** Bradford District's rate of Children in Need is also higher than national or regional averages: 419.2 per 10,000 in 2022; however, this represents a slight decline on 2021, where the rate was 443.7 per 10,000.
- **Child protection Plans:** The number of children subject to a Child Protection Plan (CPP) in Bradford District in 2022 was 688, equating to a rate of 48.2 per 10,000. This is in line with the regional average of 48.5 but higher than the England average of 42.1. There has been a decline in the rate of children with a CPP in the district, and regionally and nationally since 2019.

Appendix 3: Proposed Outcomes Framework

Theme 1: Education

ID	Measure	Source
1.1	Early Years Foundation Stage: Percentage/number of children achieving a Good Level of Development and key groups	DfE
1.2	Key Stage 2: Percentage/number of pupils achieving reading, writing and maths at the end expected standard and key groups	DfE
1.3	Key Stage 4: Percentage/number of pupils achieving English and maths at grade 4+/5+ and key groups	DfE
1.4	Attendance and Persistent Absence rates and key groups	DfE
1.5	Suspension rates and number of permanent exclusions	DfE
1.6	SEND: Numbers of CYP being assessed for an EHCP in Bradford	DfE

Age of Wonder measures focused on School.

Theme 2: Physical and Mental Health

ID	Measure	Source
2.1	Breastfeeding prevalence at 6-8 weeks after birth - current method	NHS England
2.2	Reception: Prevalence of obesity (including severe obesity)	NHS Digital
2.3	Year 6: Prevalence of obesity (including severe obesity)	NHS Digital
2.4	Rate of children admitted to hospital for accidental and deliberate injuries (combined; per 10,000)	OHID
2.5	Rate of children admitted to hospital for accidental and deliberate injuries (combined; per 10,000)	OHID

Age of Wonder measures focused on Mental Wellbeing; Physical Health.

Theme 3: Safe homes, places and communities

ID	Measure	Source
3.1	First time entrants to the youth justice system	MoJ
3.2	Homelessness - households with dependent children owed a duty under the Homelessness Reduction Act	DLUHC
3.3	Children in care	DfE
3.4	Children killed and seriously injured (KSI) on England's roads	DfT
3.5	Proportion police calls to domestic violence at home where child present	Police

3.6	Rate of child mortality (1-17 years) per 1000	ONS
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Age of Wonder measures focused on Socioeconomics and Health Behaviours; Identity and Discrimination; Environment.

Theme 4: Skills Development

ID	Measure	Source
4.1	16 to 17 year olds not in education, employment or training (NEET) or whose activity is not known	DfE
4.2	Children in absolute low income families (under 16s)	DWP
4.3	Children in relative low income families (under 16s)	DWP
4.4	Proportion of 19 year olds achieving Level 3 qualifications	DfE
4.5	Proportion of adults qualified to Level 3 or above	ONS

Age of Wonder measures focused on Digital and Social Media; Socioeconomics and Health Behaviours.

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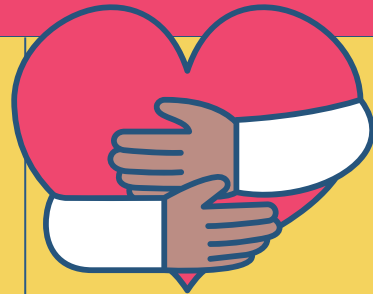
BRADFORD DISTRICT CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S STRATEGY

OUR THEMES



1) EDUCATION

1. Improved partnership working between preschool childcare, schools, statutory services and the voluntary and community sector that prioritises the needs of the child and family.
2. Ensure that all children enjoy learning and school, have good attendance, and that those who need additional support can and do access it.
3. Ensure that children are ready for the next stage (Early Years, Primary, Secondary or Post 16) by improving educational outcomes and access to 'skills for life' education; in particular, for pupils who have SEND, are disadvantaged, are care experienced or have other vulnerabilities.



