



Agenda for a meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel to be held on Monday, 5 November 2018 at 4.30 pm in Committee Room 1 - City Hall, Bradford

Members of the Committee – Councillors

CONSERVATIVE	LABOUR	LIBERAL DEMOCRAT
D Smith	Thirkill Engel Tait	Humphreys

Alternates:

CONSERVATIVE	LABOUR	LIBERAL DEMOCRAT
M Pollard	Mohammed Nazir Shafiq	N Pollard

NON VOTING CO-OPTED MEMBERS

Chair of Children in Care Council

Inspector Kevin Taylor

Yasmin Umarji

Sue Thompson

West Yorkshire Police

Bradford Education

Bradford District Clinical Commissioning Group

Notes:

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

Recommended –

That the minutes of the meeting held on 9 July 2018 be signed as a correct record (previously circulated).

(Sheila Farnhill – 01274 432268)

4. 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

5. THROUGH CARE SERVICE

1 - 6

Previous reference: Minutes 7, 12 and 33 (2017/18)

The Deputy Director (Children's Social Care) will present a report from the Through Care Service, further to the report considered by the Panel at its meeting in March (**Document “H”**).

The report includes information on particular issues, as requested by Members, as follows:

- Bradford's Local Offer for Care Leavers.
- An update on progress in relation to apprenticeships.
- An update in relation to the national challenge from Ofsted regarding 16+ supported accommodation being a regulated care setting.
- The impact on the Service's resources as a result of the requirement, under the provisions of the Children and Social Work Act 2017, that a service is provided to care leavers up to the age of 25.

Member's comments are sought in respect of the Local Offer to Care Leavers 2018 (Appendix 1 to Document "H").

Recommended –

That the report be noted.

(Emma Collingwood – 01274 437123)

6. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

The Panel is asked to consider whether any part of the item relating to the Annual Report on Complaints should be considered in the absence of the public and, if so, approve the following recommendation:

"That the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of part of the item relating to the Annual Report on Complaints on the grounds that if they were present, exempt information within Paragraphs 1 (Information relating to an individual) and 2 (information identifying an individual) of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) would be disclosed and it is considered that, in all the circumstances the public interest in applying these exemptions outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information. The Panel may need to consider the specific personal circumstances of any particular case and it is in the overriding public interest that a young person who has made a complaint should have a right to confidentiality of process."

7. *COMPLAINTS - ANNUAL REPORT

7 - 16

A report will be presented by the Deputy Director (Children's Social Care) (**Document "I"**) which summarises the issues raised by looked after children and young people who have used the statutory complaints procedures to seek redress for their concerns. The report relates to the period 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018.

Members are asked to note the contents of Document "I" and to consider whether they wish to seek further information in respect of any of the issues raised.

(Irina Arcas – 01274 435269)

8. OUTCOMES FOR LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN

17 - 24

A report will be submitted by the Deputy Director (Children's Social Care) (**Document "J"**) which provides the Panel with comprehensive information regarding the outcomes for looked after children in the Bradford district.

The report comprises a summary of the information known about looked after children in Bradford as at 31 March 2018 and draws on the same data used to provide statistical returns to the Department for Education (DfE) (all figures being provisional as the DfE will publish the final figures in March 2019). It draws comparisons with performance levels at 31 March 2017 and to the first National Statistical Release for 2016-17.

Recommended –

That Document “J” be noted.

(David Byrom – 01274 432986)

9. WORK PLAN 2018/19

25 - 26

The Panel’s Work Plan for 2018/19 is submitted (**Document “K”**) for Member’s consideration.

(Jim Hopkinson – 01274 432904)

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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 5 November 2018

H

Subject: Through Care Service

Summary statement:

Updated Report regarding Bradford's Local Offer to Care Leavers, Progress regarding Apprenticeships, 16+ provision, and impact of implementation of the Children and Social Work Act 2017, that a service is provided to Care Leavers up to the age of 25.

Jim Hopkinson
Deputy Director
(Children's Social Care)

Portfolio :

Children and Families

Report Contact: Emma Collingwood
Phone: (01274) 437123
E-mail: emma.collingwood@bradford.gov.uk

Overview and Scrutiny Area :

Children's Services

1. SUMMARY

In March 2018 a report was presented to Corporate Parenting Panel focusing on key issues in the responsibilities of the Through Care Team, particularly for Care Leavers. A further report was requested for later in the year to report on the following information.

