

## Agenda for a meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel to be held on Wednesday, 11 January 2017 at 4.30 pm in Committee Room 1 - City Hall, Bradford

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### Members of the Committee – Councillors

CONSERVATIVE	LABOUR	LIBERAL DEMOCRAT
D Smith	Thirkill Engel Tait	N Pollard

### Alternates:

CONSERVATIVE	LABOUR	LIBERAL DEMOCRAT
M Pollard	Nazir Shaheen Shafiq	R Sunderland

### NON VOTING CO-OPTED MEMBERS

Chair of Children in Care Council

Ali Jan Haider

Bradford District Clinical Commissioning  
Group

Inspector Kevin Taylor

West Yorkshire Police

Yasmin Umarji

Bradford Education

### Notes:

- This agenda can be made available in Braille, large print or tape format on request by contacting the Agenda contact shown below.
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- 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:

Parveen Akhtar

City Solicitor

Agenda Contact: Sheila Farnhill

Phone: 01274 432268

E-Mail: sheila.farnhill@bradford.gov.uk

### To:



## A. PROCEDURAL ITEMS

### 1. ALTERNATE MEMBERS (Standing Order 34)

The City Solicitor will report the names of alternate Members who are attending the meeting in place of appointed Members.

(Sheila Farnhill – 01274 432268)

### 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 may remain in the meeting and take part fully in discussion and voting unless the interest is a disclosable pecuniary interest or an interest which the Member feels would call into question their compliance with the wider principles set out in the Code of Conduct. Disclosable pecuniary interests relate to the Member concerned or their spouse/partner.*
- (2) *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.*
- (3) *Members are also welcome to disclose interests which are not disclosable pecuniary interests but which they consider should be made in the interest of clarity.*
- (4) *Officers must disclose interests in accordance with Council Standing Order 44.*

(Sheila Farnhill – 01274 432268)



### 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.

(Sheila Farnhill - 01274 432268)

### B. BUSINESS ITEMS

#### 4. EDUCATION OUTCOMES FOR LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN 2015/16 AND VIRTUAL SCHOOL UPDATE

1 - 14

The Deputy Director - Education, Employment and Skills will submit a report (**Document “G”**) which provides an interim summary of the educational attainment of looked after children in the Bradford district. The report relates to those children and young people of school age who had been in care for one year or more on 31 March 2016. The report explains that a further comprehensive report will be presented once the validated national data is published in the Spring term.

The report also provides an update on the work of the Virtual School.

#### **Recommended –**

- (1) **That Document “G” be noted.**
- (2) **That a further report be submitted to the Panel once the published data is received from the Department for Education.**

(Ken Poucher – 01274 439623)



**5. INDEPENDENT REVIEWING OFFICER SERVICE - ANNUAL REPORT**

15 - 44

A report will be presented by the Deputy Director (Children's Social Care) (**Document "H"**) in relation to the work of the Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) Service and the Annual Report which is required to be produced under the IRO Regulations. The Annual Report provides evidence in respect of the effectiveness of the service, examines the quality of the reviews offered to young people and sets targets for the future development of the service.

**Recommended –**

- (1) That the Corporate Parenting Panel notes:**
- (i) The work undertaken by the Independent Reviewing Officer Service and its ongoing role in providing robust and challenging reviews of all Care Plans.**
  - (ii) The improvements achieved over the last twelve months in terms of children's participation, the continued improvement in timeliness and the successful introduction of a quality assurance process for the service.**
  - (iii) The contribution made and value added by the Independent Reviewing Officer Service through the reporting of quality assurance findings to the Strategic Leadership Management Group.**
  - (iv) The continuation of good collaborative working arrangements with social work teams and partner agencies in order to achieve the best outcomes for Bradford's Looked After Children.**
  - (v) That the Independent Reviewing Officer Service Annual Report will be produced in December to synchronise with the Corporate Parenting Panel's Work Plan.**
- (2) That the Service's Work Plan for 2016/17, as set out in the Annual Report, be endorsed.**

(Imran Cheema – 01274 437915)



**6. INDEPENDENT MONITORING AND QUALITY ASSURANCE OF RESIDENTIAL CHILDREN'S HOMES** 45 - 52

A report will be submitted by the Deputy Director (Children's Social Care) in relation to the independent monitoring and quality assurance of the district's Residential Children's Homes, in accordance with Regulation 44 of the Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015, and the importance of the role of Elected Members in this process (**Document "I"**).

**Recommended –**

**That each Member of the Corporate Parenting Panel be requested to participate in three unannounced monitoring visits of residential and respite homes per annum.**

(Suzanne Lythgow – 07582 100936)

**7. REFERRAL FROM CORPORATE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - CHILDREN PLACED IN BRADFORD FROM OUTSIDE THE DISTRICT** 53 - 56

At the meeting of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 6 October 2016, consideration was given to a report of the Strategic Director – Children's Services in relation to the arrangements that the Council and its partners have in place to safeguard against Child Sexual Exploitation. The Committee resolved, amongst other things;

*'That the Corporate Parenting Panel looks into the number of children being placed in care in Bradford from outside the district and any emerging issues.'*

A report of the Deputy Director (Children's Social Care)(**Document "J"**) is now submitted for Member's consideration.

(Jill Hudson – 01274 434511)

**8. WORK PLAN 2016/17** 57 - 58

The Panel's Work Plan for 2016/17 is submitted for consideration (**Document "K"**).

(Jim Hopkinson - 1274 432904)

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



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## Report of the Deputy Director (Education, Employment and Skills) to the Meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel to be held on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2017

# G

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**Subject: Interim Education Outcomes of Children Looked After 2015/16 and Virtual School update.**

### Summary statement:

This report relates to school children and young people, who had been in care for one year or more on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016. The cohort size is 472 school age Children Looked After (CLA) out of a total cohort of 634. As of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016 the total Bradford Looked After population was 878. This report provides data on attendance, SEN and end of Key Stage attainment. This report provides a brief summary of the educational attainment and progress of Children Looked After (CLA) of Bradford MDC and also an update of virtual school. A comprehensive report will be available later in the spring term on publication of the validated national data set.

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**Judith Kirk**  
Deputy Director

**Portfolio:**

**Education ,Employment and Skills**

Report Contact: Ken Poucher  
Phone: (01274) 439623  
E-mail: ken.poucher@bradford.gov.uk

**Overview & Scrutiny Area :**  
**Children's Services**



## 1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report provides a brief summary of the educational attainment and progress of Children Looked After (CLA) of Bradford MDC and also an update of virtual school. A comprehensive report will be available later in the spring term on publication of the validated national data set.

Outcomes in Early Years are showing a three year rising trend but a gap to peers in Bradford is still too great.

The percentage of Year 1 pupils achieving the required standard in phonics has dipped from 2015 figures further increasing the gap with national. In 2016, based on provisional data Bradford's Key Stage 1 (KS1) CLA pupils have performed well in reading and are slightly below national overall. In writing and mathematics on the new expected standard performance measures, results are not as strong. Results are not comparable with those in previous years.

At the end of Key Stage 2 (KS2) in Bradford CLA results are below the overall national averages on the new expected standard for reading, writing and mathematics (RWM) combined and separately. Results are not comparable with those in previous years.

In 2016, Children Looked After at the end of Key Stage 4 in Bradford have achieved a 31% Attainment 8 score and -0.82% Progress 8 score.

## 2.0. Background - National and local context

- 2.1 Under section 22 (3A) of the Children Act 1989, local authorities have a duty to promote the educational achievement of Children Looked After (CLA). We are now over a decade on from the Children Act 2004 which amended and further strengthened this requirement. The duty on local authorities to promote the achievement of Children Looked After remains in place.
- 2.2 In Bradford a small team under the leadership of a Virtual School Headteacher was set up to monitor and advise on Personal Education Plans (PEPs) and raise the expectations and aspirations of schools and the children themselves. The Virtual School Head role was placed on a statutory footing in the Children and Families Act 2014. In September 2016 following a restructure, the Virtual School moved from 'Children's Social Care' to 'Education, Employment and Skills' with the Virtual School Headteacher's (VSH) role forming part of one of the Lead Area Achievement Officer's portfolio on a 0.5 basis but maintains a very close working relationship with Children's Social Care and other service areas. The Virtual School team has been enhanced and expanded since 2014 and now includes: a deputy head teacher, an acting deputy headteacher, two specialist teachers and





a team of 'associates' who are used on a casual basis to provide immediate support for children and young people in schools or other placements.

- 2.3** Accurate information is maintained on how children in our care are progressing in their education through for example, the PEP process and visits. The Virtual School intervenes when a child or young person in the care of Bradford MDC is not achieving well. It provides training and information for schools, foster carers and social workers.

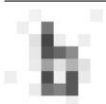
Furthermore it ensures resources, including the pupil premium for LAC, are distributed effectively and that they have an impact on the educational achievements of children in care. The Virtual School aims to ensure all children and young people in the care of Bradford MDC have an up-to-date Personal Education Plan and significantly provides direct support for them to support their learning and emotional needs.

- 2.4** The Virtual School led by the Virtual School Head, has a leading role in promoting the educational achievement of children in its care as Corporate Parents. However, to successfully meet the aspirational targets we have set involves a collective responsibility between the local authority, partner agencies and all schools. Education that encourages high aspirations and individual achievements, with a minimum disruption, is central to improving immediate and long term outcomes for children in our care.
- 2.5** Within the Bradford Council Plan (2016-2020) there is a renewed emphasis on improved outcomes for all children, including those children in care - 'A great start and good schools for all our children'. Fundamentally our plan sets out the belief that good quality education can transform lives. Our aspiration is that all children and young people attend a good or outstanding school. For children in our care this is very important. Unless there are exceptional reasons, children in our care will not be placed at schools judged as requiring improvement or inadequate by OFSTED. This does not mean we will necessarily look to change provision for a child if a school falls into one of these categories, however we will closely monitor the progress each child attending such a school is making.

## **2.6. Pupil Premium**

- 2.6.1** The Pupil Premium (PP) was introduced on 1 April 2011 to support vulnerable pupils, including LAC. The Pupil Premium is paid at different levels: £1300 for primary age pupils eligible for free school meals, £935 for secondary aged pupils and £1900 for LAC. Pupil Premium for CLA is referred to as Pupil Premium Plus (PPP).

- 2.6.2** The local authority is responsible for paying PPP to all Bradford schools, including Academies, and also to schools outside the authority that have Bradford CLA on roll. The Virtual School Headteacher determines the level of funding to be retained centrally and what proportion of PPP are to be delegated to schools. The Virtual School Head is



accountable to the Deputy Director for Employment and Skills for monitoring the impact of the grant.

- 2.6.3 Since 1st April 2015, the Virtual School for Children Looked After has retained 25% of the Pupil Premium Plus.
- 2.6.5 From April 2014, maintained schools and non-maintained special schools also attracted PPP for children adopted from care, left care under a Special Guardianship Order or left care under a Residential Order on or after 14 October 1991. Schools receive these payments directly and the Virtual School monitors how this is spent through engagement in the PEP process and liaison with the Designated Teachers.
- 2.6.4 Early Years Pupil Premium was introduced in April 2015. This is to support closing the funding gap between the additional support disadvantaged children receive at age 2 and the additional support they then receive in school from the existing school-age pupil premium. Providers receive £300 per year, or £0.53 per child per hour, for each eligible child.
- 2.6.5 Post 16 CLA are eligible for a bursary of £1,200 if their course lasts for 30 weeks or more. The Leaving Care Service (LCS) is responsible for the administration and for monitoring the impact of this grant.

### 3.1 Report Issues

#### 3.1.1 Number of Children in Care

**Figure 1 - Number of children in care of Bradford MDC by age of year group**

Bradford Looked After Children for 12 months or more at 31 March 2016																
Year group	-4/-3	-2/-1	R	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11	Y12	Y13
Number	39	47	16	18	28	26	36	46	49	37	48	49	50	69	70	6
TOTAL 634																

**NB** Once a Young Person reaches the age of 18 they cease to have Child in Care status hence the low numbers in the equivalent of year 13.