2) PHYSICAL & MENTAL HEALTH

1. Ensure babies (and new mothers), children and young people have early access to and a good experience of wellbeing and mental health support.
2. Improve families' access to affordable and healthy food.
3. Ensure all children and young people can access active spaces and enhance opportunities to engage with sports and other physical activities to have fun and reduce sedentary behaviour.



3) SAFE HOMES, PLACES & COMMUNITIES

1. Ensure that babies, children's and young people's homes, and the wider physical, social and digital environments are safe, clean and sustainable. Children are protected from all types of harm.
2. Ensure children and young people have opportunities to have fun and enjoy their local leisure, social, and cultural opportunities.
3. Ensure that our children and young people have safe, clean, well-lit and accessible places and spaces where they can play, socialise and be physically active.
4. Ensure our children and young people are confident to be themselves in different spaces and be supported to be safe and have a sense of belonging wherever they may be.



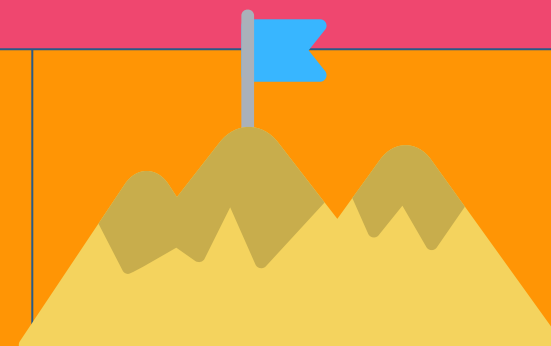
4) SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

1. Ensure young people leave school with the right qualifications and skills, including life, social and independence skills, to pursue their chosen education, employment or training pathway and to live healthy, happy, fun, safe and fulfilling lives
2. Ensure all children, young people and families have access to digital resources, provision and skills. Services must also be tailored and accessible, according to need.
3. Lift families out of poverty and into better paid work through targeted skills improvement and employment support.



OUR PRINCIPLES:

- Partnership Working
- Research & Evidence-informed practice
- Equality, diversity & inclusion
- voice and influence of children & families
- safeguarding



OUR VISION:

Bradford to be a wonderful place for children to thrive, grow up, live and work.



OUR AIMS:

Ensure that babies, children and young people's socio-economic background and family circumstances do not hinder their development during childhood nor their life chances

The Future

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Report of the Chair of the Children’s Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be held on Wednesday 15 March 2023

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Subject:

Children’s Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Work Programme 2022/23

Summary statement:

This report includes the Children’s Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee work programme for 2022/23.

EQUALITY & DIVERSITY

Community Cohesion and Equalities related issues are part of the work remit for this Committee.

Cllr Geoff Winnard
Chair – Children’s Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Portfolio:
Children and Families

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Overview & Scrutiny Area:
Children’s Services

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report includes the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee work programme for 2022/23, which is attached as appendix 1 to this report.
- 1.2 Also attached as appendix 2 to this report is a list of unscheduled topics for 2022/23.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Council constitution requires all Overview and Scrutiny Committees to produce a work programme.

3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 The Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee has the responsibility for "the strategies, plans, policies, functions and services directly relevant to the corporate priority about services to children and young people." (Council Constitution, Part 2, 6.3.1).
- 3.2 Best practice published by the Centre for Public Scrutiny suggests that "work programming should be a continuous process". It is important to review work programmes, so that important or urgent issues that arise during the year are able to be scrutinised. Furthermore, at a time of limited resources, it should also be possible to remove areas of work which have become less relevant or timely. For this reason, it is proposed that the Committee's work programme be regularly reviewed by members of the committee throughout the municipal year.
- 3.3 The work programme as agreed by the Committee will form the basis for the Committee's work during the year, but will be amended as issues arise during the year.
- 3.4 This Committee has agreed to undertake a programme of detailed scrutiny reviews, with the Committee already having started the Elective Home Education Scrutiny Review. The other scrutiny reviews include:
 - Looked after Children.
 - Children's Homes.
 - Fostering.
 - Children's Mental Health.
 - Recruitment and retention of Social Workers.
 - SEND, (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities).
 - YOT, (Youth Offending Team).
- 3.5 At its meeting on Tuesday 15 March 2022, the Executive, during their discussions relating to supporting children and their families to thrive post pandemic, recommended that the Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee undertake a scrutiny review into Child Poverty across the District.

4. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL

4.1 None.

5. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES

5.1 None.

6. LEGAL APPRAISAL

6.1 None.

7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

7.1 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

None.

7.2 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS

None.

7.3 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

None.

7.4 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

None.

7.5 TRADE UNION

None.

7.6 WARD IMPLICATIONS

Work of this Overview and Scrutiny Committee has ward implications, but this depends on that nature of the topic.

7.7 IMPLICATIONS FOR CORPORATE PARENTING

This will be a key area of work for the Committee.

7.8 ISSUES ARISING FROM PRIVACY IMPACT ASSESMENT

None.

8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS

None.

9. OPTIONS

- 9.1 The Committee may choose to add to or amend the topics included in the 2022-23 work programme for the committee.
- 9.2 Members may wish to consider any detailed scrutiny reviews that it may wish to conduct.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 That members consider and comment on the areas of work included in the work programme.
- 10.2 That members consider any detailed scrutiny reviews that they may wish to conduct.

11. APPENDICES

Appendix One – 2022-23 Work Programme for the Children’s Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Appendix Two – Unscheduled Topics.

12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Council Constitution.
2021-22 Children’s Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme.

Democratic Services - Overview and Scrutiny

Childrens Services O&S Committee

Scrutiny Lead: Mustansir Butt tel - 43 2574

Work Programme

Agenda Items	Description	Report Author	Comments
Wednesday, 29th June 2022 at City Hall, Bradford. Chair's briefing 09/06/22. Report deadline 16/06/22.			
1) Serious Case Review Findings.	Representatives from Bradford Council, the Police and Health to be in attendance.	Darren Minton.	Request from Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee members.
2) Draft 2022-23 Work Programme.	The proposed areas of work to be considered in this municipal year.	Mustansir Butt.	Includes recommendations that the Committee made in the last municipal year.
Wednesday, 13th July 2022 at City Hall, Bradford. Chair's briefing 24/06/22. Report deadline 30/06/22.			
1) Transition to the Bradford Children's Company.		Joanne Hyde/Chris Chapman/Marium Haque.	Member request.
2) Work Programme.	There is a need to regularly review the work programme, in order to prioritise and manage the work.	Mustansir Butt.	
Wednesday, 28th September 2022 at City Hall, Bradford. Chair's briefing 07/09/22. Report deadline 15/09/22.			
1) Co-opted member - Shifa Simab.		Mustansir Butt.	

Childrens Services O&S Committee

Scrutiny Lead: Mustansir Butt tel - 43 2574

Work Programme

Agenda Items	Description	Report Author	Comments
Wednesday, 28th September 2022 at City Hall, Bradford.			
Chair's briefing 07/09/22. Report deadline 15/09/22.			
2) Establishing the Children's Trust. Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny	(1) disappointed in relation to the representatives of PWC not in attendance at the meeting.	Members of the Committee were Chapman/Marium Haque/Eleanor Brazil/Steve Walker.	Joanne Hyde/Chris Committee recommendation from Wednesday 13 July 2022.
	(2) This Committee requests that a further progress report be presented to the Committee in September 2022.		
	(3) That the Contract between the Council and Children's Trust be presented to this Committee, prior to it being finalised.		
	(4) The Committee requests that the most appropriate representatives from Bradford Council and PWC attend the meeting in September 2022, along with the Children's Services Commissioner and Associate Commissioner.		
3) Draft Terms of Reference - Scutiny review of Child Poverty.		Mustansir Butt.	Council resolution from its meeting on Tuesday 15 March 2022, during their discssions relating to sporting children and families to thrive post pandemic.
4) Work Planning.	There is a need to regularly review the work programme, in order to prioritise and manage the work.	Mustansir Butt.	
Wednesday, 12th October 2022 at City Hall, Bradford.			
Chair's briefing 21/09/22. Report deadline 29/09/22.			
1) Monitoring of the Children's Services Improvement Plan.	Focusing specifically on Priority 2 of the plan - Caseloads across all	Marium Haque/Picklu Roychoudhary.	Children's Servoces Overview & Scrutiny Committee recommendation Social Work Teams. from Wednesday

