

**Agenda for a meeting of the Children's Services  
Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be held on  
Wednesday, 9 March 2022 at 4.30 pm in Committee  
Room 1 - City Hall, Bradford**

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**Members of the Committee – Councillors**

<b>LABOUR</b>	<b>CONSERVATIVE</b>	<b>LIBERAL DEMOCRAT</b>	<b>BRADFORD INDEPENDENT GROUP</b>
Alipoor Choudhry Humphreys Jamil Mohammed	Winnard Pollard	Stubbs	Sajawal

**Alternates –**

<b>LABOUR</b>	<b>CONSERVATIVE</b>	<b>LIBERAL DEMOCRAT AND INDEPENDENT GROUP</b>	<b>BRADFORD INDEPENDENT GROUP</b>
Firth H Khan Mir Wood	K Green Felstead	Knox	

**VOTING CO-OPTED MEMBERS:**

Joyce Simpson  
Fauzia Raza

Church Representative (CE)  
Parent Governor Representative

**NON VOTING CO-OPTED MEMBERS:**

Tom Bright  
Dr Samina Karim

Teachers Secondary School Representative  
Children's Social Care Representative

**Notes:**

- This agenda can be made available in Braille, large print or tape format on request by contacting the Agenda contact shown below.
- The taking of photographs, filming and sound recording of the meeting is allowed except if Councillors vote to exclude the public to discuss confidential matters covered by Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972. Recording activity should be respectful to the conduct of the meeting and behaviour that disrupts the meeting (such as oral commentary) will not be permitted. Anyone attending the meeting who wishes to record or film the meeting's proceedings is advised to liaise with the Agenda Contact who will provide guidance and ensure that any necessary arrangements are in place. Those present who are invited to make spoken contributions to the meeting should be aware that they may be filmed or sound recorded.
- If any further information is required about any item on this agenda, please contact the officer named at the foot of that agenda item.
- Anyone wishing to speak to any of the business items on the agenda must register to speak by emailing Mustansir Butt (mustansir.butt@bradford.gov.uk) by midday on Monday 7 March, 2022.

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**From:**

Parveen Akhtar

City Solicitor

Agenda Contact: Jill Bell

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## **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.

### **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.*

### **3. INSPECTION OF REPORTS AND BACKGROUND PAPERS**

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

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

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

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

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

(Jill Bell – (07970) 413716)

#### **4. REFERRALS TO THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

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

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

### **B. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ACTIVITIES**

#### **5. PURCHASE OF ACCOMMODATION AND SUPPORT FOR BRADFORD YOUNG PEOPLE LEAVING CARE AND VULNERABLE YOUNG PEOPLE (16-25 YEARS)** 1 - 14

The Strategic Director of Children's Services will present a report **(Document V)** on a procurement exercise to put in place a new framework arrangement for the purchase of accommodation and support for Bradford young people leaving care and vulnerable young people (16-25 years).

**Recommended** – That the contents of Document V be noted.

(Mary Ryan – (01274) 432633)

#### **6. EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS - EARLY YEARS TO KEY STAGE 4** 15 - 20

The Strategic Director of Children's Services will present a report on the attainment outcomes for the academic year 2020/21 **(Document W)**

**Recommended** – This report is for information only.

(Sue Lowndes – (01274) 432623)

#### **7. SUFFICIENCY STRATEGY TO INCLUDE IN-HOUSE FOSTERING AND ADOPTION** 21 - 30

The Strategic Director of Children's Services will present a report **(Document X)** on the Bradford Sufficiency Strategy which details how Bradford City Council intends to meet the 'Sufficiency Duty' 1 set out in Section 22G of the Children Act 1989.

It sets out the Council's vision and approach to meeting its

responsibilities to provide secure, safe and appropriate accommodation to children in need, children in care and care leavers over the next three years

**Recommended** – That the Committee note the contents of the Sufficiency Strategy or alternatively offer feedback that can further strengthen the strategy.

(Philip Segurola – (01274) 431266)

**8. CHILDREN'S SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - WORK PROGRAMME 2021/22** 31 - 44

The report of the Chair of the Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee (**Document Z**) includes the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee work programme for 2021/22.

**Recommended** –

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

(Mustansir Butt – (01274) 432574)

**9. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

**Recommended** – That the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the item relating to Residential Children's Homes & Related Issues Document Y on the grounds that it is likely in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if they were present, exempt information within Paragraph 8 (information which is likely to identify 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 excluding public access to the relevant part of the proceedings outweighs the interest in publication of the report.

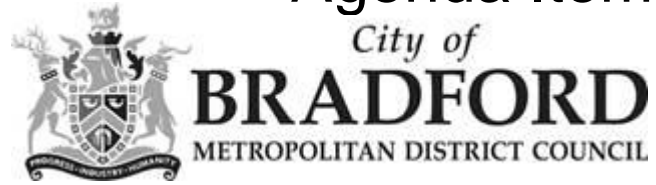
**10. RESIDENTIAL CHILDREN'S HOMES AND RELATED ISSUES**

The report of the Strategic Director of Children's Services (**NFP Document Y**) contains the findings from the external review of the quality of provision across the Council's children's homes.

**Recommended** – Members are asked to consider the report and recommendations.

(Philip Segurola – (01274) 431867)

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## **Report of the Director of Children's Services to the meeting of Children's Overview & Scrutiny Committee to be held on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2022**

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### **Subject:**

**V**

Procurement of a new framework contract for the purchase of Accommodation and Support for Bradford Young People Leaving Care and Vulnerable Young People (16-25 years) to replace the current Dynamic Purchasing system (DPS).

### **Summary statement:**

Childrens Services currently has a DPS for the provision of Accommodation and support for Young People Leaving Care and Vulnerable Young People (16-25 years). The Current DPS is managed by Bradford and names Calderdale and Wakefield as parties to the DPS, the DPS allows new providers to apply to join the DPS each year with bids being evaluated each October. The nature of the annual application process on the DPS has led to an oversupply of provision and high numbers of providers. The current DPS will be retained and managed by Calderdale and Wakefield.

The current DPS has 70 providers across Bradford, Calderdale and Wakefield providing unregulated supported living placements. There are a number of different placement types commissioned under the DPS:

- Group living - individual flat/apartments in a large property with 24/7 staffing and shared facilities
- Supported Tenancies – individual flat or house with floating support (Support hours differ based on individual need)
- Emergency Provision– A flat with its own entrance attached to a group living facility for emergency use evening and weekends.

A review of the current DPS has been undertaken and highlights a number of opportunities to improve the services currently being provided to ensure the best possible outcomes for young people and high quality accommodation in the right location whilst delivering value for money. The review has included consultation with young people, providers, internal stakeholders and local partners.

In January 2022 Ofsted announced its intentions to regulate the currently unregulated supported living accommodation for young people. The new specification and contract and robust quality assurance arrangements are in line with the proposed new regulation and will ensure Bradford Childrens services and its providers are prepared for the implementation of the regulations without the need to further recommission.

The Contract Standing Orders identify the following requirement:

*7.2 Before commencing procurement activity for Contracts valued at £25,000 and above the Authorised Officer must undertake the following:*

*7.2.1 Report to Overview and Scrutiny Committee Contracts valued £2m and above. For Contracts with a total estimated value of £2m and above report details to the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee using the standard Committee report template. Reports are to be taken at an early stage once Officers have a draft procurement strategy and specification to allow members to consider matters.*

This report, therefore, sets out the details of the provision to be procured to inform Children's Overview and Scrutiny Committee of the intended process.

**EQUALITY & DIVERSITY:**

Equality assessment is attached as Appendix 1

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Assistant Director  
Philip Segurola

Report Contact: Mary Ryan, Strategic  
Commissioning Manager  
Phone: (01274) 432633  
E-mail: [mary.ryan@bradford.gov.uk](mailto:mary.ryan@bradford.gov.uk)

**Portfolio:**

**Children and Families**

**Overview & Scrutiny Area:**



## 1. SUMMARY

Children's Services are undertaking a procurement exercise to put in place a new framework arrangement for the purchase of accommodation and support for Bradford young people leaving care and vulnerable young people (16-25 years).

The new framework arrangement is required as the existing Dynamic Purchasing System requires improvements to ensure the best possible outcomes for young people and high quality accommodation in the right location whilst delivering value for money.

The framework will allow children's Services to enter into a contract with a number of providers (number to be determined by those providers who meet the evaluation criteria which will consider, Quality, Price and social Value). There will not be an annual process to allow new providers to join each year.

The current DPS has an annual process to allow new providers to bid and be evaluated to join the DPS. This has led to a large number of providers which is not manageable from a quality assurance perspective and has not led to increase in quality or better value.

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This report, therefore, sets out the details of the provision to be procured to inform Children's Overview and Scrutiny Committee of the intended process.

## 2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1. The current DPS arrangement was commissioned in 2018 and has been in place for five years. The current DPS names Bradford, Calderdale and Wakefield Councils as participating authorities.
- 2.2. The current DPS was put in place when the decision was taken at a regional level to not replace the regional White Rose framework for Accommodation and Support for Young People Leaving Care (16-25 years).
- 2.3. Bradford had discussions with the other Local Authorities in West Yorkshire to look at options for a collaborative arrangement and both Calderdale and Wakefield were in agreement about putting together a shared DPS so a decision was made to put in place an arrangement for all three local authorities. Bradford took the lead to

procure the new arrangement and has managed the annual bid and evaluation process.

- 2.4. At present accommodation and support for care leavers is not required to be registered with Ofsted, so is not subject to the same requirements and inspections regime as children's homes and foster carers. This means the quality assurance arrangements for the provision we purchase for young people need to be robust and ongoing monitoring is required.
- 2.5. In January 2022 Ofsted confirmed their intention to regulate supported accommodation provider for sixteen and seventeen year olds. Ofsted will begin registering providers from April 2023 ahead of the new national standards becoming mandatory for all providers from Autumn 2023 – at which point all providers will need to be registered – and the first full inspections are expected to begin from April 2024. The current DPS does not include any reference to the need for providers to become regulated. The need for providers to become regulated will be referenced in the specification of the new framework and will provide the mechanism for providers to be removed from the framework should they not achieve regulation.
- 2.6. The new internal quality assurance arrangements which have been developed over the last twelve months and include an annual quality assurance visit by Childrens Services. This new process mirrors the proposed new regulation process announced by Ofsted. The new quality assurance arrangements are currently not contractual and as such the new framework will make this new robust quality assurance a contractual obligation on providers.
- 2.7. By putting in place more stringent quality assurance measures at this time it will support the council and providers to effectively transition to new Ofsted regulatory requirements This will reduce the risk of needing to move young people from placements that do not achieve regulation with Ofsted by Autumn 2023.
- 2.8. The placements made through the current DPS system are in the main for young people age 16-18, however there are a small number of over 18s in placement such as young people attending university and unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC) who are still awaiting status to allow them to access independent housing.
- 2.9. The current DPS process to award individual placements to providers requires a referral to be sent to all providers on the framework. Options which are received are reviewed by the young person's social worker and considerations of each option are made by evaluating the provider's ability to meet the young person individual needs, location and associated risk, young person's wishes and feelings and price.

### **3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

- 3.1. Childrens Services recognises the need to ensure that the wishes and feeling of young people are central to the services being commissioned. Participation work has been undertaken by our care leaver apprentice who is a care leaver and has lived experience of the type of accommodation and support services being commissioned. Participation work was undertaken to understand the wishes and

feeling of care leavers and the feedback has been central to the specification of the new model and services to be commissioned.

- 3.2. Improvements to the quality assurance (QA) mechanisms in place to monitor the quality of placements and to ensure improved outcomes is needed. Significant work has been undertaken over the last twelve months to remodel QA arrangements. This is a key area to be addressed in the proposed new arrangements and a robust quality assurance framework will be specified and managed under the contract. Bradford have introduced a quality assurance visit process last year, the visits are undertaken by the Safeguarding and reviewing team and follow a similar form to the regulation 44 visits for Ofsted registered provision.
- 3.3. New and improved key performance Indicators (KPIs) are needed, this will be addressed in the new framework contract and will ensure that feedback on what matters from the young people's participation work is measured. A Quarterly monitoring mechanism for KPIs will be specified with a clear and consistent framework for suspension and/or removal from the framework if providers do not meet our quality standards.
- 3.4. The current DPS costing structure does not give the level of detailed information required to ensure value for money is being delivered and the pricing variation across providers demonstrates significant inconsistency in pricing. The new pricing structure will include a breakdown of cost to establish the costs associated with accommodation and support (staffing). Significant work is being undertaken to establish target pricing for the new framework. Current providers as part of market engagement have been asked to submit a detailed breakdown of costs, this information has been analysed to establish an average current cost. Investigatory work to establish costs has been undertaken utilising Office of National Statistical Data on local rental costs, online research of average household utility costs and collaboration with council housing team and adult's services on weekly rates paid for accommodation and support for vulnerable adults. The data collated and analysed will allow a target price to be stated in the new framework arrangement to ensure value for money and a fair pricing structure that is detailed and auditable.
- 3.5. Market engagement with current providers was undertaken through group and individual sessions, feedback from the sessions has been considered and utilised in the specification of services for the new framework. Wider market engagement advertised on the council's tender portal (Mercell) will be undertaken in March 2022, to advise the market of the council's intentions, specification model and procurement timetable. Tendering tips to support small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the process will also be delivered at the market engagement session.
- 3.6. Wider engagement with internal and external stakeholders has been undertaken and the specification for the new framework has input from young people, care leavers service, safeguarding and reviewing unit, children services missing team, housing standards team and West Yorkshire Police (WYP) missing lead.
- 3.7. The location of accommodation is a key factor to ensure young people are safeguarded and have the best possible outcomes, and in this respect significant work has been undertaken over the last twelve months to develop a partnership working arrangement with WYP. A new process has been established and WYP

provide a locality risk assessment for all new proposed location for accommodation, this has been successful in ensuring that local risks are known when considering the location of accommodation for care leavers. It is key to ensure the importance of location is built in to the new framework. The partnership working on locations has received positive feedback from police colleagues.

