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AGENDA

Committee	CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Date and Time of Meeting	MONDAY, 22 JANUARY 2024, 2.00 PM
Venue	CR 4, COUNTY HALL - MULTI LOCATION MEETING
Membership	Councillor Merry (Chair) Councillors Ash-Edwards, Kaaba, Lay, Lewis, Lister, Littlechild, Naughton and Taylor

Time approx.

- 1 Apologies for Absence**
To receive apologies for absence.
- 2 Declarations of Interest**
To be made at the start of the agenda item in question, in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct.
- 3 Minutes (Pages 3 - 14)** 2.04 pm
To approve as a correct record the minutes of the previous meeting held on Monday 6 November 2023.
- 4 NYAS Update (Pages 15 - 36)** 2.06 pm
- 5 Child Friendly City Update (Pages 37 - 44)** 2.21 pm
- 6 Voices from Care Cymru Update (Pages 45 - 66)** 2.36 pm
- 7 Residential Homes Update (Pages 67 - 84)** 2.51 pm
- 8 Youth Service Update (Pages 85 - 96)** 3.06 pm
- 9 Guaranteed Interview Scheme for Care Leavers (Pages 97 - 98)** 3.21 pm
- 10 Mentoring Scheme Update (Pages 99 - 106)** 3.31 pm

This document is available in Welsh / Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg

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|----|--|---------|
| 11 | Member Visits Update (<i>Pages 107 - 112</i>) | 3.41 pm |
| 12 | Member Visit Programme (<i>Pages 113 - 116</i>) | 3.51 pm |
| 13 | Forward Work Programme - May 2023 - April 2024 (<i>Pages 117 - 126</i>) | 3.56 pm |
| 14 | Performance Dashboard - Quarter 3 2023-2024 (<i>Pages 127 - 132</i>) | 4.01 pm |
| 15 | Urgent Items (if any) | |
| 16 | Date of next meeting | |

The date of the next meeting of the Committee is Monday 11 March 2024 at 2.00 pm.

D Marles

Interim Monitoring Officer

Date: Tuesday, 16 January 2024

Contact: Michèle Chesterman, 02920 873606, Michele.chesterman@cardiff.gov.uk

CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

6 NOVEMBER 2023

Present: Councillor Merry(Chairperson)
Councillors Ash-Edwards, Kaaba, Lay, Lister, Littlechild,
Naughton and Taylor

Officers Present: Deborah Driffield (Director, Children's Services),
Deborah Williams (Virtual Headteacher), Libby Jones (CLA
Virtual School, Cardiff Project Manager), Davina Miller (Inclusion
Teacher, CLA Virtual School, Cardiff), Carly Davies (Project
Manager, Cardiff Commitment), Katie Elias (Into Work Co-
ordinator), Hayley Beynon (Personal Advisor Service Team
Manager), Jess Lloyd (Senior Personal Advisor), Luke Mussa
(Passport to the City Achievement Officer), Matthew Osborne
(Operational Manager, Children's Services), Lucy Thomas
(Senior Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee Participation
Officer) and Leanne Weston (OM Legal Manager)

41 : APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

42 : DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None received.

43 : MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting on the 26 June 2023 were approved as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chairperson.

44 : CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER IN EDUCATION ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23
AND VIRTUAL HEADTEACHER UPDATE

The Chair invited Deborah Williams, Virtual Headteacher, Libby Jones CLA Virtual School Cardiff Project Manager and Davina Miller, Inclusion Teacher, CLA Virtual School Cardiff to provide an update to Members on the Children Looked After (CLA) in Education Annual Report 2022-23 and the Virtual School and Virtual Headteacher Update. Members were informed how the Virtual School and Virtual Headteacher was working to further priority 4 of the Corporate Parenting Strategy: Educational Achievement and Training.

Members noted that since the last Educational Report to the CPAC 2021-2022 there had been changes to the LACE (Looked After Children in Education) Team, the assessment processes for schools linked to the curriculum changes as the Curriculum for Wales was adopted across the year groups and key stages and also provided with an update on the continued implementation of the ALN Reform.

Members were aware that the application for Welsh Government pilot funding was successful in July 2022 and the pilot for the Virtual School and the role of the Virtual School Headteacher in Wales started for Cardiff in July 2022. In terms of the application post April 2023, the Welsh Government had agreed the funding for the second year also which was good news for the team and the Local Authority as a whole.

