

TITLE	Annual Review of the Corporate Parenting Board
FOR CONSIDERATION BY	Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee
DATE	18 September 2018
REPORT PREPARED BY	Jasmine Grimshaw Service Manager Corporate parenting

SUMMARY

Wokingham Borough Council is committed and determined to improve the life experiences of our looked after children and care leavers by narrowing the gap in the outcomes between looked after children and young people and their peers. We are ambitious and aspirational for our looked after children, young people and care leavers and are determined to support them to maximise their potential.

The Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report provides assurance that we are making progress towards that goal.

This report sets out how Wokingham Borough Council has worked to fulfil its responsibilities over the last year using both qualitative and quantitative data and the feedback of the children and young people in our care and those who are currently leaving care.

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To present the Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report 2017/18 as part of our assurance to Corporate Parenting Board of delivery and impact for Children in Care and to recommend updated Strategic Priorities for 2018-19

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Agree and endorse the annual Corporate Parenting report
2. Note the recommendations and strategic delivery action plan
3. To agree the new strategic priorities for 2018 -19
4. Request six monthly updates on the progress of the 2018/2019 action plan
5. It is recommended that all Corporate Parenting Board agenda items and minutes reference which priority it relates to in order to easily identify minuted progress against the priorities.

Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report and Impact Statement 2018 – 2019

1. Introduction

Wokingham Borough Council is committed to becoming an “outstanding” Corporate parent, and has a legal responsibility to children in care and those leaving care. As Corporate Parents we must replicate the care and support provided by a ‘good parent’. We do not underestimate the challenges this poses but we know that for our children in care and care leavers, their experiences in childhood and through their teenage years are critical in shaping their future happiness and setting the foundations for what they can achieve throughout their adult lives. Good parenting is vital, which is why the role of Corporate Parent is one of the central responsibilities of the Council. As an innovative council we must provide good opportunities for the children and young people in our care to fulfil their potential.

Looked after children are among the most vulnerable children in our community. They are unable to live at home with their immediate family, for any number of reasons, and they become looked after by Wokingham County Council. This may be through a voluntary agreement with the child’s parents or through a court order. Whatever their journey into care looks like, most looked after children will have experienced some form of neglect, harm or emotional distress in their lives before becoming looked after.

Research shows that outcomes for children and young people who are in, or have left care, remain worse than for other children and is something for which we must take collective responsibility. They often do not do as well at school, are less likely to go on to higher education, more likely to be not in education, employment or training (NEET) and are over-represented in youth offending institutions. There is also a long term impact when looked after children become parents themselves.

Good Corporate Parenting requires ownership and leadership at the most senior level and this includes elected members. As corporate parents, it is the responsibility of all elected members to be satisfied that there is a joined up, effective and holistic approach to meeting the needs of looked after children and care leavers through policy and planning. This means that when policy is being set or plans are agreed it is important to consider opportunities for improving outcomes for looked after children. The Corporate Parenting Board leads for the Council in fulfilling this responsibility, but it is also important that each Councillor is aware of the vital role that they can play. This can be through scrutiny, through input at council meetings and through day to day engagement with the local community including schools, health care providers and other organisations in local areas. There is also an interface with District colleagues and wider partners, for example, housing.

This report sets out how Wokingham Borough Council has worked to fulfil its responsibilities over the last year using both qualitative and quantitative data and the feedback of the children and young people in our care and those who are currently leaving care.

The Children in Care Council reviewed the council's delivery of the Pledge and reported on this to the Corporate Parenting Board.

The report provides the rationale for the Corporate Parenting Board's strategy in 2018/19.

2. Key information

Corporate Parenting is the term used to refer to the responsibility of the Council to provide the best possible care and protection for children and young people who are in care. At the core of this responsibility is the duty to provide the type of support that any good parent would provide for their own children.

All Councillors should be aware of their corporate parenting responsibilities and must:

- Have a clear understanding and awareness of the issues for looked after children and care leavers in the authority area and those placed out of area
- Champion the interests of looked after children and care leavers in all they do
- Ensure looked after children and care leavers have a say in how decisions are made about the services that affect them, and so that they can influence those decisions. This includes councillors engaging with the looked after council and the leaving care council
- Provide meaningful work based training opportunities, including apprenticeships for care leavers within the Council and its partners and contractors to improve their future prospects
- Ensure children placed out of county receive an equal service
- Ensure that the Council, as corporate parent, is keeping the promise it has made in the Corporate Parenting Pledge, and the Care Leavers' Charter
- Require evidence of improving positive outcomes and aspirational progress for Wokingham looked after children
- Ask how all elements of council business have an impact for looked after children
- Make connections and links between council plans, strategies and decision-making for looked after children
- Consistently challenge "Would this be good enough for my own child?"