- 3.8. It is important that young people are supported to move towards independence and have the skills and understanding to support them to live independently when they reach 18. The current DPS does not clearly set out expectations on providers in relation to this. The new framework sets out clear expectations on the independence skills and programmes to be delivered and the new QA arrangements will support monitoring of this key element.
- 3.9. The quality of accommodation under the current DPS has been reviewed in collaboration with the Council Housing Standards team who have undertaken a pilot to sample check current accommodation. The pilot did not identify any serious defects however minor defects and improvements were recommended to a number of providers. The housing Standards team recommended a training course for the placement team QA lead which has been undertaken. Visits to all new properties are now undertaken by the placement team QA lead who is now housing health and safety rating system (HHSRS) trained. A robust QA mechanism for checking annual safety certification is now in place and the new specification will clearly set out the new HHSRS visit process and the provider's responsibilities for ensuring we have up to date certificate and the actions which will be taken against providers who fail to provide meet the specified requirements.
- 3.10. The joint arrangement with Calderdale and Wakefield is limited by differing approaches and capacity across the three local authorities. Bradford has made significant improvements to QA, locality risk assessments and pricing structures modelled on the local needs of Bradford care leavers. Continuing with the current DPS would not allow Bradford to implement and make contractually binding its new and improved processes. Currently Bradford leads and manages the DPS, there is input from the other local authorities to the evaluation of tender submissions but they do not input to the procurement resource required to manage the DPS. After exploration of the improvements required to the current system it was identified that it is more appropriate to have separate arrangements moving forward, in order to build robust and suitable framework for Bradford young people.
- 3.11. We are looking to go out to market with a bespoke and Bradford focused model, detailed intelligence about our district for properties locations, a bespoke Bradford QA framework and overall a specifications and model driven by the voice of Bradford children. It would be difficult to work with other local authorities on a shared approach, particularly given the work being undertaken in Bradford with West Yorkshire Police on location risk assessments.

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

- 4.1. The current budget for Post 16 Semi-independent placement is £3M, this is part of Children's Services base budget. The current forecast for 21/22 is £4.4M, with the overspend and reasons being reported through Quarterly Budget Monitoring reports to the Executive. The 2022/23 Budget proposal provides additional resourcing to

Children Services to seek to mitigate demand led budget pressures.

- 4.2. The overspend relates to an increased number of placements being commissioned to meet the needs and demands of Bradford young people and an increase in UASC. The budget was set on a forecast of 37 placements at this time we have 56 placements. The proposed new model will provide detailed pricing breakdowns and a target price to support the continued achievement of value for money from future placements. The new framework and structured costing model will ensure that Children's Services are not paying more than the market rent for properties.
- 4.3. There are also a number of block bed contracts (£750k per annum) currently commissioned under the current DPS (24 block beds,). Block bed contracts provide a reduced weekly fee as the Council agrees to pay for the bed/room all year round thus reducing the providers risk of voids. These contracts will be reviewed and analysis of current needs undertaken to establish if this arrangement is still deemed value for money and meets the needs of our young people.

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

- 5.1. If we do not move to a new framework arrangement the high cost pricing structure agreed under the current DPS will remain and we will be unable to implement a target price.
- 5.2. Continuation of the current DPS would mean we will be unable to hold providers to account for poor performance as the current arrangements are very weak in relation to performance and the resulting consequences of it.
- 5.3. The Post 16 provision and current DPS model will not meet the needs of young people and we will be unable to have contract arrangements that put the child at the heart and deliver services that take account of the child's voice.
- 5.4. The number of providers on the current DPS will continue to grow each year when annual evaluation of new bids take place, considering all the reasons above this would not be appropriate in terms of value for money, quality and outcomes. The current number of providers is not manageable and drives significant internal resourcing needs to manage them, further perpetuating the situation.

## **6. LEGAL APPRAISAL**

- 6.1. The new framework will meet the requirements of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 and any amendments that may arise out of these regulations as a result of the current review being undertaken as a result of the exit of the UK from the EU. The Framework will also meet the requirement of the Authorities Contract Standing Orders. The Procurement Service will support the procurement process to ensure compliance with the appropriate regulations to ensure that the risk of any challenge is mitigated and that all potential providers are treated equitably during the process.

## **7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

### **7.1 EQUALITY & DIVERSITY**

Equality Impact Assessment is attached as Appendix 1.

## **7.2 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

The sustainability of provision for young people will be considered in the awarding of contracts to providers with suitable experience of running such provision and subject to the financial assessment of providers.

## **7.3 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS**

Local placements will keep travel time and costs low, including greenhouse gas emissions. It also avoids disruption to education and facilitates social worker visits in a timely manner.

## **7.4 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

There are no Community Safety, Implications arising out of the recommendations in this report.

## **7.5 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT**

There are no Human Rights Act Implications arising out of the recommendations in this report.

## **7.6 TRADE UNION**

There are no Trade Union Implications arising out of the recommendations in this report.

## **7.7 WARD IMPLICATIONS**

There are no implications identified for any specific ward. There have been occasions in the past where local residents have objected to the location of accommodation for care leavers and have raised concerns with local councillors. By working with the Police to inform the market about locations that are preferred it should help to manage relationships with local residents.

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

Not Applicable

## **7.9 IMPLICATIONS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

A strong purchased placement offer will bolster our local commissioned offer to Bradford's care leavers and ensure their transition to their own tenancies is successful.

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

This is a new commissioning arrangement for an existing service, there are no

issues identified in the Privacy Impact Assessment.

This system will be covered by the Privacy Notice for Children’s Social Care, which is available at:

<https://www.bradford.gov.uk/open-data/data-protection/childrens-social-care-privacy-notice/>

## 8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS

None

## 9. OPTIONS

It would be possible to continue with the current DPS but the reasons set out in Sections 3 and 5 identify why this is not a suitable option for young people in Bradford who are looked after.

The identified option to be followed is to put a new contract arrangement in place for Bradford post 16 placements

Indicative timeline is:

Specification finalised	Feb 22
Market engagement	March 22
Overview & Scrutiny	March 22
Tender advertised	April 22
Tender evaluation	June 22
Contract award	June 2022
Transition of current placements to new contract model	June – Sept 22
New Framework start	1 <sup>st</sup> October 2022.

## 10. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Children’s Overview & Scrutiny Panel note the contents of this report.

## 11. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Equality Impact Assessment

## 12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None

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## Equality Impact Assessment Form

Reference –

<b>Department</b>	Children's Services	<b>Version no</b>	
<b>Assessed by</b>	Strategic Commissioning Manager	<b>Date created</b>	
<b>Approved by</b>		<b>Date approved</b>	
<b>Updated by</b>		<b>Date updated</b>	
<b>Final approval</b>		<b>Date signed off</b>	

The Equality Act 2010 requires the Council to have due regard to the need to

- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
- advance equality of opportunity between different groups; and
- foster good relations between different groups

### Section 1: What is being assessed?

#### 1.1 Name of proposal to be assessed.

Establishment of new contract arrangements for the purchase of Accommodation and Support for Young People Leaving Care and Vulnerable Young People for Bradford.

#### 1.2 Describe the proposal under assessment and what change it would result in if implemented.

Children's Services are undertaking a procurement exercise to put in place new commissioning arrangements for the purchase of Accommodation and Support for Young People Leaving Care and Vulnerable Young People. The new arrangements will have more stringent quality assurance arrangements and higher expectations of providers of this service. We are looking to go out to market with a bespoke and Bradford focused model, detailed intelligence about our district for properties locations, a bespoke Bradford QA framework and overall a specification and model driven by the voice of Bradford Children

### Section 2: What the impact of the proposal is likely to be

#### 2.1 Will this proposal advance equality of opportunity for people who share a protected characteristic and/or foster good relations between people who

**share a protected characteristic and those that do not? If yes, please explain further.**

Yes, all those receiving the service share the same age group, they are all young people. More robust quality assurance arrangements will reduce the risk of objections from neighbours to the properties where young people live, as the providers of those properties will ensure they foster good relationships with the local community. The specification includes support and independence work that includes work on being a good neighbour and fostering good community relationships.

**2.2 Will this proposal have a positive impact and help to eliminate discrimination and harassment against, or the victimisation of people who share a protected characteristic? If yes, please explain further.**

Yes, for young people who have one of the protected characteristics the enhanced quality assurance arrangements will improve the assurance that placements meet the individual young person's needs, including any requirements that a young person has as a result of their membership of one of the protected characteristic groups.

**2.3 Will this proposal potentially have a negative or disproportionate impact on people who share a protected characteristic? If yes, please explain further.**

No, measures will be in place to ensure there is no risk that young people in a protected characteristic group are impacted negatively by the change to an enhanced quality assurance arrangements for these placements.

**2.4 Please indicate the level of negative impact on each of the protected characteristics?**

(Please indicate high (H), medium (M), low (L), no effect (N) for each)

<b>Protected Characteristics:</b>	<b>Impact (H, M, L, N)</b>
Age	L
Disability	L
Gender reassignment	L
Race	L
Religion/Belief	L
Pregnancy and maternity	N
Sexual Orientation	L
Sex	L
Marriage and civil partnership	N
<b>Additional Consideration:</b>	
Low income/low wage	N

**2.5 How could the disproportionate negative impacts be mitigated or eliminated?**  
(Note: Legislation and best practice require mitigations to be considered, but need only be put in place if it is possible.)

For young people who have one of the protected characteristics the enhanced quality assurance arrangements will improve the assurance that placements meet the individual young person's needs, including any requirements that a young person has as a result of their membership of one of the protected characteristic groups. This will ensure that negative impacts for protected characteristic groups do not arise as a result of the contract arrangement changes.

## **Section 3: Dependencies from other proposals**

**3.1 Please consider which other services would need to know about your proposal and the impacts you have identified. Identify below which services you have consulted, and any consequent additional equality impacts that have been identified.**

Young People – child's voice work was carried out by our care leaver apprentice who has lived experience of the services being specified. The feedback has been used to create the new specification and model.

Care Leavers service have been consulted on the specification and new quality assurance arrangements. One area identified was specific tailored provision for UASC children this has been included in the specification as a separate lot to ensure provision can meet the needs of this group of young People.

West Yorkshire Police have been consulted in specific elements of the specification such as location, missing and safeguarding. The new specification will ensure that the location of the placements moving forwards takes account of locational risks and is in areas that ensure good quality outcomes for our young People.

Childrens Service Missing lead – consulted reference specification around missing and Philomena protocol to ensure a robust approach to safeguarding Young People.

Safeguarding and Reviewing unit Childrens Services – have been consulted on the quality assurance inspection element of the specification and have inputted their requirements.

Housing Standards Team CBMDC – consulted ref property checks and housing regulation elements of the specification.

Providers – Market engagement conducted to establish provider feedback.

## **Section 4: What evidence you have used?**

### **4.1 What evidence do you hold to back up this assessment?**

Consultation with young people, internal stakeholder and partner to inform the new service specification

### **4.2 Do you need further evidence?**

Ongoing monitoring to identify impact of new arrangements

## **Section 5: Consultation Feedback**

### **5.1 Results from any previous consultations prior to the proposal development.**

Not applicable

### **5.2 The departmental feedback you provided on the previous consultation (as at 5.1).**

Not applicable

### **5.3 Feedback from current consultation following the proposal development (e.g. following approval by Executive for budget consultation).**

No applicable

### **5.4 Your departmental response to the feedback on the current consultation (as at 5.3) – include any changes made to the proposal as a result of the feedback.**

Not applicable



## **Report of the Director of Children’s Services to the meeting of Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be held on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2022**

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**Subject:**

**W**

Educational Standards – Early Years to Key Stage 4

**Summary statement:**

Report on the attainment outcomes for the academic year 2020/21

**EQUALITY & DIVERSITY:**

This report applies to all schools in the Local Authority and all pupils who were assessed at the end of KS4 for GCSE examinations in summer 2021.

