

**Agenda for a meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel  
to be held remotely on Monday, 8 March 2021 at  
4.30 pm**

**Members of the Committee – Councillors**

LABOUR	CONSERVATIVE	LIBERAL DEMOCRAT AND INDEPENDENT GROUP
Thirkill Farley Tait	Smith	Knox

**Alternates:**

LABOUR	CONSERVATIVE	LIBERAL DEMOCRAT AND INDEPENDENT GROUP
Mohammed Nazir Shafiq	K Green	Stubbs

**NON VOTING CO-OPTED MEMBERS**

Chair of Children in Care Council

Jude MacDonald

Sue Lowndes

Steven Greenbank

Bradford District Clinical Commissioning Group

Bradford Education

West Yorkshire Police

**Notes:**

- A webcast of the meeting will be available to view live on the Council's website at <https://bradford.public-i.tv/core/portal/home> and later as a recording
  - Approximately 15 minutes before the start time of the Corporate Parenting Panel meeting the Governance Officer will set up the electronic conference arrangements initially in private and bring into the conference facility the Members of the Panel. The officers presenting the reports at the meeting of the Panel will have been advised by the Governance Officer of their participation and will be brought into the electronic meeting at the appropriate time.
  - 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: Jill Bell/Su Booth

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**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.

(Jill Bell/Su Booth – 01274 432268/07814 073884)

### **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.*

(Jill Bell/Su Booth – 01274 432268/07814 073884)

### 3. MINUTES

**Recommended –**

**That the minutes of the meeting held on 18 January 2021 be signed as a correct record (previously circulated).**

(Jill Bell/Su Booth – 01274 432268/07814 073884)

### 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.

(Jill Bell/Su Booth – 01274 432268/07814 073884)

## B. BUSINESS ITEMS

### 5. POST 16 SERVICE

1 - 14

The report of the Strategic Director Children's Services (**Document "X"**) will provide an overview of the Care Leavers Service 16+. The service has responsibility for all Care Leavers, Unaccompanied Asylum Seekers (UASC) and young people presenting at 16 who are roofless or homeless.

**Recommended -**

**That the views of the Corporate Parenting Panel on the detail outlined in Document "X" are welcomed.**

(Emma Collingwood - 01274 4371230)

### 6. ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE FOR CHILDREN IN CARE

15 - 22

The report of the Director of Children's Services (**Document "Y"**) provides the members of the Corporate Parenting Panel with an overview of performance in respect of a number of key, health-related indicators as well as information in respect of several key areas for development.

**Recommended -**

**The report is for information only.**

(Richard Fawcett - 01274 436041)

**7. SUPPORT CHILDREN IN CARE AND CARE LEAVERS TO ACCESS CULTURE AND ARTS ACTIVITIES** 23 - 28

The joint report of the Strategic Director Children's Services and Strategic Director Place (**Document "Z"**) provides the members of the Corporate Parenting Panel with an overview of current activity undertaken by Department of Place and Children's Services. This report was requested following a report to the CPP in January 2021 by Department of Place in relation to support for children in care. This led to further discussion about support specifically in relation to cultural activities and the arts and the extent to which we help our children and young people to access these. It was agreed that Children's Services and Department of Place would come together to review current activity, think about future activity and jointly prepare a report.

**Recommended -**

**This report is for information only.**

(Richard Fawcett - 01274 436041)

**8. ADOPTION AND PERMANENCE UPDATE** 29 - 38

The report of the Director of Children's Services (**Document "AA"**) provides the members of the Corporate Parenting Panel with an overview of the subject of adoption and permanence for children in care in Bradford.

**Recommended -**

**The report is for information only.**

(Richard Fawcett – 01274 436041)

**9. WORK PLAN 2020/21** 39 - 44

The Corporate Parenting Panel Work Plan 2020/21 (**Document "AB"**) is submitted for consideration by the Panel.



## Report of the Strategic Director Children's Services to the meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel to be held on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021

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**Subject:**

**X**

**Post 16 Service**

### **Summary statement:**

This report will provide an overview of the Care Leavers Service 16+. The service has responsibility for all Care Leavers, Unaccompanied Asylum Seekers (UASC) and young people presenting at 16 who are roofless or homeless.

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Mark Douglas

**Portfolio:**

Strategic Director – Children's Services

**Children and Families**

Report Contact: Emma Collingwood  
Phone: (01274) 437123

**Overview & Scrutiny Area:**

E-mail: [emma.collinwgood@bradford.gov.uk](mailto:emma.collinwgood@bradford.gov.uk)

**Children's Services**

## 1. SUMMARY

This report is to provide an overview of the Care leavers 16+ Service, looking at outcomes and challenges for our service and young people that it serves.

Children whom are cared for by the local authority who are reaching or aged 16 years or above and entitled to a leaving care service, under the Children Act 1989 and as amended by the Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000.

Under Section 23 of the Leaving Care Act local authorities have a duty to allocate a personal advisor for young people aged from 15 and  $\frac{3}{4}$ , who must be provided with a pathway plan.

Following the Southwark Ruling 2007 the local authority has a duty to assess young people aged 16+ who find themselves homeless. Young people have the right to request to be accommodated under Section 20 of the Children Act 1989, thus resulting in care leaver entitlements.

The Hillingdon Judgement 2003 required all UASC to be accommodated under Section 20 of the Children Act 1989, thus resulting in the majority of UASC becoming entitled to a leaving care service.

## 2. BACKGROUND

2.1 The Bradford Care Leaver service (16+) was formed in January 2020; this was following a restructure within Childrens Services.

2.2 There is significant research into the outcomes of Child in Care and Care Leavers that clearly states that the one most significant factor to have influence over the trajectory and outcomes of children and young people is to ensure that the child or young person has opportunity to form a significant meaningful relationship. That is the ambition of the Care Leavers Service that all young people from 16 will have an allocated Social Worker and Personal Adviser (PA) who will take the young person through their leaving care journey into adulthood and become successful citizens within their local communities.

*“In order to develop normally, a child requires progressively more complex joint activity with one or more adults who have an irrational emotional relationship with the child. **Somebody's got to be crazy about that kid. That's number one. First, last and always**”* Bronfenbrenner quoted by Dez Holmes of Research in Practice.

2.3 The Care Leavers Service currently provides a service to all Bradford care leavers regardless of where they live up until the age of 21. At 21 young people can decide if they want to continue to have support from the Care Leavers Service or close, they can return at any time until they are 25 years old.

The service also provides information advice and guidance to a young person who has been 'in care' during their childhood (qualifying care leavers) should they need it. Examples would be young people who have previously been subject of a Special Guardianship Order or Private Fostering arrangement.

The service supports any young person in the district who finds themselves roofless, homeless or at risk of homelessness. Young people are supported until they are 21 should they need/want to be.

2.4 The Care Leavers Service is made up of a full time service manager, 4 team managers, 5 newly appointed practice supervisors (1 UASC overview), 13 experienced social workers 1 ASYE social worker, 34 personal advisors (PA)'s and 2 care leaver apprentice. As a service we are proud of the stability retained within our teams with only 2 agency worker currently in post. This stability is the number one factor in us aspiring to achieve our ambition of young people being able to form a meaningful relationship.

Supporting the Care Leavers Service are a number of specialist teams' focusing on the following areas;

- LEAP – continues to work with young people 16 plus supporting accessing education, training and employment, including higher education.
- Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) – we have a Practice Supervisor role who retains an overview of UASC alongside workers with a passion and interest in working with UASC, ensuring children and young people newly arriving in Bradford have their basic needs met and go onto be integrated into the Bradford district.
- 2 Leaving Care nurses are co-located in the service, undertaking sexual health work, health needs assessment, health passports and supporting young people with emotional health and well-being.
- Care Leavers Service manage and run a supported lodgings service scheme for young people ages 16 to 21.
- We have a specialist worker supporting young people Staying Put and or who have been privately fostered.
- We have a solid group of Care Leaver Ambassadors who are supporting us in our aspiration to be a co-produced Care Leavers Service.
- Care Leavers Service manage and run a bespoke volunteers service for our young people where we have 25 volunteers working alongside our PA's. Most recently this has included setting up a Care Leavers Support line which runs 6 till 10pm 7 days a week.
- We have run a support line for young people 7 days a week from CSC staff volunteers since October 2020.
- We know group work for some young people really works. Pre March 2020 the service was running a football group, cook and eat & SMIOG (Smooth It Out Group). We have successfully moved Cook and Eat into virtual platforms and are looking to do the same for the SMIOG.