The Legal Framework: Legislation and statutory and non-statutory guidance covering the responsibilities of local authorities and their partners for children in care is extensive. The legal framework covers all aspects of a child's journey through care, including health, education and ensuring the child's voice is heard in the care process. The framework also includes regulations and guidance relevant to

children's homes and fostering services providers. The below pictorial representation of this framework rightly places the child in care at the centre:



3. Our strategic priorities 2017 - 2018

Our strategic priorities in 2017-18 were:

- i. To ensure the strength and effectiveness of the role of the Corporate Parenting Board thus its impact on the Corporate Parenting function of the Council as a whole
- ii. To strengthen the voice of children in care and care leavers in planning, reviewing and decision making
- iii. To consolidate progress and continue to improve the timeliness of permanency for children in care across the range of permanent options
- iv. To improve provision for care leavers in Wokingham
- v. To improve educational outcomes for children in care and care leavers in Wokingham
- vi. To improve health provision for children in care and care leavers in Wokingham

This report is structured under the heading of each of these priorities to outline what has been achieved in the last year.

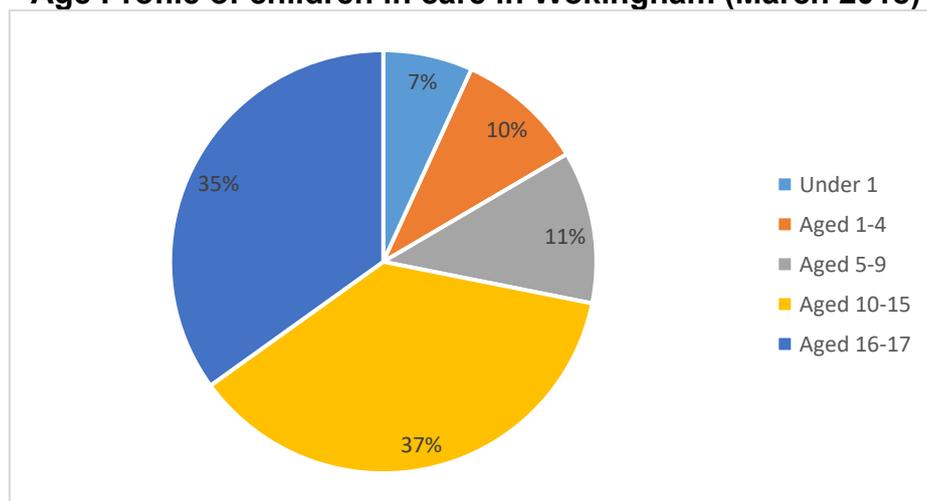
4. Contextual information on the children in care

Headline data	
•	At the end of January 2018, there were 103 Looked after children which have shown an increase of 32% between March 2017 (78) and January 2018 (103). The number of unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC) is steadily increasing with 11 UASC in care at the end of January 2018.

The number of children care in Wokingham has increased by 38.5% children in care In April 2017 there was 78 children in care and as of May 18 there are 108 children in care .

Children in care: Rate per 10,000 Children								
Area	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Wokingham	21.0	20.0	24.0	20.0	20	20	20.6	25.8
SE Region	46.0	47.0	47.0	48.0	49	52	51	Not available
Statistical neighbours	37.9	37.8	37.9	39.4	39.6	40.6	42.8	Not available
England	58.0	59.0	60.0	60.0	60	60	62	Not available

Age Profile of children in care in Wokingham (March 2018)



There remains a higher number of children in care that at the older age band however since 2017 there is a reduction of aged 16-17 year old from 43% to 37% and a reduction of aged 10 -15 years old from 43% to 35%.

Ethnicity profile of children in care						
Ethnic Group	March 2013	March 2014	March 2015	March 2016	March 2017	March 2018
White	69	63	62	65	54 (70.1%)	74 (71.8%)
Mixed	8	6	4	6	5 (6.5%)	7 (6.8%)
Asian or Asian British	5	4	6	7	8 (10.4%)	7 (6.8%)
Black or Black British	1	0	0	1	4 (5.2%)	5 (4.9%)
Other ethnic groups	3	2	2	4	6 (7.8%)	10 (9.7%)
Total	86	75	74	83	77	103

There is a proportionate number of children from ethnic minority backgrounds with 28.3% of our children in care coming from ethnic minority backgrounds which is a similar number to those in the community of Wokingham

Gender profile of children in care												
Age group	March 2013		March 2014		March 2015		March 2016		March 2017		March 2018	
	Boys	Girls										
Under 1	1	3	0	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	5	2
Aged 1 - 4	9	4	10	3	1	3	5	4	1	3	6	4
Aged 5 – 9	6	9	3	3	2	6	2	2	3	2	10	2
Aged 10 - 15	22	11	23	15	27	16	19	21	18	15	20	18
Aged 16-17	13	8	12	4	12	3	20	7	19	14	20	16
Aged 18+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	51	35	48	27	44	30	48	35	42	35	61	42
	86		75		74		83		77		103	

National data shows a mix of around 55% boys and 45% girls, yet Wokingham's data continued to show boys slightly over-represented in the mix of children who were in care (61% boys and 39% girls). The chart suggest that boy in their mid-teens are over-represented in CIC in Wokingham