### 3.2 Attainment and Progress

- 3.2.1 The performance data, included in this summary report, is for those children who have been in care continuously of Bradford Metropolitan District Council, or nationally, for a period of at least 12 months.
- 3.2.2 Unvalidated data has been used at this stage. Validated data sets for all key stages will not be available until mid-way through the spring term.



**3.2.3** This year the DfE has made considerable changes to the performance and accountability frameworks for Primary (Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2), Secondary (Key Stage 4) and Post 16 (Key Stage 5).

### 3.3 Key Stages

#### 3.3.1 Early Years Foundation Stage

There were 16 children in reception who had been in the care of Bradford from 1 April 2015 until 31 March 2016. At some point during the year, there had been a cohort of 10.

**3.3.2** A good level of development is now defined as having achieved the age expected level in Communication and Language (CL); Personal, Social and Emotional (PSE), Physical Development (PD), Literacy (L) and Mathematics (M).

**3.3.3** Development is described and scored as Emerging (1), Expected (2) or Exceeding (3). A good level of overall development is regarded as achieving a total of 24 points, reaching the expected level (2) in each of these 5 areas. This is calculated from breaking down the 5 areas into 12 Early Learning Goals.

**3.3.4** The totals achieved by the 16 children, ranged from 17 points to 35, with 4 children achieving a good level of development. Nationally, the average points score was 34.5 (all areas of learning). For all children in Bradford (14) the average points score was 33.7. For the 16 children who had been in care for a minimum of 12 months, the score was 26.8 points. This indicates that CLA are performing below the national standard for all children. However the table in 3.3.6 shows a rising trend for GLD (Good Level of Development). Closing the gap to national and local standards remains a priority

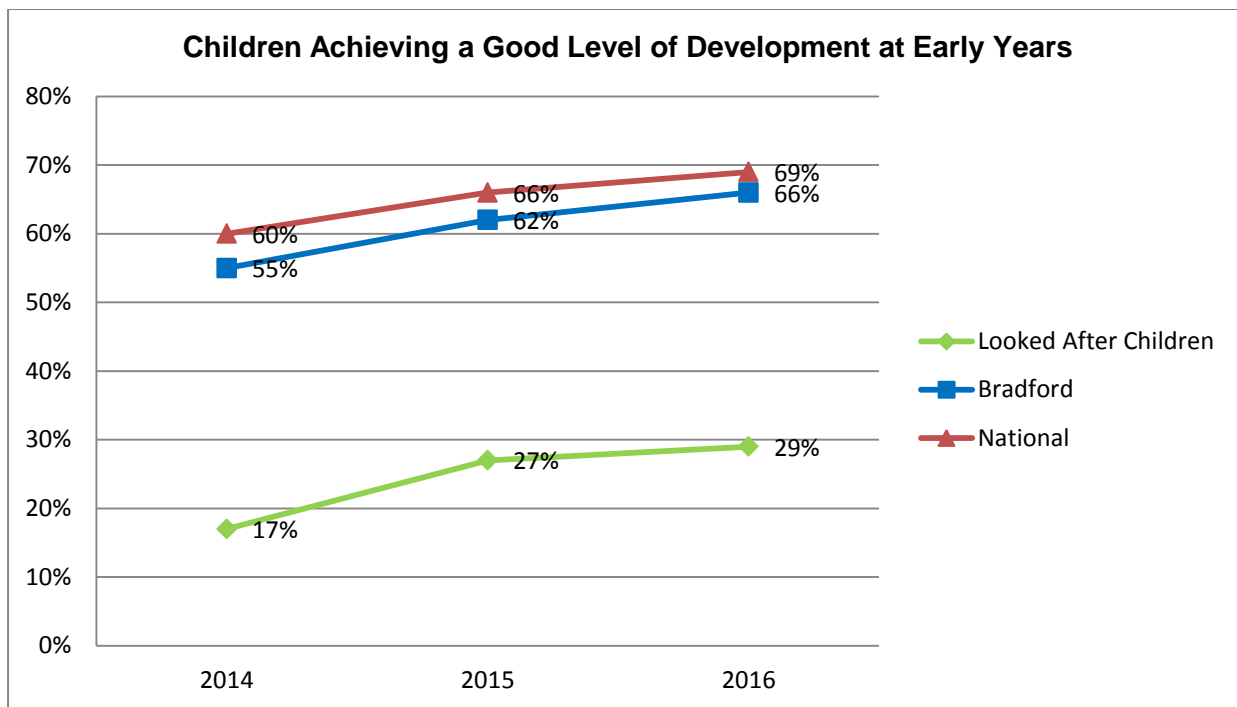
**3.3.5** Within this cohort of 16 pupils 1 had an EHC (Education, Health and Care) Plan, 2 had SEN (Special Educational Needs) support, 3 were FSM (Free School Meals).

#### 3.3.6 Figure 2 – Early Years Foundation Stage with Time Series data

% Good Level of Development	2014	2015	2016
Looked After Children	17%	27%	29%(4/14)
Bradford	55%	62%	66%
National	60%	66%	69%



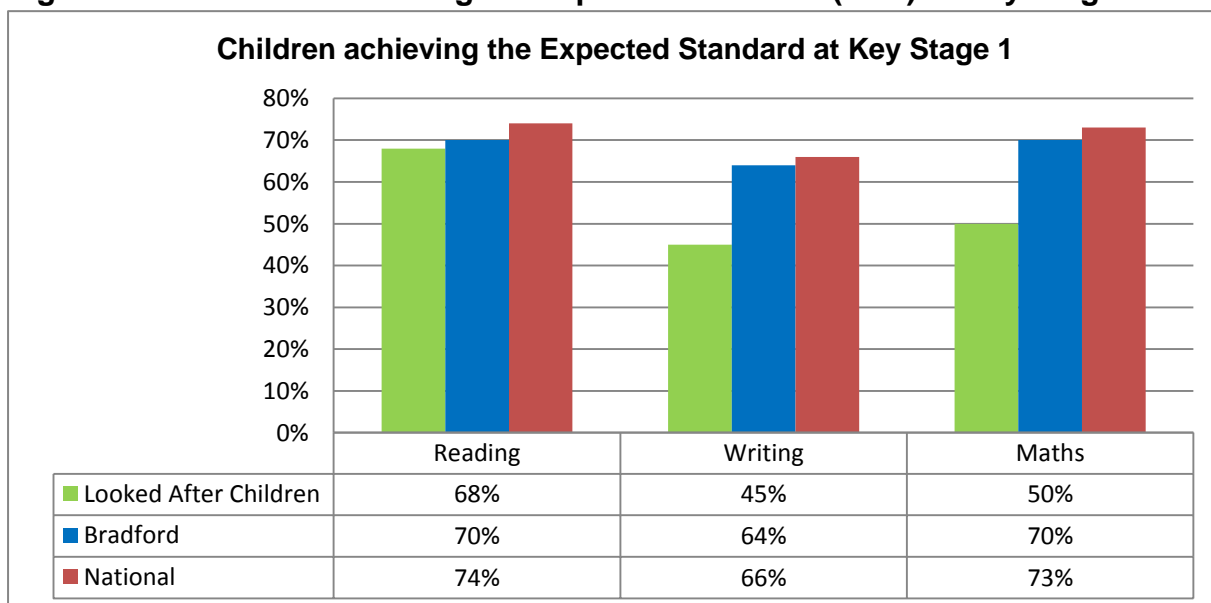
3.3.7 Figure 3 – Graph showing Children achieving GLD at Early Years



3.4 Key Stage 1

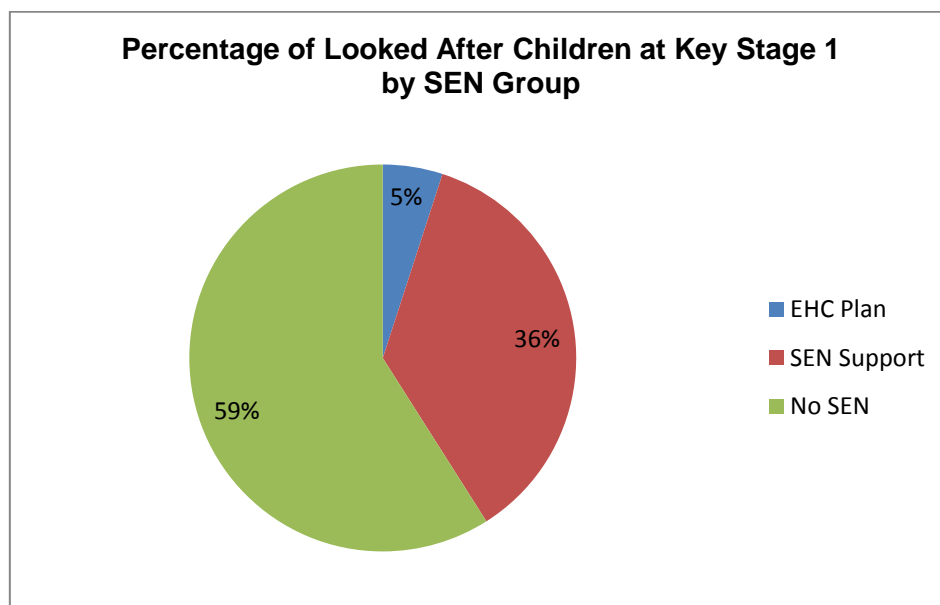
3.4.1 There are new performance measures at Key Stage 1: Teacher Assessments (TAs) of pupils’ achievement now focuses on the proportion of pupils meeting the expected standard across each of the main subjects: reading, writing, mathematics and reading. No time series data is available because 2016 results are not directly comparable with previous years.

3.4.2 Figure 5 - 1 Children achieving the expected standard (EXS) at Key Stage 1



- 3.4.3** Data for 22 eligible pupils are included: CLA for one year or more as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016 and educated in Bradford schools; there were a further five pupils placed in schools in other LAs.
- 3.4.4** There were an additional 14 children that had been in care at some point during the year, of these 8 were in care for less than 14 days. Five children were successfully placed for adoption.
- 3.4.5** When reviewing attainment, the percentage of CLA achieving expected standards or better in reading, is 68% and is the strongest of the core subjects in Key Stage 1 and just 6% below that nationally for all children. The percentage of children achieving expected standards in writing and maths was not as strong.
- 3.4.6** Whilst continuing to strive for improvements in attainment and close the gap between the performance of children in care and all children, the progress made against prior attainment is arguably a better indicator of impact by all schools and the Virtual School. The number achieving a good level of development when the cohort was in the Early Years Foundation stage, was 3 (16%) From this evidence it is very encouraging to note the progress that has been made, with fewer children in care falling behind their peers by the end of Key Stage.
- 3.4.7** Within this cohort of 28 pupils 1 (5%) had an EHC Plan, 8 (36%) has SEN support, 4 (18%) were FSM and 16 (73%) were disadvantaged.