Members noted that the Virtual School Headteacher had provided a written review to Welsh Government of the work of the Cardiff CLA Virtual School. There was also a follow up online interview with the research group carrying out the evaluation. The evaluation would be published in the near future.

Members were informed that the National Development Group for CLA met in July 2023 for the first time since the pandemic and that there were plans in place for the Virtual School Headteachers to meet and work collaboratively.

The following performance information was provided to Member

- 63% of Cardiff Children Looked After were educated in a Cardiff School or setting
- 31% of Cardiff Children Looked After were educated in an out of county setting
- 5% of Cardiff Children Looked After were in Education other than at School (EOTAS)

Work being undertaken to support Children Looked after in Education included:

- Collaborative and integrated working with Education and Children's Services
- Working with schools and other education settings in and out of county
- Leadership and managing the change from the Looked After Children Education to the Virtual School Team
- Developing partnerships and relationships with other professionals and agencies

Members were also provided with a summary of the priorities and future plans in Education to improve outcomes for Children and Young People Looked After including vision, funding, impact and timescale.

Members asked questions and sought clarification on the following:

- Members discussed the increase in the number of ALN (Additional Learning Needs) notifications. In addition, the number of Individual Development Plans (IDPs) needed in conjunction with an increase in the numbers of specialist provision requests places because a place in a mainstream school was not able to meet the young person's complex needs. Members noted that Specialist provision places were increasing in Cardiff and that Education and Children's Services were working collaboratively to develop provision within Cardiff. Members asked the reason for the increase in ALN and whether it was due to better reporting or the increase in numbers of children in the system. Officers responded that it was not due to one particular reason but because the children had complex needs.

- Members asked for clarification around the local authority 12-week review process for an IDP. Officers pointed out that the complication was when a child moved in the middle of a review period. Members noted the different processes connected with EHCPs in England in Wales were causing real challenges.
- Members asked if there was good practice in relation to exclusions that could be rolled out. Officers responded that building relationships and effective communications were vital. There was also work around admissions that needed to be carried out inside local authorities in Wales and outside Wales.
- In terms of children not in provision Members asked if the situation had improved as there were less children not in provision but a higher number of days involved of children not in provision. Officers responded that the not in provision times were currently too long and the Authority needed to be concentrating on provision in Cardiff if not going outside Cardiff to provide even if only as an initial pilot. Officers agreed to provide the Committee with more information on the discrepancy in days.
- Members noted that 31% of children were not in Education in Cardiff and asked about the extra demands that created and what steps were being taken to tackle that percentage. Officers referred to the importance of quality assurance and that the team met regularly to ensure those measures were in place. The links between schools and health services were also vital.

RESOLVED:

1. To note the update on the Annual Education Report of Children Looked After and the Virtual School and Virtual Headteacher Update and;
2. To feedback any observations or comments.

45 : CARDIFF COMMITMENT UPDATE

The Chair invited Carly Davies, Project Manager, Cardiff Commitment to provide a presentation to Members on the Cardiff Commitment Project

Members were informed that Cardiff Commitment had been developed as a programme to support the Capital Ambition, which was that all learners progressed into education, employment or training post-16. Members noted that supporting the progression of young people was a key priority for the Education Directorate and Cardiff Commitment was building strong relationships between Cardiff schools, employers and higher and further education partners to support young people to access good jobs and careers.

Members were pleased to hear that over 300 employers in Cardiff were working with Cardiff Commitment to offer young people employment and training opportunities, work experience and curriculum enrichment activities.

Members were provided with a description of what success looked like - young people with the right skills to support Cardiff employers and growth sectors in the Cardiff Capital Region; improved educational attainment in core subjects such as Science and Mathematics and Language, equitably across the city; integrated education and employment pathways for young people with easy access to information and advice on career opportunities and no young people 'NEET', in particular from vulnerable groups such as Children Looked After, low income families.