The Legal Status of our children in care						
Legal Status	March 2013	March 2014	March 2015	March 2016	March 2017	March 2018
Care order – interim	18	13	4	8	7	25
Care order	38	36	41	43	44	39
s20 of Children Act 1989 (parents request)	29	21	24	23	22	37
Placement order	1	5	2	7	3	2
On remand, detained etc	0	0	0	0	1	0
Emergency order or police protection	0	0	3	0	0	0
Total	86	75	74	81	77	103

The number of children coming into care under Section 20 has increased, the number Of care orders has dipped which may attributed to the increase of the number of Alternative orders sought that is Special Guardianship orders. The number of

% of children at 31st March with 3 or more placements during the year

As of 31st March	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Wokingham	11.9	*	*	12.5	9	11	11	12	17	Not published
Statistical Neighbours	12.09	12.12	10.45	10.99	10.2	9.1	11.33	10.4	10.89	Not published
England	11.1	11.4	11	11	11	10	11	10	10	Not published

Source: DfE – Local Authority Interactive Tool

*-% suppressed as below 5

Data has not been published for 2018

Children missing from care

	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Number of children missing from care between 1 st April and 31 st March	10	14	12	17
Number of missing incidents between 1 st April and 31 st March	32	54	51	58
Number of children absent from care	10	9	1	8

between 1 st April and 31 st March				
Number of absent incidents between 1 st April and 31 st March	18	26	11	10
Number of return interviews accepted between 1 st April and 31 st March	Not recorded	Not recorded	27	25
Number of return interviews completed between 1 st April and 31 st March	Not recorded	Not recorded	26	23

5. Overview of Progress

(i) To ensure the strength and effectiveness of the role of the Corporate Parenting Board and thus its impact on the Corporate Parenting function of the Council as a whole

As identified below, the Corporate Parenting Board have regularly reviewed a number of items in order to monitor progress and improvement. The below table captures the information and inputs received, which support the Board to fulfil its duties;

CPB Date	Agenda items and actions discussed
May 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
July 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CICC Update • Notification of CIC Activity day and events • CPB Annual report • CLA medical process update • CPB training • Report on care leavers independent living skills • Foster carer recruitment and retention • Data Set children in care
September 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parenting board annual report • Apprenticeship updated • Education strategy • Child in care sufficiency • Stay and put
December 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Virtual head teacher report 2016-17 • Stay and put policy and procedures • University funding for care leavers
January 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data performance • Update from children in care council
March 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wokingham Borough councils emotional well-being strategy 2018-19 • Sufficiency strategy for children in care and care leavers 2018 -2022 • Child in care savings • Life story and direct work with young persons and carers

Key achievements

- Implementation of the stay and put policy
- Independence skills programme is up and running

- Sponsorship and support/awards for CIC celebration event took place and further event on 29th August has been organised
- The CPB endorsed Council tax exemption for foster carers and Care leavers
- Social workers have SMART phones

Partnerships

As a good corporate parent, we use our leadership role in statutory boards to ensure that outcomes for children in care and care leavers are improved year on year. The key to ensuring that children in care receive the best possible service is to work in partnership with other agencies from the moment children first receive services from us. The below are some of the boards/partnerships that contribute to the quality of service that children in care and care leavers receive.

Health and Wellbeing Board

The Health and Wellbeing Board provides oversight and accountability for improving the health outcomes of children in care and care leavers.

The Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report goes to Wokingham Safeguarding Children Board. The safeguarding board has a protocol in place with the Health and Wellbeing Board to ensure information is shared and all partner agencies appraised of developments.

Wokingham Safeguarding Children's Board

The LSCB scrutinises the safeguarding of children in care, and will hold the CPB to account in this regard. The Corporate Parenting Board will report to the LSCB annually for multi-agency support and challenge

Community Safety Partnership

The Community Safety Partnership is made up of the key organisations responsible for keeping the borough safe. The partnership includes: Thames Valley Police, the Borough Council, Thames Valley Probation, Berkshire West Primary Care Trust, Thames Valley Police Authority and Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service. Priorities include hidden crimes and their impact on vulnerable people and their families, which includes work on domestic abuse and hate crime.

Local Family Justice Board

The aim of Local Family Justice Boards is to achieve significant improvement in the performance of the family justice system in local areas.

In recent years the Family Justice Board has contributed to the significant improvement in the timescales for progressing children's cases through the court, achieving permanence in a timely manner.

Children in Care Council

Members of the Children in Care Council are young people who have left care or who are currently in care who work with both the Corporate Parenting Board and officers to advise and support the delivery of services to children in care and who hold the Council to account for the standard and quality of the care provided.

(ii) To strengthen the voice of children in care and care leavers in planning, reviewing and decision making

Wokingham Council is fully committed to putting the experience and feedback of our children in care and care leavers at the heart of our system in order to inform service improvements and strategic priorities, and to ensure a meaningful connectivity and accountability to our children. We are committed to developing as many innovative ways as possible to encourage the widest range of children and young people to influence the actions of Corporate Parents to drive the activity of Corporate Parents and the Service.

The annual children in care survey were sent out in 2017. We were able to draw from it themes to help us identify areas where we need to do more.