---

Marium Haque  
Director of Children’s Services

**Portfolio:**

**Education, Employment and Skills**

Report Contact: Sue Lowndes  
Assistant Director Schools  
Phone: (01274) 432623  
E-mail: [sue.lowndes@bradford.gov.uk](mailto:sue.lowndes@bradford.gov.uk)

**Overview & Scrutiny Area:**

**Children’s Services**

## 1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report is for information. It provides information on the outcomes of the assessments for summer. Only the 2021 GCSE outcomes were published due to the impact of the pandemic on education

## 2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the summer exam series for the 2020/21 academic year was cancelled. There were no published outcomes for the Early Years Foundation Stage, Key Stage 1 or key stage 2. Only key stage 4 students were subject to any formative assessments.
- 2.2 For 2020/21, pupils were only assessed on the content they had been taught for each GCSE course. Schools were given flexibility to decide how to assess their pupils' performance, for example, through mock exams, class tests, and non-exam assessment already completed. GCSE grades were then determined by teachers based on the range of evidence available and they are referred to as teacher-assessed grades, or TAGs.
- 2.3 This is a different process to that of 2019/20 when pupils were awarded either a centre assessment grade (known as CAGs, based on what the school or college believed the pupil would most likely have achieved had exams gone ahead) or their calculated grade using a model developed by Ofqual - whichever was the higher of the two.
- 2.4 The changes to the way GCSE grades have been awarded over the last two years (with CAGs and Given the unprecedented change in the way GCSE results have been awarded in the summers of 2020 and 2021 and the resulting significant changes to the distribution of the grades received (in comparison to exam results), pupil level attainment in 2020/21 is not comparable to that in 2019/20 and to that of the previous exam years or the purposes of measuring changes in pupil performance.
- 2.5 **The increases seen in the headline statistics likely reflect the changed method for awarding grades rather than demonstrating a step change improvement in standards.**

## 3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 For Key Stage 4 GCSE

- **Progress 8 has not been calculated for 2020/21.**

The score was last calculated in 2018/19, at which point Bradford scored **-0.01**, a decrease of 0.01 on the 2017/18 score of 0.00

- **Attainment 8 score is 45.9**, which represents an **increase** of 0.2 points from 2019/20 (45.7), and an increase of 3.5 points from 2018/19 (42.4).

**The National Attainment 8 score is 50.9**, which is an increase of 0.7 points from

2019/20 (50.2), and a 4.1 point increase from 2018/19 (46.8).

The 2020/21 Attainment 8 score ranks Bradford in 144<sup>th</sup> position out of 150 local authorities.

- **Basics (grade 5 or above in English and Maths) is 43.1%** which is an increase of 1.2 percentage points from 2019/20 (41.9%), and an 8.5 percentage point increase from 2018/19 (34.6%).

**The National figure is 51.9%** from 49.9% in 2019/20 and 43.4% in 2018/19

This score ranks Bradford 136<sup>th</sup> position out of 150 local authorities.

- **Basics (grade 4 or above in English and Maths) is 63.4%** which is an increase of 0.6 percentage points from 2019/20 (62.8%), and increase of 8.7 percentage points from 2018/19 (54.7%).

**The National figure is 72.2%**, from 71.2% in 2019/20, and 64.9% in 2018/19.

This score ranks Bradford in 144<sup>th</sup> position out of 150 local authorities.

- **English Baccalaureate APS figure for Bradford is 3.96**, increasing from 3.94 in 2019/20 and 3.65 in 2018/19.

**The National score is 4.45**, increasing from 4.38 in 2019/20 and 4.08 in 2018/19. The gap between Bradford and the National score is 0.49, which shows a slight widening over the three years.

This score ranks Bradford 134<sup>th</sup> out of 150 local authorities.

- Female students continue to outperform their male peers in Bradford, with girls achieving an Attainment 8 score of 48.8 and boys achieving an Attainment 8 score of 43.2. Nationally girls have achieved an Attainment 8 score of 53.9 and boys a score of 48.1.

### 3.2 Bradford's Performance compared to National and Statistical Neighbours:

Statistical Neighbours	Attainment 8	National Rank	EBacc APS	National Rank	Basics 9-4	National Rank	Basics 9-5	National Rank
Blackburn with Darwen	50.7	70	4.46	60	74	52	53	61
Bolton	48.9	110	4.2	110	68.8	113	50.4	84
Oldham	46.2	140	3.86	144	65.7	133	42.9	138
Rochdale	46.2	140	3.9	141	63.6	141	40.8	147
<b>Bradford</b>	<b>45.9</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>3.96</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>63.4</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>43.1</b>	<b>136</b>
Kirklees	49.5	96	4.29	93	71	91	50	90
Sheffield	48.1	118	4.16	113	66.9	125	47.4	114
Derby	46.4	136	4.13	119	64.5	137	42.6	140
Telford and Wrekin	50.2	81	4.38	77	67.2	124	49.4	98
Walsall	47.5	124	4.02	130	65	135	44	133
Peterborough	46.3	137	3.93	138	63.5	142	41.8	143
<b>England</b>	<b>50.9</b>		<b>4.45</b>		<b>72.2</b>		<b>51.9</b>	

There will be no school level or pupil level data released.

**4. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL**

4.1 None.

**5. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES**

5.1 None.

**6. LEGAL APPRAISAL**

6.1 None.

**7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

**7.1 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

None.

**7.2 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS**

None.

**7.3 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

None.

**7.4 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT**

None.

**7.5 TRADE UNION**

None.

**7.6 WARD IMPLICATIONS**

None.

**7.7 IMPLICATIONS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

None.

**7.8 ISSUES ARISING FROM PRIVACY IMPACT ASSESMENT**

None.

**8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS**

8.1 None.



**9. OPTIONS**

9.1 This report is for information only.

**10. RECOMMENDATIONS**

10.1 This report is for information only.

**11. APPENDICES**

11.1 None.

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## Report of the Strategic Director Children's Services to the meeting of Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be held on 9 March 2022

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**Subject:** X

**Sufficiency Strategy to include In-House Fostering and Adoption**

### **Summary statement:**

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

It sets out the Council's vision and approach to meeting its responsibilities to provide secure, safe and appropriate accommodation to children in need, children in care and care leavers over the next three years

### **EQUALITY & DIVERSITY:**

There are no direct implications for equality and diversity arising from this report. The Council has a duty to ensure that its services comply with the public sector equality duty

---

Marium Haque  
Strategic Director Children's Services

### **Portfolio:**

Children and Families

Report Contact: Philip Segurola,  
Assistant Director, Safeguarding &  
Reviewing, Commissioner & Provider  
Services

### **Overview & Scrutiny Area:**

Children's Services

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E-mail: [Philip.segurola@bradford.gov.uk](mailto:Philip.segurola@bradford.gov.uk)

## **1. SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report introduces the proposed new Sufficiency Strategy for consideration and approval.

## **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The Sufficiency Strategy focuses on issues related to sufficiency of placements for children in care and aims to ensure a sufficient range of high quality accommodation for Children in Care and Care Leavers in Bradford.
- 2.2 Publication of a Sufficiency Strategy is a legal requirement This is a 3 year strategy. The previous version was a one year strategy based on the context of a rapidly changing environment within Bradford's Children's Services. The plan was for work to be continued in 2022 on scoping the next iteration which would reflect the levels of progress.
- 2.3 The strategy inevitably links closely to other strategies. For example, a key contributor to the aim to reduce the number of children who need to enter care is the work being done in relation to the early help offer, which has its own strategy, partnership and action plan.

## **3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

- 3.1 The purpose of Bradford's placement and sufficiency strategy is to provide looked after children with the best possible placements.
- 3.2 The Council wants to do what is right for all looked after children, which includes being able to provide somewhere safe, caring and suitable for their needs if they are not able to remain at home. This might only be for a few days or it might be for the duration of their childhood, depending on circumstances.
- 3.3 The sufficiency strategy is part of our improvement programme for the whole of Children's Services. There are many changes taking place and planned, which means that the strategy is ambitious but also has to be flexible. For example, we do not know the full impact of COVID-19 on public services. But the strategy sets out the planning and procedures that we think necessary to guide placement developments over the next three years.

The strategy will allow us to achieve four broad aims:

- increasing our understanding of children's needs
- developing alternatives to children becoming or remaining looked after, through earlier intervention and at 'the edge of care'
- improving placement and care planning, to minimise the number of disrupted placements and unplanned moves
- developing the local authority residential care and fostering agency offers, to provide more placements within the district

- 3.4 The strategy outlines how these aims will be achieved.
- 3.5 The strategy links with many others designed to promote children’s health, safety and welfare. Its success will depend on the energy and vision on colleagues working across the Council and in partner agencies. We will work hard to achieve placements for children that are more than sufficient. Identify any other directly or indirectly related matters.

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

- 4.1 Bradford Council is currently consulting on an increased investment of £7.5m to help mitigate budget pressures arising from additional Children in Care Placements as part of the annual budget setting process
- 4.2 The quarterly budget monitoring reports to the Executive have detailed the financial cost of placements, and the increasing number of placements.
- 4.3 The regular Vital Signs reports to Improvement Board detail the metrics used to assess the need for investment

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

- 5.1 The data presented within the Sufficiency Strategy evidences a continued increase in the numbers of children entering care in line with national trends. This presents us with significant challenges in future years if numbers continue to rise at the same rate. We aim to promote earlier and timely services to children and families in Bradford to support and enable them to live safely together and to reduce the number of children needing to become looked after.
- 5.2 As corporate parents we want to ensure that our children and young people receive good quality care and resources to promote positive outcomes for them. We want Bradford children and young people to be able to live in the district by ensuring that local placements and support services are available to meet their needs. Where it is necessary for a child or young person to live outside of the district we will ensure that they have access to good quality placements and support services in the areas where they live.
- 5.3 The governance framework for our strategy includes a range of people from children in care and care leavers through to Executive

#### **6. LEGAL APPRAISAL**

- 6.1 The Children Act 1989, section 22G requires local authorities to take steps that are reasonably practicable to secure sufficient accommodation for children under their care who cannot live at home and whose circumstances indicate that it would be in a child’s best interest to be accommodated within the local authority’s area – for example, in order to stay at the same school or near to other family where contact can easily take place. This is commonly referred to as ‘the sufficiency duty’. The statutory guidance on securing sufficient accommodation for children looked after

fully sets out the local authority's responsibilities.

6.2 Further statutory guidance was also issued in April 2018 around the 'Provision of accommodation for 16 and 17 year olds who may be homeless and/or require accommodation'.

6.3 Local Authorities have a legal duty to publish a Sufficiency Strategy. This strategy sets out how Bradford meets the duty in ensuring there are sufficient resources for children in care and those on the edge of care, including accommodation of all types.

## **7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

### **7.1 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

N/A

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

N/A

### **7.3 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

N/A

### **7.4 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT**

N/A

### **7.5 TRADE UNION**

N/A

### **7.6 WARD IMPLICATIONS**

N/A

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

N/A

### **7.8 IMPLICATIONS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

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

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

N/A.

**8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS**

None

**9. OPTIONS**

N/A

**10. RECOMMENDATIONS**

Members of the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee to note the contents of the Sufficiency Strategy or alternatively to offer feedback that can further strengthen the strategy.

**11. APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 - Sufficiency Strategy

**12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

Copy of the proposed Sufficiency Strategy attached

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**DRAFT**

# PLACEMENT AND SUFFICIENCY STRATEGY

2020-23



BRADFORD CHILDREN'S SERVICES



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# BRADFORD DISTRICT SHARED VALUES

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

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

**WE RESPECT**  
ourselves, each other and our communities

**WE CARE**  
for each other and treat each other with kindness

# FOREWORD



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



# INTRODUCTION

## ROLE AS CORPORATE PARENTS

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

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

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



## VISION

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

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

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



## PURPOSE

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

The Council wants to do what is right for all looked after children, which includes being able to provide somewhere safe, caring and suitable for their needs if they are not able to remain at home. This might only be for a few days or it might be for the duration of their childhood, depending on circumstances.

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

The strategy will allow us to achieve four broad aims:

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- developing the local authority residential care and fostering agency offers, to provide more placements within the district

The strategy outlines how these aims will be achieved.