**3.4.8 Figure 7 End of Key Stage 1 (Year 2) cohort overview by SEN Group**

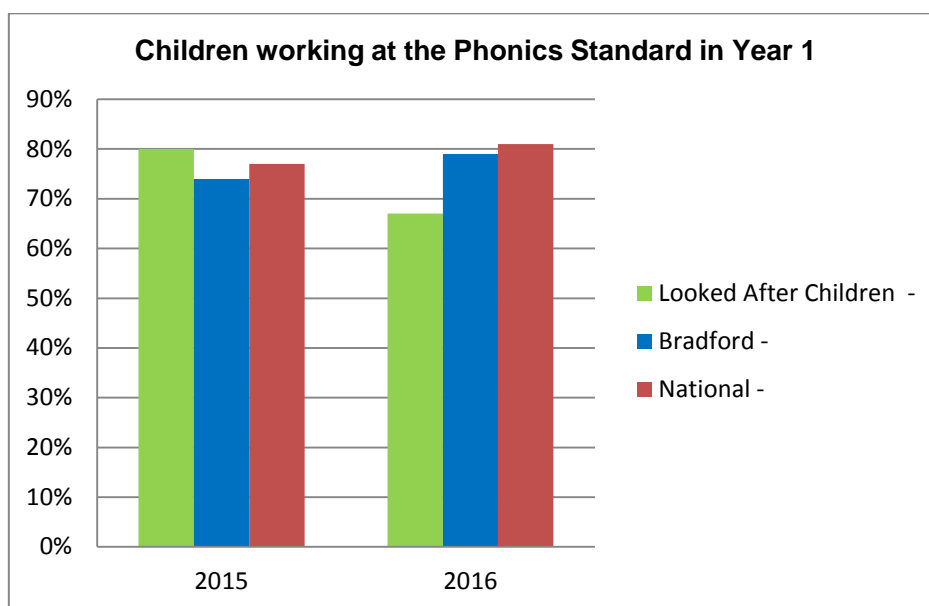


### 3.4.7 – Phonics

**3.4.8** The percentage of CLA achieving the phonics standard at the end of Y1 is 67%. Whilst this is lower than that achieved in 2015, there were marked differences in this small cohort. There were 18 pupils in total, 15 of these were educated in Bradford schools.

**3.4.9** Within this cohort of 18 pupils, 3 (20%) had an EHC Plan; 3 (20%) had SEN support; 4 (27%) were FSM and 8 (53%) were disadvantaged.

### 3.4.10 Figure 8 End of Key Stage 1 (Year 2) cohort overview by SEN Group



### 3.5 Key Stage 2

**3.5.1** There are new performance measures at Key Stage 2. The tests and Teacher Assessments (TA) of pupils’ achievement now focus on the proportion of pupils meeting the expected standard across each of these subjects: reading, writing and mathematics (combined and separately) and Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling (GPS). Reading, writing and GPS are assessed by external test evaluation (“SATs”) and writing is assessed in schools by TA. No time series data is available because 2016 results are not directly comparable with previous years.

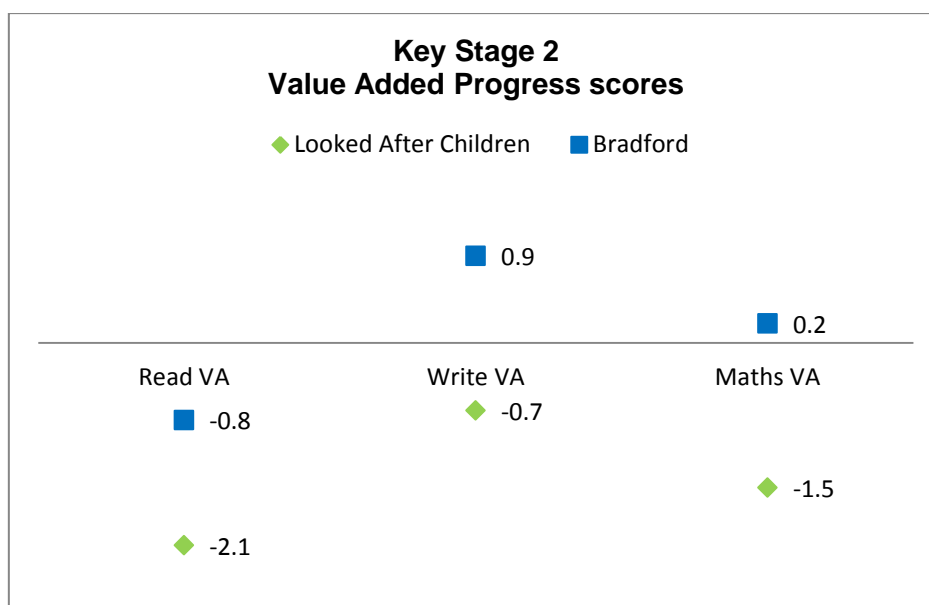
**3.5.2** The new Valued Added (VA) progress measures show the progress of pupils from Key Stage 1 to Key Stage 2: each pupil has their actual performance compared with their predicted performance, based on their KS1 results. This provides a positive (above average), zero (equal) or negative (below average) VA score: the figures below show the average VA scores for all pupils in the LA for each progress measure. It also shows the new Floor Standard thresholds (see section below).



**3.5.3** The table shows that Bradford CLA pupils' progress was below the national average for all pupils in reading, writing and mathematics in 2016, with VA scores of -2.1, -0.7 and -1.5, respectively. The gap between CLA and their peers within Bradford is greatest in reading. The percentage of pupils achieving reading, writing and maths combined is 15%, well below the Bradford figure (46%) for all pupils.

**3.5.4** Within this cohort of 49 pupils, 38 pupils accessed provision in Bradford schools, 8 (21%) had an EHC Plan; 18 (47%) had SEN support; 7 (18%) were FSM and 33 (87%) were disadvantaged. Acknowledging the high numbers of those with special educational needs in the cohort, closing the attainment gap remains a significant challenge in the next phase of education.

**3.5.5 Figure 11 Key Stage 2 Progress and attainment**



**Figure 12 – Key Stage 2 Value Added Progress Scores 2016**

% Expected Standard	Read VA	Write VA	Maths VA	RWM
Looked After Children	-2.1	-0.7	-1.5	15%
Bradford	-0.8	0.9	0.2	46%
National	0	0	0	53%



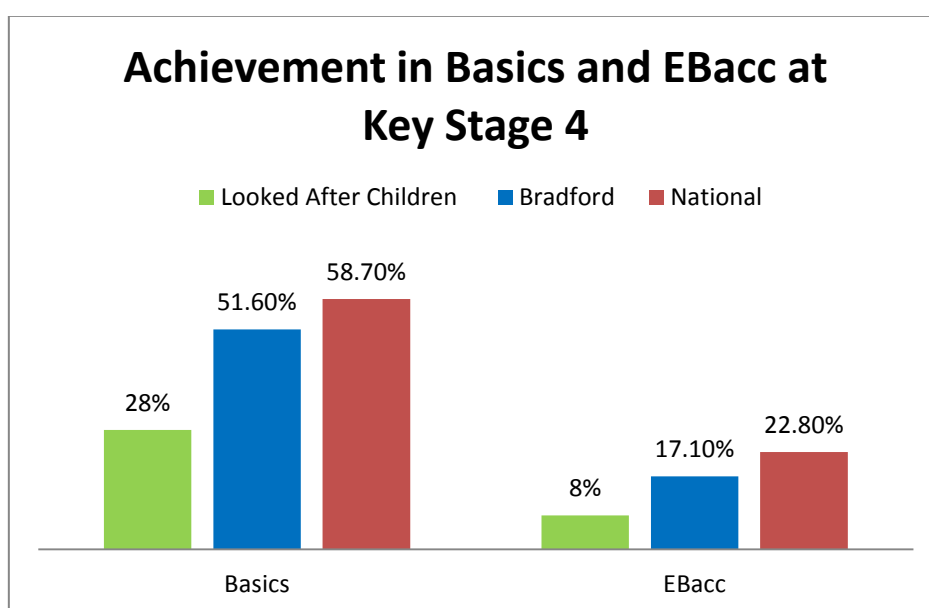
### 3.6 Key Stage 4

**3.6.1** At the end of KS4 children looked after gained an attainment 8 score of 31%. Attainment 8 measures the achievement of a pupil across 8 qualifications, including English and mathematics (both double weighted), three qualifications that count in the EBacc measure and three further GCSE or approved non-GCSE qualifications.

**3.6.2** The progress 8 score at the end of KS4 for children looked after is -0.82, well below the national figure. Progress 8 captures the progress a pupil makes from the end of primary school to the end of secondary school. It is a type of value added measure which means that pupils' results are compared to the results of other pupils with the same prior attainment. The greater the Progress 8 score, the progress made by the pupil compared to the average of pupils with similar prior attainment. Progress 8 is a score between 1 and -1. A score below zero indicates less than average progress been made.

**3.6.3** To achieve the English Baccalaureate (EBacc), pupils should achieve good passes in the EBacc subjects of English, mathematics, science, history or geography, and a language, currently 8% of children looked after at the end of KS4 have achieved the EBacc.

#### 3.6.4 Figure 13 Graph showing outcomes at KS4 for Basics and EBacc



#### 3.6.5 Figure 14 Chart showing main outcomes for CLA at KS4

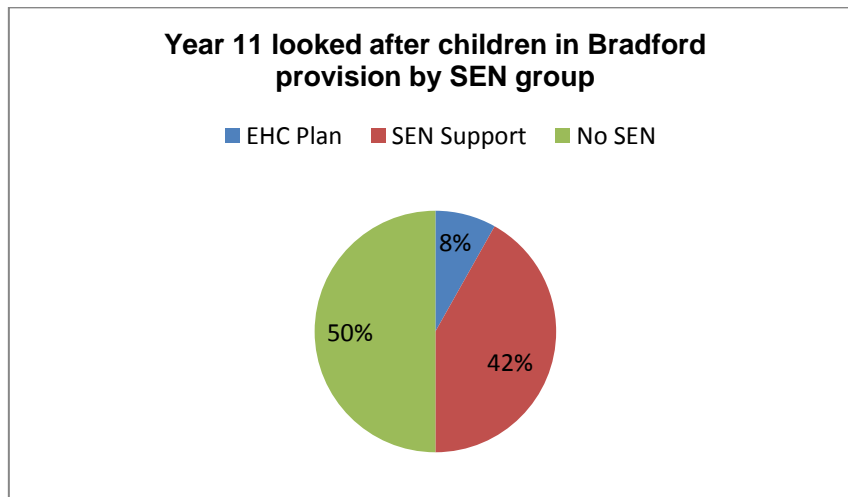
	Attainment 8	Progress 8	Basics	EBacc
<b>Looked After Children</b>	31%	-0.82	28%	8%
<b>Bradford</b>	45.4%	-0.15	51.60%	17.10%
<b>National</b>	48.2%	-0.03	58.70%	22.80%





**3.6.6** Within this cohort of 69 pupils, 39 pupils accessed provision in Bradford schools, 3 (8%) had an EHC Plan; 16 (42%) had SEN support; 8 (21%) were FSM and 32 (82%) were disadvantaged.

### 3.6.7 Figure 15 Y11 cohort overview by SEN Group



### 3.6.8 Secondary schools' Ofsted outcomes 2015/16

The percentage of secondary schools in Bradford judged as Good or Outstanding by Ofsted did not change between September 2015 and July 2016, remaining at 41%. The percentage of LA maintained schools did improve but this is because schools judged as Inadequate or Requires Improvement converted to Academy status within the year.

### 3.6.9 Next Steps

Data presented above is based on relatively small cohorts of pupils, a significant proportion of whom have complex social, emotional, behavioural and learning needs as a result of their early life experiences. Given the above, it is central to the Virtual School's work that each child is seen as an individual and developments are focused on each child's needs.

### 3.6.10 New initiative – Associates Programme

**3.6.11** Our associate intervention started in December 2015. We appointed 11 teachers from December 2015 to June 2016. In this period they supported 20 young people. Two schools have had intense support from an associate for their CLA and young people in Bradford residential homes. In July 2016 we also appointed 15 new associates; 12 teaching assistants and 3 teachers. Since September 2016, associates have supported 19 young people and 3 schools have had intensive support. 2 young people are been supported out



of authority by Teaching Personal (teaching agency). Often this support is for half a term but in some circumstances it is longer. These were deployed into many settings:

- Primary schools
- Secondary schools
- Residential homes
- Alternative provisions
- 1-1 tutoring

**3.6.12** Their roles in this time have been very varied. Some have provided 1-1 teaching support in the classroom and 1-1 support for young people to continue in their mainstream setting on an alternative timetable and curriculum when needed. They have also supported young people in their transition from one school to another. Some have provided intensive support when there has been an increase in distressed behaviour when a child has come into care, due to attachment issues and changes in placements (including placement breakdowns). Associates have also been used when a young person has moved from an out of authority placement into a placement in Bradford Authority but a school place has not been identified. Associates have also provided support for young people while assessments are carried out by other professionals, including EHCP applications and assessments. The associate intervention has ensured engagement with education and school attendance for many of our young people.