2.5 Demographic make-up of our young people as of 9/2/2021

Care Leavers Service are supporting 680 young people; this is an increase of 201 young people since March 2020.

In Bradford we have 693 young people with care leaver status.

107 are Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Young People (UASC) 29 under 18, 78 over 18.

43 young people have been young people previously homeless.

294 Female	320 Male	2 Other
186 16/17	353 18-20	77 21+
338 White British	90 Asian British	20 Black British
43 Mixed White/Asian	19 Mixed Black/White	6 EU
79 Other	15 Gypsy/Roma	

## 2.6 Where do our young people live?

51 Foster Care	31 Foster Care Friends & Family
36	Placed with parents (16/17) this has seen an increase
191	Independent tenancies (144 18+)
3	Emergency accommodation (not B&B)
20	Children's Homes
5	Long-term Hospital
18	Custody (4 age 21+, 14 18+)
22	Relatives or Friends
91	Semi-independent accommodation
5	Shared lives placements
8	Staying Close
44	Staying Put
18	Supported Lodgings
72	Other (Foyers/Student accommodation)

## 2.7 Base line key indicators snap shot as of 9/2/21

- 28 day visits (16/17 year olds) 86.8%
- PEP's (16/17 year olds) 80.9%
- Dental checks (16/17 year olds) 49.5% (Covid has significantly impacted this)
- Health assessments (16/17 year olds) 80% (Covid has significantly impacted this)
- 345 CLA review completed between 4/2020 to 9/2/21 97.1% on time, 239 young people attended their reviews and 98 young people contributed their wishes and feelings without attending.
- 94% Care leaver in Touch with the service.
- Care leavers 16 to 21+ NEET 30.9% (182 young people)
- Care leavers 16 to 21+ EET 69.1% (386 young people)
- Suitable accommodation 89.1%
- Completion of Pathway plans 82.1 %

### 3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

#### 3.1 General Themes and Trends

Covid-19 has had an impact on how we are delivering a service to our young people. There has been a previous report to The Chief Executive detailing how the service has supported our young people throughout the pandemic, without question young people continue on the whole to make our city proud in how they have responded to the pandemic and managed themselves. However, the pandemic has not been without its challenges, young people have needed additional support and an increase in contact with workers to function on a day to day basis.

As the pandemic has progressed the staff team within the service has increasingly been depleted as an increased number of individuals have been unable to work due to being diagnosed with Covid 19. 4 staff members have been seriously ill. Staff have also been away from work due to family bereavements as a result of Covid. We have also managed staff at reduced capacity due to shielding or isolating all causing additional pressure on the service and ultimately having an impact on the quality of service.

Since March 2020 there has been a sharp increase in the number of young people either in custody or detained in hospital settings using mental health legislation. This is a concern and requires intense scrutiny by partners coming together to review each young person try and stop this trend.

From the beginning of 2020 we had seen a steady decline in the number of young people in EET, young people were opting out of education. Those who did opt out suffered from low motivation, self-esteem and apathy to engage as additional barriers from the pandemic were in place. Targeted work was completed in July/August by the LEAP service in the run up to September which resulted in a sharp increase in the number of young people now in EET, this was repeated again in January 2021 and has shown positive results with numbers of young people engaging in EET being something to celebrate.

Generally, since March 2020 we have seen a continued increase in young people returning back to family members in an unplanned way. Young people have been supported accordingly by the service and each situation assessed.

There are different factors that have led to the quality of service delivery being a challenge at this moment in time. Consistency around the service that young people are currently receiving needs to be the focus over the next 3 months. The service is hopeful as additional resources have been identified to support increased capacity in social work and PA's time with young people and will enable a reduction in caseloads. The service has also had the support of the Improvement Board to map out a six-month plan of improvement which is aspirational for our young people.

### 3.2 A Local Offer for Care Leavers.

Through the Children and Social Work Act 2017 the Government introduced the requirement for all Local Authorities to publish a 'Care leaver offer' and sign up to corporate parenting principals.

Bradford's Local offer is currently being updated following the original being completed in Oct 2018.

The current offer includes:

- All our Care Leavers can access any Bradford Council gyms free of charge.
- Young people in education or training are able to get a financial contribution towards a laptop we will also ensure that you have access to Wi-Fi.
- All young people will ensure all young people have a Smart Phone.
- All Care Leavers living in Bradford are exempt from Council Tax up until the age of 21.

We are working hard as a partnership to increase our offer to young people with regard to traineeships, apprenticeships and work experience. Places have been ring fenced as part of Kick Start as well as the service hosting a number of placements. We want to get to a position where all our young people are offered work experience within their parent company.

### 3.3 Accommodation Provision

Leaving Care accommodation brief overview.

- Commissioning of 'group living' continues to be in place offering quality semi-independent living accommodation. Young People tell us they are happy in our block commissioned 'group living.'
- A crash pad emergency accommodation offer is in place; it is hoped that this will be expanded for a bespoke 18+ care leavers crash pad facility.
- Jumpstart is established and liked by young people, the aim of 'Jumpstart' is to assist young people in the transition from the children's home/foster care into semi-independent/ independent living via the delivery of pre tenancy work. The pre tenancy work known as 'Life-wise' is delivered to those aged 15 ½ onwards which helps young people prepare for independent living. Young people also have the opportunity to experience 2-weeks at the 'My First Home' flat. Young people can experience the My First Home flat/house for 2 weeks. The 2 weeks are used as an assessment tool to assess young people's Independent Living Skills. This scheme is a commissioned service and will be subject to review to ensure all young people have opportunity to access bespoke pre tenancy work.
- Planning is in place to expand the Jumpstart programme, with the aspiration that all young people in the service have the opportunity to completed the 'Life-wise' pre-tenancy work and all have an opportunity for the taster flat.
- Supported Lodgings scheme is a stable service offering 25 beds for young people up to the age of 21 or 25 following a needs assessment.

- Permanence planning is in place for all young people 16 to 19 to ensure a young person's transition into an adult world is tracked and supported. This is an area of development, ensuring the cliff edge at 18 is diminished and young people exit care at a pace suited to them.
- Bespoke accommodation for UASC is in place, however needs reviewing due to the increase in numbers of young people.
- On-going strong partnership and operational working between Childrens Services and Housing remains good underpinned by our Housing Protocol.
- The 'New Burdens' grant has supported 1 social work post to work with young people at risk of youth homelessness, who generally have complex needs and behaviours.

The Care Leavers accommodation pathway will be subject of review and scrutiny via the Children in Care and Care Leaver Sufficiency Strategy, the responsible officer being Richard Fawcett.

#### Quality Assurance of accommodation

The regulation of accommodation as provided under the accommodation pathways for 16+ children and young people requires robust quality assurance. Whilst work has been on-going in this area since 2018, there is now greater provision in available accommodation. The quality assurance of the accommodation types requires robust processes for contract monitoring, value for money and quality provision.

There are 91 young people placed in semi-independent provision. This provision is being commonly referred to as unregulated provision as Ofsted do not regulate the provision. However, this accommodation meets statutory guidelines and must not be confused with children who are under the age of 16 years and placed in semi-independent, unregulated provisions'.

### 3.4 Financial Management & support

The reality of the current economic position and welfare reform is that the service has seen an increase in young people presenting in financial crisis and poverty especially post 18. Everyone in service is clear that all young people open to us or returning post 21 will have access to free food, and emergency payments. No young person in the service will be destitute.

Care Leavers Service have established strong working relationships with DWP, with a robust DWP protocol in place. It is an aspiration that we will be co-located in the future.