Members were also provided with details and examples around the 6 priorities within the Cardiff Commitment Forward Work Plan which were:

- Priority Partner Support
- Priority Experience of Work
- Priority Learning Pathways
- Priority Social Value
- Priority Children and Young People who need it most
- Priority Cardiff Curriculum

In terms of targeted support for Children Looked After it was highlighted that a CLA Working Group was being developed to support pupils across Cardiff schools with meaningful career and work-related experiences. The Group would help to promote high aspirations, and seek to secure the best outcomes, for those children and young people. The group would be chaired by the CLA Virtual Headteacher and Headteacher at Cardiff West Community High School. It would look at how meaningful opportunities could be developed within the Cardiff Commitment network to support Cardiff's CLA to develop their aspirations and support them to realise their ambitions for the future. The views of CLA would be central to this work and they would be consulted for their views in relation to the support needed to raise their aspirations and realise their ambitions. The intention was that Cardiff Commitment would listen to their ideas and needs and respond with a Call to Action across their partner network.

Members asked questions and sought clarification on the following:

- Members questioned what was being done to improve access to youth services for Cardiff young people living in the east of the City. Officers responded that there was scope to do more and suggested a Call to Action to bring in partners. It was also suggested that youth mentors could be involved.

RESOLVED:

- To note the Cardiff Commitment Update Report and;
- To provide any observations or comments.

46 : INTO WORK ADVICE SERVICE - BRIGHT FUTURES UPDATE

The Chair introduced Katie Elias, Into Work Co-ordinator, who provided a presentation on the Into Work Advice Service – Bright Futures Update.

Members were informed that the Bright Futures Project sat within the Into Work Advice Service as part of a wide team of employability and training projects. The

Service provided employment, training, volunteering and digital support to Cardiff citizens who were actively seeking work or looking to upskill. The Bright Futures Project provided support for Care Experienced young people (16-24) who were identified as Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) or at risk of becoming so and needing intensive help to access training and the workplace. A team of Youth Mentors liaised with partners in Children's Services and Youth Services to ensure that all Care Experienced young people were given the opportunity to reach their potential and be supported into education and work.

Members were informed that the support consisted of:

- Intensive youth mentor support for care experienced young people in Cardiff to help them remove the barriers into employment, education or training;
- Financial support was available to help young people get into employment; access to a flexible barrier fund to help them with clothing, transport, training, childcare etc;
- Support to prepare for 6 month Bright Start Work Placements;
- Access to wellbeing and confidence building, including summer wellbeing sessions and access to ICare boxes partnership with the Youth Service

Members were provided with a snapshot of engagement since April 23 with 52 young people signed up for mentor support, 16 young people helped into employment, 24 young people completed training, 22 young people completed Bright Start placements and 244 were supported into Employment or Education since Bright Futures launched in 2020. Some of the quotes received from the young people involved in the programme were also shared: " This chance you helped me with could change my life now, thank you so much.", "Thank you so much ... for going above and beyond. I feel so much better after talking to you" and "Without the support from you I would have been on a very dark path. Thank you for being constant and not giving up on me."

In addition to Bright Start Members were informed that there was a Bright Start Trainee Scheme and an open invitation was given to the Committee to visit the young people on placement. Members responded that they would welcome the opportunity to visit the young people on placement.

Members asked questions and sought clarification on the following:

- Members enquired if the UBI pilot was having an impact on young peoples' desire/impact to work. Officers responded that there were mixed reactions to the pilot. Some young people were using the money for driving licences and other incentives to work whilst others were not.
- Members sought clarification in the percentage of young people were staying in full time employment after the scheme ended. Officers to research this information and provide feedback following on from the team's six monthly catch-ups.

RESOLVED:

- 1 To note the update on the Into Work Advice Service;
2. To provide any observations or comments.

47 : PARTICIPATION STRATEGY UPDATE

The Chair introduced Matthew Osborne, Operational Manager, Children's Services, to provide Members with an update on the Participation Strategy and the associated consultation that had been undertaken in conjunction with the development of the strategy.

Members noted that the consultation had been co-produced by members of the Bright Sparks groups, as well as children and young people who attended services provided by Cardiff Youth Service and the Personal Advisor Service. It was explained that the aim of the Participation Strategy was to develop a strategy that would set out how the Authority engaged with Cardiff's children, young people and families and how services could be shaped in the future to better meet their needs. The strategy would be co-produced with children and young people, ensuring their voices were at the heart of the strategy development.

Members were informed that a steering group was set up with members from Children's Services, Cardiff Youth Service and NYAS to map out a structure to engage with children and young people. It was noted that, in September 2023, children and young people totalling 300 (including 602 CLA), had been invited to take part in a co-produced online questionnaire. A target of 100 responses had been set and 130 responses had been received to date.