**3.6.13** The feedback from other professionals has included that the associate has prevented a fixed term or permanent exclusion from school. Feedback has also shown that the associate intervention has ensured a smooth transition to a new setting for vulnerable young people.

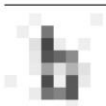
**3.6.14** Associates work closely with other professionals. For example, associates have worked in collaboration with staff in residential placements to ensure young people engage with education. They have worked with school staff to ensure young people gain qualifications including functional skills qualifications through an alternative provider. Also associates work closely with the BSS (Behavioural Support Service) team and early years SEND (Special Educational Needs & Disabilities) team to support young people in managing their anxieties and the distressed behaviours they have in school.

#### **4. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL**

4.1 As a result of developing a school-led system a reduction in the local authority teams associated with school improvement will be seen.

#### **5. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES**

5.1 None.



## 6. LEGAL APPRAISAL

- 6.1** Under section 22 (3A) of the Children Act 1989, local authorities have a duty to promote the educational achievement of Children Looked After (CLA). We are now over a decade on from the Children Act 2004 which amended and further strengthened this requirement. The duty on local authorities to promote the achievement of Children Looked After remains in place.
- 6.2** The Local Authority has statutory duties to ensure that efficient education is available to meet the needs of the population of the area; ensure that its education functions are exercised with a view to promoting high standards ensuring fair access to opportunity for education and learning, and promote the fulfilment of learning potential; and secure that the provision of sufficient schools for providing primary and secondary education are available for its area.
- 6.3** Where a school is failing to provide adequate education it can be eligible for intervention by the Local Authority or the Secretary of State under the Education and Inspections Act 2006. A "coasting school" will be eligible for intervention when the new section 60B of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 comes into force. The term "coasting school" will be defined in future regulations. Local Authorities must have regard to the Schools Causing Concern statutory guidance. The guidance details the role of Local Authorities in delivering school improvement for maintained schools and academies. It also includes guidance on "coasting schools". If a school satisfies the definition of being a coasting school, the Regional Schools Commissioners will consider what interventions or actions are necessary to bring about sufficient improvement in those schools.

## 7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable

### 7.1 EQUALITY & DIVERSITY

Not applicable.

### 7.2 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

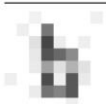
Not applicable.

### 7.3 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS

Not applicable.

### 7.4 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable.



**7.5 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT**

Not applicable.

**7.6 TRADE UNION**

Not applicable.

**7.7 WARD IMPLICATIONS**

Not applicable.

**8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS**

8.1 None

**9. OPTIONS**

Not applicable.

**10. RECOMMENDATIONS**

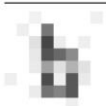
10.1 That the Corporate Parenting Panel receive this initial summary report on the performance of Bradford's Looked After Children Key Stage tests and exams for 2016.

10.2 Further reports will be provided as the Local Authority receives further published data from the DfE.

**11. APPENDICES**

None

**12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**



# Report of the Assistant Director (Children's Social Care) to the meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel to be held on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2017

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**Subject:****Report for the Independent Reviewing Officer Service April 2015 –  
December 2016****Summary statement:**

This report examines the work of the Independent Reviewing Officers (IROs) who review the care plans for all Looked After Children in Bradford. The report presents performance data and demonstrates the robust oversight of care planning in Bradford MDC.

The production of an IRO annual report is required under the regulations contained in the IRO Handbook. The report should provide evidence as to the effectiveness of the reviewing service, examine the quality of the reviews offered to young people and set targets for the development of the service.

The report also includes Bradford's IRO Quality Assurance findings for the period 17<sup>th</sup> September 2015 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2016. The findings cover the IROs assessment of the delivery of children's services to Bradford's Looked after children through the completion of audits, challenges made by Bradford's IROs for drift and delay and acknowledgements of good social work practice.

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Jim Hopkinson  
Deputy Director  
(Children's Social Care)

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**Portfolio:****Children's Services****Overview & Scrutiny Area :****Children's Services**

## **1. SUMMARY**

- 1.1** This report examines the work of the Independent Reviewing Officers (IROs) who review the care plans for all Looked after Children in Bradford. The report presents performance data and demonstrates the robust oversight of care planning in Bradford Metropolitan District Council.

## **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1** Following the case of *Re S* in 2002 the House of Lords raised concerns that Services to Children could be in breach of the children's and parents' rights under Article 8 of the Human Rights Act. The Government responded with Section 118 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002 which amended the Children Act 1989 and established the role of Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO).
- 2.2** This role was further strengthened by the IRO Handbook, regulations and statutory guidance for IROs that came into force in 2011, to improve care planning and strengthen the role of the IRO. The responsibility of the IRO has changed from the management of the review process to a wider overview of the individual child's care including regular monitoring and follow-up between looked after child reviews. This has increased the importance of mid review checks and processes. The IRO has a key role in relation to the improvement of Care Planning for Children Looked After and for challenging drift.

## **3. REPORT ISSUES**

None.

## **4. OPTIONS**

None.

## **5. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC PRIORITIES**

None.

## **6. RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **6.1 That the Corporate Parenting Panel notes:**

- (i) The work undertaken by the IRO service and its ongoing role in providing robust and challenging reviews of all Care Plans.
- (ii) The improvements over the past 12 months in children's participation, the continued improvement in timeliness and the successful introduction of a quality assurance process for the service.
- (iii) The contribution and value added by the IRO service through reporting findings of the Quality Assurance to the Strategic Leadership Management group.
- (iv) The continuation of good working collaboration with our social work teams and partner agencies to achieve best outcomes for Bradford's Looked After Children.
- (v) The production of the IRO Annual Report to be synchronised with the submission date for the Bradford Corporate Parenting Panel.
- (vi) That the Panel endorses the work plan for year 2016/17.

**7. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

None.

**8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS**

None.

**9. APPENDICES**

**Appendix 1** – Annual Report of the Independent Reviewing Team 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015 – December 2016.

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## **APPENDIX 1**

### **IRO Annual Report April 2015 - December 2016**

#### **Table Of Contents**

1. The Purpose of the Report
2. Profile of the Independent Reviewing officer.
3. Statistical Information Regarding Looked after Children (LAC) and the IRO Service
4. Timeliness of LAC Reviews
5. LAC Age 4+ Participation in Reviews 2015 - 2016
6. Viewpoint consultation & Children's Feedback.
7. IRO Quality Assurance and Making a Difference
8. Analysis of QA Forms completed from 17<sup>th</sup> September 2015 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2016.
9. The Bradford Young People's App
10. Training & Development
11. IRO Service Work Plan 2016-17

## **1. The Purpose of the Report**

1.1 This report sets out the quality of corporate parenting and care for looked after children within Bradford MDC.

1.2 The report demonstrates;

- Areas of good practice and areas for improvement highlighted by Bradford IRO's
- Emerging themes and trends from our new Quality Assurance process.
- Outline service development priorities for the coming 12 months
- Evidence to show that IRO's have carried out their statutory functions to a good standard.
- IRO's have provided effective monitoring of the performance of the Local Authority as a corporate parent.
- IRO's have used a balance of positive as well as challenging feedback to the Local Authority as a means to support continuous learning and improvement.
- IRO's have ensured that child's wishes and feelings are included and given full consideration in their assessment, plan and review process.

## **2. Profile of the IRO Service in Bradford**

2.1 Currently Bradford employs 13 IRO's, 9 fulltime and 4 part-time (11.2 FTE). The teams are all experienced practitioners with 5 years post qualification experience as required by the IRO Handbook.

2.2 Traditionally the IRO team has been a relatively stable entity undergoing fewer personnel changes than the social work teams however over the past year the team has coped with staff reducing their hours and the loss of an experienced worker and former practice manager who retired in March this year. We undertook recruitment in February & December which has identified three successful appointable applicants. Two have already started and the third will hopefully be with us shortly into the New Year. It should be noted that IRO's need 5 years post qualification experience which makes finding suitable candidates more challenging.

2.3 The IRO Manager has now been in post since August 2014 and has had a positive impact on the service ensuring effective supervision of staff and that IRO's are positively supported in their role.

2.4 Changes to the legal framework as part of the Family Justice Review have meant an enhanced role for IRO's requiring them to:-

- Monitor the child's case rather than simply monitoring progress in relation to reviews.
  - Oversee effective liaison with SW team and other key professionals, including CAFCASS.
  - Ensure they have all relevant information in order to effectively review a child's case.
  - Speak to the child or young person, where appropriate, and obtain their views.
  - LAC care plan must include a plan for permanence from the second review onwards.
- 2.5** The IRO also has a duty to monitor the local authority's overall performance as a Corporate Parent and to bring any areas of poor practice in the care and planning for looked after children to the attention of senior managers. Measuring the impact of service delivery is essential to achieving improved outcomes for children and their families and reducing the impact of disadvantage for vulnerable children and young people.
- 2.6** IRO's in Bradford are solely focused on reviewing plans for Looked after Children; they do not undertake additional tasks for example chairing child protection conferences or foster care reviews as is the case in some other authorities. This is a policy decision to ensure the team develops a shared expertise in reviewing and means that there are no unnecessary diversions from this task.
- 2.7** The IRO team is part of the Safeguarding and Review Service and it is accountable to the new Assistant Director of Performance and Commissioning, Jenny Cryer.

### **3. Statistical information regarding Looked after Children (LAC) and the IRO Service**

#### **3.1 Looked after Children in Bradford**

#### **3.2 BRADFORD LAC 2015-2016 DATA**

- 3.3** NB figures have been presented giving the year end totals for financial year 1st April 2015-31<sup>st</sup> March 2016 and then figures for 1st April 2016 to 1<sup>st</sup> December 2016 for an updated comparison.

### **3.4 BRAFORD LAC 2015-16 DATA**

<b>AGE AT 31 MARCH 2016</b>			
<b>BOYS</b>		<b>GIRLS</b>	
Under 1:	28	Under 1:	19
1 - 4:	60	1 - 4:	58
5 - 9:	88	5 - 9:	90
10 - 15:	185	10 - 15:	174
16 - 17:	70	16 - 17:	76
18 & over and placed in a community home:	0	18 & over and placed in a community home:	0
<b>TOTAL BOYS:</b>	<b>431</b>	<b>TOTAL GIRLS:</b>	<b>417</b>
<b>TOTAL ALL CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER AT 31 MARCH:</b>	<b>848</b>		

**3.5** There had been a slight reduction (3.4%) in our LAC population from 878 to 848, a reduction of 30 from the previous year 2014/15. There has also been a slight increase in the most prevalent age range 10-15. The number of boys has decreased from 460 to 431 and girls relatively stable from 418 down to 417. Whilst boys still predominate the gap has narrowed significantly over the year.

**3.6** We can report that 19.8% of children who started to be looked after during the year ending 31st March 2016 were under 1 years of age, 19.3% were between 1 - 5 , 20.9% 5-9, 32.7% 10-15 and 7.5% were 16+ age range. This shows that the majority of new children becoming looked over the year are in the 10-15 age bracket.

### **3.7 BRAFORD LAC 01/4/16 to 01/12/16 DATA**

<b>AGE AT 1<sup>st</sup> December 2016</b>			
<b>BOYS</b>		<b>GIRLS</b>	
Under 1:	36	Under 1:	19
1 - 4:	68	1 - 4:	79
5 - 9:	97	5 - 9:	94
10 - 15:	196	10 - 15:	172
16 - 17:	88	16 - 17:	75
18 & over and placed in a community home:	1	18 & over and placed in a community home:	3
<b>TOTAL BOYS:</b>	<b>486</b>	<b>TOTAL GIRLS:</b>	<b>442</b>
<b>TOTAL ALL CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER AT 1<sup>st</sup> December 2016:</b>	<b>928</b>		

**3.8** Since April this year we have seen a 9.4% increase in the number of children looked after going from 848 to 928. We have 55 more boys and 25 more girls in the looked after population. Last year the total number of children looked after went down from 878 in April 2015 to 870 in December 2015.