A strong financial policy and processes are in place for all our young people, the principals of our payments to young people are rewards and incentive based.

Children's Services have secured £300 000 additional income from the Winter Grant for young people in the service. Young people living independently or who are parents are benefitting from this additional funding.

### 3.5 Safeguarding

We have seen a steady reduction in the numbers of young people going missing throughout the year, it is concluded that one reason for this is the consistent message that has been given to all young people across the district – ‘stay indoors’, Covid and national lockdowns having had an impact on adhoc missing episodes. What we are seeing now is young people that do go missing generally have complex needs and require risk assessments being in place. Currently we have 10 young people who have regular missing episodes.

Within the service we have 45 young people where there are complex safeguarding concerns that have met thresholds for a multi-agency risk assessment and protocols to be in place. This is a significant increase and has doubled from November 2020. Concerns are detailed below, mindful that some young people may have more than one concern area.

- 23 young people this is due to sexual exploitation
- 22 young people due to criminal exploitation
- 10 due to missing
- 8 due to trafficking
- 11 young people have emerging concerns regarding exploitation.

A plan of work is in place to strengthen the risk assessment process for young people aged 16+ and will include the tracking of vulnerable young people aged 18+. All young people where there are complex safeguarding concerns including post 18 are subject of regular multi agency care planning meetings to enable risk to be managed and support to be in place.

### 3.6 Employment, Training and Education Outcomes (EET)

As previously stated this year has seen a steady decline in the numbers of young people in EET provision. Targeted work was completed over the summer in the run up to September which has seen an increase in the number of young people back in EET opportunities. We are proud of this work.

We currently have 33 young people at University, with 4 young people who started in September 2020. This is a lot lower than previous years but reflects national trends, of young people deferring a year or continuing further studies. This year we have successfully supported our first young person going to Cambridge and celebrated 5 young people graduating subjects in dentistry, nursing, acting and stage combat, clinical psychology and animal behaviour. It is a key area of development to increase number of young people accessing higher education.

Nationally all young people leaving year 11 have had a tough time, our young people were no different, however what we have seen is a general improvement with our young people's GCSE attainment.

## What we know - Key Stage 4 outcomes 2020

These results are provisional awaiting DfE validated data due to be released in March 2021. In comparing results with previous years it should be noted that no exams took place in summer 2020 due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. To enable students to receive qualifications, schools and colleges have provided a centre assessment grade for each subject; this is the grade their school or college believes they would be most likely to have achieved had exams gone ahead, taking into account a range of evidence including, for example, non-exam assessment and mock results.

The calculations are based on a total of 60 Year 11 CLA who had been in care for a year or more as of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020.

To highlight some individuals; 7 children achieved a grade 7 or better in either English or Maths (4 in both), one child who achieved a grade 9 in both English and Maths and 48% of children gained at least 5 GCSEs at grades 1 to 9.

In relation to DfE benchmarks the percentages at this stage are below (national 2020 data for CLA is not yet available)

	GCSE Grade 5-9 English and Maths	GCSE Grade 4 -9 English and Maths	5 + GCSE Grade 4-9 inclu English & Maths
National CLA 2019	7%	18%	13%
Bradford CLA 2019	8%	15%	11%
<b>Bradford CLA 2020</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>22%</b>

### Attainment & Progress

	Total (60)	Total %
<b>9 to 5 in Maths and English</b>	9	15.00%
<b>9 to 4 in Maths and English (Basics)</b>	13	21.67%
<b>5 GCSE's 9 to 5 including En &amp; Ma</b>	7	11.67%
<b>5 GCSE's 9 to 4 including En &amp; Ma</b>	13	21.67%

<b>5 GCSEs 9 to 4</b>	14	23.33%
<b>1 GCSE 9 to 4</b>	29	48.33%
<b>1 GCSE 9 to 1</b>	46	76.67%

### 3.7 Health

There has been a decrease in the number of young people accessing health assessments over the last 6 months, this has been due to the restrictions placed on nursing staff over the lockdown period. We have now established face to face 'drop ins' in order to facilitate catch up.

Unsurprisingly we have seen young people needing additional support regarding their emotional wellbeing increase over the last 6 months. We have seen a greater use and take up of young people accessing support from Youth in Mind and the Buddies scheme. Self-help booklets have been sent out and more young people accessing self-help via app based links, for example Kooth and wellbeing podcasts.

We are no different to national trends in seeing a drop in young people accessing dentists as a result of dentist only having emergency procedures, we are working hard with health colleagues to try and facilitate a dental drop in for our young people.

### 3.8 Celebrations

As a service we ensure our young people's achievements are celebrated, this has been challenging this year as there have obviously been no traditional award ceremony opportunities. However, during the National Care Leavers week, we successfully virtually recognised 84 young people's achievements, young people receiving awards and vouchers to treat themselves.

We have continued to celebrate festivals, all young people received Easter eggs and wellbeing parcels in April this year. Then in June we successfully delivered 90 Eid Hampers to young people living independently, during Christmas we worked with TCD (Lemn Sissay Foundation) and 50 Christmas hampers were delivered. The Service ensured all care leavers received gifts and treats over the Christmas period, along with The Department of Place providing young people with on line opportunities to engage with and activities packs.

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

- 4.1 Our main challenge is the increase in care leavers coming into the service. Children's Social Care has seen a year on year increase in the number of children becoming 'looked after', alongside an increase in UASC and young people presenting as homeless, this has an obvious impact on our care leaving population. Up to date (although now temporarily agreed) there had been no additional social

work capacity. This has had a significant impact on caseloads and the quality of service delivery.

- 4.2 Our young people rightly are requesting greater access to digital platforms; this has been compounded by national lockdowns being in place. The service is working hard with partners and charities to try and facilitate smart devices and Wi-Fi for all our young people, with successful outcomes. We have secured 200 laptops and Wi-Fi devices which is a positive step forward.
- 4.3 Since the 'offer' to care leavers extended to 25 we have seen a steady but slow rise in young people requesting to remain open or returning and requesting a service. As yet we do not know the full resource implication that this will have. Nationally Local Authorities expect to see a third increase in number of Care leaver continuing to access a service post 21.
- 4.4 We are seeing a changing demographic within our cared for children with actual numbers of children from European Union states increasing and a changing demographic of our UASC. Therefore, as adult's significant issues regarding immigration status, leave to remain and no recourse to public funds. With this there is a moral discussion to be had as these children are growing into adults who do not have access to DWP resources, but are owed a service under Human Rights.

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

It is important for the variety of accommodation pathways used by the 16+ service to have good quality assurance and contract monitoring in place. This is not unique to the district of Bradford and is being looked at in many local authorities.

## **6. LEGAL APPRAISAL**

Work on the quality assurance of accommodation pathways will be completed in consultation with Ofsted. Although it is noted such provision is not regulated by Ofsted, there is an interest in this area for the governing body.

## **7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

### **7.1 EQUALITY & DIVERSITY**

N/A

### **7.2 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

With the increase in Care Leavers and children age 16+ who remain looked after, combined with the need to improve the quality of the service we deliver, we are developing an action plan to cover all aspect of the 16+/Care leavers service. To enable the focused work an additional Service Manager has been funded for a 6-month period and will support the existing Service Manager, who will each take a lead in specific areas, for example, Independent living, Emotional Wellbeing, EET, NEET, Voice and Participation, UASC, and Youth Homelessness. Overarching this both Service Managers will be looking at practice development and resource

analysis.

We have further request via the Covid Fund for an additional Team manager, Social Worker, and Personal Assistant has been agreed.

**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 AREA COMMITTEE ACTION PLAN IMPLICATIONS  
(for reports to Area Committees only)**

N/A

**7.9 IMPLICATIONS FOR CORPORATE PARENTING**

The provision of a good quality 16+ service has significant impact upon corporate parenting as is noted within the report.

**7.10 ISSUES ARISING FROM PRIVACY IMPACT ASSESMENT**

N/A

**8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS**

N/A

**9. OPTIONS**

This report is for information only.