- Bradford's Local Offer for Care Leavers.
- An update on progress in relation to apprenticeships.
- An update in relation to the national challenge from Ofsted regarding 16+ supported accommodation being a regulated care setting.
- The impact on the Service's resources as a result of the requirement, under the provisions of the Children and Social Work Act 2017, that a service is provided to care leavers up to the age of 25.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 This report will not repeat the information from the report earlier in the year. The Through Care Team currently work with 584 children who are looked after made up of 25 0-4 year olds, 138 5-9 year olds, 293 10-15 year olds and 153 16-17 year olds. The team works with 494 care leavers. This includes the 16-17 year olds who are looked after, 274 18-20 year olds and 34 aged 21+. There is a small number of 16-18 year olds who are care leavers but who are not looked after. These are young people who have been looked after and have care leaver status as a result.

All children who are looked after have an allocated social worker. From the age of 18 they are allocated a Community Resource Worker and the Community Resource Worker is introduced prior to this time with some young people having a second worker from the age of 16.

- 2.2 **Bradford's Local Offer to Care Leavers** has been published (See Appendix1) and is now being developed to sit within Bradford's 'Youth Info' website. A link to the draft for this is at the end of this report. The Local Offer has been developed in conjunction with the Children in Care Council and partner agencies. The Local Offer is broken down into 9 key chapters. These are Supporting our Care Leavers, Your Rights, A Place to Live, Staying Healthy, Education, Training and Jobs, Safe and Good Relationships, Your Community, Your Money and Entitlements and The Leap Team. The on line offer contains direct links to local and national websites that provide support to young people and specifically to care leavers.

The Children in Care Council and other young people have recently been involved in a photo shoot and these photos will be added to the web based Local Offer. There is also a plan to include 'talking heads' videos so that the Local Offer is available in another format. Some of these will be young people talking.

2.3 Apprenticeships

This area is still an on-going area for development within Through Care. Rachel Curtis and Emma Collingwood, Service Managers, have been invited to Kersten England's Managers Meeting within the next three months to discuss how Bradford meets its responsibilities as a Corporate Parent to its Care Leavers with regard to apprenticeship offer.

The Service Managers are also meeting with Tina Lafferty and the Chair of the Cross Department Equality Group to facilitate discussions regarding the positive use of Equality legislation and Human Resource processes in order to have the facility to 'ring fence' apprenticeships and traineeships for our Care Leavers, this is Through Care aspiration for our young people.

Emma has been working with the LEAP team to refresh and review its 'offer' to Bradford Care Leavers. Analysis of the last 3 cohorts of young people (48) is clear that LEAP need to prioritise qualifications and enabling a young person to be 'work ready'. With this in mind we are drafting up a new LEAP traineeship. Our aspiration is that LEAP will be making a request to the 'corporate parent' to provide work experience opportunities within the Council for its children and all young people on the LEAP Traineeship will be offered a work experience opportunity within the Council.

2.4 16+ Supported Accommodation in Unregulated Settings

On occasions children who are looked after and 16 or above are placed in 'other arrangements' (Regulation 27, Care Planning, Placement and Case Planning Regulations 2010) which is known as an 'unregulated setting'. Before making such a placement the local authority should establish that this is a suitable placement for the child in question and his or her particular needs and should be satisfied about the quality of the provision and the care provided.

Through Care have partnerships in place via a robust commissioning process with Horton Housing and Centrepont. They have the capacity to support 54 young people aged 16 to 18 across 4 group living environments and 1 x 9 bedded studio flat property. Operational meetings are every 6 weeks where every young person is discussed in details and progress tracked and monitored.

We currently have 15 young people placed in 16+ supported accommodation specialist provision that is not regulated by Ofsted. Seven of these are placed in Bradford and 8 of these are out of Bradford. Those placed out of Bradford have been placed out of Bradford either because they need to be out of Bradford for their own safety, because they were previously living out of Bradford and to maintain links with education or because the most appropriate placement was only available out of Bradford. Those placed in Bradford are placed with providers we know well and have strong working relationships with.

- 2.5 Earlier in 2018 there was information to suggest that Ofsted were concerned about the use of such provision (which is not inspected). At the time of writing this report the September 2018 Ofsted inspection of Bradford has not been published but information was prepared regarding all placements in unregulated settings.

All our children placed in unregulated settings are visited very regularly, and closely monitored through case supervision and looked after children reviews. Most of these children have some complex issues and there is multi-disciplinary involvement to address these needs.

We are currently undergoing a commissioning process for 16+ provision and these settings will be incorporated into this. This will provide an even greater structure for ensuring quality in the provision that we are using.

2.6 **Impact of the Provision of Service to young people up to the age of 25**

We are still in the early days of providing a service to Care Leavers up to the age of 25 and are currently working with 34 care leavers who are aged 21+.

Once young people reach the age of 21 they discuss their situation with their worker and in most situations their case will be closed. They are informed of their right to have further support up to the age of 25 and how to access that support.