**3.9** In an internal audit of children entering and exiting the system undertaken in October earlier this year, it was found that there has been a significant decrease in children ceasing to become looked after in comparison to the previous year over the same time period. Between April and September 2016 there is a 43% reduction, where only 107 children ceased to be looked after compared with 188 in 2015.

**3.10** There has been 31% increase in Interim Care Order (ICO) applications for planned episodes of care and an 11% reduction in emergency episodes of care via Emergency Protection Order (EPO) and Police Protection Order (PPO). This is due to increased thresholds to prove and evidence imminent risk. There has been a 16% increase in

voluntary care arrangements with Section 20 accommodations.

**3.11** There has been a 62% reduction in children being placed for adoption and a 26% reduction in Special Guardianship Orders (SGO's) during this same period.

**3.12** There has been a 22%% increase in 0-4 age range for becoming looked after.

<b><u>3.13 ETHNIC ORIGIN OF CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER AT 31 MARCH 2016</u></b>	
White	582
Mixed	134
Asian or Asian British	89
Black or Black British	18
Other ethnic groups	25
<b>TOTAL :</b>	<b>848</b>

**3.14** The dominant ethnicity of our CLA is still white but this reduced from 611 in March 2015 to 582.

<b><u>3.15 ETHNIC ORIGIN OF CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER AT 1<sup>st</sup> December 2016</u></b>	
White	646
Mixed	146
Asian or Asian British	83
Black or Black British	20
Other ethnic groups	13
Information not yet obtained	20
<b>TOTAL :</b>	<b>928</b>

**3.16** There has been a 61% (which represents approximately 30 children) increase in White other, Eastern European, Unknown & Roma Gypsy ethnicity this year for our children looked after population.

<b><u>3.17 LEGAL STATUS AT 31 MARCH 2016</u></b>		
Care Orders:	Interim	113
	Full	572
Voluntary agreements under S.20 (single period of accommodation)		109
Freed for adoption		1
Placement Order		51
On remand, committed for trial, or detained		2
Emergency orders or police protection		0
<b>TOTAL:</b>		<b>848</b>

**3.18** In comparison to 2015 ICO's reduced from 124 to 113 and there was a jump in full care orders status from 529 to 572. There had been some decrease in Section 20 and Placement Orders. Section 20 children went down from 127 to 109. Recently concern has been expressed by the Family Court regarding the inappropriate use of Section 20 by Local Authorities. The IRO service has been involved in a challenge panel looking at Bradford's performance in this respect and will be reviewing all children with this legal status to ensure that it is appropriate. Children on placement orders with plans for adoption decreased from 92 to 51. Over the year 70 adoption orders have been made which were approximately 20 less than the previous year. The reduction in placements orders is in line with the national picture that adoptions have significantly reduced as the final care plan. The preferred permanency plan being encouraged by the courts now is Special Guardianship Order (SGO).

**3.19 LEGAL STATUS AT 1<sup>st</sup> December 2016**

Care Orders:	Interim	147
	Full	611
Voluntary agreements under Section 20 (single period of accommodation)		101
Section 20 - Series of Placements >75 nights per year or multiple providers		12
Placement Order		49
On remand, committed for trial, or detained		1
Emergency orders or police protection		6
TOTAL:		928

3.20 Since April 2016 there has been a 30% increase in ICO and a 6% increase in full care orders status. Children subject to placement order and voluntary S20 accommodation have continued to fall.

**3.21 PLACEMENT AT 31<sup>st</sup> MARCH 2016**

Foster placement with relative or friend:	Inside local authority	167
	Outside local authority	34
Placement with other foster carer:	Inside local authority	331
	Outside local authority	67
Secure unit		2
Homes and hostels		102
Hostels and other supportive residential placements		1



Residential schools	1
Other residential settings	8
Placed for adoption (including placed with former foster carer)	19
Placed with own parents	89
In lodgings, residential employment or living independently	27
Other placement	0
TOTAL :	848

3.22 In house and purchased foster family placements are still the most popular placements increasing from 375 in 2015 to 398. Second behind foster families are connected persons placements with Friends and Families which have gone down from 218 to 201. Bradford MDC will have achieved SGO as the permanency plan for the majority of these 17 carers. Home and hostel placements are stable from 2015 - 2016. Placements with parents have increased slightly from 76 in 2015 to 89 in 2016.

<b><u>3.23 PLACEMENT AT 01<sup>st</sup> December 2016</u></b>		
Foster placement with relative or friend:	Inside local authority	194
	Outside local authority	41
Placement with other foster carer:	Inside local authority	353
	Outside local authority	71
Secure unit		3

Respite Unit	9
Residential Unit	89
Residential schools	8
Placed for adoption (including placed with former foster carer)	20
Placed with own parents	107
In lodgings, residential employment or living independently	28
Other placement	5
TOTAL :	928

3.24 Since April we have seen the foster placement further increase from 398 to 424. Friends and Family placements have gone up from 201 to 235. We have seen a 20% increase in placement with parents since April. Bradford's case proceedings key worker informs that volumes of proceedings have increased so we will also see a proportionate rise in PWP. Bradford has recently had several large sibling groups subject to PWP. There has been a steady rise in section 38.6 (assessment at home) orders which even though are not PWP our ICS system does not differentiate and record them as such.

<b><u>3.25 CATEGORY OF NEED FOR CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER AT 31 MARCH 2016</u></b>	
Abuse or neglect	733
Disability	15
Parental illness or disability	6
Family in acute stress	36
Family dysfunction	45

Socially unacceptable behaviour	3
Low income	0
Absent parenting	10
TOTAL :	848

**3.26 CATEGORY OF NEED FOR CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER AT 01 December 2016**

Abuse or neglect	811
Disability	14
Parental illness or disability	6
Family in acute stress	29
Family dysfunction	48
Socially unacceptable behaviour	3
	1
Absent parenting	16
TOTAL :	928

**3.27** Abuse and Neglect is still the main category of need and has remained constant (87%of the LAC population).

**3.28 CARE STARTED / CEASED AT 31 MARCH 2016**

Total Number of Children who have Started to be Looked After	302
Total Number of Children who have Ceased Care	331

### **3.29 CARE STARTED / CEASED AT 1<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER 2016**

Total Number of Children who have Started to be Looked After	249
Total Number of Children who have Ceased Care	168

**3.30** There was a slight increase of 8 new children becoming looked after, from 294 in 2015 to 302 in 2016. It once again evidenced consistency in our thresholds and care planning. The total number who ceased to be looked after over the year increased from 301 in 2015 to 331 in 2016, (10% increase). This explains the reduction in the overall LAC population on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016 were the total was 848.

Since then we have a completely different picture. There is a big gap of 81 children between the number of new children becoming looked after and the total number who have ceased. This is reflected in the increase in our CLA population in that there is consistency of children coming into the care system but a real decrease in the speed they are leaving.

**3.31** The profile in terms of children leaving care as at 31/03/2016. There were 331 children who left care in the year. Of these:-

Percentage	Outcome
20.2%	Adopted
61.3%	Returned to live with parents/relatives
0.6%	Death
0.3%	Care taken over by other LA
0.3%	Res Order
8.1%	SGO to former foster carer
3.6%	SGO not to former foster carer
1.1%	Transferred to care of adult services
2.8%	Sentenced to custody
1.7%	other

**3.32** The above table shows the percentage breakdown of the outcomes of the children who ceased to be looked after during year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016. 61.3% of the children returning home to parents or family show a continued commitment to keeping children within their family.

**3.33 The profile in terms of children leaving care as at 01/12/2016. There were 168 children who left care in the year. Of these:-**

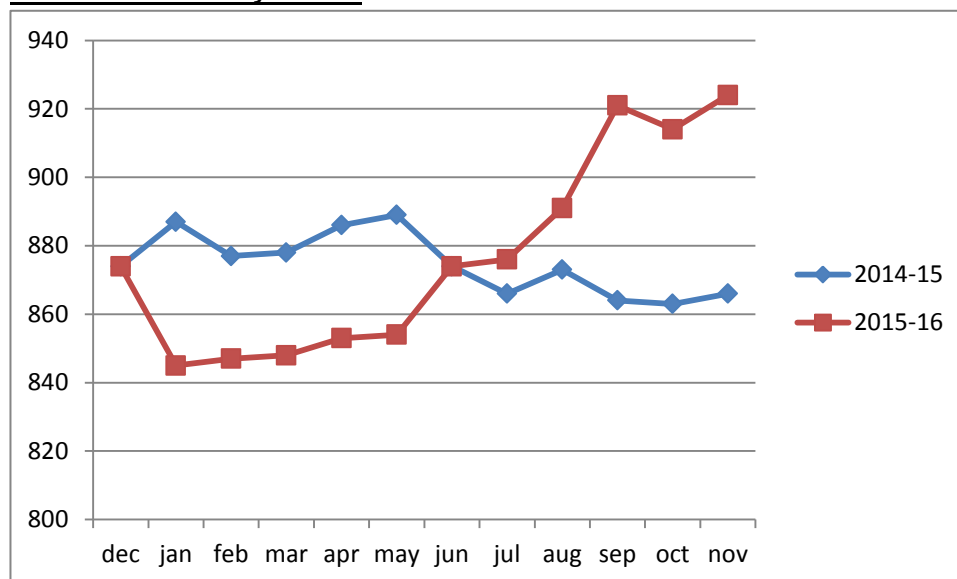
<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Number YP</b>	<b>%</b>
Accommodation ceased - care taken over by another authority	2	1
Adoption, application unopposed	17	10
Adoption, consent dispensed with	5	3
Ceased for any other reason	10	6
Independent living with formal support	3	2
Planned return home to parents or other person with PR	49	29
Reached age of 18,19 or 21	35	21
Residence Order / Child Arrangements Order	1	1
Returned to live with parent or relative - with no PR	4	2
Sentenced to custody	4	2
Special Guardianship Order not to former foster carers	1	1
Special Guardianship Order to former foster carers	23	14
Supervision Order	10	6
Transferred to care of adult services	1	1
Unplanned return home to parents or other person with PR	3	2

**3.34** Planned return home is still the highest outcome for children leaving care however the percentage has fallen since April 2016. 21% of the 168 turned 18. There has been a slight increase in the percentage of SGO's from 12% on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016 to 15% since then.

### 3.35 CLA Totals by Month

As At Date	LAC Total	IRO Caseload 78-80	As At Date	LAC Total	IRO caseload 75-82
30-Nov-15	866	77	30-Nov-16	924	82
31-Oct-15	863	77	31-Oct-16	914	81
30-Sep-15	864	77	30-Sep-16	921	82
31-Aug-15	873	77	31-Aug-16	891	79
31-Jul-15	866	77	31-Jul-16	876	78
30-Jun-15	874	78	30-Jun-16	874	75
31-May-15	889	79	31-May-16	854	76
30-Apr-15	886	79	30-Apr-16	853	76
31-Mar-15	878	78	31-Mar-16	848	75
28-Feb-15	877	78	28-Feb-16	847	75
31-Jan-15	887	79	31-Jan-16	845	75
31-Dec-14	874	78	31-Dec-15	874	78
30-Nov-14	896	80	30-Nov-15	866	76

### 3.36 CLA Totals by Month



- 3.37** The above table and line graph show a clear difference in the peaks and troughs of total CLA population over the 2 periods. In December 2014 & December 2015 we had the same number of CLA, with numbers rising at the beginning of 2015 and numbers falling in early 2016. The number of looked after were again the same in Jun 2015/Jun 16. In the period since the number of looked after children has risen from 848 to 924.
- 3.38** There was also a 5% increase in new children becoming looked after from April 2016 to September 2016 in comparison to the same period in 2015. More significantly there has been a 43% reduction in children ceasing to become looked after over the same period. We have also seen an increase in Interim Care Order (ICO) applications since April this year and this is in line with the national picture. The Family court forecasts a potential 20% increase in proceedings applications over the next 3 years. Factors such as welfare reform, social deprivation, new communities and less adoptions have all been identified as a cause of this trend.
- 3.39** In 2014-2015 the case load range for IRO's was 78-80 per F/T IRO over the year and from 2015-2016 75-82. The recent increase in CLA population has had an impact on IRO case loads which in turn effects their ability to meet all the requirements of the role.