**10. RECOMMENDATIONS**

The views of the Corporate Parenting Panel on the detail outlined in this report are

welcomed.

**11. APPENDICES**

N/A

**12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

N/A

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## Report of the Director of Children's Services to the meeting of The Corporate Parenting Panel to be held on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021

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### Subject:

Y

This report provides the Corporate Parenting Panel with up to date information in respect of access to health care for children in care.

### Summary statement:

This report provides the members of the Corporate Parenting Panel with an overview of performance in respect of a number of key, health-related indicators as well as information in respect of several key areas for development.

### EQUALITY & DIVERSITY:

Children in care sometimes have additional physical or emotional health needs arising from their life experiences, including neglect and experience of trauma. As good Corporate Parents we have a duty to ensure that these needs are addressed in a timely way when children have entered our care in the way that we would want to do for our own children and so that they are not disadvantaged by their former experiences.

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Mark Douglas  
Strategic Director – Children's Services

### Portfolio:

Children and Families

Report Contact: Richard Fawcett  
Phone: (01274) 436041  
E-mail: [richard.fawcett@bradford.gov.uk](mailto:richard.fawcett@bradford.gov.uk)

### Overview & Scrutiny Area:

Children's Services

## 1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report provides the members of the Corporate Parenting Panel with an overview of performance in respect of a number of key, health-related indicators as well as information in respect of several key areas for development.

## 2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 When a child enters care the council and our health partners have a statutory duty to assess their health and development. This is to ensure that we are fully aware of any health problems that they may have because without this we cannot take steps to help them. This Initial Health Assessment will then be followed by a review assessment at yearly intervals for as long as the child is in care.
- 2.2 When a child is accommodated under S20 Children Act 1989 we require parental consent for these assessments. When we are sharing Parental responsibility via a Care Order or Interim Care Order this consent can be given by a manager in social care/
- 2.3 Adverse experiences can mean that many children in care experience problems with emotional wellbeing and mental health. Neglect and abuse can also cause lasting physical ill-health and additional needs. Children often enter care with a poorer levels of physical and mental health than other children and nationally two thirds of children in care have at least one physical health complaint, and nearly half have a mental health issue. Some children with specific medical needs have had these needs neglected by their birth families causing conditions to deteriorate. As corporate parents we want our children to have the best start in life, to be healthy and to receive the care and support they need in order to thrive.
- 2.4 Within Children's Social Care there are a number of key performance indicators that help us to measure how well we are achieving our aim in ensuring that children in care have access to health assessment and support.
- 2.5 The percentage of Children in Care who have had their annual health assessment has fallen slightly towards the end of last year although at the time of writing the data suggests that this is increasing again. A number of factors can impact on this figure to a lesser or greater extent and examples include:
- Disruptions caused when a child moves to a new placement, particularly if this is out of the district.
  - The increasing number of children who need to be in care and the pressure that this places on all services
  - Older young people who often do not consent to an initial or annual health assessment taking place
  - Rising numbers of children in care resulting in challenges in the availability of paediatricians
  - Delay in the child's social worker obtaining the necessary consent and providing

this to health colleagues

- The impact of the pandemic on the ability of carers to take children for routine appointments of this nature when self-isolating or shielding.

Percentage of Children in Care who had an annual health assessment (children who have been CIC for 12 months) in the year														Trend	Bradford Target	Statistical Neighbour Average
Dec-19	Jan-20	Feb-20	Mar-20	Apr-20	May-20	Jun-20	Jul-20	Aug-20	Sep-20	Oct-20	Nov-20	Dec-20				
91.0%	91.5%	92.3%	93.3%	91.7%	91.1%	92.4%	91.6%	89.3%	89.6%	89.4%	90.3%	85.7%		92.0%	-	

- 2.6 We have been working with our health partners in relation to streamlining the system by which consent for these assessments is obtained and shared with medical staff as a means of increasing the speed with which the initial health assessment can be undertaken. Discussions have taken place between the Council and health commissioners and providers in relation to the availability of doctors and medical staff to undertake these assessments given the increasing numbers of children in care and the impact of the pandemic.
- 2.7 Many children who enter care have experienced poor parenting and neglect. As a result, it is not uncommon for their teeth to have been neglected and in some cases dental neglect is one of the most visible outward signs that a child is being neglected.
- 2.8 As a result, making sure that our children in care have access to a dentist is a key priority for us. This can be affected by all of the factors mentioned above. In particular encouraging older teenagers aged 16 and 17 to visit a dentist when they do not have toothache is a challenge.
- 2.9 Performance in this area has declined significantly since the beginning of last year when over 95% of our children had seen a dentist in the past year. This is clearly linked with the national lockdown and the availability of dentists for routine examinations and the ability of carers to take children to the dentist during the periods when they have been open. This is a national trend but one which we do need to address. We are able to access child-level data to identify which children or young people need to visit a dentist and will be working with their carers to ensure that this happens as soon as possible.
- 2.10 An area of performance that has improved significantly is in relation to the completion of Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaires (SDQs).
- 2.11 An SDQ is an assessment that is completed for any child in care aged between 4 and 15 old. When a young person reaches sixteen then an SDQ is no longer required. The need for an SDQ reflects the fact that many children who enter care have had adverse life experiences including instability, trauma, neglect or abuse. This can affect them throughout their childhood and into adulthood and it is vital that we can be receptive to the signs of this kind of harm. It is also vital that our pathway for access to support in relation to the whole continuum of emotional wellbeing is accessible and responsive to the needs of our children.

- 2.12 The SDQ is a statutory assessment that enables a simple score to be assigned to a child or young person's level of emotional wellbeing. The different domains within the SDQ tool include the extent to which a child displays certain symptoms of emotional distress or trauma, the quality of their peer relationships, their behaviour etc. The score then enables us to be alerted to a child who needs additional emotional support and also enables improvements or deteriorations to be identified and action taken.
- 2.13 Our performance has now improved significantly and over 87% of our relevant children and young people have an up to date SDQ. This has been maintained despite the pandemic.
- 2.14 When a child or young person is given an SDQ score of 17 or higher this results in an alert to the child's social worker, their IRO and the LAC Health Team enabling us to be sighted on the outcomes and to then work with the child, their carers and other professionals to try to provide the right kind of help.
- 2.15 We are currently working with our health partners to identify ways to collate the data from SDQs more effectively in a way that can help us to see trends that are affecting our entire population of children or those that are affecting specific groups. We can then use this information strategically when targeting or commissioning services.
- 2.16 In addition we want to use this data to get a sense of how the pandemic may have impacted on our children in care other than on an individual basis.

### **3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

As corporate parents to our children in care and care leavers it is ours and our partners' responsibility to ensure that our children in care receive access to health assessment and treatment. We know that some of these processes are only provided for children in care and potentially can make them feel different to their peers who are not in care, however it is also vital that we do provide the right kind of support to address the emotional and physical harm that some of them have experienced prior to coming into care. It is our role as corporate parents to ensure that our children in care have their needs met as if they were our own children.

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

➤ None

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

None

### **6. LEGAL APPRAISAL**

➤ None

## **7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

### **7.1 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

➤ None

### **7.2 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS**

➤ None

### **7.3 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

➤ None

### **7.4 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT**

➤ NA

### **7.5 TRADE UNION**

➤ NA

### **7.6 WARD IMPLICATIONS**

➤ NA.

### **7.7 AREA COMMITTEE ACTION PLAN IMPLICATIONS (for reports to Area Committees only)**

➤ NA

### **7.8 IMPLICATIONS FOR CORPORATE PARENTING**

The contents of this report relate specifically to Corporate Parenting responsibilities and our duty to maintain and promote the health of our children.

### **7.9 ISSUES ARISING FROM PRIVACY IMPACT ASSESMENT**

The report is for information only.

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

➤ None

## **9. OPTIONS**

9.1 The report is for information only.

**10. RECOMMENDATIONS**

10.1 The report is for information only.

**11. APPENDICES**

None

## 12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None

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## Joint report of the Director of Children's Services and the Director of Place to the meeting of The Corporate Parenting Panel to be held on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021

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### Subject:

Z

This is a joint report presented by Place and Children's Services focussing on how we support children in care and care leavers to access culture and arts activities and how we may increase this in the future.