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



# CURRENT PROFILE OF LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN

## NUMBERS OF LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN

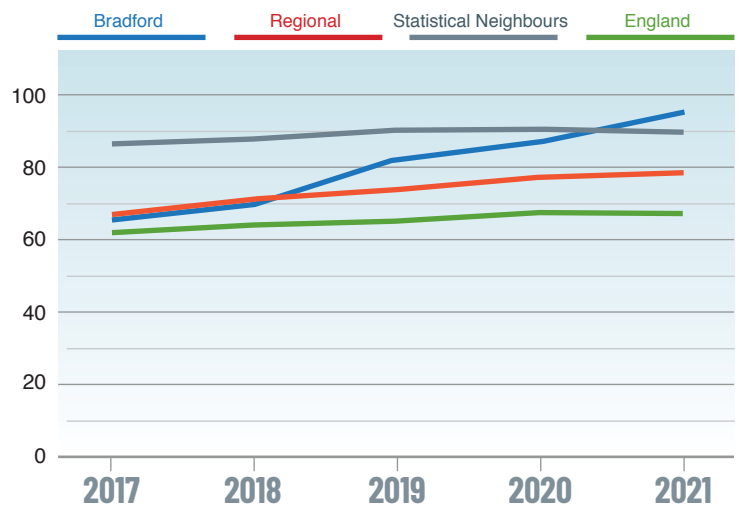
### Children in care per 10,000 population under 18

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

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



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



### Children in care (total number)

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

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

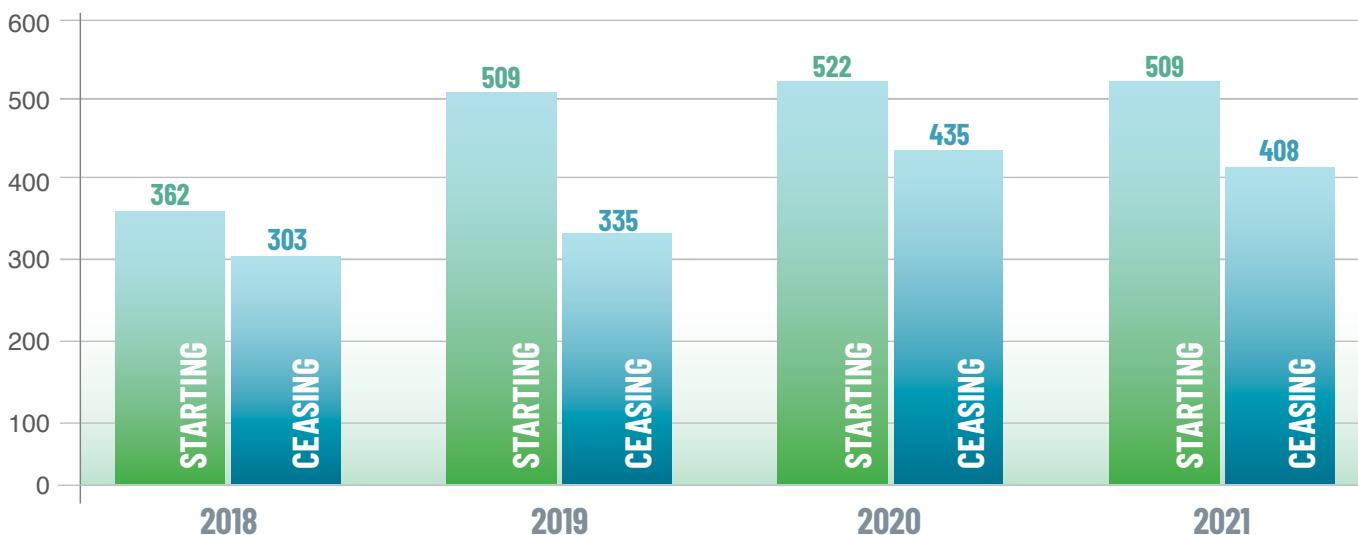
regionally and nationally. The District saw notable increases in the number of children in care between 2018 to 2019 when compared to its statistical neighbours, as well as the regional and national trends.

### Percentage change in Children in Care population



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

### Children starting and ceasing care

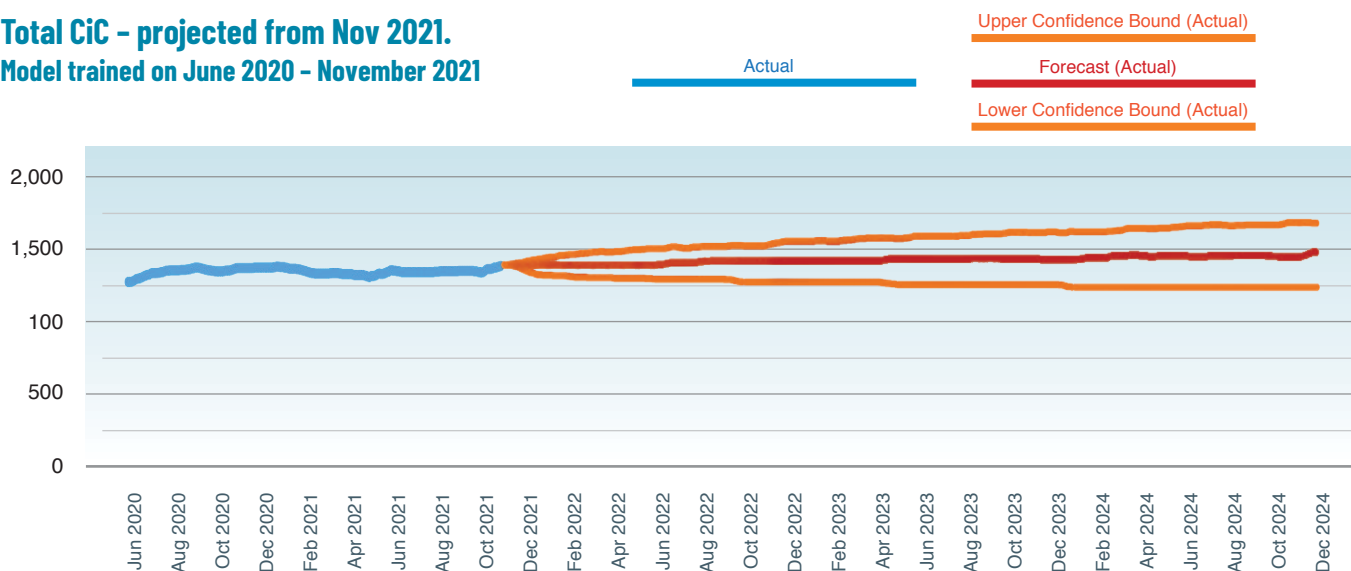


# FORECAST PROJECTION

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

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

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



### Forecasting data

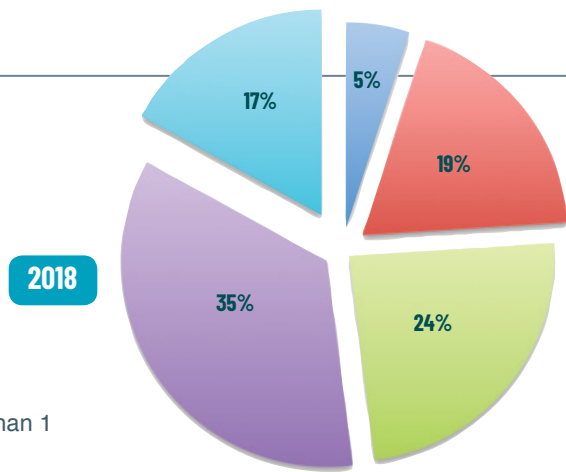
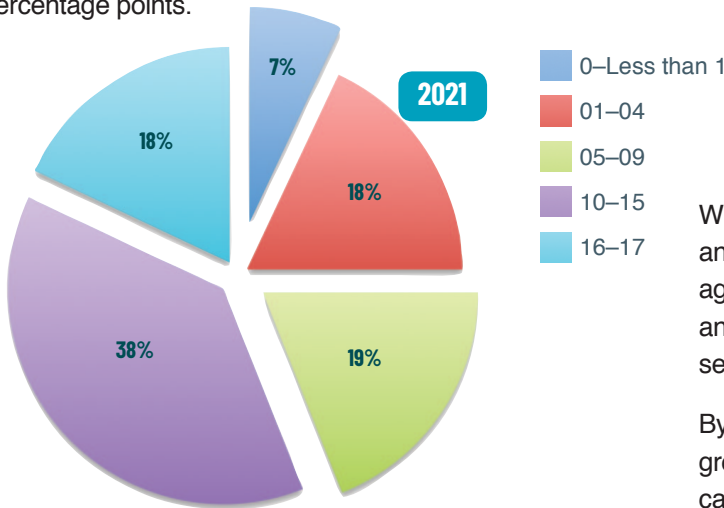
Lower Confidence Bound (Actual)	Actual	Forecast (Actual)	Lower Confidence Bound (Actual)	Upper Confidence Bound (Actual)	Lower Confidence Bound (Actual)	Actual	Forecast (Actual)	Lower Confidence Bound (Actual)	Upper Confidence Bound (Actual)
	Nov-21	1,395	1,395	1,395		Jun-23	1,424	1,287	1,560
	Dec-21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