#### **4 Timeliness of LAC Reviews**

- 4.1 Performance at 12<sup>th</sup> December 2016 was 98%.**
- 4.2** There were 2427 LAC Review meetings held in 2015-16 in respect of 1044 children. 98% of these LAC Review meetings were held within timescales.
- 4.3** The IRO service is proud to report improved performance of **98% of LAC Review meetings** being held within statutory timescales compared to an overall 97% in 2014-15. Our aspirational target was increased from 95% to 98% earlier this year and IRO's have managed to achieve this alongside a significant increase in the CLA population and several staff changes. IRO's have shown resolve and good teamwork in covering reviews for one another.

4.4 The timeliness of LAC reviews is a key measure for the effectiveness of the IRO service and is an indicator that is scrutinised in any Ofsted inspection. IRO's have worked hard to ensure that meetings are not delayed and have raised appropriate challenge when this is threatened.

**5. Participation & Voice of the Child in Reviews (LAC age 4+) 2015 - 2016**

Participation code	Total
PN1 Child attended & spoke for self	820
PN2 Child attended - advocate spoke	18
PN3 Child attended - gave views non verbally	9
PN4 Child attended without contributing	12
PN5 Child not attended, advocate briefed with views	370
PN6 Child not attended, views sent	608
PN7 Child not attended & did not send views	109
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1946</b>

<b>Participation Rate (PN1 to PN6)</b>	<b>94.3%</b>
--	--------------

5.1 We are very pleased to report an increase in the aggregate participation performance for our LAC population, from 89.6 % in 2014 -15 to **94.3%**. On the 12<sup>th</sup> December 2016 participation has continued to be very good at 93%.

5.2 There has been a significant decrease in PN7 code, (no participation) from 196 to 109. We have addressed this area and work was undertaken at the IRO Development Day in Oct 2015 and further in a recent team meeting specifically looking at the PN codes. There was agreement between IRO's and a clear aim to continue to drive high levels of child participation and that any further PN7 entries need to be flagged up so lessons can be learnt for subsequent reviews. Not all children wish to attend their review meetings but their views should be communicated to the reviews and taken into consideration.



- 5.3 PN1 child attended and spoke for themselves is still the leading category. We have had a slight drop from 866 in 2015 to 820 in 2016. The percentage of children attending their reviews will still be the same given the reduction in the total number of looked after children at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016.
- 5.4 We have an increase in PN6 from 447 to 608. This is where the child, young person did not attend in person but sent there views via another person or did complete the viewpoint questionnaire.
- 5.5 There has been some positive feedback from Bradfords looked after children to report. Children thanked IRO Dave Robinson for being there IRO as he now leaves the role. IRO Julie Harwood received a golden star ticket from a young girl for offering reassurance and engaging in a guess the password game. Two Unaccompanied Asylum seeking siblings prepared a surprise lunch for professionals to enjoy after the review as appreciation and thanks for their involvement.
- 5.6 We have also seen some innovation in how children participate. A foster carer had prepared a short video with the child to play at their recent review meeting.
- 5.7 A child's feedback following a recent observed review was that they did indeed know who their IRO is and further added, "he is always listening and talking notes, really nice and seems to know what he's doing. " The child felt able to say what they wanted at the meeting and the IRO helped other people to also listen. There was nothing they would want to change about their meeting.
- 5.8 We had some really good positive feedback from two siblings regarding their time in care and their relationship with the foster cares which was shared at our recent Development Day in November 2016. The girls said in a letter, "Our foster carers gave us everything we asked for and treated us just like their own daughters. We never felt shy to ask for anything as it felt like we were living in our own house. I believe that if we were not put in care we would not have the stable life we have now. They have always been there to comfort us in difficult times. We didn't feel left out and always felt part of the family. "

## **6 Viewpoint consultation and Children's Feedback**

**6.1** From 17<sup>th</sup> September to 31<sup>th</sup> September 2016 the IRO's completed 464 Quality Assurance audits which included recording of viewpoint performance. The IRO's reported that 106 viewpoint questionnaires were completed and on 234 occasions the child or young person declined to use viewpoint or it was not required due to the child's age or a complex health condition. If we subtract these 234 from the total number of audits we get view point performance of 106 / 230 audits = 46 % for the period 17<sup>th</sup> September 2015 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2016. The actual reporting of viewpoint in IRO QA didn't start until around mid-December 2015 so we do anticipate the performance to improve with more audits this year.

### **6.2 Completed View point Questionnaires**

<b>Questionnaire Age range</b>	<b>Questionnaires Completed 2014-15</b>	<b>Questionnaires Completed 2015-16</b>	<b>01.04.16-30.11.16</b>
LAC Review 4 to 6	75	77	33
LAC Review 7 to 9	141	133	51
LAC Review 10 to15	330	214	153
LAC Review 16 plus	49	36	32
<b>Total</b>	<b>595</b>	<b>460</b>	<b>270</b>

**6.3** We have seen a 20% reduction in the number of questionnaires completed this year. This has most likely been caused by the cessation of reminder letters and recently foster carers, children/young people reporting problems with access to the web site when attempting to complete questionnaires. Viewpoint desk supports have been made aware.

**6.4** The Viewpoint User group still meet every 3 months to address the reduction in completed questionnaires and drive better completion rates. Viewpoint has been introduced into the new foster carers' induction training. There is a Viewpoint link in the YP App. Viewpoint data on staying safe, being healthy etc. is now in Bradford's efficiency reports. Team managers have also been encouraged to add Viewpoint checks within their supervision with social workers.

- 6.5 IRO's use the completed online Viewpoint questionnaires to ascertain the views and feelings of the child / young person with regards to their care planning and reviews.
- 6.6 Over the year when asked the question whether they felt safe in placement our 4 - 6 age range children reported that 88% of the time they do feel safe and the other 12% reported sometimes. We had a similar response from our 10- 15 age range where again 88% reported feeling safe, 6% saying quite often, 4% not often and 2% of the questionnaires completed reported they did not feel safe. The IRO will address this before and during the review to see if there is any action to ensure the child feel safe.
- 6.7 75% of the completed questionnaires for our 10 - 15 age range report that they are aware of their right to make a complaint if they are unhappy about something. 14% requested to be informed in their review of who they can speak to. IRO's will ensure that any child / young person who is unsure of their right to complain is empowered with this information and access to Bradford's complaints procedure. A link to the complaints service is also in our new young people's smart phone app called YP app.
- 6.8 Other areas covered in our Viewpoint questionnaire include questions on entitlements, financial assistance, etc. This is more relevant for our 16+young people, however they generally choose to attend their meetings and give direct verbal feedback as opposed to completing their Viewpoint.
- 6.9 IRO's ensure that they present the views and wishes of the child / young person as a stand alone item in all their review minutes. See the following example of the child's views being presented in recent review minutes.
- 6.10 Young Persons Views:**
- “YP did not wish to fill in Viewpoint. I visited YP and her sister. YP is well and explained she is enjoying her 2 year course at College which she started this year. She does not want her LAC review to be at College as she does not wish for others to see she is looked after. YP confirmed she has everything she needs for college including a lap top. I confirmed to her that we would hold her review at A and she is fine with this. She is happy with her placement and there was nothing she wished to add. She is looking forward to going on holiday abroad in the summer. “

**6.11** This is a very detailed presentation of the child's wishes, feelings and participation in her review process.

**6.12** All our minutes have additional information at the end on how to contact the IRO, an independent advocacy service and our complaints unit.

## 7 IRO Quality Assurance and Making a Difference

- 7.1 We are pleased to report that our (in house developed) IRO Quality Assurance process has been live in our LCS Liquid Logic database since 17<sup>th</sup> September 2015.
- 7.2 We now have a QA system integrated into our LCS database where IRO's can address and report on Challenge, Good Social Work practice and undertake a Quality Assurance Audit overview in relation to the organisation, conduct and recording of reviews.
- 7.3 Each of the 464 QA audits completed from 17<sup>th</sup> September 2015 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2016 looked at the following 5 category areas in the review process; Pre Meeting Reports, Education, Care plan, Participation and Health.
- 7.4 IRO's report that over 90% of the time we received good pre meeting reports for our reviews. 296 of the 400 (74%) personal education plans completed were audited as being up to date and of a good standard. That over 90% of the care/pathway plans audited was of good quality. 85% of the audits found evidence of the voice of the child in the assessment, plan and review process. On 86% of the cases audited, health assessments were undertaken on time.
- 7.5 These audits report on quantitative and qualitative service delivery factors.
- 7.6 The feedback from Team Managers and Service Managers so far has been very positive. They have found the QA audits very useful, not just in raising areas for improvement but also identifying good individual social work which then can be used to drive better practice across the rest of the team. Team managers have welcomed IRO's to be even more meticulous in their scrutiny and auditing.
- 7.7 IRO managers from regional's authorities have been very impressed with Bradford's QA system. Some have already been over to have a look and have implemented it into their own ICS database. This has also been the catalyst for better working collaboration between us. We have already shared further working systems and ideas.

## 8. Analysis of QA Forms completed between 17<sup>th</sup> September and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016

### 8.1 QA's Completed

	Challenges	Good Practice	Audits
Sept 2015- Nov 2015	37	16	94
Dec 2015	9	3	36
Jan 2015- Mar 2016	21	19	186
April 2016- Sep 2016	33	13	148
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>464</b>

- 8.2 Over the period 17<sup>th</sup> September 2015 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2016 our IRO's issued 100 separate challenges, 51 recognitions of Good SW practice and 464 QA case file audits.
- 8.3 The challenges alone are over double the number of alerts issued under the old system in 2014-2015. We now have a whole new data set on how our IRO's make a difference to the review process.

#### **8.4 Challenges by Outcome 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov 2015 - 30<sup>th</sup> September 2016**

QA Not Resolved - NFA	6
QA Resolved - NFA	90
Dispute Resolution Process	2
No outcome - QA cancelled	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

- 8.5 90% of the challenges were resolved without the need to escalate any further. Two challenges did escalate to Formal Dispute Resolution Process involving a meeting with the Service Manager for one and a formal sit down with the Assistant Director for the other.