### Summary statement:

This report provides the members of the Corporate Parenting Panel with an overview of current activity undertaken by Department of Place and Children's Services. This report was requested following a report to the CPP in January 2021 by Department of Place in relation to support for children in care. This led to further discussion about support specifically in relation to cultural activities and the arts and the extent to which we help our children and young people to access these. It was agreed that Children's Services and Department of Place would come together to review current activity, think about future activity and jointly prepare a report.

### EQUALITY & DIVERSITY:

It is important that children in care and care leavers are not disadvantaged in comparison with their peers. Care leavers are potentially particularly disadvantaged group due to their often limited financial means and inability to fund activities that carers would normally fund for children in care.

---

Jason Longhurst  
Strategic Director – Place

Mark Douglas  
Strategic Director – Children's Services

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### Portfolio:

Children and Families

### Overview & Scrutiny Area:

Children's Services

## **1. SUMMARY**

- 1.1 Following discussion at the Corporate Parenting Panel in January 2021 officers from Department of Place and Children's Services came together in February to hold a workshop to consider what was already done in respect of promoting children in care and care leaver's access to culture and the arts in Bradford.
- 1.2 This workshop was held in the context of Bradford's Culture is our Plan initiative and the need for children in care and care leavers to be included in this work.
- 1.3 In the meeting we highlighted what was already done but began to develop new links between the two services and to consider things that we can do to extend our cultural and arts offer to our children and young people.

## **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The extent to which a child in care accesses culture and the arts will depend on a number of factors including:
  - Their experiences when they were at home and the extent to which their birth families accessed these things
  - The lifestyle and interests of the family that they now live in
  - Any other activities that they engage in for example via their school.
- 2.2 However we aspire to ensure that our children in care are encouraged and supported to widen their horizons and to have new experiences, in addition to promoting and encouraging interests that they already have. One benefit of them being in the care system should be that they have chances and opportunities that they would not have had within their own families.
- 2.3 For young people who have now left care the challenge is greater because they often no longer have a carer to encourage or fund any activities that have an associated cost attached.
- 2.3 Within children's services it would be fair to say that access to culture and the arts has not been our top strategic priority. Factors such as placement stability, permanence, emotional health and wellbeing, education and employment have all tended to be of greater focus.
- 2.4 Therefore the process of linking with colleagues in Place has started a joined-up conversation that has not happened previously and which will hopefully open up more cultural and arts activities to our children in care.

- 2.5 In terms of what is already available to children in care, as already stated many will participate in the activities that their foster families or children's homes engage in. Some young people will have specific interests or likes that are supported by their carers and different families will have different levels of interest in the arts. It is quite difficult to capture all of this activity in a single report.
- 2.6 However we are seeking to go beyond this and to actively encourage and support children in care to access these types of activities whether they live with foster carers, friends and family or in children's homes particularly where their families or carers may not be accessing these types of activity as part of their own lifestyle.
- 2.7 Within Bradford there are a wealth of cultural and arts activities that young people can engage with including events run via the theatres, museums and libraries. Examples include:
- Shows and events at our theatres
  - The opportunity for young people with a particular interest in drama or theatre to become volunteers or gain work experience
  - Family Film Festival
  - Cinema and music events (accepting that some music events may happen in licensed premises and thus not accessible to young people or people whose culture would prohibit them from attending)
  - Events taking place at libraries relating to promoting literacy and reading and the opportunity for young people to volunteer and act as Young Ambassadors.
  - Similar events hosted in our museums
- 2.8 Most of these activities are open to all children, young people and families. There is a cost associated with some of them.
- 2.9 Another example is that prior to Christmas our museums service distributed craft/art activity packs to families and already work with schools in relation local heritage. This work could be expanded to help us better engage with children in care and care leavers and there is an opportunity to consider how we can make additional efforts to engage children in care in activities at the museums or even via outreach work.

### **The next steps**

- 2.9 One challenge for Children's Services is to make our carers and young people (and their social workers, IROs and Independent Visitors) aware of these opportunities and to reduce any barriers to them engaging with them. An example includes the potential for us to be offered tickets for the theatre at reduced cost.
- 2.10 Another challenge for us in Children's Services is to know what our gaps are and what our young people would like to get involved with that they have not yet had the opportunity to. Carers, social workers, PAs, IROs and Independent Visitors are

potentially key to this because of the close work that they do with our young people. Our Children in Care Council could potentially assist us with knowing more about what our children are interested in. We have already undertaken some of this work within our children's homes and thus have some understanding already of what kinds of things they would want to engage with. As an example of this, we know that musical events were a key interest but that theatre was low interest. However, we do not yet know whether this was simply because theatre was "not on their radar" and something that they associated with other people.

- 2.11 One important and tangible outcome of the initial meeting that was held was that a number of key people across Place and Children's Services came together to discuss this and have thus now formed the beginnings of links as well as sharing the same goal. Some tangible things like the sharing of contact details and the updating of distribution lists will help children's services be aware of what is going on in the district and to share this with our service and our carers, as well as enabling children's services to know who to contact within Place when there is a need for example if a young person wanted to gain work experience in a theatre.
- 2.12 In relation to the libraries service they will now be linking with colleagues in Children's Services so that we can jointly make sure that all children in care and care leavers have the opportunity to have library tickets and know how to use their local library.
- 2.13 A specific idea generated within the workshop was about the library services working with the children's homes to develop a book group for any of our young people who we can engage with this and to give them the opportunity to become actively involved in selecting the books that are held within the library and also having a stock of books within the home as well as an identified "champion" in each home. In addition, providing targeted support to access Bookstart and the Summer Reading Challenge will also be one of our next steps.
- 2.14 We know that the theatres have offered reduced or free pantomime tickets every year and also reduced tickets for other events where the promoters are agreeable to this. They can also offer backstage tours and other activities to engage young people. The sharing of contact details between Theatres and Children's Services will foster these links and maximise the opportunities.
- 2.15 Overall this meeting was energetic and constructive and is hopefully the start of a new relationship between Children's Services and Place. There will inevitably be further discussions particularly in the light of the council's Culture is our Plan initiative and the need for us to make a concerted effort to help children to have experiences that they would not have otherwise had and to enable care leavers to be able to continue to be engaged with these activities despite the financial challenges that they often experience.
- 2.16 This issue has now been added to our Children in Care and Care Leavers Strategy and we will identify specific actions aimed at ensuring that we maximise the opportunities on offer in the district as well as supporting our young people to contribute to the developing offer in Bradford.
- 2.17 A working group consisting of officers from both Children's Services and Place will

now continue to meet to take this work forward on a quarterly basis.

### **3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

- 3.1.1 As corporate parents to our children in care and care leavers it is our responsibility to ensure that they have the same opportunities that we would wish for our own children, including the opportunity to experience culture and arts even if they choose not to then engage with them on a longer term basis. If as a result of our new links even a small number of our children develop an interest or passion for something that they had not previously experienced, then this will be a good outcome for them and something that may stay with them for the rest of their life.

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

- None

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

None

### **6. LEGAL APPRAISAL**

- None

### **7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

#### **7.1 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

- None

#### **7.2 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS**

- None

#### **7.3 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

- None

#### **7.4 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT**

- NA

#### **7.5 TRADE UNION**

- NA

#### **7.6 WARD IMPLICATIONS**

- No specific implications

**7.7 AREA COMMITTEE ACTION PLAN IMPLICATIONS  
(for reports to Area Committees only)**

- NA

**7.8 IMPLICATIONS FOR CORPORATE PARENTING**

Please see information above.

**7.9 ISSUES ARISING FROM PRIVACY IMPACT ASSESMENT**

NA

**8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS**

- None.

**9. OPTIONS**

- 9.1 This report is for information only.