The survey was sent out to all Wokingham's children and young people in care aged 8-17 years old. The survey asked;-

- To look at each of the 6 sections of the Pledge, *Where you live, Your Education, Your Health, Your Activities, Your Voice* and for those 16 and over *Becoming an Adult*, and say if they think the promises in that section have been kept.
- Explain how the Pledge has helped You Say if they think any other promises should be added to the Pledge.

What do children in care tell us?

The positives of this survey were that;-

- On average, 87% of young people said the promises in the Pledge had been kept. An 11% increase on the previous year.
- The majority of the responses in Your Education, Your Health, Your Activities, and Your Voice were positive, with a big increase in satisfaction around Education
- Young people are clearer on who their Advocate, Corporate Parent and Independent Reviewing Officers (IRO) are and how to contact them.
- Nearly all young people have IT equipment and are helped to have a healthy life style

Children in care Pledge Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only half the young people said that they had a copy of the Pledge. • Across five of the six areas of the pledge most young people generally feel the promises have been kept, the least positive section continues to be 'Where you Live'. Although some improvement is reported, many young people expressed concern that they don't meet or have enough information about new carer's before
Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our recommendations: • Provide all Children in Care with a copy of the Pledge and information on how to get involved in the Children in Care Council if they are interested • Look at new ways of incentivising young people to complete the annual children in care survey – so that their voice is heard. • Young people to be given more information about new carers and where possible a chance to meet them before moving in • Wokingham continues to try and reduce changes of social worker • Young people's individual wishes about Life Story work are fully explored and understood • Young people to have a say in choosing their school • Social Workers check that young people have Passports and know where their Birth Certificate is - where there is a problem they work out how to resolve it

What is next?

The response rate to the Annual Survey was not as high as we would expect with just 24 responses out of a total of 80 surveys sent out so we need to identify new ways of engaging the children and young people in the surveys, including producing the survey in an accessible format for children and young people who use other forms of communication.

The Children in Care Council suggested that we should do the survey as an electronic survey through Survey Monkey or a similar e-survey tool which we will consider alongside them in designing the next survey.

When issuing the Annual Survey, we will ensure that a link to the Pledge is also attached.

We are aware that Children in Care council do not represent the diversity of children in care and we will be exploring ways to better improve this.

Young people and care leavers have asked to be part of foster care preparation and on-going training. This will be facilitated in 2018-19.

(iii) To consolidate progress and continue to improve the timeliness of permanency for children in care across the range of permanent options

Length of time in care					
Time in care so far	Number of children as at 31 March 2014	Number of children as at 31 March 2015	Number of children as at 31 March 2016	Number of children as at 31 March 2017	Number of children as at 31 March 2018
Under 1 year	19	25	29	19	54
1 up to 2	24	11	14	14	13
2 up to 3	8	17	7	9	5
3 up to 4	6	7	13	7	6
4 up to 5	3	3	7	11	6
5 up to 6	5	2	3	5	8
6+	10	9	10	12	11
Total	75	74	83	77	103

The above table shows that the duration of children's time in care is shortening.

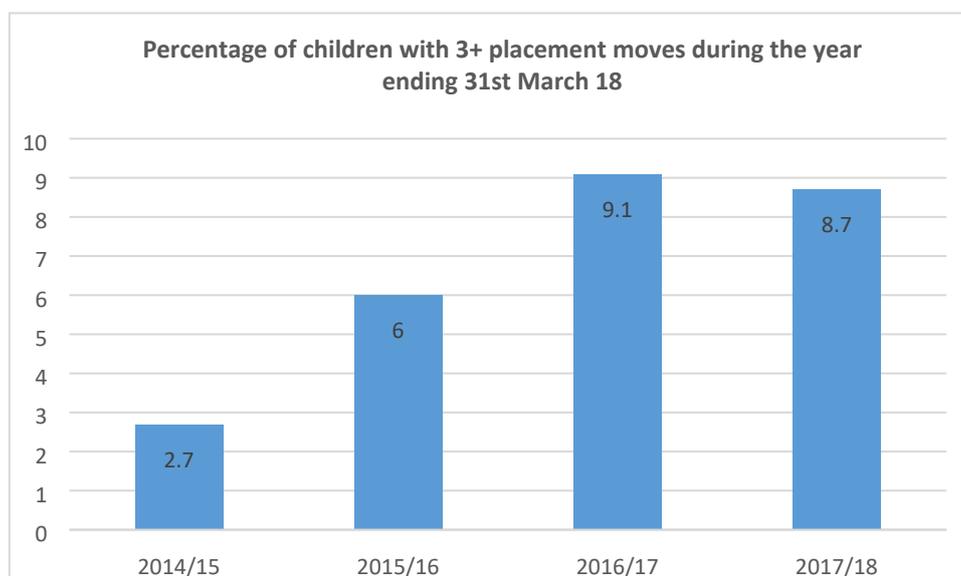
Area	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Hampshire	14	15	17	14	14
Windsor and Maidenhead	13	17	25	24	20
Hertfordshire	14	17	16	17	18
Cheshire East	16	17	16	X	19
Bracknell Forest	17	19	24	21	23
Surrey	21	22	25	21	26
Oxfordshire	18	23	23	20	26
Rutland	32	26	48	16	49
Wokingham	23	30	27	34	40
Buckinghamshire	26	30	34	27	30
West Berkshire	20	32	29	27	22
Statistical Neighbours	19.1	21.8	25.7	25.9	24.7
England	12	13	14	14	14