#### **8.6 Challenges by Category**

<b>Action from the last review - Outstanding tasks / Non completion of decisions</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>Assessments - needs updating</b>	<b>1</b>
Assessments - No up to date / poor quality	7
<b>Care Plan - Drift/ Delay in the implementation</b>	<b>9</b>
Care Plan - Care Plan not signed off by Team Manager	1
Care Plan - Dispute in Care Plan	9
Care Plan - No Care Plan	5
Care Plan - No up to date/poor quality Care Plan/Pathway plan	9
Care Plan - None production of a Care Plan or a Pathway Plan that is not supported by a thorough needs assessment	4
Care Plan - Failure to implement significant element of the plan.	4
Case Management - Failure to notify the IRO of potential significant changes to the child's care plan	2
<b>Case management - Concern around professional practice</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Case Management - Inadequate or poor preparation for review</b>	<b>18</b>
Case management - No allocated SW	4
Case management - SW visits not undertaken	1
Case Management - No evidence of children being seen alone	1
<b>Drift &amp; Delay - Delay in progressing a Child's Permanence Plan (second review onwards)</b>	<b>8</b>
Drift & Delay - Failure to meet timescales	8
<b>Education - Inadequate Education provision</b>	<b>7</b>

Education - No up to date/poor quality PEP	5
Education - non completion of PEP	2
<b>Family Links</b> - poor communication	1
Family Links - Unsuitable / Inadequate contact arrangements	1
<b>Health</b> - Dental Assessment over due	2
Health - Health Assessment over due	4
Health - Inadequate health provision	5
Health - No health action plan in place	4
<b>Legal</b> - Delays in application for discharge of appropriate order	2
<b>Participation</b> - Insufficient evidence of the child's voice	4
Participation - Parents not included	4
<b>Placed with Parents</b> - PWP not signed by GSM	1
<b>Placement</b> - Concerns around the suitability of the placement to meet the child's needs	9
Placement - Delays in family finding or placement search	1
Placement - Placement does not meet child's needs	3
Placement - No up to date or poor quality sharing of information	1
Placement - No up to date / poor quality placement plan	1
Placement - Poor placement stability	1
Placement - Poor standard of care & choice of placement	2
<b>Pre-meeting Report - No PMR</b>	<b>27</b>
Pre-meeting Report - Poor Quality PRM	7
Pre-meeting Report - Pre-meeting Report not signed off by Team Manager	6
<b>Safeguarding</b> - Safeguarding concerns	7
Safeguarding - lack of information sharing	1
Safeguarding - Absence of Vulnerability and Risk Management Plan	1
Safeguarding - Breach of safe guarding plans & advice	1
Safeguarding - Missing protocol not adhered to	2
Services - Delay in making referral to other services & professionals	5
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>246</b>

**8.7** IRO's issued 100 challenges from 17<sup>th</sup> September to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2016. This works out to approximately 4% of the total number of children (estimated 2430 children) reviewed from 17<sup>th</sup> September 2015 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2016. These 100 challenges raised 246 separate concerns in the various categories listed above.

**8.8** The consistent top 3 categories challenged over the period are;

- 1) Actions from last review outstanding = 33
- 2) No pre meeting report presented before the review meeting = 27
- 3) Inadequate or poor preparation for the review = 18

## 8.9 Audits by Outcome 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov 2015 - 30<sup>th</sup> September 2016

8.10 Following consultation with the Assistant Director we began to grade all the audits with an outcome rating from 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov 2015.

Overall audit - Outstanding	86
Overall audit - Good	167
Overall audit - Adequate	72
Overall audit - Needs improvement	54
Overall audit - Challenge	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>383</b>

8.11 A new functionality of grading the audits was introduced on 23.11.2015. 383 of the audits completed have been given an outcome grade by the IRO's.

8.12 22 % of the cases audited were outstanding (86 / 383), 62% were either good or adequate and 14% were Needs Improvements with a clear action plan identified within the audit.

8.13 From mid January 2016 we have taken out adequate from the outcome grading so they now read as:

- ***Outstanding***
- ***Good***
- ***Needs Improvement***
- ***Challenge***

8.14 This is in line with National Ofsted Grading and two Needs Improvement outcomes in a row will trigger a mandatory challenge.

8.15 As a result we have seen a slight increase in the number of Needs Improvement outcomes. Team Managers have found the actions required on these audits very useful. It provides a formal record of the IRO's assessment of the quality of the social work and recommendations to improve practice and service delivery.

## 9. The Bradford Young People's App

9.1 The Bradford Young People's smart phone App was launched jointly with the Bradford Pledge for Children In care on 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2015. The App was developed with input from our Children in Care Council who not only held a competition for the name but also played a vital role in the development and review stages.

9.2 The App has been developed in partnership with IT, I.R.O's, Health, LAC, Leaving Care, Participation (Bradford's Children in Care Council) and other Children/Young people. The Children in Care Council have had oversight of the App from inception to launch.



- 9.3 Children and Young People can use the App to find a place of safety in the city centre if they feel threatened, uneasy, afraid or worried.

Future development of the app will include:-

- Health; there will be a facility for storing health information (an electronic health passport)
- Participation; Direct links including the Children In Care Council's new Face book, Twitter, Webpage, contact details, events and meeting times.
- A personal space to store important personal information.
- A link to information around employment, training and opportunities around the district.
- At the most recent audit, there are close to 150 accounts set up using the app.

## **10. Training & Development**

- 10.1 The IRO Annual Conference was hosted by Sheffield Local Authority on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2016. Bradford IRO's were well presented and it was a great networking event which gave opportunity to meet colleagues working in other regional authorities. IRO's enjoyed sharing experiences and ideas. As part of the programme guest speaker and principal social worker Isobel Trowler shared her vision for the future of social work practice and her feelings on how to achieve best value from IRO's.
- 10.2 Over the year we have seen an improved commitment and attendance to the regional practitioners meetings. In October 2015 we hosted the meeting at our Bradford offices. As IRO manager I am observing an increased interest and willingness from my team to network and work closer with our regional partners. This is line with the national group's overview that we are a strong region.
- 10.3 The IRO team Development Day was on 09<sup>th</sup> November 2016. This was a joint event with our child protection team looking at the Signs of Safety framework and the impact this will have on our service. IRO's will also be attending the practice lead training session on signs of safety to assist in driving the framework through the organisation.
- 10.4 On the 21<sup>st</sup> January 2016 we held a team better practice workshop looking at QA update and how we can improve our outcomes process.

## **11. IRO Service Work plan 2016-17**

- 11.1 The IRO service will support the review of all Sec 20 children as prompted by the Family Court to ensure that all Looked After children have the appropriate legal status.
- 11.2. The whole service has re-located to Margaret McMillan Tower and now reports to Assistant Director for Performance, Standards and Commissioning, Jenny Cryer. This has not changed the good working partnership with Children's Services as the IRO manager still attends the Strategic Leadership

fortnightly meetings and Deputy Directors monthly performance clinics. The Deputy Director attended the IRO team meeting to introduce himself to the IRO's and hear their views on service delivery.

- 11.3 The IRO manager will produce 6 and 12 monthly aggregate QA reports presenting the IRO's overview of the service to the Strategic Leadership Group. This will include strengths and areas to improve as evidenced in the QA section of this report.
- 11.4 IRO Service will conduct further workshops across children's services to promote the understanding of the QA process as a tool for raising standards. The first of these has been arranged for early February 2017. IRO's have already started attending the induction workshops for new social workers introducing themselves and our role. IRO's also welcome newly qualified social workers to visit and have an informal chat about where we fit into the journey of the child.
- 11.5 Alongside other service areas the IRO team will also prepare for the anticipated Joint Targeted Area Inspection. This will include the IRO manager's attendance at briefing events. An on-going commitment to delivering on the Journey to Excellence Agenda. IRO's will maintain good performance in timeliness of reviews and participation of children in their reviews.
- 11.6 The service will be kept informed and aware of the National Agenda on the role of the IRO's and Practice to Innovate opportunities for Ofsted rated "Good," authorities. It is anticipated that the IRO handbook is going to be upgraded in line with new requirements of the IRO role. The team is also committed to getting best value and welcomes being involved in improving outcomes for children.
- 11.7 Signs of Safety framework is now introduced as the social work practice model across Children's Services. IRO's will participate fully in the training in the new discipline and will introduce innovations in how they deliver Looked after Child Reviews.
- 11.8 The IRO service will continue to provide oversight and challenge around children's care plans providing additional vigilance where there are issues of children going missing.
- 11.9 The IRO manager will continue to be involved with the further development of the Bradford Young People's App to ensure that this innovative development can provide accessible, up to date information for Bradford's looked after young people.

**Imran Cheema**

**IRO Team manager 15.12.2016**

## Report of the Deputy Director (Children's Social Care) to the meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel to be held on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2017

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### Subject:

Independent Monitoring and Quality Assurance of Children's Homes, Regulation 44.

### Summary statement:

The report aims to inform of the process of Independent Monitoring of Children's Homes (**Regulation 44 Independent person: visits and reports**) and recognise the role of Elected Member in visits to Residential Children's Homes.

---

Jim Hopkinson  
Deputy Director  
(Children's Social Care)

**Portfolio:**

**Children's Services**

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**Overview & Scrutiny Area:**

**Children's Services**



## 1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 The report aims to inform of the process of Independent Monitoring of Children's Homes (**Regulation 44 Independent person: visits and reports**) and recognise the role and impact of Elected Member in visits to Residential Homes.

## 2. BACKGROUND

The report highlights change and the impact following the introduction of Children's Homes (England) Regulation 2015 including the Quality Standards Guide and the inspection framework for Ofsted, which came into force on the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015.

## 3. REPORT ISSUES

- 3.1 Statutory requirements are set out for each Registered Person to ensure that an Independent Person visits the children's home at least once a month. The Children's Homes Regulations (CHR) 2015 set specific requirements for the independent monitoring and quality assurance of children's homes which includes;

- To interview in private; the children, their parents, relatives and persons working at the home as the independent person requires;
- Inspect the premises of the home;
- Inspect the home's records (except for a child's case records, unless the child and the child's placing authority consent) as the independent person requires.

- 3.2 Following each Regulation 44 monitoring visit the Independent Person must produce a report about a visit ("the Independent Person's Report") which sets out, in particular, the independent person's opinion as to whether

- Children are effectively safeguarded
- The conduct of the home promotes children's wellbeing

The independent person must provide a copy of the independent person's report to;

- **Registered Person** - regulations are drafted to make the registered person "accountable" for the management of the home
- **Service Manager** – there are two Service Managers responsible for managing of the residential and respite provisions (Liz Perry – Residential Children's Homes and Gareth Flemyng – Disability & Respite Provisions)
- **Responsible Individual** – the Group Service Manager for Resources takes responsibility for supervising the homes on behalf of the organisation
- **Ofsted**

- 3.3 Reports demonstrate a robust approach to independent monitoring which provides an overview of the running of the home. The report captures areas of good practice which demonstrates compliance with Children's Homes Regulations and Guide to Quality Standards.

The Independent Persons report also highlights areas which require attention by the Registered Person to develop / improve the service delivered. Requirements set identify the action to be taken to demonstrate compliance with Children's Homes Regulations and Guide to Quality Standards, within individual homes.



The independent person's report may recommend actions that the Registered Person may take in relation to the home and timescales within which the registered person must consider whether or not to take those actions. Internal departmental processes are in place for the monitoring of Regulation 44 reports, to ensure action planning is in place. This is a joint process involving undertaken by Registered Person, Service Manager and Responsible Individual to ensure requirements are met.

### 3.4 Ofsted Inspection Judgements

3.5 The Independent persons report aims to support development of service to improve outcomes, whilst informing Ofsted of the progress achieved within the homes. The Independent Persons report contributes to the preparation for the unannounced regulatory inspection by Ofsted which are conducted twice a year.

There are eleven homes in Bradford offering a range of service provision including; emergency, short / medium and long term residential care as well as specialist provisions for children with complex health and disabilities.

All homes have completed their full inspections within the 2016 – 2017 inspection year. Inspection outcomes are positive with one home being judged as Outstanding, eight homes being judged as Good and two homes being judged to Require Improvement. The full inspection outcomes have consistently judged the majority of homes to be good or outstanding despite a change on the CHR and Inspection Framework.

2014 – 2015	2015 – 2016	2016 – 2017
<b>Inadequate = 0%</b> <b>RI = 0%</b> <b>Good = 73%</b> <b>Outstanding = 27%</b>	<b>Inadequate = 0</b> <b>Requires Improvement=9%</b> <b>Good = 82%</b> <b>Outstanding = 9%</b>	<b>Inadequate = 0%</b> <b>RI = 18%</b> <b>Good = 73%</b> <b>Outstanding = 9%</b>

### 3.6 The role of Elected Members within Regulation 44

3.7 Legislation set out statutory requirements for the roles of responsibilities for the Director of Children's Services and the Lead Member for Looked after Children covering both social care and education. The Leader Members and Corporate Parent have a particular responsibility for vulnerable children who are looked after. Internal processes are in place, which invite Corporate Parents to participate in Regulation 44 visits to children's home. Information is captured to reflect participation.