Visits had been made to young people in children's homes and residential homes and the strategy was at the point where all the information gathered from young people was being analysed. It was notable how many young people mentioned their families were important and the importance of sport for young people. Members were also informed they had mentioned how being looked after was really important.

Members noted the aim was to complete the draft Participation Strategy by the end of November and the Committee was asked for any comments/thoughts in taking the strategy forwards. An early draft would be presented to Members in order for them to communicate their views.

RESOLVED:

1. To note the update in **Appendix A** and to make any observations or comments;
2. To consider how the Participation Strategy meets the needs of Cardiff's Children Looked After and how it is reported to Committee going forwards.

48 : SUPPORT FOR CARE LEAVERS REPORT

The Chair invited Hayley Beynon, Personal Advisor Service Team Manager and Jess Lloyd, Senior Personal Advisor to update Members on the Support for Care Leavers Report.

Members were provided with an update regarding the Personal Advisor Service and support provided to care experienced young people (Appendix A). Details were given on the current work being undertaken to support young people leaving care and information on the service over the past 12 months as well as future developments.

Members were informed the Personal Advisor Service was a fundamental service providing support, advice and guidance for young people aged between 16-25. It was a statutory requirement outlined in the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014.

It was highlighted that the main update since the last meeting was the service recently moving into Adults, Housing and Communities under the management of the Advice Service. Members heard how the alignment of the service helped to provide a holistic and cohesive approach to address the needs of young people with more of a 'wrap around' of services.

Another update was provided to Members on the Basic Income Pilot (a £1600 monthly payment for care experienced young people turning 18) which was being undertaken with 98 young people across the service. The entry to the pilot had ended but it would continue to progress until 2025. The service was working closely with the Money Advice Team in ensuring that all the young people had met the advice worker to discuss their individual circumstances to be able to make informed choices on entering the pilot.

The main concern for the PA Service in relation to the payments was that in receiving the money the young person would no longer be entitled to universal credit and rent support. As a result, meetings had been arranged with the young people to undertake financial health check/benefit checks.

Members noted that wellbeing and mental health had been a reoccurring theme since the pandemic and the service had focussed on providing ways to improve young people's self-esteem and confidence.

Members noted the main aim of the service was to provide wrap around support for the young people which included education, training, Into Work Service, Money Advice Team, housing and homeless support prevention and also support for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children.

It was highlighted that the number of young people passing through the service had grown resulting in the capacity of the PA service growing.

The future aims for the service were outlined which included working with young people at an earlier age (15 and a half), a leaving care pilot/website in conjunction with a virtual youth hub, parenting support groups and entitlement support groups.

Members asked questions and sought clarification on the following:

- Members referred to unaccompanied asylum-seeking children aged 15-25 and if anyone aged 25 unaccompanied could use the service or whether it was only for young people under the age of 25. Officers responded that the service was notified of unaccompanied asylum seekers aged 17 or 18 but not over 21 as yet. It was stressed that not everyone who presented had complex needs and sometimes the young person required some support. However, the service would support someone aged 26, who was looked after, if they came to them but it was also a case of ensuring all the preparatory work was carried out.
- Members discussed capacity issues for the services and inconsistencies in the level of cover across Cardiff. Officers responded that caseload numbers would be analysed and if there was an inconsistent service it would not be good enough. Members were informed that currently young people were matched with advisors. It was a question of looking at the caseloads as numbers were currently very high and the services was stretched. It was acknowledged that the aim was to be in a situation no young person was left unallocated to a PA and from an age where a relationship could be built up. It was noted that a performance review would be put in place to help to achieve this.

RESOLVED:

1. To note the update in Appendix A and to make any observations or comments.
2. To consider how the Personal Advisor Service was meeting the needs of Cardiff's Children Looked After and how it be reported to Committee going forwards.

49 : PASSPORT TO THE CITY REPORT

The Chair invited Luke Mussa, Passport to the City Achievement Officer to provide a presentation to Members on the Passport to the City, a programme, within the Cardiff Curriculum Team, to ensure children and young people from all backgrounds could enjoy the amenities Cardiff had to offer.