X=data suppressed to protect confidentiality
2018 data for statistical neighbours not yet available

The data around children placed within Berkshire and other authority areas shows as follows (Note: this figure excludes 2 children who have short breaks);

Area	Number of children at March 18	%
Placed In Berkshire		
Berkshire	67	65
Placed outside of Berkshire		
Buckinghamshire	1	1
Dorset	4	4
Essex	1	1
Gloucestershire	1	1
Hampshire	5	4.9
Isle of Wight	2	1.9
Kent	6	5.8
London	7	6.8
Nottinghamshire	1	1
Somerset	1	1
Staffordshire	2	1.9
Surrey	3	2.9
West Sussex	1	1
Wiltshire	1	1
Total	103	100%

The percentage of children looked after who have had three or more placements during the year ending 31st March 2018 has increased compared to previous years.



The number of changes of social worker our children in care have experienced over the last year are as follows; 24 of 77 (31%) have had 1 consistent social worker; 23 of the 77 (30%) have had 2; 30 of the 77 (39%) have had more than 2 social workers in the past 12 month

Key achievements

- As of 31st March 2018 Wokingham Borough council have a total of 50 fostering households. 46 children with foster carers including 3 stay and put 9 family and friends foster carers with 1 stay and put 2 Regulations 24/25 placements and 7 short break foster carers
- Mainstream foster carers are 74% occupied
- .The CPB have been very supportive and interested in and committed to the recruitment and retention of foster carers and this is having a significant impact, a recent visit to a Mosque found 3 persons interested in fostering particularly UCAS.
- All local children new into care 2017-18 have been placed with Wokingham Borough Council approved Foster Carers.
- 1 young person was returned from a residential unit and placed with Wokingham foster carers with a view to rehabilitate him home
- .There remain still a small number of young people in our care who are living in residential children's homes, all of whom are receiving education as part of that residential package. 2 of those young people will over the next 2 years step down into shared care arrangements between foster care and boarding school arrangements. There is a small cohort of young people in residential placements whose needs means they require full time medical provision and of whom the likelihood is they will remain through into adult transition in those or similar placements. The CPB will in the year 2018./19 be responsible for tracking the progress of the 2 who can step down into foster placements to ensure that this is done in the most timely fashion, sensitive to the children's needs
- In the year 2017/18 we had 2 young people who were made subject to secure orders, now stepped down to specialist residential care. One returned them to foster care and due to move onto semi-independent living
- In the period 2011/18, the social work team responsible for the majority of children in long-term care has significantly stabilised in terms of staffing. The team currently has expanded by one social worker and one PA The team is stable which has reduced the changes of social workers. There are currently two locum covering maternity leave.
- Adopt Thames Valley went live in December 17 and this has
 - Increased capacity and resources;
 - Given access to a bigger pool of adopters and children;
 - Provided better value for local authorities through economies of scale in the recruitment and assessment process for adopters
 - No increase in spend and potential savings for local authorities through placing children with adopters quicker.
- The IRO service continues to improve and offers greater continuity of IRO to our children in care,
- Throughout 17/18 CPB received regular reports and updates regarding the Housing Strategy and suitable accommodation for young people.
- Going forward, the Care leaver offer, is currently in draft form, financial support to Staying put providers and those young people wishing to go to university being is now up and running

- A new local provision for young people to access supported housing open in March 2018 (Reading Road)

What is next?

- Adopt a formal scheme which incentivises foster carers to stay in touch with care leavers who have lived with them and their family
- Target to recruit 10new foster carers in 2018/19.
- Recruit to 2 post for specialist foster carers
- Source our own in house residential unit
- Publish the local care leaver offer
- Improve permanency of placements, to give children a sense of continuity and belonging
- Improve the way we commission our placements to ensure that we get the right placement, at the right time in the right place and for the right price

(iv) To improve provision for Care leavers in Wokingham

The Children in Care Council facilitated a survey to ask care leavers if the Council has delivered on the promises set out within the **Care Leaver's Charter**. There were 0 responses to this survey despite encouragement from their PA. A priority for 2018/19 will be to ensuring the offer for young people who are NEET is comprehensive and enables a pathway through work experience, traineeships, internships and into apprenticeships where this is appropriate

Key Achievements

- Ensuring pace and delivery of Young People's Housing Strategy
- Formalising the pathway/offer for adult education
- Maximising the Children's Centre offer to young parent care leavers
- Establish mentoring scheme to lead to sustainable and meaningful relationships for those leaving care and beyond
- We offer care leaving support to all relevant young people up to the age of 25.
- We have developed an Independent Living Skills training programme which has been accredited for both foster carers and young people.
- We have increased the establishment for personal advisers by 1 FTE and successfully recruited to the post.
- Members consider the Housing Strategy for Care Leavers regularly. The strategy is based on three priorities
 - Early Intervention – advice and provision of early help
 - Provision of a range of accommodation and support options
 - Cohort tracking – data collection, planning and development
- In 2016/17 there was good continued partnership working between Housing and Social Care and where leavers care were identified as having priority they would be able to choose the area for their housing. Care leavers with children are provided with suitable housing.
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What is next?