Examples of the support being provided to these young people are:

A young person who was given life story information when younger and information from her case file previously, but wanted to re look at this with support with someone now she is older, particularly after some significant losses.

A young person whose situation at university broke down due to mental health issues, who then returned to previous carers in Bradford and to employment locally. They now want to pursue university again and are being supported with a view to starting university in September 2019.

Another young person's start in Higher Education was very stop/ start initially and he needed a lot of support at this time. He became more settled and is now in his final year of his degree in Leeds.

Another young person wanted some advice regarding their Universal Credit Claim and 'popped into' our over 21 drop in at Culture Fusion.

The Through Care Team anticipate growing numbers of young people coming back for support post 21 in future years, estimated at around a third per age range, 20/30 young people at 21, 20/30 young people at 22 etc. We are also anticipating a resource implication as more young people enter further education later on. Post 22 young people entering further education do not get funding from education establishments, as Care Leavers they have a right to Council support for education purposes under the Leaving Care Act until they are 25.

The Through Care Service is currently reviewing how we can provide a 7 days a week service to its young people. Research being very clear that a 7 day a week service support educational outcomes, loneliness and ability to maintain tenancies. If this is achieved it is anticipated that the post 21 group of young people will benefit most as they are more likely to be in college/working during normal office hours.

3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

None.

4. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL

There is a funding agreement for local authorities regarding the provision of care leaver services up to the age of 25.

5. RISK MANAGEMENT & GOVERNANCE ISSUES

N/A

6. LEGAL APPRAISAL

N/A

7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

7.1 EQUALITY & DIVERSITY

N/A

7.2 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

N/A

7.3 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS

N/a

7.4 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

N/A

7.5 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

N/A

7.6 TRADE UNION

N/A

7.7 WARD IMPLICATIONS

N/A

7.8 IMPLICATIONS FOR CORPORATE PARENTING

See report.

7.9 ISSUES ARISING FROM PRIVACY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

N/A

8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS

N/A

9. OPTIONS

N/A

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Corporate Parenting Panel are asked to note the content of this report and comment on the current Local Offer to Care Leavers.

11. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - The Local Offer

12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

<https://www.bradford.gov.uk/youth-info/youth-info/>



Report of the Deputy Director (Children's Social Care) to the meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel to be held on 5 November 2018

Subject:

Complaints Raised by Looked After Children and Young People

Summary statement:

This report summarises the issues raised by Looked After Children who have used the statutory complaints procedures to seek redress for their concerns. The report relates to complaints in the period 1st April 2017 – 30th March 2018.

Jim Hopkinson
Deputy Director
(Children's Social Care)

Report Contact: Irina Arcas
Complaints Manager
Phone: (01274) 435269
E-mail: irina.arcas@bradford.gov.uk

Portfolio:

Children and Families

Overview & Scrutiny Area:

Children's Services

1. SUMMARY

This report summarises the issues raised by looked after children who have used the statutory complaints procedures to seek redress for their concerns. This report relates to complaints in the period 1st April 2017– 30th March 2018. The Appendix A sets out some of the main issues raised by children and young people and the service improvements made to address their complaints.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 The Children Act (1989) places a duty on all Local Authorities to establish and implement a procedure for dealing with complaints and representations for children and young people looked after by them. There is a designated Complaints Manager who administers and monitors the procedure for receiving and responding to children's complaints.

2.2 The procedures require that:

- Complaints are resolved informally at the point of service delivery wherever possible (stage 1) by a local manager. Complaints at Stage 1 must be addressed within 10 working days.
- Where resolution of the complaint is not possible at that time, the complaint will be investigated more formally by a senior officer and Independent Person (stage 2). Complaints at Stage 2 must be resolved within 25 working days.
- Where following consideration of the findings of a stage 2 investigation the complainant remains dissatisfied, the complaint will be considered by a Complaints Review panel (stage 3). Review panels at Stage 3 are to be constituted solely of Independent People

Where any part of the complaint has been upheld, the Council is required to ensure that this is resolved for the young person and that it considers what wider service improvements can be made.

3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Not applicable.

4. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL

There are no financial issues arising from this report.

5. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES

There are no significant risks arising from this report.

6. LEGAL APPRAISAL

There are no specific legal issues arising from this report.

7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

7.1 EQUALITY & DIVERSITY

There are no direct equal rights implications. All decisions on complaint investigations are made on the individual facts of the case taking into account the Council's complaints procedure.

7.2 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

There are no sustainability implications.

7.3 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS

There are no impacts on Gas Emissions.

7.4 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

There are no impacts on Community Safety.

7.5 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

There are no impacts in relation to the Human Rights Act.