23 March 2022.

Childrens Services O&S Committee

Scrutiny Lead: Mustansir Butt tel - 43 2574

Work Programme

Agenda Items	Description	Report Author	Comments
Wednesday, 12th October 2022 at City Hall, Bradford.			
Chair's briefing 21/09/22. Report deadline 29/09/22.			
2) OFSTED Inspection of SEND.		Niall Devlin/Ali Jan Haider.	Member Request and Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee recommendation from Wednesday 29 June 2022.
3) Work Planning.	There is a need to regularly review the work programme, in order to prioritise and manage the work.	Mustansir Butt.	
Wednesday, 2nd November 2022 at Remote Virtual Meeting.			
1) Elective Home Education Scrutiny Review.	Informal remote information gathering session with parents, whose children are being educated at home.	Mustansir Butt	
Wednesday, 16th November 2022 at Remote Virtual Meeting.			
1) Child Poverty Scrutiny Review.	Informal remote information gathering session - setting the scene.	Mustansir Butt.	
Wednesday, 14th December 2022 at City Hall, Bradford.			
Chair's briefing 23/11/22. Report deadline 01/12/22.			
1) Establishing the Bradford Children and Families Trust.		Joanne Hyde/Marium Haque/Steve Walker/Eleanor Brazil/Chris Chapman/Sarah Phipps.	Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee recommendation from Wednesday 28 September 2022.
2) Annual Looked after Children.		Michelle Turner/Cath Murray/James Drury.	Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee recommendation from Wednesday 15 December 2021.
3) Work Planning.	There is a need to regularly review the work programme, in order to prioritise and manage the work.	Mustansir Butt.	

Childrens Services O&S Committee

Scrutiny Lead: Mustansir Butt tel - 43 2574

Work Programme

Agenda Items	Description	Report Author	Comments
Wednesday, 18th January 2023 at City Hall, Bradford.			
Chair's briefing 21/12/22. Report deadline 05/01/23.			
1) Audit findings relating to the quality of Social Work Practice.	To focus on areas that require actions being taken to address the areas of practice that currently, most often are shown to require improvement or are inadequate.	Amandip Johal/David Johnstone.	Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee recommendation from Wednesday 9th February 2022.
2) SEND Services.	That the progress against the Written Statements of Action, (WSOA), Improvement Plan, be presented to this Committee at its meeting on Wednesday 18 January 2023.	Marium Haque/Niall Devlin.	Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee recommendation from Wednesday 12 October 2022.
Wednesday, 1st February 2023 at City Hall, Bradford.			
Chair's briefing 11/01/23. Report deadline 19/01/23.			
1) Raising Attainment Strategy.	Demonstrates key outcomes, with Emphasis on key outcomes, with particular emphasis on	Marium Haque/Sue Lowndes.	Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee recommendation from the delivery of Wednesday 9th February
2022.	the Raising Attainment Strategy.		
2) Educational Standards - Early Years to Key Stage 4.	To focus on:	Marium Haque/Sue	Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Lowndes. Committee recommendation
from			- More up-to-date data; Wednesday 9th
March 2022.	- Approaches being used to improve educational attainment across the District.		
Wednesday, 15th February 2023 at City Hall, Bradford.			
Chair's briefing 25/01/23. Report deadline 02/02/23.			
1) Mental Health Issues relating to Children's Social Care.	Report to include the targetting of improved timelines of autism assessments and diagnosis.	Ali Jan Haider/David Sims/Christina Hollaway/Kristain Farnell.	Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee recommendation from Wednesday 17 November 2021.