- Fully embed the council tax exemption for all our care leavers
- Task and finish group has been established to maximise all corporate and external opportunities to provide work experience, apprenticeships and training opportunities for care leavers and older teenagers.
- Increase the levels of care leavers classified as in employment, education or training (ETT) by increasing the levels of support and opportunities available to them.
- Publishing of the Local offer for care leavers which will crystallise for professionals and young people the support and offer.

(v) To improve the educational outcomes for children in care and care leavers in Wokingham

There is a decrease in the number of outstanding PEPS however this relates to a recording issue rather than PEPS not taking place

PEPs*	2013/2014 (as at 31 March 2014)	2014/2015 (as at 31 March 2015)	2015/16 (as at 31 March 2016)	2016/17 (as at 31 March 2017)	2017/18 (as at 31 March 2018)
Children in care	75	74	83	77	103
Children in range for PEP (aged 2 years 8 months to 17)	63	68	66	70	60
Children in range with a recent PEP (During current or previous academic term)	55 (87.3%)	54 (80.6%)	60 (90.9%)	69 (98.6%)	53 (88.3%)
Total number of PEP's outstanding	8 (12.7%)	14 (19.4%)	6 (9.1%)	1 (1.4%)	7 (11.7%)

*These figures are taken from the March 2018 Children's Social Care Performance Pack which reports only those whose paperwork has been completed and entered on mosaic.

As a local authority we are ambitious for those in our care. As corporate parents we must strive to ensure that education is an absolute priority and we must support young people every which way to ensure that they have every opportunity to learn available to them.

All relevant young people have personal education plans and are supported by the virtual school

The Corporate Parenting Board receives annual results from Key Stage 2, Key Stage 4 and the equivalent of Key Stage 5 and updates from the Virtual Head.

Key Achievements

- As far as possible all of our children in care are in 'good' or 'outstanding' schools.
- No children were newly placed in schools graded to requiring improvement or requiring special measures as judged by Ofsted
- We currently have 2 young people at university and 2 more hoping to attend from 2018
- Where children are placed in out of Borough Placements, particular attention is paid to ensuring effective support and additional resources are deployed as soon as they may be needed.

- Monitoring and reporting on children in care exclusions is prioritised with the Virtual Head receiving immediate notification or early warning of likely exclusions so interventions can be actioned
- The Virtual School monitors attendance and reports through Virtual School Head any issues of attendance patterns or potential exclusions.
- A dedicated Education Welfare Officer for children in care follows up on attendance issues.
- We have a dedicated Educational Psychologist to offer children in care additional support where required.
- The educational offer for 2 year olds follows the child regardless of whether or not they are in care
- The introduction of EGov's e-PEP system

What is next?

- The implementation of new allowances for children in care and care leavers who go to college and not university
- The tracking of Looked at school and excluded to via the introduction in September 18 of the Welfare calls system
- Corporate Parenting Board to anonymously track individual progress and achievement of children and young people in care and members to take interest in a small cohort each.
- Develop and enhance expertise with the virtual school staff via ongoing training, particularly around enhancing the 'attachment aware school agenda
- Build links with the National Network for the Education
- The embedding of the EGov's e-PEP system
- Broaden the scope and impact of training for social care staff and foster carers, with reference to educational issues for children in care, to special guardians.

(vi) To improve health provision for children in care and care leavers in Wokingham

We are required to provide information on the emotional and behavioural health of children and young people in their care. This data is collected by us through a Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ) and a summary figure for each child is submitted to the DfE through the SSDA903 data return.

	2014/2015 (as at 31 March)	2015/16 (as at 31 March)	2016/2017 (as at 31 March)	2017/2018 (as at 31 March)
Children in care	73	83	77	103
Children aged 3 years or under	9	11	4	16
Children aged 17	8	9	18	21
Children in range for SDQ	56	55	40	35
Children aged 4-16 with a recent SQD	33 (58.9%)	22	39	32
Total number of SDQ's outstanding	23	33	1	3

As at 31st March 2018, the number of SDQs outstanding increased to three.

The below table identifies the timeliness of health assessments completed within the previous 12 months.