7.6 TRADE UNION

There are no Trade Union implications.

7.7 WARD IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable.

7.8 IMPLICATIONS FOR CORPORATE PARENTING

Monitoring, investigating and learning from complaints of children in care is integral to developing better services for our children.

7.9.1 ISSUES ARISING FROM PRIVACY IMPACT ASSESMENT

There are no data protection and information security matters arising from this report.

8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS

Appendix B (to be tabled) is Not for Publication under the provisions of Paragraphs 1 (Information relating to an individual) and 2 (information identifying an individual) of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) and it is considered that, in all the circumstances the public interest in applying these exemptions outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information; it is in the overriding public interest that a young person who has made a complaint should have a right to confidentiality of process.

9. OPTIONS

The overview of a robust complaint procedure is a key role for corporate parents. The Panel need assurance, through this report, that the process is working effectively and that issues are addressed.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are asked to note the report and consider whether they wish to seek further information about issues raised.

11. APPENDICES

Appendix A: Complaints received from Looked After Children and Young People (April 2017- March 2018).

Appendix B: Confidential information on complaints. **NOT FOR PUBLICATION**

12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None.

APPENDIX A

Bradford Children Social Care

COMPLAINTS RECEIVED FROM LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE (April 17- March 18)

1. Activity

- 1.1 The Complaints Unit recorded 93 new complaints against Children Services between April 2017 and March 2018. Of those, 84 were related to Specialist Services compared to 115 in the previous financial year.

Three of the new complaints were made by young people. Another complaint was made by a professional in relation to a young person but there was not sufficient information to progress.

- 1.2 A lower number of complaints was made directly by Looked After young people than in last year. Considering the number of young people in care (986 as on 31 March 2018) the number of complaints received from looked after young people represents 0.4% of the total of young people in care, which is a lower proportion than in the previous financial year (0.6%).

Children's Services – person making the complaint	17-18	16-17	15-16	14-15
Looked After Children	3	6	4	5

2. Who made the complaints?

Age	2017-18	2016-17	2015-16
<15	0	1 (17%)	0
15-18	1 (33%)	1 (17%)	2 (50%)
19-25	2 (67%)	3 (50%)	0
>25	0	1 (17%)	2 (50%)
Total	3	6	4

Gender	2017-18	2016-17	2015-16
Male	2 (67%)	2 (33%)	1 (25%)
Female	1 (33%)	4 (67%)	3 (75%)
Total	3	6	4

Disabilities	2017-18	2016-17	2015-16
Physical	0	0	0
Learning	0	0	1 (25%)
No disabilities	2 (67%)	5 (83%)	2 (50%)
Not stated	1 (33%)	1 (17%)	1 (25%)
Total	3	6	4

Status	2017-18	2016-17	2015-16
Care order	1 (33%)	3 (50%)	2 (50%)
Voluntary Placement	1 (33%)	2 (33%)	1 (25%)
Interim Care order	0	1 (17%)	0
Placement order	1 (33%)	0	0
Other	0	0	1 (25%)
Total	3	6	4

Ethnicity	2017-18	2016-17	2015-16
White British	2 (67%)	2 (33%)	4 (100%)
BME	1 (33%)	4 (67%)	0
Not stated	0	0	0
Total	3	6	4

- 2.1 Contrary to last year, the majority of the complainants in 2017-18 were from white young people. The average complainant was a white male care leaver with no disabilities
- 2.2 The youngest person making a complaint during this period was 16 (compared to 14 in the previous year) and the oldest was 21. The average age was 20.

3. What was the complaint about?

Type of issues	2017-18	2016-17	2015-16
Communication	0	0	0
Challenging decisions	1	0	1
Child Protection	0	2	0
Information on records	1	1	1
Service Provision (general quality, failure to provide)	3	7	3
Staff (professional practice and attitude)	0	0	3
Total	5	10	8

- 3.1 There were 3 complaints made by Looked After Young People during this period, made up of 5 issues.
- 3.2 Compared to the previous year there were fewer issues regarding service provision. As in the previous year, there were no issues about staff.
- 3.3 There were no complaints made by looked After Children about child wellbeing, whilst there were 2 in the previous year.
- 3.4 Contrary to the last previous financial years, two issues were related to Children's residential units.
- 3.5 There was a reduction in the number of complaints against social workers, from 3 to 1.

Services	2017-18	2016-17	2015-16
Children's Homes	2	0	0
Children's Homes (commissioned)	0	0	0
Leaving Care	2	2	0
Social Work Teams	1	3	4
LAC	0	1	2
Fostering & Adoption Unit	0	0	2
YOT	0	0	0
Total	5	6	8

- 3.6 Leaving Care didn't receive any complaints during 2017-18, whilst it received one during the previous year.