**10. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 10.1 This report is for information only.

**11. APPENDICES**

None

**12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

- None



## Report of the Director of Children's Services to the meeting of The Corporate Parenting Panel to be held on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021

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**Subject:**

**AA**

Adoption and Permanence Update

**Summary statement:**

This report provides the members of the Corporate Parenting Panel with an overview of the subject of adoption and permanence for children in care in Bradford.

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Mark Douglas  
Strategic Director – Children's Services

**Portfolio:**  
Children's Services

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E-mail: [richard.fawcett@bradford.gov.uk](mailto:richard.fawcett@bradford.gov.uk)

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

## 1. SUMMARY

1.1 This report provides members of the Corporate Parenting Panel with an update on:

- Bradford's adoption data and performance
- Our action plan in respect of adoption
- The wider issue of "permanence" for our children in care.

## 2. BACKGROUND

### Adoption

- 2.1 Since 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020 a total of twenty-one of our children in care have achieved permanence and a "forever family" via adoption. This is a really positive outcome for these children.
- 2.2 At the time of writing there are 80 children in care who are also subject to a Placement Order. This is just 6% of our total children in care population.
- 2.3 Of these children the oldest is seven and the youngest is not yet one year old.
- 2.3 Of these children 37 have already been placed with an adoptive family but are not yet adopted.
- 2.4 There are 46 children who have not yet been matched with a family and for whom "family finding" is still taking place.
- 2.3 Of these the majority have been waiting to be matched for less than six months however some children have been waiting longer for a family to be found for them and this is usually because of factors that mean that they may have more complex needs.
- 2.4 Family finding for children who are subject to Placement Orders is undertaken regionally by One Adoption West Yorkshire which brings the benefit of a wider pool of potential families for our children.
- 2.5 One Adoption uses a variety of means to identify families for our children both locally and nationally. When a family expresses an interest in adopting one of our children discussions will take place with One Adoption and the child's social worker and then hopefully if these discussions are positive, the process of assessing the suitability of the match between the child and the family can begin.
- 2.6 The match will then be presented to the Adoption Panel and if the panel recommends that the match is appropriate the Agency Decision Maker will consider the match and make a final decision.
- 2.7 When the Agency Decision Maker has agreed the match the introductions of child to family can begin and plans can be made for the child to move to their new family.

- 2.8 At the moment in Bradford there are 37 children who have been placed with adopters but who have not yet had an Adoption Order made. These children remain children in care.
- 2.9 The majority of these children have been placed for adoption for less than six months although there are a small number of children who have waited for longer than this due to issues of complexity.
- 2.10 There are two key national performance indicators relating to adoption:
- The length of time that a child was in care before being placed for adoption
  - The length of time between the making of a Placement Order and the child being matched to a family.
- 2.11 Both of these indicators are important for our children because they relate to the length of time that they experience uncertainty about their future. Therefore, it is in their best interests for decisions about their future to be made as quickly as possible to provide them with a sense of permanence.
- 2.12 The length of time that children wait before being placed for adoption or adopted has increased overall in the past year and the pandemic and “lock down” has clearly had an impact. It has made it more difficult for assessments to be undertaken and for introductions to start. The courts have experienced challenges due to the need to prioritise urgent cases involving children who require protection. However, the pandemic does not seem to have adversely affected the number of people who choose to become adopters.
- 2.13 The most recent data puts Bradford’s performance in the middle range of the region. However, we do aspire to be a top performer and to provide permanence to our children quickly when the decision has been made that this is the best outcome for them.
- 2.13 In order to achieve this aim we need to ensure that any unnecessary delays are minimised and this has resulted in the development of an action plan to support our staff. Adoption is a complex and demanding area of work with many processes that require completion in order to arrive at a good outcome for a child as well as many life-changing decisions that need to be made. Children who should be adopted represent only a small part of our children in care cohort and as a result social workers and their managers often do not build up a level of experience in this area of work. Therefore, we need to ensure that systems are in place to support them.
- 2.14 Our adoption action plan includes numerous actions designed to support our workforce to gain confidence in undertaking adoption work and to provide them with the support they need. This includes the provision of new, simplified guidance on adoption processes and the provision of information bulletins and direct briefings to staff by the Agency Decision Maker.
- 2.15 As of January 2021 we have now moved to an internal Agency Decision Maker (ADM) from an external consultant. This role is now taken up by the Assistant

Director – Safeguarding, Commissioning and Provider Services and as well as resulting in a cost saving, provides an opportunity for closer links between the ADM and the service. The ADM now holds regular practice briefings for staff on aspects of adoption, with support from OAWY.

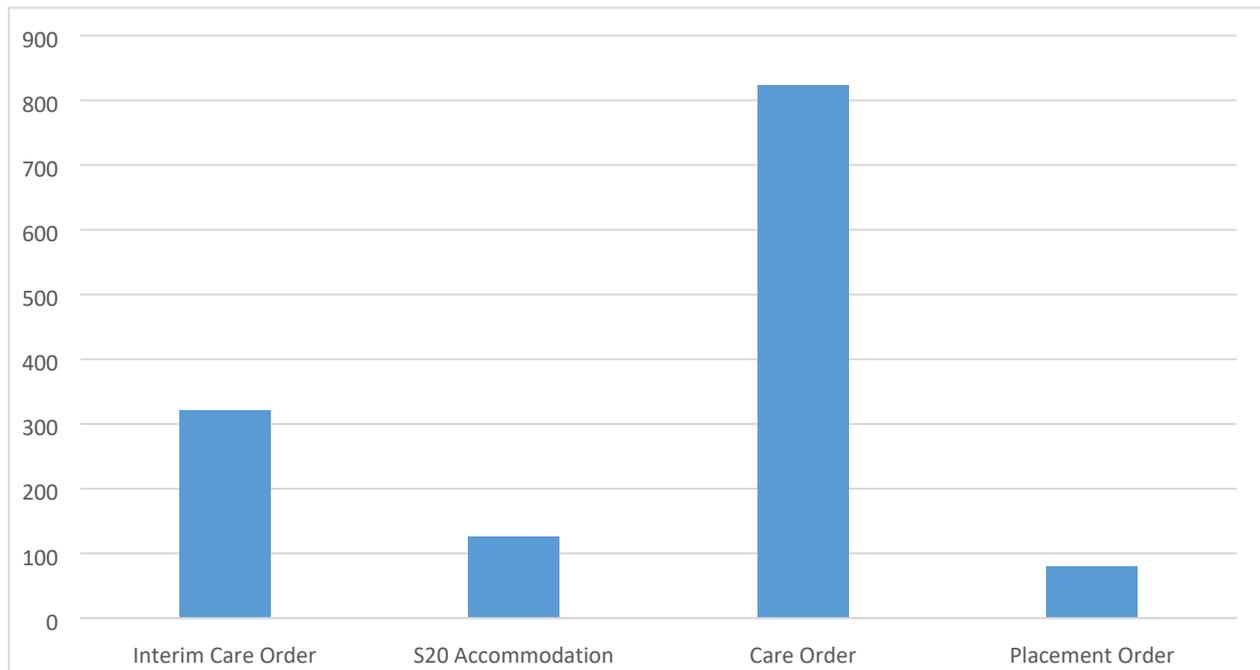
## **Permanence**

- 2.16 As indicated above only a small proportion of children in care will achieve permanence via adoption.
- 2.17 Permanence in effect means that a child in care has certainty about where they will be living for the remainder of their childhood.
- 2.18 Other options for permanence include the potential for children to be cared for in the long term by family members who become Special Guardians. The advantage for these children is that they will be able to safely exit the care system and will no longer experience the visits and meetings that all children in care experience.
- 2.18 Other children may need to remain in the care system but can still achieve permanence through having a “long term” Care Plan or being “matched” to long term foster carers who have been able to commit to caring for the child until 18.
- 2.19 Permanence can therefore be achieved for our children in a variety of different ways depending on their circumstances.
- 2.20 Achieving permanence for our children in care remains an area for development in Bradford that was identified in our 2018 Ofsted inspection.
- 2.21 To support this a number of new mechanisms have been put in place to ensure that we remain focussed on plans to achieve permanence including:
- Reviewing the care plans of children who are placed at home with a parent in order to establish whether they still need the support and protection of the care system or whether their Care Order can now be safely discharged. A number of children have now had their Care Orders discharged and we are in the process of making applications for a number of other children.
  - Where it is safe to do so, supporting family members who look after a child on a long term basis to seek Special Guardianship meaning that they will no longer be part of the care system.
  - Implementing new tracking mechanisms in each locality to help maintain a tight grip on permanence plans
  - The introduction of Care Planning Meetings which take place between statutory LAC Reviews aimed at ensuring that plans are progressed.
  - Regular review of cohorts of children who are in care but have not yet achieved permanence including children who are accommodated under S20 and those placed with family members
- 2.22 Of our current children in care cohort 266 children live on a permanent basis with members of their family who have been approved as foster carers. These children have thus achieved permanence however some of these children no longer need be in the care system and could progress to an SGO where they would no longer

need social workers in their lives.