	2013/14 (as at 31 March)	2014/15 (as at 31 March)	2015/16 (as at 31 March)	2016/17 (as at 31 March)	2017/18 (as at 31 March)
Total LAC	68	73	83	77	103
Completed within past 12 months	46 (67.6%)	39 (53.4%)	70 (84%)	73 (94.8%)	96 (93.2%)

There has been a slight drop by approximately

The below table identifies dental checks completed on time

	2013/14 (as at 31 March)	2014/15 (as at 31 March)	2015/16 (as at 31 March)	2016/17 (as at 31 March)	2017/18 (as at 31 March)
% dental checks completed on time	81.8%	89.6%	31.1%	91.1%	95.7%

Performance continues to increase by 4%

The below data shows consistently positive performance with regard to children in care being registered with a GP or health centre

	2013/14 (as at 31 March)	2014/15 (as at 31 March)	2015/16 (as at 31 March)	2016/17 (as at 31 March)	2017/18 (as at 31 March)
LAC with GP or Health Centre recorded	100%	100%	95.2%	98.7%	93.4%

The strategy set out some of the existing and potential challenges for the Council as Corporate Parents in ensuring the health needs of children in care and care leavers are well provided for.

Key Achievements

- Social workers are able to access advice from CAMHS worker weekly who then can advise on referrals to local tier 2 counselling services
- At the end March 2018, 93.2% in care during the year had a up to date annual health care checks.

What is next?

- Embed the new protocol outlining joint working between health (CIC nurses) and Children's Services.
- Continue to work with health to ensure the strength difficulty questionnaire is routinely used to inform health assessments and will consequently support the plans to ensure children's emotional and mental health needs are met.
- All children to have access to emotional health support as identified in a timely manner
- Task and finish group to be set up to survey emotional wellbeing needs of children in care for gap analysis
- Exploration of models to develop CIC specialist CAMHS provision / emotional wellbeing including how we reach services to CIC outside Berkshire. Links to Futures in Mind developments

Conclusion

In summary, overall there has been an incremental improvement in the services providing for our children in care and care leavers. There have been significant changes in the personnel delivering these services which will in time mean a stronger, more committed and motivated team working with our long term children in care and care leavers. Foster carers generally feel more supported but there remain issues such as a review of their fees embedding the new Staying Put policy and recruitment of new foster carers.

For children in care and care leavers there are now strong foundations in place which is evidenced by increased placement stability, children returning to Wokingham from external placements and a slight increase in Staying Put arrangements. There are, however, many opportunities ahead to ensure those in their early teens are prepared for leaving care by an enhanced focus on work experience, further education and grants to support them in doing so.

The new Corporate Parenting Action plan will ensure the 'critical friend' role in tracking the promised developments and ensuring a focus on improved outcomes for all of our children in care. To this end, the new Corporate Parenting Board will develop strong working relations with the Children in Care Council.

The new strategic priorities for 2018-19 are set out below.

Our Strategic Priorities 2018 – 2019

- i. Health opportunities and promotion
- ii. Promotion of emotional health and wellbeing, development and link to “futures in mind”
- iii. Good quality care and accommodation
- iv. Children in care receive the best educational support
- v. Care leavers will have further education, training or employment at 18 and live in safe / stable accommodation
- vi. Training for members and Corporate Parenting Board

Recommendations

- 1. Agree and endorse the annual Corporate Parenting report**
- 2. Note the recommendations and strategic delivery action plan**
- 3. Agree the new strategic priorities for 2018-19**

- 4. Request six monthly updates on the progress of the 2018/2019 action plan**
- 5. It is recommended that all Corporate Parenting Board agenda items and minutes reference which priority it relates to in order to easily identify minuted progress against the priorities.**

Appendix 1: Corporate Parenting Board Priorities and Action Plan 2018-19

Priority Themes	Action	How	Target	Update
<p>1 improve the timescales for securing permanency and to ensure that all children and young people looked after are provided with care arrangements that deliver continuity, consistency and security of care and support which positively promote their attachment to parents/carers/adopters and an individual sense Of security, self-esteem and identity.</p>	<p>1 CPB receive a permanency strategy which outlines the proposals around permanency for all children</p> <p>2.For all children place in care under interim care order or section 20 (children Act 1989) a permanency plan should be established prior to the second statutory review and confirmed within a further 6 months</p> <p>3.No more than 6 months for the public law outline (pre proceedings</p> <p>4.26 weeks for care proceedings to conclude.</p> <p>5.Where long term fostering is the right permanency option for a child this should be with care who will commit to caring for the child at least through to end of leaving care entitlement</p>	<p>Quarterly reports to CPB for the board to evidence that all children in care are provided with permanent plans.</p> <p>Bespoke training for all social workers /PA</p>	<p>July 18</p> <p>Training reaches 100% by July 18</p>	
<p>2. Promotion of Emotional Health and Wellbeing Development and link to ‘Futures in Mind’</p>	<p>1. All children to have access to emotional health support as identified in a timely manner.</p>	<p>Data sets indicating SDQ compliance is 100%.</p>	<p>CPB and agencies easily identify gaps and data targets are addressed.</p> <p>November 18</p>	