4. How were the complaints made?

- 4.1 The most popular method to make a complaint was by letter (2), whilst e-mails were more popular during the previous year.
- 4.2 One complaint was received directly by the complaints unit, another one by front line teams and the third one was referred by Ofsted.

5. Outcomes of complaints

- 5.1 Three complaints (4 issues) were closed at Stage 1 during this period.

OUTCOMES	Social Work	Homes	Leaving Care	Adoption/ Fostering	Commissioned	LAC	TOTAL
Upheld	1	1	0	0	0	0	2
Partially upheld	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Not upheld	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Inconclusive	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	1	2	1	0	0	0	4

- 5.2 75% of the complaints were fully or partially upheld whilst in the previous financial year 40% of the complaints were partially upheld.
- 5.3 Contrary to the previous year (2) there were no inconclusive outcomes.
- 5.4 One complaint was not upheld.

OUTCOMES	2017-18	2016-17	2015-16
Upheld	2	1	0
Partially upheld	1	3	3
Not upheld	1	4	0
Withdrawn	0	0	2
Inconclusive	0	2	0
TOTAL	4	10	5

6. Response times

- 6.1 Two out of the three complaints were acknowledged within the two required days.
- 6.2 Two complaints were responded within timescales, which is the same performance as in the last year (67%). The third complaint was not responded in writing as the complainant had an issue with official letters. A manager visited and met with the young person instead.
- 6.3 The average time to respond to a complaint was 8 days, which is significantly less than the 15 days during the previous financial year.

7. Escalation

- 7.1 As in the previous year, none of the complaints made by Looked After Children escalated to Stage 2 or 3 of the Social Care Complaints Procedure.
- 7.2 The table below provide a comparison with the total number of complaints received by Children services during the same period.

	From LAC	Total
Stage 1 complaints	3	93
Stage 2 formal investigations	0	0
Stage 3 review panels	0	1
Ombudsman	0	8
Compliments	3	106

8. Compliments

- 8.1 Children Services received 106 compliments of which 23% were from service users (compared to 53% in the previous year). Of those, 3 were made by young people which is a lower number than in the previous financial year (15).

TYPE	Leaving Care	Social Work	LAC	Fostering	Homes	TOTAL
Impact on service user	0	0	0	0	0	0
Quality of service	0	0	1	0	0	1
Staff	0	1	1	0	0	2
Total	0	1	2	0	0	3

- 8.2 The Looked After Children team (LAC) received most of the compliments (2 compared to 11 in the previous year) made by young people in care. The third compliment was in relation to social work.
- 8.3 Contrary to the previous financial year when most of the compliments (11) were in relation to Leaving Care services, no compliments were received during 2017-18.
- 8.4 Contrary to the previous financial year, two compliments were received about staff whilst none were received in relation to the impact of services on the young person.

TYPE	2017-18	2016-17	2015-16
Impact on service user	0	8	5
Quality of service	1	7	7
Staff	2	0	0
Beyond job's remit	0	0	0
Total	3	15	12

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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 5 November 2018

J

Subject:

Updated information for Members on the outcomes for Looked After Children at 31 March 2018.

Summary statement:

The report provides the Corporate Parenting Panel with comprehensive information regarding outcomes for Looked After Children. It is a summary of information known about Looked After Children in Bradford as at 31 March 2018 and draws on the same data used to provide statistical returns to the Department for Education (all figures are provisional, DfE publish the final figures March 2019) . Comparison is made to performance levels at 31 March 2017 and to the first National Statistical Release for 2016-17.

Jim Hopkinson
Deputy Director
(Children's Social Care)

Portfolio:

Children and Families

Report Contact: David Byrom
Phone: (01274) 432986
E-mail: david.byrom@bradford.gov.uk

Overview & Scrutiny Area:

Children's Services

1. SUMMARY

- 1.2 The report provides the Corporate Parenting Panel with comprehensive information regarding outcomes for Looked After Children. It is a summary of information known about Looked After Children in Bradford as at 31 March 2018 and draws on the same data used to provide statistical returns to the Department for Education (DfE) (all figures are provisional, DfE publish the final figures March 2019) . Comparison is made to performance levels at 31 March 2017 and to the first National Statistical Release for 2016-17.

2. BACKGROUND

These outcomes are reported on children who are Looked After at 31 March 2018, and have been in care continuously for at least one year on that date.

This is reported annually to the DfE as part of the wider Looked After Children's return (SSDA903) and performance is fed back to Through Care Strategy group to support and improve the work of individual services.