Childrens Services O&S Committee

Scrutiny Lead: Mustansir Butt tel - 43 2574

Work Programme

Agenda Items	Description	Report Author	Comments
Wednesday, 15th February 2023 at City Hall, Bradford.			
Chair's briefing 25/01/23. Report deadline 02/02/23.			
2) Exploitation Annual Report.	To also include, the review into the existing CSE and development of the Multi-Agency Exploitation Hub - Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee recommendation from Wednesday 15 December 2021. .	Darren Minton.	Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee recommendation from Wednesday 15 December 2021.
3) Work Planning.	There is a need to regularly review the work programme, in order to prioritise and manage the work.	Mustansir Butt.	
Wednesday, 1st March 2023 at City Hall, Bradford.			
Report deadline 16/02/23.			
1) Findings from OFSTED inspection.			
2) Monitoring the Children's Services Improvement Plan.	(1) This Committee requests that the new and detailed improvement plan be presented to the Committee in November 2022. (2) The Committee requests that the outcomes delivered for the Children's Services Improvement Plan, from September 2021 to March 2022,	Marium Haque Marium Haque/Picklu Roychoudhary.	Member request. Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee recommendation from Wednesday 12 October 2022.
Wednesday, 15th March 2023 at City Hall, Bradford.			
Chair's briefing 22/02/23. Report deadline 02/03/23.			
1) Sufficiency Strategy, to also include In-house Fostering Service and Adoptions.		Piklu Roychoudhary.	Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee recommendation from Wednesday 9 March 2022.
2) Bradford District Children and Young People Plan.		Kate Welsh/Niall Devlin/Helen Johnston/Jenny Cryer.	
3) Work Planning.	There is a need to regularly review the work programme, in order to prioritise and manage the work.	Mustansir Butt.	

Childrens Services O&S Committee

Scrutiny Lead: Mustansir Butt tel - 43 2574

Work Programme

Agenda Items

Description

Report Author

Comments

Democratic Services - Overview and Scrutiny

Scrutiny Committees Forward Plan

Unscheduled Items

Childrens Services O&S Committee

Agenda item	Item description	Author	Comments
1 Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny - Programme of Scrutiny Reviews.	That a programme of Scrutiny Reviews be undertaken across key areas within Children's Services which include: (a) Alternative School Provision, (including Home Schooled Children). (b) Looked after Children. Children's Homes. (d)Fostering. (e)Children's Mental Health. (f)Recruitment and retention of Social Workers. (g)SEND, (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities). (h)YOT, (Youth Offending Team). Electronic briefing to members.	Mustansir Butt.	Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny recommendation from Wednesday 9 October 2019.
2 Troubled Families Programme.	Focusing on key outcomes delivered by the programme and exploring more options for more sustainable approaches, to ensure the sustainable approaches to the continuation of the continuity of the programme, if it were not to be funded beyond the current programme. Electronic briefing to members.	Lisa Brett.	Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee recommendation from Wednesday 17 November 2021.
3 Informal Session with Bradford Academies.			Request from members.
4 Youth Offending Team.	Focusing on the Next Steps, which include: - Improving participation with young people and families to understand their experiences of the services they have received; - Starting to address themes that arise from the audit feedback. Electronic briefing to members.	Sarah Griffen/Lisa Brett.	Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee recommendation frm Wednesday 15 December 2021.
5 Opportunity Funding.	Electronc briefing to members.	Kathryn Loftus	Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee recommendation from Wednesday 9th March 2022.
6 Findings from the review into children's health assessment caseloads.		Michelle Holgate/Dawn Lee.	Deferred from Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting on Wednesday 15 February 2023.
7 Young Carers.	To also include measures of performance and details of outcomes and improvements delivered. Electronic briefing to members.	Cath Dew.	Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee recommendation from Wednesday 23 March 2022.

Childrens Services O&S Committee

Agenda item	Item description	Author	Comments
8 Serious Case Review Findings - National Action Plan.	Progress against the review recommendations, together with examples of some positive outcomes.	Darren Minton/Michelle Turner/David Johnston/Richard Padwell.	Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee recommendation from Wednesday 30 June 2022. Been deferred on two occasions at the request of Officers.