2.23 We have 328 children who are subject to Care Orders living with foster carers who are not family members. These children have a variety of care plans including for some children planned return to family within a period of time. Others will remain in foster care for the remainder of their childhood and have been “matched” with their carers giving them a greater sense of permanence and belonging. This matching takes place via the Foster Care Panel who will consider matching reports concerning the child, carer and placement. If the match is agreed, the child will be deemed to be placed on a long term basis with these specific carers. Matching will often be followed by some form of celebration for the child and their family.

2.24 The legal status of our children in care is show below:



2.25 Children subject to an **Interim Care Order** remain the subject of legal proceedings and thus cannot yet achieve permanence because we do not yet know what their future care arrangements will be.

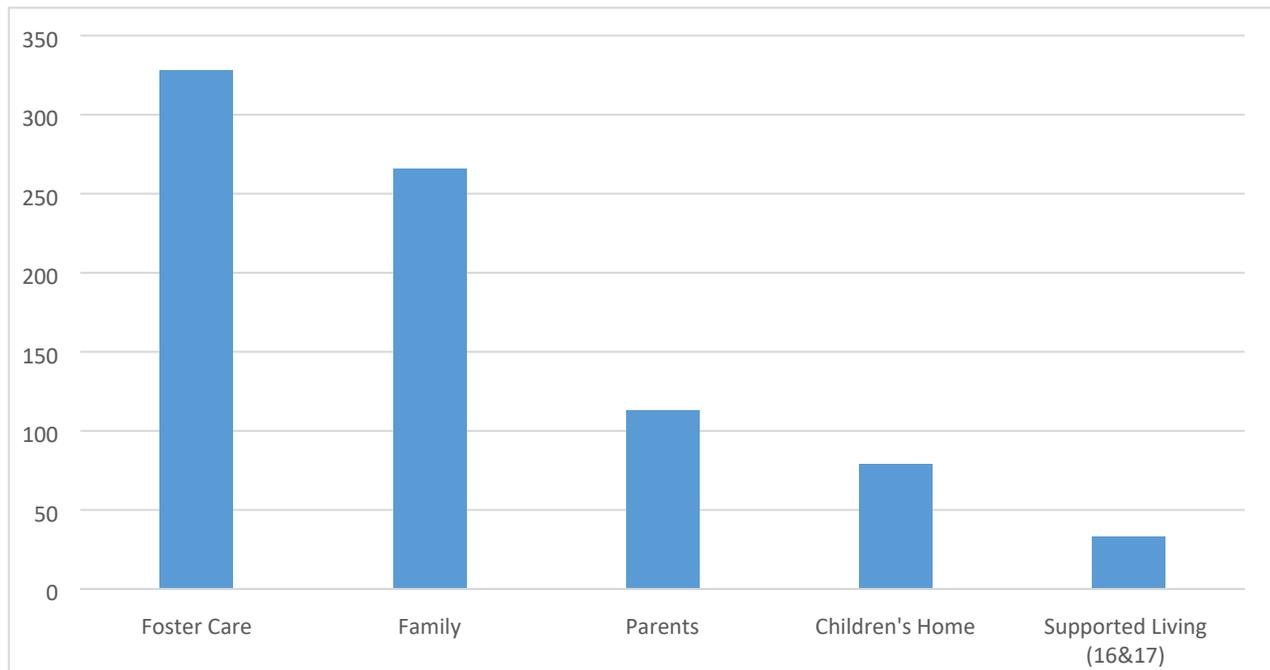
2.26 Children who are provided with S20 Accommodation do not yet have permanence. The LA does not hold parental responsibility for them. For younger children S20 accommodation should only ever be a short term arrangement while longer term plans are being made. In Bradford the number of children subject to S20 has been reduced and is now less than 10% of our total population. The majority of children subject to S20 are aged 16 and 17 and therefore do not require us to seek parental responsibility for them. The remainder are now newer arrangements for younger children where assessments are being conducted in order to determine whether legal applications should be made. A small number are very young children who have been relinquished for adoption by their birth parents.

2.27 Children who are subject to a final Care Order are those for whom the LA will share parental responsibility with until they are eighteen. However, they will not all stay in

care until they are 18. Some will achieve permanence with their carers via an SGO and some will potentially return to their parents.

2.28 There are 80 children subject to a Placement Order and it is expected that all of these children will achieve permanence via adoption. For a small number of children for whom OAWY have been unable to find an adoptive family, the ADM may make the decision to rescind their adoption plan and for us to return the case to court in order to apply for the Placement Order to be discharged.

2.29 The different types of placements for children who are subject to a final Care Order are shown below. Our challenge is to ensure that all of these children have as much security and a sense of permanence as possible regardless of the type of placement in which they live:



### 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 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

➤ NA

### **7.2 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS**

➤ NA

### **7.3 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

➤ NA.

### **7.4 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT**

➤ NA

### **7.5 TRADE UNION**

➤ NA

### **7.6 WARD IMPLICATIONS**

➤ No specific Ward implications

### **7.7 AREA COMMITTEE ACTION PLAN IMPLICATIONS (for reports to Area Committees only)**

➤ NA

### **7.8 IMPLICATIONS FOR CORPORATE PARENTING**

See above

### **7.9 ISSUES ARISING FROM PRIVACY IMPACT ASSESMENT**

NA

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

➤ None

## **9. OPTIONS**

9.1 The report is for information only.

## **10. RECOMMENDATIONS**

9.1 The report is for information only.

## 11. **APPENDICES**

None

## **12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

- Background documents are documents relating to the subject matter of the report which disclose any facts or matters on which the report or an important part of the report is based, and have been relied on to a material extent in preparing the report. Published works are not included.
- All documents referred to in the report must be listed, including exempt documents.
- All documents used in the compilation of the report but not specifically referred to, must be listed.

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**Corporate Parenting Panel 2020/21 Forward Plan**

**AB**

<b>Conservative</b>	<b>Labour</b>	<b>Lib Dem</b>
Cllr Dale Smith	Cllr Carol Thirkill (Chair)	Cllr Susan Knox
	Cllr Adrian Farley (Dep Chair)	
	Cllr Angela Tait	
<b>Alternates</b>	<b>Alternates</b>	<b>Alternates</b>
Cllr Mike Pollard	Cllr Sarfraz Nazir	Cllr Brendan Stubbs
	Cllr Nussrat Mohammed	
	Cllr Mohammed Shafiq	

<b>Non-voting Co-opted Members</b>	
Inspector Kevin Taylor (awaiting replacement)	West Yorkshire Police, Partnerships
Sue Lowndes	Education and Learning Strategic Manager, Education
Jude MacDonald	Designated Nurse – Safeguarding Children and LAC, CCG Collaboration
The Chair of the Children in Care Council	

## CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL

Date and Venue	Type of Meeting / Venue	Agenda Items	Lead Officer / Report Author	Deadline for report to DD/AD	Chair's briefing	Report deadline to Secretariat	Publication of Papers
<b>29<sup>th</sup> June 2020</b>	<b>City Hall</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Report of the Virtual School on education for CLA children who are not in education pre and post 16. This report to include a summary on education for CLA during the COVID crisis</li> </ul>	Jonathan Cooper	<b>5<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>9<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>16<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>19<sup>th</sup> June</b>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reg 44 report directly to the Chair . Suzanne Lythgow to join the meeting for a report on Children's Homes during the COVID crisis</li> </ul>	Suzanne Lythgow	<b>5<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>9<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>16<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>19<sup>th</sup> June</b>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Report on social work arrangements during the COVID crisis</li> <li>Progress in relation to the key issues raised in the Ofsted report and the Improvement Plan</li> </ul>	<b>Irfan Alam</b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>9<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>16<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>19<sup>th</sup> June</b>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Report on support for Care Leavers living independently during</li> </ul>	<b>Kirsty Askew</b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>9<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>16<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>19<sup>th</sup> June</b>

		the COVID crisis, including and update on digital inclusion in this group					
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<b>20<sup>th</sup> July 2020</b>	<b>Business Meeting Committee Room 1 City Hall</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Appointment of Co opted Members</li> </ul>	Chair	1 <sup>st</sup> July 2020	2 <sup>nd</sup> July 2020	7 <sup>th</sup> July 2020	10 <sup>th</sup> July 2020
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regional Adoption Agency: Annual report for Bradford focusing on the achievements and the challenges.</li> </ul>	Michelle Rawlings One Adoption West Yorkshire	1 <sup>st</sup> July 2020	2 <sup>nd</sup> July 2020	7 <sup>th</sup> July 2020	10 <sup>th</sup> July 2020
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children Placed out of Bradford: Report on the numbers of children; services offered; challenges and sufficiency plans</li> </ul>	Mark Trinder  (Deferred to Sept)	1 <sup>st</sup> July 2020	2 <sup>nd</sup> July 2020	7 <sup>th</sup> July 2020	10 <sup>th</sup> July 2020
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Citizenship and Passports update with a focus on Brexit planning</li> </ul>	Rachel Curtis	1 <sup>st</sup> July 2020	2 <sup>nd</sup> July 2020	7 <sup>th</sup> July 2020	10 <sup>th</sup> July 2020
		Forward Plan	Lead Officer / Report Author	Deadline for report to DD/AD	Chair's briefing	Report deadline to Secretariat	Publication of Papers
<b>7<sup>th</sup> September 2020</b>	<b>Meeting to be held remotely</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wi Fi Access &amp; Mobile Connectivity for YP</li> </ul>	Emma Collingwood	12 <sup>th</sup> August 2020	19 <sup>th</sup> August 2020	25 <sup>th</sup> August 2020	28 <sup>th</sup> August 2020
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children Placed out of</li> </ul>	Mark Trinder (Deferred from	12 <sup>th</sup> August 2020	19 <sup>th</sup> August 2020	25 <sup>th</sup> August 2020	28 <sup>th</sup> August 2020

		Bradford: Report on the numbers of children; services offered; challenges and sufficiency plans	July 2020)				
		•		12 <sup>th</sup> August 2020	19 <sup>th</sup> August 2020	25 <sup>th</sup> August 2020	28 <sup>th</sup> August 2020
		<b>Forward Plan</b>	<b>Lead Officer / Report Author</b>	<b>Deadline for report to DD/AD</b>	<b>Chair's briefing</b>	<b>Report deadline to Secretariat</b>	<b>Publication of Papers</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020</b>	<b>Meeting to be held remotely</b>	• Head of QA and Safeguarding annual report to include IRO/CP/Audit	Amandip Johal	7 <sup>th</sup> October 2020	14 <sup>th</sup> October 2020	20 <sup>th</sup> October 2020	23 <sup>rd</sup> October 2020
		• Corporate Services : Corporate Parenting Report	Joanne Hyde	7 <sup>th</sup> October 2020	14 <sup>th</sup> October 2020	20 <sup>th</sup> October 2020	23 <sup>rd</sup> October 2020
		• Report on Emotional and Mental Wellbeing of Looked After Children	Sasha Bhat	7 <sup>th</sup> October 2020	14 <sup>th</sup> October 2020	20 <sup>th</sup> October 2020	23 <sup>rd</sup> October 2020
		<b>Forward Plan</b>	<b>Lead Officer / Report Author</b>	<b>Deadline for report to DD/AD</b>	<b>Chair's briefing</b>	<b>Report deadline to Secretariat</b>	<b>Publication of Papers</b>
<b>18<sup>th</sup> January 2021</b>	<b>Meeting to be held remotely</b>	• Report from the Homelessness Review	Kirsty Askew	23 <sup>rd</sup> December 2020	30 <sup>th</sup> December 2020	5 <sup>th</sup> January 2021	8 <sup>th</sup> January 2021
		• Leaving Well App feedback on views	Emma Collingwood	23 <sup>rd</sup> December 2020	30 <sup>th</sup> December 2020	5 <sup>th</sup> January 2021	8 <sup>th</sup> January 2021

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Corporate Parenting Report: Place</li> </ul>	Jason Longhurst	23 <sup>rd</sup> December 2020	30 <sup>th</sup> December 2020	5 <sup>th</sup> January 2021	8 January 2021
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children's rights and advocacy services</li> </ul>	Amandip Johal	23 <sup>rd</sup> December 2020	30 <sup>th</sup> December 2020	5 <sup>th</sup> January 2021	8 <sup>th</sup> January 2021
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sufficiency Strategy</li> </ul>	Richard Fawcett	23 <sup>rd</sup> December 2020	30 <sup>th</sup> December 2020	5 <sup>th</sup> January 2021	8 <sup>th</sup> January 2021
		<b>Forward Plan</b>	<b>Lead Officer / Report Author</b>	<b>Deadline for report to DD/AD</b>	<b>Chair's briefing</b>	<b>Report deadline to Secretariat</b>	<b>Publication of Papers</b>
<b>8<sup>th</sup> March 2021</b>	<b>Meeting to be held remotely</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adoption Update</li> </ul>	Richard Fawcett	15 <sup>th</sup> February 2021	17 <sup>th</sup> February 2021	23 <sup>rd</sup> February 2021	26 <sup>th</sup> February 2021
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Post 16 Service</li> </ul>	Mandy Helm	15 <sup>th</sup> February 2021	17 <sup>th</sup> February 2021	23 <sup>rd</sup> February 2021	26 <sup>th</sup> February 2021
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Report on CIC Health Performance</li> </ul>	Richard Fawcett	15 <sup>th</sup> February 2021	17 <sup>th</sup> February 2021	23 <sup>rd</sup> February 2021	26 <sup>th</sup> February 2021
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Joint report by Children's Services and Place on cultural access for young people including 'JUMP'</li> </ul>	Phil Barker/Richard Fawcett	15 <sup>th</sup> February 2021	17 <sup>th</sup> February 2021	23 <sup>rd</sup> February 2021	26 <sup>th</sup> February 2021

		<b>Forward Plan</b>	<b>Lead Officer / Report Author</b>	<b>Deadline for report to DD/AD</b>	<b>Chair's briefing</b>	<b>Report deadline to Secretariat</b>	<b>Publication of Papers</b>
<b>12th April 2021</b>	<b>Meeting to be held remotely</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Education report on children not in mainstream education, not in education and post 16</li> </ul>	Jonathan Cooper			26 <sup>th</sup> March 2021	29 <sup>th</sup> March 2021
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reg 44 report on children's homes</li> </ul>	Suzanne Lythgow			26 <sup>th</sup> March 2021	29 <sup>th</sup> March 2021
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Corporate Parenting Report: Health and Wellbeing</li> </ul>				26 <sup>th</sup> March 2021	29 <sup>th</sup> March 2021
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Detailed report on Mockingbird Programme and implementation in the Bradford District</li> </ul>	Mark Trinder				

### **Future Work Plan 21/22 Municipal Year**

Homelessness Update

Update on the 'Leaving Well' App

Viewpoint - what are young people telling us: Report and discussion – Amandip Johal