The data provided through the Looked After Children return provides information on performance indicators which are used to form part of the National Indicator Set (NIS). Although the NIS as a central entity has been abolished by the Coalition Government, these performance indicators are still a key local tool in managing the quality of outcomes for Looked After Children in the District. They also contribute to Ofsted's annual evaluation of children's services in Bradford and provide key baseline information for any Ofsted inspection of services to Looked After Children that may take place.

Headlines:

- There has been an increase in the number of looked after children, 986 children were in care at 31 March 2018 compared to 927 last year.
- The numbers of adoptions and Special Guardianship Orders have decreased since last year.
- Numbers of young people with up to date Immunisations have increased.
- Numbers of Care Leavers in Employment, Education or Training and living in suitable accommodation has improved.
- Young people who were convicted or subject to a youth caution in the year has fallen.

2.1 Overall Numbers

- 2.1.1 There were 986 children looked after at 31 March 2018, which is a 6.4% increase on last year of 927. Nationally the number of looked after children has continued to rise; it has increased steadily over the last nine years. The rate of looked after children per 10,000 population aged 0-17 is at 66 which is an increase on last year of 60. This compares favourably with statistical neighbours rate of 81.8 but slightly higher than the England average of 62.

- 2.1.2 There has been a 3.7% decrease in the number of children becoming Looked After at 31 March. 338 children started to be looked after, which is a decrease on last year's figure of 351.
Nationally at 31 March 2017 there was a 2% increase in the numbers starting to be looked after compared to the previous year.

298 children ceased to be looked after compared to 281 last year. Nationally the number of children ceasing care has fallen.

2.2 Placements and Adoptions

- 2.2.1 Ensuring looked after children and young people are in stable placements is a key priority for Children's Services. At 31 March 2018, 66% of children and young people were in long term stable and secure placements, which is a decrease on last year's figure of 73%. This compares unfavourably with the England average of 70% and the statistical neighbours' average of 70.9%. Short term placement stability remains fairly stable; 11% of children and young people had 3 or more placements in the year compared to 10% last year. This is slightly higher than the National average of 10% and compares unfavourably with the statistical neighbours' average of 8.6%.
- 2.2.2 29 children (10%) were adopted at 31 March 2018 this is a decrease on last year of 42 (15%). This compares unfavourably to the national average of 14% and to the statistical neighbours average of 20% (comparison from the first National Statistical Release for 2016-17).
- 2.2.3 The importance of finding the right family for a child cannot be under-estimated. This has long taken primacy over timeliness in Bradford, particularly when dealing with children who are 'hard to place' (children who are disabled; children who are part of a sibling group; and children from a BME background). In 2017/18, 16 children out of the 29 adoptions in the year (55 per cent) were classified as hard to place, this is the same percentage as the previous year (23 children out of 42; 55 per cent). In the last year 74% of Bradford children were placed in house compared with 51% in 2016/17.
- 2.2.3 The number of Special Guardianship Orders granted has also decreased 23 (8%) in 2018 from 33 (12%) in 2017.
- 2.2.4 The average time taken between a child entering care and moving in with its adoptive family has also improved in the year in question from 357 days in 2016/17 to 344 days in 2017/18.
- 2.2.5 A permanence panel process has been established since January, this has started to make an impact in terms of discharges from the care system. Since January 22 care plans have been discharged with 6 moving to Special Guardianship Order. Currently filed with the legal department are another 15 to move to special guardianship and 18 discharge of care order.

2.3 Health

2.3.1 Physical Health

- 96% of looked after children had all their immunisations up to date increase from 92% in 2017.
- 92% had their teeth checked by a dentist in the year, a slight decrease on last year's figure of 94%.
- 93% of Looked After children had an annual health assessment in the year; this is the same as last year's figure.

2.4 Emotional Health

- 2.4.1. It is recognised that Children and Young People who have been abused and suffered loss of their primary carer are at greater risk of poor emotional resilience. Concerns remain for the outcomes of young people leaving care whose future is impacted by issues of poor emotional health which, for a minority, can lead to social exclusion.
- 2.4.2 The emotional health needs of children and young people (Looked After for more than a year) are assessed through a 'Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ). A SDQ generates an individual score for an individual child (between 1 – 40), 0-13 as normal level of emotional need, 13-25 some concerns, 25-40 very concerning. The highest figures are a predictor of emotional difficulties.
- 2.4.3 During the initial health assessment a strengths and difficulties questionnaire (SDQ) is completed with the child or young person, this is a nationally used questionnaire that simply looks at a base line of a child or young person emotional wellbeing. The questionnaire can be repeated with different professionals and the child or young person to get a more rounded view of their emotional well-being. From the initial assessment completed by health colleagues, the process then comes over to the Through Care Service to review and repeat with the 'team around the child'. In service the scores from the questionnaire are used as a tool to prioritise referrals to the TSW (Therapeutic Social Worker) service. The Through Care Service are looking at more user friendly tools to capture his information in order to have richer data and analysis about the wellbeing of our looked after children and young people. The average value for completed questionnaires at 31 March 2018 is 13.8 compared to 12.2 last year. This rate compares favourably with the England and Statistical average rate of 14.10 and 14.2 (2016-2017 Statistical Release Figures).
- 2.4.4 The Through Care Service is exploring an online SDQ system that is used in Calderdale and will enable the carer, young person and education provider to all contribute to the SDQ form, this will link to our children's LCS system and enable data to be reported from.
- 2.4.4 To respond to the emotional wellbeing of looked after children and care leavers Social Care Services have implemented specific partnerships with Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS):