# DEMOGRAPHICS

## AGE

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



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

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

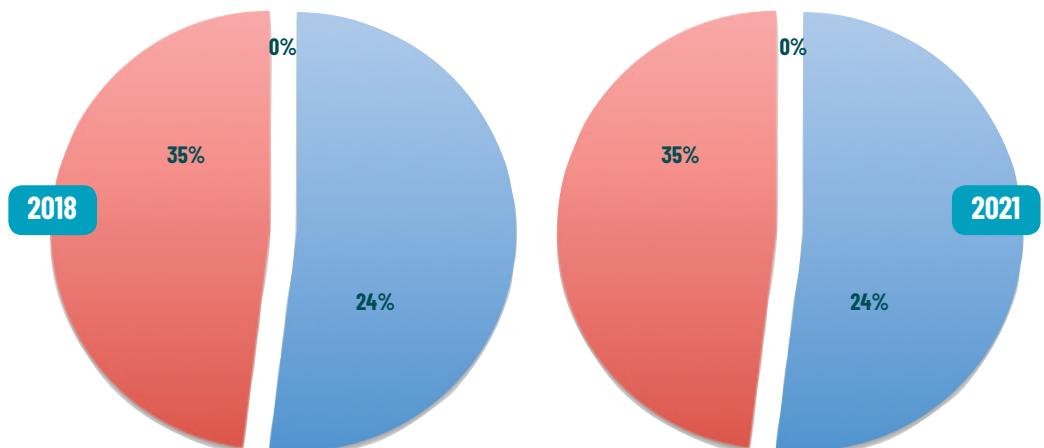
### Age of Children in Care

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

## GENDER

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

- Male
- Female
- TGM



## ETHNICITY

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



### Ethnicity of Children in Care

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

### CiC Ethnicity by Percentage

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

### All children in the district

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

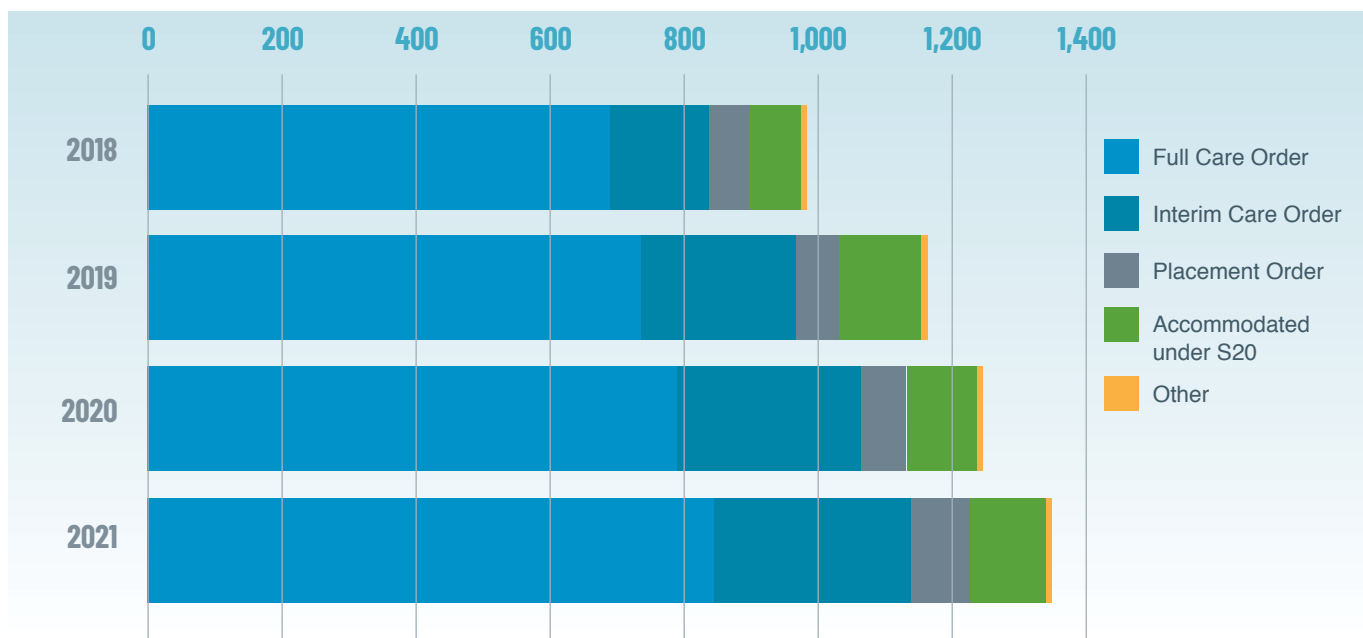
## LEGAL STATUS

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



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

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



### Legal Status of Children in Care

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

## LENGTH OF TIME IN CARE

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

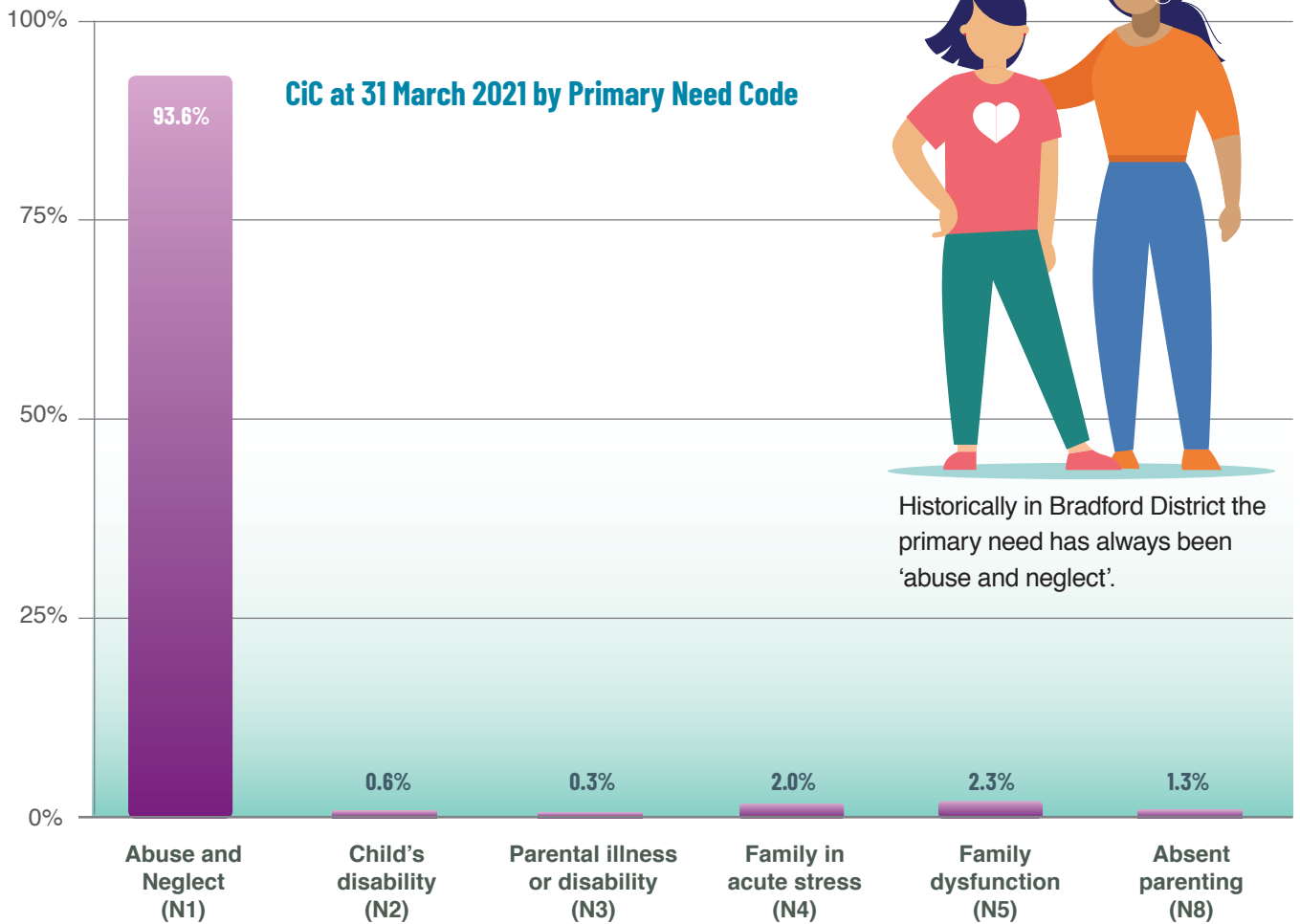
	2018	2019	2020	2021	Difference 2018 to 2021
0-5 months	131	260	187	179	48
6 up to 12 months	104	134	205	220	116
1 up to 2 years	207	168	253	280	73
2-5 years	248	310	306	377	129
5+ years	296	287	295	291	-5

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

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

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

## PRIMARY NEED WHEN ENTERING CARE



## ENTRANTS TO CARE - PLACEMENT REQUESTS

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

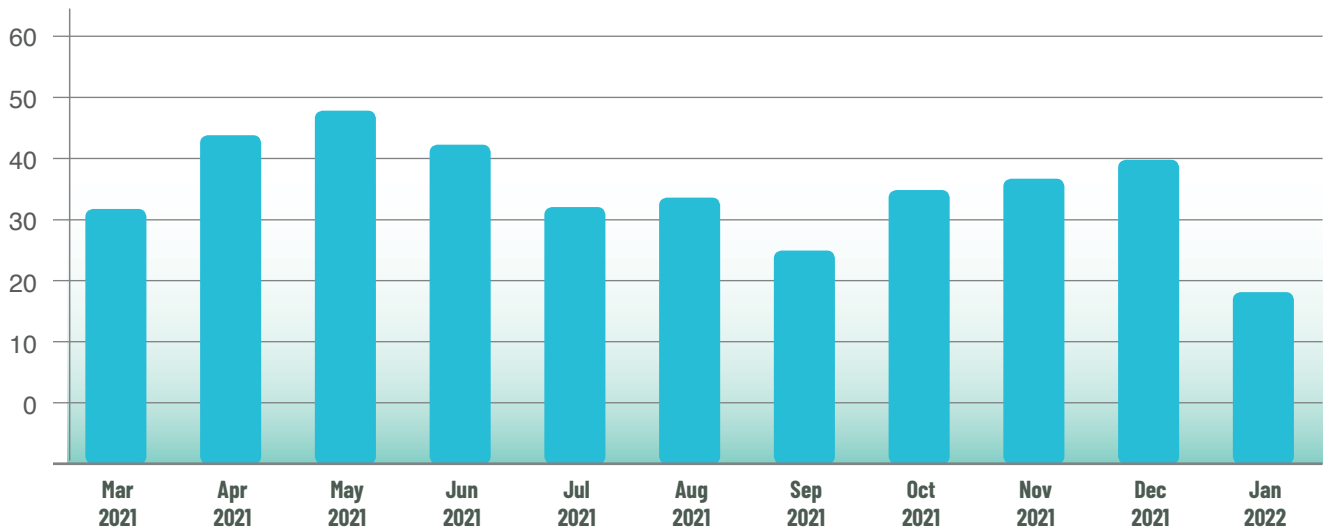
Number of requests for new placements March 21 to Jan 22

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

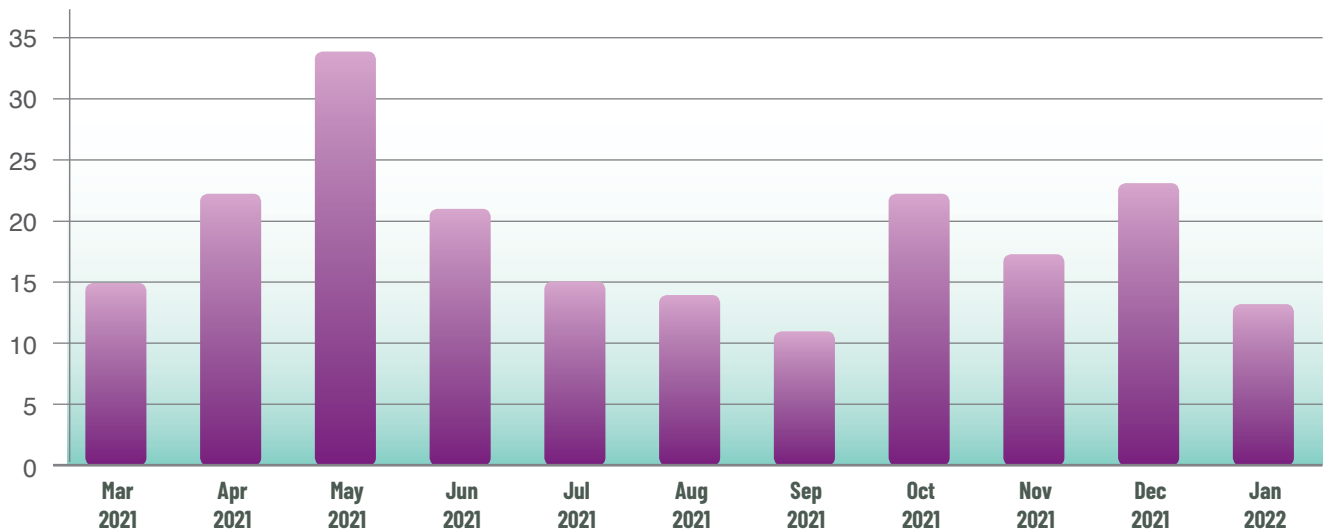
For reference new placement requests make up 47% of the demand for placements for 11 month period (Mar 21 to Jan 21)



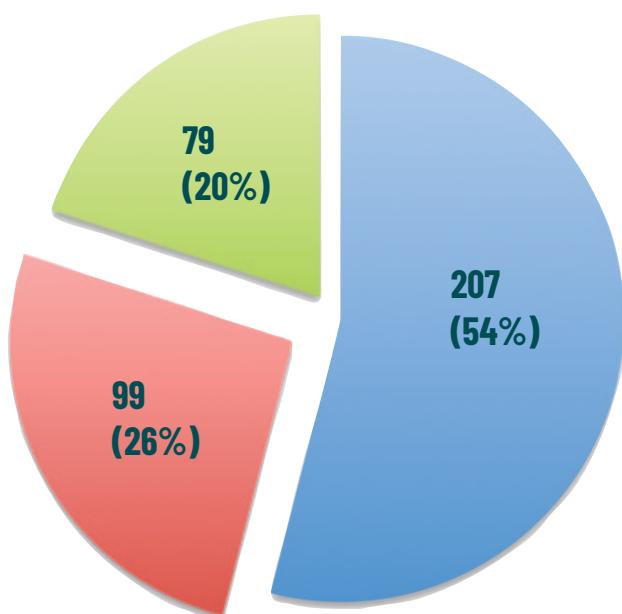
### Placement Requests for New Care Entrants - March 2021 to Jan 2022



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



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



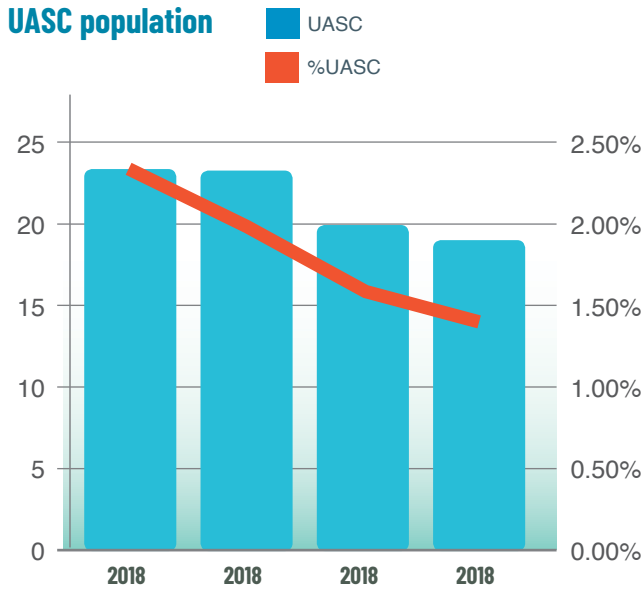
These figures represent a disproportionate volume of emergency requests for placement. Whilst acknowledging that there will always be trigger events such as an injury to a child which will require immediate response, for the most part one would expect admission to care to be a planned process as part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

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

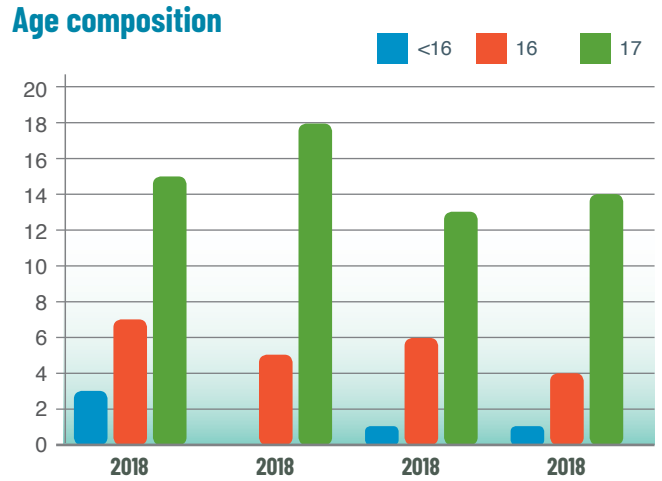
- Emergency – Same Day
- Routine – Over 72 hours
- Urgent – Within 72 hours

# UNACCOMPANIED ASYLUM SEEKING CHILDREN (UASC)

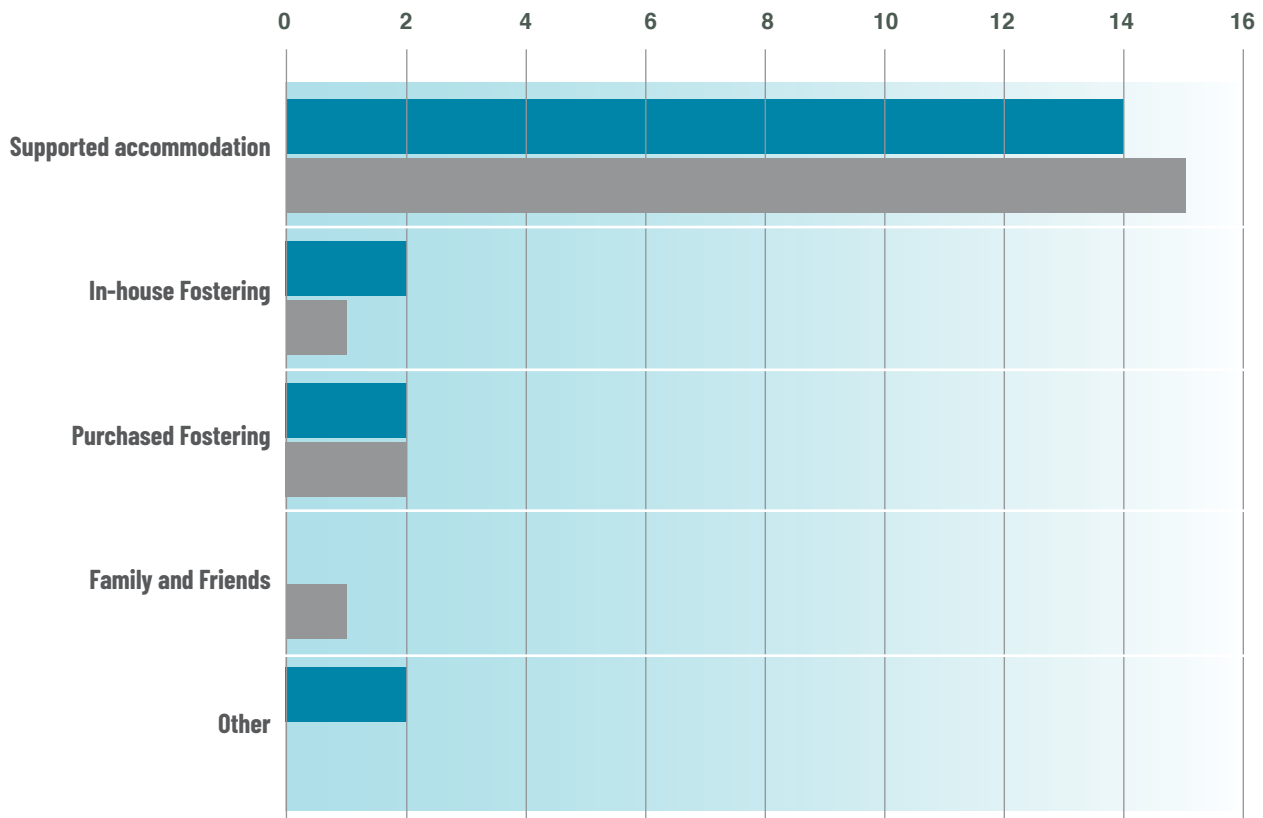
The number of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children has decreased in Bradford District since 2018.