3.8 Corporate Parenting Councillors must demonstrate that they are interested in and listen to their views and wishes of Looked After Children and Care Leavers. It is important for Corporate Parent to establish good working relationships with staff within the homes and feel confident that the staff will provide an honest view of the service recognising the strengths of the service / home / staff team whilst being confident enough to recognise the areas of development to improve the home / service.

3.9 Corporate Parents have a responsibility to form a judgement of the "Quality of Care" delivered to children based on a range of evidence sources including the views of children in the home. For members undertaking visits to children's homes



(Independent Monitoring Regulation 44 Visits) the role is more extensive, with members being required to be informed of the following:

- Are the right structures and systems in place in order for BMDC to be an effective Corporate Parent and are all the right partners involved?
- Current (and proposed) government expectations regarding the service to looked after children and care leavers
- Know how well BMDC is doing in comparison with other councils and our own past performance
- Know if there sound mechanisms within BMDC for hearing and responding to the views of:
  - looked after children and care leavers
  - parents / carers
- Have a good picture of which needs we are meeting and which we are failing to meet?
- Know if there is an action plan across the council and involving partner agencies the service and to ensure it responds to changing needs?
- Know what our looked after children and care leavers think about the service we are providing.

Processes are in place which supports participation in the monitoring of the children’s homes in line with Regulation 44 and statutory requirements. Overview of participation for the last three year period reflects a picture, which demonstrates there has been some participation in the review of the quality of care by Corporate Parents.

2014 – 2015	2015 – 2016	2016 – 2017
6 visits completed by Corporate Parents	13 visits completed by Corporate Parents	5 visits completed by Corporate Parents  4 visits scheduled January – March 2017

The patterns of participation are seen to be changeable and consideration should be given as to how the visits to the home are completed, to ensure the visits are meaningful and enable Corporate Parents to best exercise their role and fulfil their responsibilities effectively.

#### 4. OPTIONS

None.

#### 5. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

None.

#### 6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 That the Members of the Corporate Parenting Panel agree to participate in three announced monitoring visits of residential and respite homes per year.



## **7. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

None.

## **8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS**

None.

## **9. APPENDICES**

### Appendix 1

- Overview of Inspection outcomes for last three years
- Overview of Corporate Parent participation in Regulation 44 Monitoring of Children's Homes over last three years



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**APPENDIX 1 - Inspection of Children's Homes April 2016 – March 2017**

	<b>The Overall Experiences and Progress of Children and Young People living in the home Full Inspection Judgement Apr 14–Mar 15</b>	<b>The Overall Experiences and Progress of Children and Young People living in the home Full Inspection Judgement Apr 15–Mar 16</b>	<b>The Overall Experiences and Progress of Children and Young People living in the home Full Inspection Judgement Apr 16–Mar 17</b>
<b>Clockhouse</b>	<b>Outstanding</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Good</b>
<b>First Avenue</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Requires Improvement</b>
<b>Hollies</b>	<b>Outstanding</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Good</b>
<b>Meadowlea</b>	<b>Outstanding</b>	<b>Outstanding</b>	<b>Outstanding</b>
<b>Newholme</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Good</b>
<b>Owlthorpe</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Requires Improvement</b>
<b>Rowan House</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Good</b>
<b>Valley View House / BEST</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Good</b>
<b>Sky View House</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Good</b>
<b>Wedgewood</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Good</b>
<b>Willows</b>	<b>Good (ACReS)</b>	<b>Requires Improvement</b>	<b>Good</b>
<b>Overall findings 15 - 16</b>	<b>Inadequate = 0% RI = 0% Good = 73% Outstanding = 27%</b>	<b>Inadequate = 0 Requires Improvement=9% Good = 82% Outstanding = 9%</b>	<b>Inadequate = 0% RI = 18% Good = 73% Outstanding = 9%</b>

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## Report of the Deputy Director (Children's Social Care) to the meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel to be held on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2017

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### Subject:

This reports sets out the arrangements that are in place and which continue to develop, to safeguard children from Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and Missing children being placed in care in Bradford from outside of the district and any emerging issues.

### Summary statement:

The report will provide information about the appointment of a Missing Coordinator within Children Social Care and provide an update on the roles of both the Missing Coordinators and the multi-agency work undertaken to reduce missing episodes within the district. This includes children being placed in care in Bradford from outside of the district and any emerging issues.

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Jim Hopkinson  
Deputy Director  
(Children's Social Care)

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### Portfolio:

**Children's Services**

### Overview & Scrutiny Area:

**Children's Services**

## **1. SUMMARY**

- 1.1. The report will provide information about the appointment of a Missing Coordinator within Children Social Care who works alongside the police Missing Coordinator, and provide an update on the roles of both the Missing Coordinators and the multi-agency work undertaken to reduce missing episodes within the district. This includes children being placed in care in Bradford from outside of the district and any emerging issues.

## **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation continues to be a national priority for central government. The government departments leading this work are the Home Office and the Department for Education. Please refer to previous reports that have been tabled regarding background information in relation to CSE nationally and in relation to the local context.

## **3. REPORT ISSUES**

### **3.1 The CSE HUB and Missing.**

The Bradford District multi-agency co-located CSE Hub was established in early 2012.

Bradford CSE team is located within the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) , and is a multi agency team of police officers, Children Social Care, Health, Education and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sector voluntary organisations, these agencies are co-located within Sir Henry Mitchell House ( SHMH ). Additionally there are services which work with the Hub but are not Co-located.

Located within the Hub are a Missing Coordinator ( CSE) and Police Missing Coordinator

#### **Current work undertaken:**

For children who are reported missing a weekly report is provided for senior managers and the Director of Children's services to inform on all of the missing episodes of children who are looked after within the week, this includes a review of the missing episodes, analysis of each child / young person's situation and what actions have been put in place to minimise the risks.

Information in relation to processes regarding missing including what is expected of social workers and managers when one of the young people go missing, to ensure each team are clear what the role of the allocated worker and case holder is in these circumstances..

Each missing episode is flagged to the missing coordinator who has the responsibility to follow up risk management plans with the allocated worker (if the child or young person hits persistent criteria) and liaises with the police missing coordinator to ensure that a reporting strategy is in place.

The missing coordinators meet with senior managers to discuss the children and young people who are concerning in relation to missing. This is a weekly meeting. An escalated procedure is in place for situations that need to be brought to the attention of senior managers in both Children's Social Care and the Police regarding any high risk children

The coordinators attend the daily CSE meetings to share appropriate information, due to the close link between missing and CSE.

Information is shared with the duty and referral team so that consultation can take place to put a plan in place for persistent Mispers who are not open cases,

Each child or young person who goes missing receives a return to home interview.

With regards to children who are placed in Bradford from other local authorities, the placing Local authority has a statutory duty to inform the authority where the child is to be placed under:

"Children's Home and Looked After Children (Miscellaneous Amendments) (England) Regulations 2013 – local authorities are required to consult and share information before placing children in distant placements and the Director of Children's Services (DCS) must approve of these placements." Care Planning Regulations" However, the placing LA do not always inform Bradford that a Child at risk of missing and CSE has been placed in their area. This is often established when they child has gone missing.

Should Bradford become aware of child who has been placed without notification into the area Bradford will raise the issue directly with the placing Local Authority. If Bradford has been informed that a child has been placed in their area that is at risk of missing and/or CSE then the information is passed to the CSE hub and the missing co-ordinator.

A CSE / updated CSE risk assessments and Risk Management plans are requested from the placing local authority. The children are subsequently discussed in the multi-agency morning briefing to ensure appropriate sharing of information to other agencies.

Both CSC and the Police will ensure that CSE / Missing flags are placed on systems to trigger alerts.

Cases are not open to Children Social Care, as the responsibility for children being placed if they are looked after by another authority is the placing authority. Should a child be subject to a Child protection or Child in Need plan then the case would be transferred to Bradford under excising procedures.

Further work is being undertaken across the Yorkshire regional as there is a recognition that local authorities need to improve alerts to authorities when there are Children at Risk of CSE /Missing .

**4. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC PRIORITIES**

None.

**5. RECOMMENDATIONS**

Members of the Corporate parenting panel are requested to consider the report.

**6. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

None.

**7. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS**

None.

**8. APPENDICES**

None

## Corporate Parenting Panel – 2016/17

Conservative	Labour	Lib Dem
Cllr Dale Smith	Cllr Carol Thirkill (Chair)	Cllr Nicola Pollard
	Cllr Sinead Engel (Dep Chair)	
	Cllr Angela Tait	
Alternates	Alternates	Alternates
Cllr Mike Pollard	Cllr Sarfraz Nazir	Cllr Rachel Sunderland
	Cllr Fozia Shaheen	
	Cllr Mohammed Shafiq	

Non-voting Co-opted Members	
Inspector Kevin Taylor	West Yorkshire Police, Partnerships
Yasmin Umarji	Senior Primary Partnership Manager, Education
Ali Jan Haider	Director of Strategy, Bradford District Clinical Commissioning Gp
The Chair of the Children in Care Council	

Corporate Parenting Panel Date/Venue	Report/Author	Deadline for Reports to Secretariat
13 <sup>th</sup> July 2016 4.30 pm – 6.00 pm Venue : Committee Room 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Appointment of Co-opted Members</li> <li>▪ Work Plan</li> <li>▪ Adoption Service, including Regionalisation of adoption – <b>Mary Brudenell</b></li> </ul>	1 <sup>st</sup> July 2016
7 <sup>th</sup> September 2016 4.30 pm – 6.00 pm Venue : Committee Room 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Work Plan</li> <li>▪ Complaints – <b>Irina Arcas</b></li> </ul>	24 <sup>th</sup> August 2016
9 <sup>th</sup> November 2016 4.30 pm – 6.00 pm Venue : Committee Room 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Work Plan</li> <li>▪ Residential Review Update – <b>David Byrom</b></li> <li>▪ Update on Regionalisation of the Adoption Service (to include information in respect of resource allocation and the position in respect of Special Guardianship Orders)- <b>Mary Brudenell</b></li> </ul>	27 <sup>th</sup> October 2016
11 <sup>th</sup> January 2017 4.30 pm – 6.00 pm Venue : Committee Room 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Work Plan</li> <li>▪ Educational Outcomes for LAC and update on the Virtual School – <b>Ken Poucher</b></li> <li>▪ Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) Service Update report – <b>Imran Cheema</b></li> <li>▪ (Reg 44) and Member visits to Residential Homes – <b>Suzanne Lythgow</b></li> <li>▪ CSE report – arrangements by the Council and its partners to tackle CSE (referred by Corporate O&amp;S Committee 6.10.16) – <b>author tbc</b></li> </ul>	23 <sup>rd</sup> December 2016
8 <sup>th</sup> March 2017 4.30 pm – 6.00 pm Venue : Committee Room 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Work Plan</li> <li>▪ Review of the Exit Interview Process – <b>Rachel Curtis/Carly Turpin</b></li> <li>▪ Journey to Excellence – Progress Report – <b>Jim Hopkinson</b></li> <li>▪ Innovation Fund Bid – <b>Jim Hopkinson</b></li> </ul>	23 <sup>rd</sup> February 2017
26 <sup>th</sup> April 2017 4.30 pm – 6.00 pm Venue : Committee Room 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Work Plan</li> <li>▪ Emotional &amp; Mental Wellbeing of LAC –Progress reports, including information on the allocation of the available finance – <b>author tbc</b></li> </ul>	11 <sup>th</sup> April 2017
<b>Items for Inclusion on the Panel's Work Plan for 2016/17 in due course</b> <b>(1) Adoption &amp; Fostering of Sibling Groups (once the Policy document is drafted and 6 months after implementation)</b> <b>(2) Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) Service : Annual Report in June 2017</b>		

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