- A model of care informed by PACE (playfulness, acceptance, curiosity and empathy) is rolled out across the internal residential and fostering service. We expect all our carers to use this model of care when working with young people in Bradford
- The Therapeutic Social Workers (TSW) are in the early stages of embedding themselves within the Through Care Service. The team are ambitious for our looked after children and want to have offered all foster carers at least one session of Therapeutic Thinking Time (TTT) for the children they are caring for. The TSW Team are supporting the training of foster carers in PACE intervention and foundations of attachment in order to increase foster carers resilience and see themselves as a tool to 'heal' children who have suffered trauma by nature of them having being separated in their lives from their initial primary carer giver. TSW's will work alongside the looked after children nursing team and LAAC (Looked After and Adopted Children) service as a middle tier of intervention.
- Leaving Care Workers and young people have early access to CAMHS Social Work service to provide preventative therapeutic work or access to specialist CAMHS and Adult Services.

2.5 Children's Homes

2.5.1 Changes to the Children's Homes Regulations and Ofsted Inspection Framework were introduced in April 2015 with residential care settings and provisions being inspected against a rigorous inspection framework twice a year. Inspectors consider the information that Ofsted has about the service which includes:

- previous inspection reports
- the home's statement of purpose
- concerns and complaints received
- notifications of serious events received
- written reports following a visit by an independent visitor
- any quality assurance reports required by regulation
- any changes to registration, including change of manager
- any current or recent enforcement activity.

2.5.2 Judgements of the home are made in relation to:

- The Overall Experiences and Progress of Children and Young People living in the home
- How Well Children and Young People are Helped and Protected
- The Impact and Effectiveness of Leaders and Managers

2.5.3 With overall judgements in relation to the care delivered being made using a four-point scale:

- Outstanding
- Good
- Requires improvement
- Inadequate

2.5.4 Inspectors will investigate how the manager and staff:

- Understand each child or young person's starting point
- Measure success
- Know they are making a positive difference to children and young people's lives
- Understand and act on the strengths and areas for improvement in practice.

2.5.6 Any judgement of inadequate for the overall experiences and progress of children and young people living in the home at an inspection of a children's home will lead to an urgent case review. There will also be an urgent case review where the issues identified at an interim inspection give sufficient cause for concern.

Currently Bradford has 11 Residential homes and respite provisions, the outcomes for 2017-2018:

Full inspection outcomes

- 1 - Requires Improvement
- 7 - Good
- 2 - Outstanding

Following changes in inspection processes only one home completed an Interim Inspection during the 2017-2018 period, with the outcome being

- 1 improved effectiveness

2.6 Achievement

The information on the attainment of looked after children for the academic year 2017/2018 is not yet available and is the subject of a report to this Committee at a later date.

2.7 Positive Contribution

- 98% of Looked After children participated in their reviews at 31 March 2018 which is an increase on last year of 96%.
- 97% of Looked After children had all their reviews on time during 17-18; this is a slight fall on last year of 98%.
- The percentage of Looked After young people who were convicted or subject to a youth caution in the year has fallen; 5% in 2018 compared to 6% in 2017. There are three dedicated Police Officers working closely with the children's homes to work restoratively and reduce offending and missing episodes.
- The number of children looked after who have been missing in the last year has reduced by 41%.

2.8 Economic Wellbeing

- 2.8.1 At 31 March 2018, 63% of Care Leavers were in education, employment and training, which is an increase on last year of 57%. Bradford performance compares favourably with the England average of 50%, Yorkshire and Humber average of 50% and with statistical neighbours average of 50.6% (2016-2017 Statistical Release Figures).
- 2.8.2 90% of Care Leavers were living in suitable accommodation; this is an increase on last year figure of 84%. Bradford's figure compares favourably with the England average of 84% and in line with the statistical neighbours average of 87.3% and Yorkshire and Humber average of 86% (2016-2017 Statistical Release Figures).
- 2.8.3 6% of Care Leavers were in higher education, a slight decrease on last year's figure of 7%. Bradford's figure of 6% is in line with the England and Yorkshire and the Humber average of 6% but slightly lower than the statistical neighbours' average of 7% (2016-2017 Statistical Release Figures).