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



## Percentage change in Children in Care population



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

# ADOPTION

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

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

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

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

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

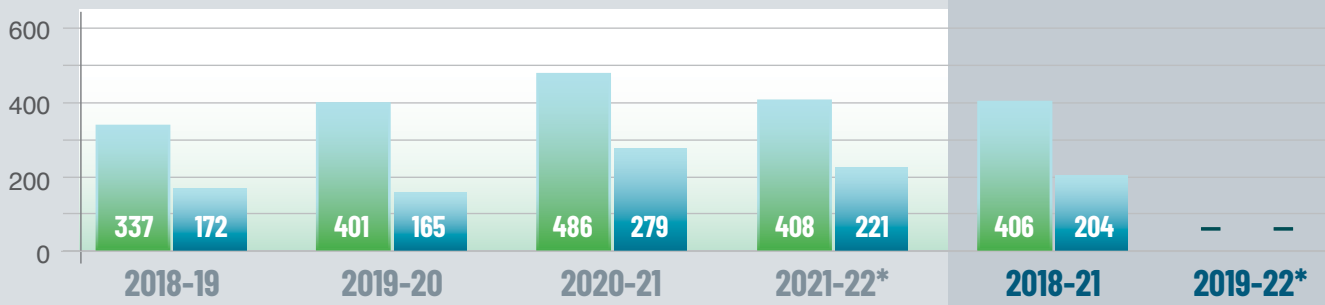
Whilst the last twelve months has seen an improvement for Bradford in respect of both indicators we remain behind statistical neighbours. There will be a number of contributory factors that form the underlying cause of this but most notable will be delays in care planning processes or the family finding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

## Percentage of Looked After Children adopted in a year

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

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

## Adoption Scorecard figures



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

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

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

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

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

# SPECIAL GUARDIANSHIP

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

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



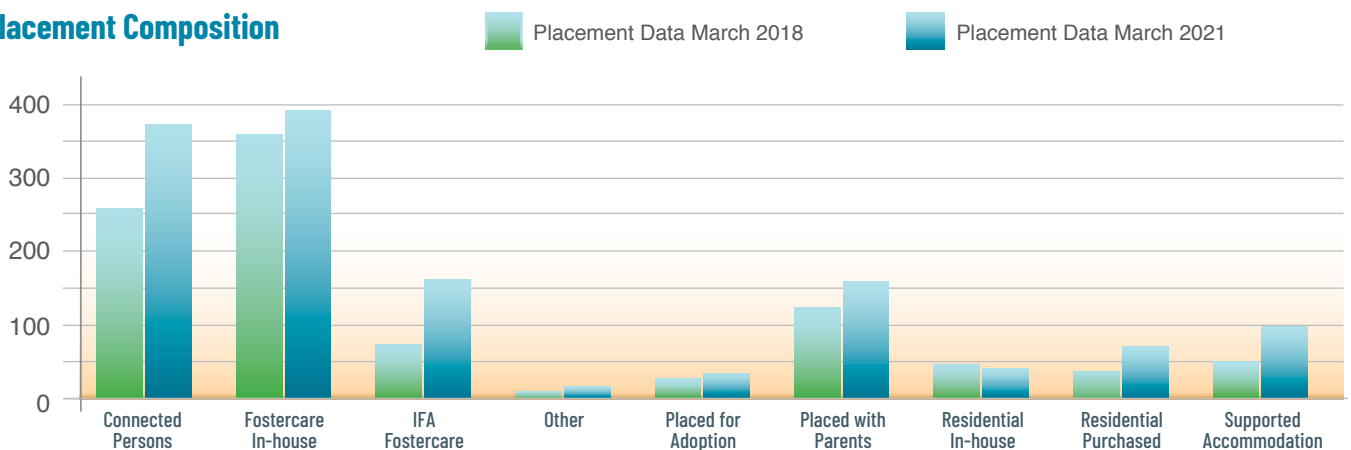
## PROFILE OF CURRENT PLACEMENTS

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



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

### Placement Composition





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

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



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

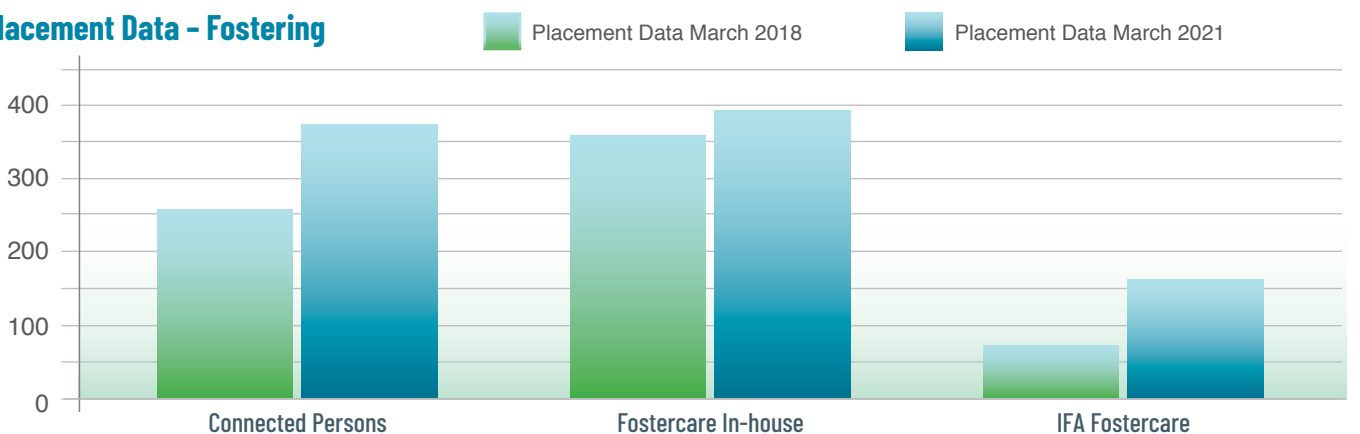
The numbers of children placed at home with parents under legal orders is considerable and substantially in excess of what one would expect. This is falsely inflating our looked after numbers. It is also poor practice to have children on orders in these situations for long periods of time as it represents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

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

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

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

### Placement Data - Fostering



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

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

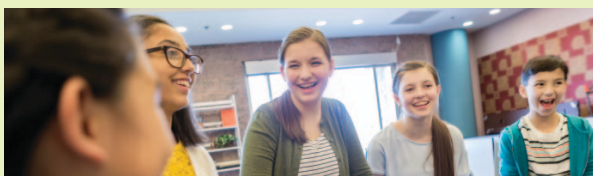
The majority of IFA placements (156) have been made inside the White Rose EMP commissioning framework. Twenty-five IFA placements are outside of the White Rose EMP

## Age composition of IFA Placements

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

## RESIDENTIAL

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



## Residential Purchased Children's Homes

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

### Residential purchased placements by location

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

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

### Placement Stability

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

#### Local Authority, Region and England

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

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

#### Local Authority, Region and England

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

## CARE LEAVERS

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

	2018	2019	2020	2021
<b>Total Care Leavers</b>	495	525	611	685

<b>Projection - Care Leavers</b>	
Month	Projection
Mar-2022	727
Mar-2023	811
Mar-2024	889



## ACCESS TO HOUSING PROCESS

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

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

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

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

### General Accommodation Issues for Care Leavers

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Current Arrangements

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

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

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



# CURRENT PROVISION

## IN-HOUSE FOSTERING SERVICE

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

## FOSTERING HOUSEHOLDS

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

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

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

## CHILDREN PLACED

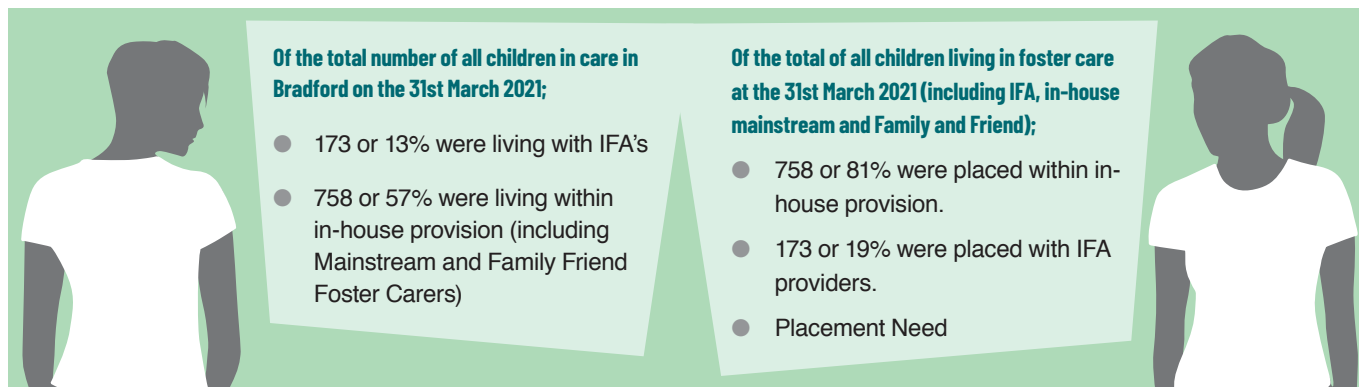
During the reporting period 2020/21 492 children and young people were placed with Bradford’s in-house fostering service. Of these 236 were placed with Mainstream Foster Carers and 256 children were placed with family and friend (connected Person’s) foster carers. In the same period, 430 children left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

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

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

(Source: Ofsted Data returns)

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



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

### Age of Children in Care

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

## COMMISSIONED FOSTERING PROVISION

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

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

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

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

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

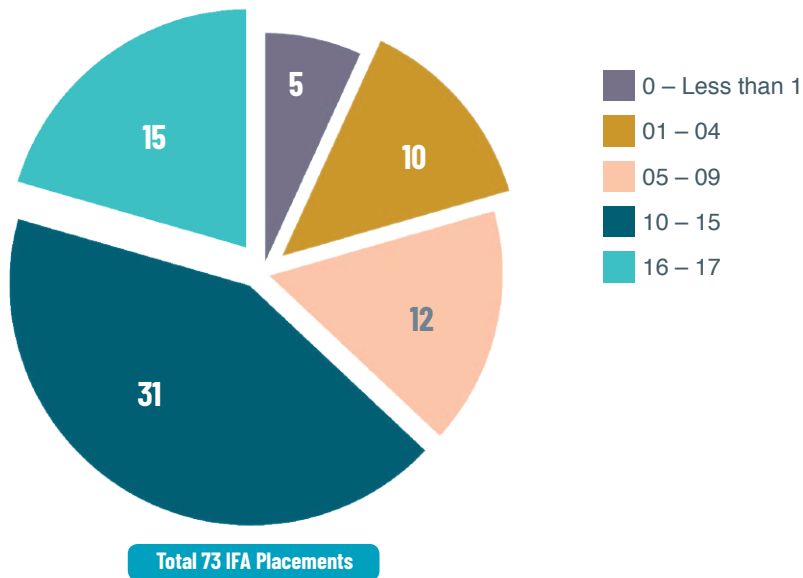
period within IFA provision. At the end of March 2021 173 Bradford children were living with IFA Foster Carers. All but two of these were procured through the WRF.