Appendix 1: Corporate Parenting Board Priorities and Action Plan 2018-19

	<p>2. Task and Finish Group set up to survey emotional wellbeing needs of CIC for gaps analysis.</p> <p>3. Exploration of models to develop CIC specialist CAMHS provision/emotional wellbeing including how we reach services to CIC outside Berkshire. Links to Futures in Mind developments</p> <p>4 multi agency partners sponsoring a project to find alternative ways to manage the risk and repeat escalation of high risk behaviours</p>	<p>Survey mechanisms of CIC and other bespoke services identify types of provision required.</p> <p>Analysis of using existing resources and gaps analysis. CIC feedback to devise potential models of service delivery.</p> <p>Review the care pathway in and out of the hospital and tier 4 to reduce re – attendance and re admission Identify gaps in community provision to meet the needs of these young people that will identify recommendation and if necessary, support a business cases for alternative services as required Provide a strong local needs analysis of current high intensity users that creates a profile of these young people lives, services use and costs</p>	<p>October 2018 model and findings identified</p> <p>November18</p>	
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Appendix 1: Corporate Parenting Board Priorities and Action Plan 2018-19

		Audit of cases of high intensity users		
3. Good Quality Care and Accommodation	<p>1. Improvement in the recruitment and retention of local foster carers by supporting and championing a new Recruitment and Retention Strategy.</p> <p>2. Develop Business Case to present/promote with local business and Public Sector Organisations regarding the benefits of adopting Fostering Friendly Policies.</p> <p>3. The board will track the progress of the children placed more than 20</p>	<p>The Board approves and receives updates of marketing and recruitment on a 6 monthly basis.</p> <p>CPB and wider council to promote businesses to contribute to the local offer</p> <p>Wokingham become a foster friendly organisation</p> <p>CPB and wider Council to promote fostering in local business</p>	<p>Marketing techniques are supported through wider Council mechanisms -</p> <p>July 18</p> <p>March 19</p> <p>Members are equipped and confident to promote fostering with ward and community settings -</p>	

Appendix 1: Corporate Parenting Board Priorities and Action Plan 2018-19

	<p>miles from Wokingham Borough Council to ensure that they have access to all the same opportunities as those in borough.</p> <p>4. Quarterly Housing Strategy updates to the Board regarding the progress of housing for each relevant young person.</p> <p>5. Residential strategy</p>	<p>Information and data updated at each Board to improve performance.</p> <p>The building of care leavers supported accommodation in WBC introduction of developing new ways to provide care leavers with the personal support networks they need to thrive; piloting ‘Staying Close’ – a variant of Staying Put for those leaving residential care; and testing out alternative models of delivery for leaving care services</p> <p>For Children’s Services to design and implement it’s</p>	<p>March 19</p>	
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Appendix 1: Corporate Parenting Board Priorities and Action Plan 2018-19

		<p>own children's residential service Invest to save opportunity</p> <p>Step down project for vulnerable young people from secure accommodation or hospital</p> <p>For WBC to look after its own children</p> <p>Improved KPI's</p>		
84	<p>4. Children in Care receive the best educational support.</p>	<p>1. Children and young people's progress tracked through Secondary School and Virtual School and are held to account for children who are not fulfilling their potential.</p> <p>2. CIC attendance is 95-100%.</p> <p>PEP's completed on time.</p>	<p>Virtual School and CPB monitor data and identify progress issues via the Virtual school board with CPB providing reps. VSH provides detailed plans on school support provided i.e. reading progress and tuition resources.</p> <p>Monitoring attendance and action when required. Children are not allowed to take time out of school unless approved by CSC.</p>	<p>Children are monitored and services ongoing</p> <p>95-100%</p> <p>95-100%</p> <p>To be maintained</p>

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	<p>3. Reduction of CIC exclusions from school.</p> <p>4. No CiC without school place on roll without escalation/exploration.</p> <p>5. Work experience and apprenticeship opportunities developed.</p> <p>6. Virtual School monitors and develops services to ensure school readiness for pre-school CiC.</p>	<p>Work with schools to prevent and refuse exclusions. Agreement or Policy amendment with schools.</p> <p>To maintain good practice of Children in Care should have a school place and escalation to DCS or Chief Executive if this does not happen where there are complex difficulties.</p> <p>Members will work with CiC, Apprenticeship Manager and Here 4 U to develop opportunities in the borough within Wokingham Borough Council and externally in the community.</p> <p>Monitoring of data and establishment of appropriate pre-school provision and training for foster carers.</p>	<p>Task and Finish Group meeting 3/5. CHT attending.</p> <p>To be maintained</p> <p>October 18</p>	
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Appendix 1: Corporate Parenting Board Priorities and Action Plan 2018-19

<p>5. Care Leavers will have further education, training or employment at 18 and live in safe/stable accommodation.</p>	<p>1. Twice per year feedback to the Board by the Leaving Care Service outlining where each young person is, what support they are receiving and a sense of their trajectory to independence.</p> <p>2 Designing an effective local offer for care leavers, in collaboration with care leavers, that sets out the range of available services and how to access the including information about both their statutory entitlements as well as any discretionary support that a local authority chooses to provide.</p> <p>2. Independent Living Skills Programme.</p>	<p>Develop into a quality check. PA's to reach out on assessing levels of support to Care Leavers</p> <p>CPB and wider council promote local business to work in partnership with the care leaver local offer</p> <p>Delivery of developed Living Skills Programme.</p>	<p>July 18</p> <p>Designed March 2017</p>	<p>Maintain the ongoing delivery</p>
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