3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

None.

4. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL

None.

5. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES

None.

6. LEGAL APPRAISAL

None.

7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

7.1 EQUALITY & DIVERSITY

None.

7.2 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

None.

7.3 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS

None.

7.4 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

None.

7.5 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

None.

7.6 TRADE UNION

None.

7.7 WARD IMPLICATIONS

None.

7.8 IMPLICATIONS FOR CORPORATE PARENTING

See report.

7.9 ISSUES ARISING FROM PRIVACY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

N/A

8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS

None.

9. OPTIONS

None.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the members of the Corporate Parenting Panel note this report.

11. APPENDICES

None.

12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

National Statistical Release for 2016-17.

Agenda Item 9/ K

Corporate Parenting Panel – 2018/19

Conservative	Labour	Lib Dem
Cllr Dale Smith	Cllr Carol Thirkill (Chair)	Cllr Julie Humphreys
	Cllr Sinead Engel (Dep Chair)	
	Cllr Angela Tait	
Alternates	Alternates	Alternates
Cllr Mike Pollard	Cllr Sarfraz Nazir	Cllr Nicola Pollard
	Cllr Nussrat Mohammed	
	Cllr Mohammed Shafiq	

Non-voting Co-opted Members	
Inspector Kevin Taylor	West Yorkshire Police, Partnerships
Yasmin Umarji	Senior Primary Partnership Manager, Education
Sue Thompson	Designated Nurse – Safeguarding Children and LAC, CCG Collaboration
The Chair of the Children in Care Council	

Corporate Parenting Panel Date/Venue	Report/Author	Deadline for Reports to Secretariat
9th July 2018 4.30pm City Hall Committee Room 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Appointment of Co-opted Members ▪ Regional Adoption Agency – Annual/Progress report (to include update on IT issues) (see Minutes 8/11/17) – (Mary Brudenell) ▪ Improving Support For Young People in Care/Care Leavers – Progress Report (to cover progress on implementation of recommendations including information on actions proposed and timescale (see Minutes 13/9/17) (Emma Collingwood) ▪ Work Plan 2018/19 	5pm 25/6/18
10th September 2018 4.30pm City Hall Committee Room 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ IRO Annual Report (Imran Cheema) ▪ Health & Dental Checks for LAC (Emma Collingwood) ▪ Citizenship/Access to Passports for LAC (see Minutes 10/1/18) (Rachel Curtis) ▪ Work Plan 2018/19 	5pm 28/8/18
5th November 2018 4.30pm City Hall Committee Room 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Through Care Service (see Minutes of 7/3/18) (to include info on Bradford's Offer for Care Leavers, Update on progress in relation to apprenticeships, Update in relation to national challenge from Ofsted re 16+ supported accommodation, Impact on resources in relation to expansion of service for care leavers up to age 25) (Emma Collingwood) ▪ Annual Report on Complaints (Irina Arcas) ▪ Outcomes for LAC (David Byrom/Vanita Ladd) ▪ Work Plan 2018/19 	5pm 22/10/18
21st January 2019 4.30pm City Hall Committee Room 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ B Positive Pathways Progress Report (Jim Hopkinson) ▪ Virtual School Annual Report (Ken Poucher) ▪ Reg 44 Visits (Suzanne Lythgow) ▪ Work Plan 2018/19 	5pm 7/1/19
11th March 2019 4.30pm (Possibly now being held at Culture Fusion)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Children Missing from Care (David Byrom) ▪ Report on Differential Allowances ▪ Report from IRO Manager and the Service Manager for Through Care Service in respect of young people (who did not attend their review) knowledge 	5pm 25/2/19

City Hall Committee Room 1	<i>of the content of their Care Plans and the record taken of their LAC Reviews, in the context of ensuring that the voice of the child/young person is being accurately reflected – (Imran Cheema/Emma Collingwood)</i>	
15 th April 2019 4.30pm City Hall Committee Room 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Educational Outcomes for LAC (Ken Poucher)</i> ▪ <i>Mental Health & Emotional Wellbeing of LAC (Kelly Barker)</i> 	5pm 1/4/19
Items for Inclusion on the Panel's Work Plan for 2019/20 in due course <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Progress Report – One Adoption West Yorkshire (ii) Progress Report in relation to citizenship and access to passports for LAC to include information on the number/% of LAC affected by the issue and the impact of Brexit (iii) Recommendations from Ofsted Review 		