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

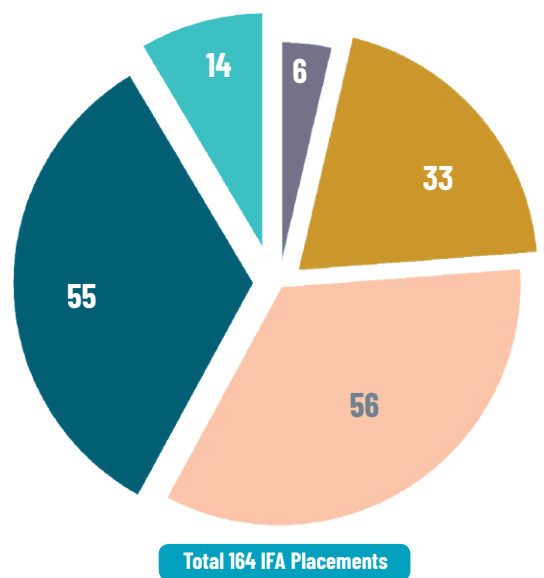
were judged to be 'Good' or 'Outstanding' by Ofsted. In House Fostering

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

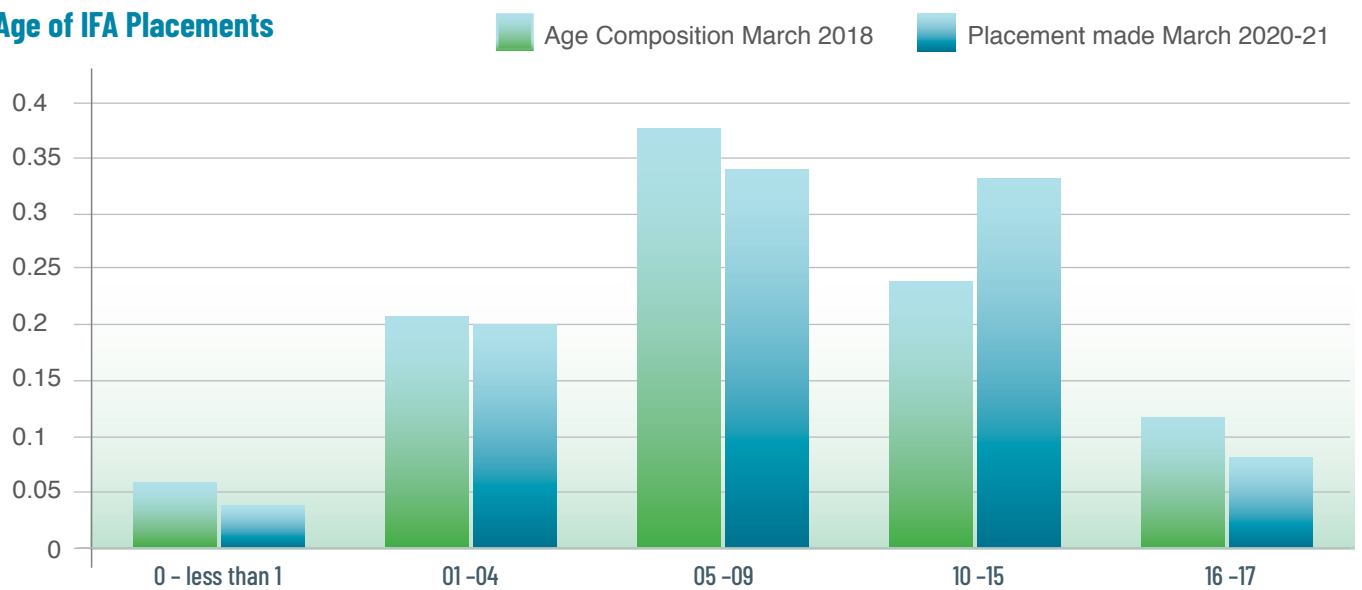
### IFA Placements at March 2018



### IFA Placements at March 2021



### Age of IFA Placements



## FOSTERING

### Challenges / Gaps

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

### Actions Required

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

### Impact

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

## IN-HOUSE FOSTERING

### Challenges / Gaps

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

### Actions Required

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

### Impact

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

## LOCAL PROVISION

### Challenges / Gaps

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

### Actions Required

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

### Impact

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



## CURRENT IN-HOUSE RESIDENTIAL PROVISION

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

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



Residential Home	Location	Residential category and total bed availability	Current occupancy
Clockhouse	BD21 1QX	Mixed 5-17 year olds Short breaks / respite CWD for up to 6 children	
Hollybank	BD7 4QL	Mixed 11-18 year olds planned admissions. 4 beds	4 young people
Meadowlea	LS29 6HP	Mixed 5-10 year olds Currently no admissions are being accepted for this age group to residential care. 7 beds	6 children
Newholme	BD10 9LE	Mixed 12-18 year olds planned admissions. 4 beds	4 young people
Owlthorpe	BD18 2TG	Mixed 11-18 year olds planned admissions. 6 beds	5 young people
Rowan House	BD13 3NS	Mixed 12-18 year olds planned admissions. 6 beds	4 young people
Sky View House	BD20 5SB	12-18 year olds planned admissions. 6 beds	5 young people
The Hollies	BD12 0TD	8-14 year olds planned admissions. 6 beds	5 young people
The Willows	BD2 2DU	1 bed registered specifically for the young person currently in placement. Previously registered for 4 young people as short term emergency admissions 11-18 years	1 young person
Valley View / BEST	BD2 4LL	1 bed registered specifically for the young person currently in placement	1 young person
The Bungalow	BD4 0LH	1 bed to be registered specifically for the young person currently in placement	1 young person
Wedgewood House	BD4 0NQ	5-18 year olds short break respite care. 7 beds	
Wedgewood Hall		Mixed 5-18 year olds planned admissions. 3 beds	3 young people

## IN HOUSE CHILDREN'S HOMES

### Challenges / Gaps

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

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

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

### Actions Required

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

### Impact

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



# COMMISSIONING

## CURRENT POSITION

### Regional Arrangements

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

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

### Regional Arrangements

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

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

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

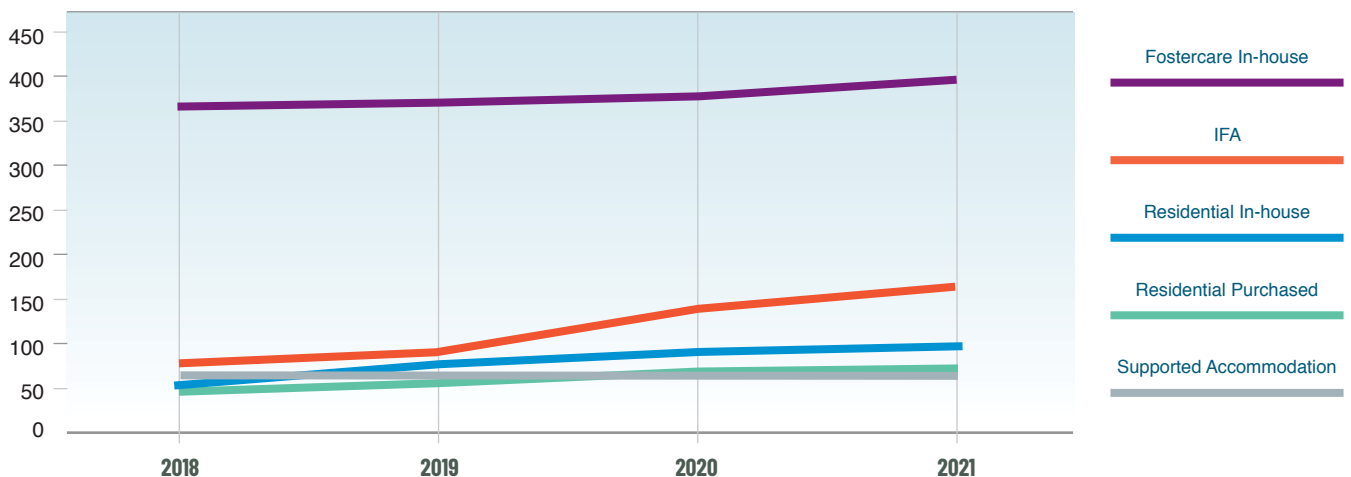
It is not possible to spot purchase to meet all the demand for residential placements from the White Rose EMP. For this reason off-framework placements are also made with other external organisations with due diligence checks undertaken by the Placements Team.

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

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

## CURRENT NEEDS

### Numbers in type of placement



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

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

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

## FUTURE REQUIREMENTS

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

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

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



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

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

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

# DISABILITY / SHORT TERM BREAKS

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

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

## Wedgewood House

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

## Clockhouse

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

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

Challenges to service provision exist which include:

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

## Valley View House

**Valley View** was closed by Ofsted in July 2021.

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

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

## BEST

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

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

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

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

## Shared Care (fostering)

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

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

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

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

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

## Personalised Budgets via Direct Payments

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

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

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

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

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

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

# EDGE OF CARE / EARLY HELP

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

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

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

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

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

## The Family Hubs contribution to Early Help

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



## Access and take-up for early years childcare and funding

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

## Early Help Co-ordinators (EHC)

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

## Family key workers

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

## Parenting Support workers

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

## B POSITIVE PATHWAYS (BPP)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Package of care includes the following support:

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

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

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

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

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







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

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

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

## Intervention

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

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

# SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

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## SUMMARY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## RECOMMENDATIONS

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



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## Sufficiency Strategy Action Plan

Recommendation	Actions	Lead Officer(s)	Timescale
Review current edge of care provision to develop a cohesive all age edge of care offer that ensures timely intervention and support to maintain children and young people at home wherever possible and appropriate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete review of BPP and Intensive Family Support services by Peopletoo</li> <li>Bring service development proposal to DMT/CMT</li> </ul>	Philip Segurola Philip Segurola	March 2022 April 2022
Carry out further analysis of the underlying factors in the disproportionate volume of emergency care admissions in order to tighten care planning processes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Carry out additional audit activity on cohort of care admissions</li> </ul>	Amandip Johal	April 2022
Progress a programme of reviews to identify children placed at home on orders where the discharge of those orders should be sought.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete baseline audit with Warrington BC</li> <li>Progress care discharge applications on identified cases via CIC planning process</li> </ul>	Philippa Holmes All Heads of Service	April 2022 May 2022 onwards
Agree a revised SGO (Special Guardianship Order) policy that permits some children placed with friends and family connected carers to exit the care system.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Subsequent to legal and regional sign off bring revised SGO policy to DMT/CMT</li> </ul>	Philippa Holmes & John Heron	May 2022
Consolidate our schedule of fostering payments to ensure that we remain competitive with neighbouring Authorities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Subsequent to legal sign off bring updated schedule of allowances to Executive</li> </ul>	John Heron & Philip Segurola	April 2022
Develop an annual fostering recruitment strategy that is sufficiently targeted to recruit carers in line with our priority placement needs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop an annual fostering recruitment strategy for approval by DMT.</li> </ul>	John Heron & Kim Bray	May 2022

## Sufficiency Strategy Action Plan

Implement an advanced fostering level for children with specific and/or complex needs who would otherwise be placed in residential care.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Incorporated within updated schedule of allowances being brought to the Executive</li> </ul>	John Heron & Philip Segurola	April 2022
Strengthen the range and volume of placement support options to maximise our ability to hold children in family placements liaising with health colleagues on the clinical elements of this.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop breadth and volume of localised family placement options both in house and commissioned</li> </ul>	John Heron & Mary Ryan	April 2022 onwards
Complete a review of our current residential provision to ensure clarity on homes individual statements of purpose and resulting capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review individual statement of purpose for each children's home</li> </ul>	Simon Goulding and Sonia Bennett	March 2022
Develop a longer term strategy for the growth of the Council's internal residential portfolio which is cost effective and geared towards our identified placement needs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Present residential strategic development plan to DMT/CMT</li> </ul>	Philip Segurola	April 2022
In producing this residential strategy there will be an emphasis on smaller group home provision making full use of the new regulatory permissions to cluster a number of homes under one registered manager.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Incorporate this aspect within the residential strategic development plan</li> </ul>	Philip Segurola	April 2022
Engage with health partners to put in place clinical wrap around support for those homes providing care to children and young people with high end emotional health needs or needs arising from behaviours linked to autism and learning disability.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Progress through Children's and Young People's Board (CYPB)</li> </ul>	Philip Segurola & Ali Jan Haider	July 2022

## Sufficiency Strategy Action Plan

<p>Integrate the existing placement coordination team with the fostering family finding workers to form a single point of placement finding activity that fully maximises use of internal capacity.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Progress any necessary consultation process and accommodation issues</li> </ul>	<p>John Heron &amp; Zoe Nicholls</p>	<p>June 2022</p>
<p>Undertake market testing of commissioning options for in district small group homes tailored to individual categories of need minimising risk of use of unregulated placements.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Subject to DMT/CMT approval progress tendering exercise</li> </ul>	<p>Mary Ryan</p>	<p>June 2022</p>
<p>Progress the introduction of a revised Bradford specific purchasing framework for 16+ supported accommodation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bring proposals to Overview and Scrutiny and progress implementation.</li> </ul>	<p>Mary Ryan and Zoe Nicholls</p>	<p>April 2022</p>
<p>Engage with the external market pro-actively to develop strong relationships with good quality providers and encourage localised capacity building in line with our strategic placement priorities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Progress active dialogue and engagement with existing and potential local providers</li> </ul>	<p>Zoe Nicholls</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>Broaden services that are made available to disabled children and their families as part of a re invigorated short term break strategy.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refresh and consult upon local offer for short term breaks</li> </ul>	<p>Stu Barratt &amp; Andrea Walters</p>	<p>August 2022</p>

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## **Report of the Chair of the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be held on Wednesday 9 March 2022**

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**Subject:**

**Z**

**Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Work Programme 2021/22**

### **Summary statement:**

**This report includes the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee work programme for 2021/22.**

### **EQUALITY & DIVERSITY**

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

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Clr Geoff Winnard  
Chair – Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee

**Portfolio:**

**Children and Families**

Report Contact: Mustansir Butt  
Overview and Scrutiny Lead  
Phone: (01274) 432574  
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**Overview & Scrutiny Area:**

**Children's Services**

## **1. SUMMARY**

1.1 This report includes the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee work programme for 2021/22, which is attached as appendix 1 to this report.

1.2 Also attached as appendix to this report is a list of unscheduled topics for 2021/22.

## **2. BACKGROUND**

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

## **3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

3.1 The Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee has the responsibility for "the strategies, plans, policies, functions and services directly relevant to the corporate priority about services to children and young people." (Council Constitution, Part 2, 6.3.1).

3.2 Best practice published by the Centre for Public Scrutiny suggests that "work programming should be a continuous process". It is important to review work programmes, so that important or urgent issues that arise during the year are able to be scrutinised. Furthermore, at a time of limited resources, it should also be possible to remove areas of work which have become less relevant or timely. For this reason, it is proposed that the Committee's work programme be regularly reviewed by members of the committee throughout the municipal year.

3.3 The work programme as agreed by the Committee will form the basis for the Committee's work during the year, but will be amended as issues arise during the year.

3.4 This Committee has agreed to undertake a programme of detailed scrutiny reviews, with the Committee already having started the Elective Home Education Scrutiny Review; the amended Terms of Reference for this scrutiny review are attached as Appendix 3 for member's consideration. The other scrutiny reviews include:

- Looked after Children.
- Children's Homes.
- Fostering.
- Children's Mental Health.
- Recruitment and retention of Social Workers.
- SEND, (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities).
- YOT, (Youth Offending Team).

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

4.1 None.

**5. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES**

5.1 None.

**6. LEGAL APPRAISAL**

6.1 None.

**7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

**7.1 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

None.

**7.2 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS**

None.

**7.3 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

None.

**7.4 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT**

None.

**7.5 TRADE UNION**

None.

**7.6 WARD IMPLICATIONS**

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

**7.7 IMPLICATIONS FOR CORPORATE PARENTING**

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

**7.8 ISSUES ARISING FROM PRIVACY IMPACT ASSESMENT**

None.

**8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS**

None.

## **9. OPTIONS**

- 9.1 The Committee may choose to add to or amend the topics included in the 2021-22 work programme for the committee.
- 9.2 Members may wish to consider any detailed scrutiny reviews that it may wish to conduct.

## **10. RECOMMENDATIONS**

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

## **11. APPENDICES**

Appendix One – 2021-22 Work Programme for the Children’s Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Appendix Two – Unscheduled Topics.

## **12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

Council Constitution.  
2020-21 Children’s Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme.

# Democratic Services - Overview and Scrutiny

## Childrens Services O&S Committee

Scrutiny Lead: Mustansir Butt tel - 43 2574

### Work Programme

Agenda Items	Description	Report Author	Comments
<b>Thursday, 29th July 2021 at City Hall, Bradford.</b>			
Chair's briefing 30/06/21. Report deadline 15/07/21.			
1) Ofsted inspection of LACS - Improvement		Mark Douglas/Irfan Alam/Stuart Smith.	
2) Work Planning.	There is a need to regularly review the work programme, in order to prioritise and manage the work.	Mustansir Butt	Also including Resolution Tracking.
<b>Wednesday, 22nd September 2021 at City Hall, Bradford.</b>			
Chair's briefing 01/09/21. Report deadline 09/09/21.			
1) Ofsted inspection of LACS - Improvement.	To also include Vital Signs, as recommended by the Committee on Thursday 29 July 2021.	Mark Douglas/Irfan Alam.	
2) Workforce development aspect of the Children's Services Improvement Programme.		Mark Douglas/Irfan Alam/Claire Threpleton.	Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee recommendation from Wednesday 11 March 2021. Deferred from Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee from Wednesday 7 April 2021.
3) School organisation including, school expansion programme, education capital funding and academy conversations.	That a report be presented to the Committee in 12 months, which also includes a breakdown of capital and ethnic mix of schools.	Marium Haque.	Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny recommendation from Wednesday 5 August 2020.
4) Work Planning.	There is a need to regularly review the work programme, in order to prioritise and manage the work.	Mustansir Butt.	
<b>Wednesday, 6th October 2021 at City Hall, Bradford.</b>			
1) Child Sexual Exploitation Child Thematic Safeguarding Practice Review.		Lawrence Bone/Jane Booth/Darren Minton.	Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee recommendation from Thursday 29 July 2021.

# Childrens Services O&S Committee

Scrutiny Lead: Mustansir Butt tel - 43 2574

## Work Programme

Agenda Items	Description	Report Author	Comments
<b>Wednesday, 6th October 2021 at City Hall, Bradford.</b>			
2) Valley View Home Closure/Bradfords Care Homes.		Mark Douglas/Irfan Alam.	Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee recommendation from Thursady 29 July 2021.
3) Work Planning.	There is a need to regularlry review the work programme, in order to prioritise and manage the work.	Mustansir Butt.	
<b>Wednesday, 13th October 2021 at Remote Virtual Meeting.</b>			
1) Scrutiny Review - Alternative School Provision.	Interim report back.	Mustansir Butt.	
<b>Wednesday, 17th November 2021 at City Hall, Bradford.</b>			
Chair's briefing 28/10/21. Report deadline 04/11/21.			
1) Troubled Families Programme.		Chad Thompson.	Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee recommendation from Wednesday 6 January 2021. Deferred from Wednesday 7 April 2021 meeting.
2) Mental Health issues relating to Children's Social Care.		Sasha Bhatt/Ali Jan Haider/Joanne Toobey	Councillor request. Was due to be considered at the meeting on Wednesday 20 October 2021, but postponed due to Officer request.
3) Work Planning.	There is a need to regularlry review the work programme, in order to prioritise and manage the work.	Mustansir Butt.	
<b>Wednesday, 15th December 2021 at City Hall, Bradford.</b>			
Chair's briefing 25/11/21. Report deadline 02/12/21.			
1) Improvement Plan.		Marium Haque.	Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee Recommendation from Wednesday 22 September 2021.
2) Exploitation Annual Report.	To focus on the Work undertaken to date and progress against the review recommendations. To also include Bradford Partnership Annual Report.	Darren Minton/Jane Booth.	Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee Recommendation from Wednesday 6 October 2021.

## Childrens Services O&S Committee

Scrutiny Lead: Mustansir Butt tel - 43 2574

### Work Programme

Agenda Items	Description	Report Author	Comments
<b>Wednesday, 15th December 2021 at City Hall, Bradford.</b>			
Chair's briefing 25/11/21. Report deadline 02/12/21.			
3) Annual Report for Looked After Children.		Michelle Holgate/David Johnston.	Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee recommendation from Wednesday 22 September 2021.
4) Youth Offending Team.		Lisa Brett/Sarah Griffin.	Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee recommendation from Wednesday 6 January 2021. Deferred from Wednesday 7 April 2021 meeting.
5) Work Planning.	There is a need to regularly review the work programme, in order to prioritise and manage the work.	Mustansir Butt.	
<b>Wednesday, 9th February 2022 at City Hall, Bradford.</b>			
Chair's briefing 19/01/22. Report deadline 27/01/22.			
1) Audit findings relating to the quality of Social Work Practice.		David Johnston.	Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Recommendation from Wednesday 11 March 2021.
2) Raising Attainment Strategy.	That the Raising Attainment Strategy to be presented to this Committee in the New Year.	Marium Haque.	Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee recommendation from Wednesday 2 December 2020.
3) Workforce Development - Children's Services.	Committee requested that a more detailed report be presented, which also specifically focuses on the activities being undertaken and the progress being made on increasing and reducing the number of agency workers.	Anne Lloyd/ David Johnston.	Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee recommendation from Wednesday 22 September 2021.
4) Work Planning.	There is a need to regularly review the work programme, in order to prioritise and manage the work.	Mustansir Butt.	
<b>Wednesday, 9th March 2022 at City Hall, Bradford.</b>			
Chair's briefing 18/02/22. Report deadline 24/02/22.			
1) £2m Procurement Contract.	Commissioning of post-16 placements for Children in Care and Care Leavers.	Mary Ryan.	Constitutional requirement.

## Childrens Services O&S Committee

Scrutiny Lead: Mustansir Butt tel - 43 2574

### Work Programme

Agenda Items	Description	Report Author	Comments
<b>Wednesday, 9th March 2022 at City Hall, Bradford.</b>			
Chair's briefing 18/02/22. Report deadline 24/02/22.			
2) Residential Children's Homes & Related Issues.	To focus on the actions being taken to improve the Children's Residential Homes, be presented to this Committee. Also the findings from the external review of the quality of provision across each of the Children's homes.	Philip Segurola.	Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee recommendation from Wednesday 6 October 2021.
3) Educational Standards - Early Years to Key Stage 4.	Future reports to contain details of key areas of improvement and actions being taken to continue to address them, focusing on the approaches being taken to improve Bradford Council's ranking in this area.	Sue Lowndes.	Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee recommendation from Wednesday 15 January 2020.
4) Sufficiency Strategy, to also include In-house Fostering Service and Adoptions.		Philip Segurola.	Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Recommendation from Wednesday 6 October 2021. In-House Fostering report was deferred from meeting in November 2021.
5) Work Planning.	There is a need to regularly review the work programme, in order to prioritise and manage the work.	Mustansir Butt.	
<b>Wednesday, 23rd March 2022 at City Hall, Bradford.</b>			
Chair's briefing 03/03/22. Report deadline 10/03/22.			
1) Monitoring of the Improvement Plan.		Marium Haque.	
2) Special Educational Needs and Disability Reforms.	That a further report be presented to the Committee in January 2021 also focusing on compliance.	Marium Haque.	Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee recommendation from Wednesday 2 September 2020.
3) Young Carers.	Specifically focusing on performance targets and standards.	Cath Dew.	Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee recommendation from Wednesday 11 March 2021.



# Childrens Services O&S Committee

Scrutiny Lead: Mustansir Butt tel - 43 2574

## Work Programme

### Agenda Items

**Wednesday, 23rd March 2022 at City Hall, Bradford.**

Chair's briefing 03/03/22. Report deadline 10/03/22.

4) Work Planning.

### Description

There is a need to regularly review the work programme, in order to prioritise and manage the work.

### Report Author

Mustansir Butt.

### Comments

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# Democratic Services - Overview and Scrutiny

## Scrutiny Committees Forward Plan

### Unscheduled Items

#### Childrens Services O&S Committee

Agenda item	Item description	Author	Comments
1 Performance Outturn report		Jenny Cryer.	
2 Schools Forum.	An update on the work of the Schools Forum.	Andrew Redding.	Monthly Electronic briefing to members.
3 Child Friendly City.	The Committee will receive a report detailing the progress towards Bradford becoming a "Child Friendly City".	Sue Woolmore.	Stuart Smith suggested the report be presented to Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny, rather than the Improvement Board. Need re-scheduling from cancelled meeting on Wednesday 15 April 2020.
4 Informal information gathering sessions relating to the Alternative School Provision Scrutiny Review.		Mustansir Butt.	
5 Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny - Programme of Scrutiny Reviews.	<p>That a programme of Scrutiny Reviews be undertaken across key areas within Children's Services which include:</p> <p>(a) Alternative School Provision, (including Home Schooled Children).            (b) Looked after Children.            ©Children's Homes.            (d) Fostering.            €Children's Mental Health.            (f) Recruitment and retention of Social Workers.            (g) SEND, (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities).            (h) YOT, (Youth Offending Team).</p>	Mustansir Butt.	Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny recommendation from Wednesday 9 October 2019.
6 School Organisation including school expansion programme, educational capital funding and academy converstaions.		Marium Haque.	Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny recommendation from Wednesday 5 August 2020.

## Childrens Services O&S Committee

Agenda item	Item description	Author	Comments
7	This Committee requests that the Children's Services Overview &Scrutiny Committee considers aspects of the Impower Contract that relate specifically to Children's Services.	Mark Douglas/Chris Chapman/Parveen Akhtar.	Recommendation from Corporate Overview & Scrutiny Committee on Thursday 23 July 2020.
8	Sepcial Educational Needs and Disability Reforms, (SEND).	Jane Hall.	Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee recommendation from Wednesday 2 September 2020.
9	Opportunity Area.	Kathryn Loftus/Lee Turner.	Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee recommendation from Wednesday 15 January 2020.
10	Early Help and Prevention Service.	Lisa Brett.	Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee recommendation from Wednesday 2 December 2020.
11	That the Committee keeps an overview of the Council's plans for remote learning taking place across the District and requests that officers present new information when it is available to the Committee.	Marium Haque/Sharon Sanders.	Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee recommendation from Wednesday 6 January 2021.
12	School Expansion.	Marium Haque.	Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee recommednation from Wednesday 22 September 2021.
13	Better Start Bradford		Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee recommednation from Thursday 29 July 2021.
14	Young Carers.	Cath Dew.	Briefing to be circulated to members.
15	Case Review Findings.	Lawrence Bone/Darren Minton/Marium Haque.	Childrens Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee recommendation from Wednesday 15 December 2021.

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## Childrens Services O&S Committee

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Agenda item	Item description	Author	Comments
16 Corporate Parenting Strategy.		Philip Segurola.	Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee request from Wednesday 6 October 2021. To be considered in June 2022.

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