Members were informed that the programme, which had been running for a year, provided fun, engaging and aspirational experiences across the city for children and young people, in particular Cardiff's most vulnerable, to help improve their self-esteem, confidence, and well-being. The Passport to the City Programme helped children and young people to develop a sense of pride and belonging in our Capital City as part of the Levelling Up agenda and was closely related to the Cardiff 2030 document. Members noted that some work related to learning in schools but there was a much broader remit and Members were provided with some bespoke examples.

RESOLVED:

1. To note the content of the report and;
2. To explore ways the scope of the programme could be widened so that it reached as many of Cardiff's Children Looked After as possible.

50 : MEMBER VISITS UPDATE

The Chair invited Matthew Osborne, Operational Manager, Children's Services to provide an update on Member Visits.

The Committee was informed about Member Visits that had taken place since the last meeting at services and organisations that supported care experienced young people in Cardiff. The Member visits provided an opportunity for members of the Committee to meet the staff and teams that supported young people. Some of the visits also provided an opportunity to hear directly from the children and young people.

Cllr Littlechild and Taylor provided feedback on a visit to Ty Storrie, which was a facility set up to provide respite care for those children and families who required it. By giving this regular support there was an increased likelihood that the children and young people remained in their family unit as opposed to being placed in long term residential facilities. The financial implications of this were significant as the cost of long-term residential placement was approximately three times the cost of supporting them to remain at home. Members welcomed a listening exercise from the manager and staff of Ty Storrie to identify ways the Committee could support the service.

The Members' feedback was that it was good to go and see facility the council was offering and the commitment by the staff to create an environment where the children felt comfortable. The Committee heard that the Manager had taken the capacity from 19 to 43 children and it was hoped to grow the facility to 45. One of the issues uncovered was that it sometimes took three months to secure a place for a child at Ty Storrie. A positive was that there was continuity of care with the children having the same bedding and toys. Members thanked the staff and officers for arranging the visit.

Cllr Ash Edwards provided feedback to the Committee on two visits to the John Kane Centre, Gabalfa – Youth Justice Service and a Fostering visit. The Operational Manager for the Youth Justice Service team and nine other staff were met and spoken with about the work of the team and their individual roles. No service users were present at the time the visit was made.

Members noted there was an awareness of the 2020 YJS Cardiff poor inspection report and a staff review with a new Operational Manager in post who was focussing on rebuilding the service from the ground up. Significant progress had been made. There was strong evidence of a committed and enthusiastic staff team working well together. Members recalled it had been impressive to see the cross disciplinary partnership between different organisations providing intervention and support for young people and their families. There was also a significant energy to prevention to ensure those young people did not pass into the Justice system permanently. It was

also notable that the young people are almost exclusively young men with young women were not being identified early enough.

The Committee was informed that the fostering visit was a drop in event. Members met with the foster carers and young carers together. The conversations with foster carers was positive and the event provided an opportunity for them to meet with their peers. Members noted that it was impressive to speak to some of the carers and find out how many young people they had fostered with one fostering 150 young people. There was tremendous admiration for the contribution of foster carers and the team.

RESOLVED:

1. To note the information in **Appendix A** of the report.
2. To discuss how Members could support and further the needs of the services.

51 : MEMBER VISIT PROGRAMME

The Chair invited Matthew Osborne, Operational Manager Children's Services to present the Member Visit Programme

Members were directed to the list of Member visits circulated. It was suggested that the Into Work Service be added to the list. It was also noted that some of the dates had moved. It was felt useful to include other residential – Crosslands, new provisions and linking in with Bright Sparks participation. Members were also made aware of another fostering event in December 2023. Members were informed an updated email would be sent advising of updates to Members Visits Programme.

RESOLVED:

1. To note the programme of visits in Appendix A of the report and;
2. To indicate any expressions of interest in attending any of the visits contained in the programme.

52 : COMPLAINTS - VERBAL REPORT

The Chair invited Matthew Osborne, Operational Manager, Children's Services to provide a verbal update on Complaints.

It was accepted that there was a need to reflect against the terms of reference in relation to what need to be reported in terms of complaints. It was agreed that the Item be placed on the agenda for the next Committee meeting.

RESOLVED: To note the verbal update on complaints.

53 : RESIDENTIAL ANNUAL REPORTS

The Chair invited Matthew Osborne, Operational Manager, Children's Services to provide an update on Residential Annual Reports. The report was an update to that provided to the Committee in March 2023.

Members were informed that the purpose of the report was to give them the opportunity to discuss the Accommodation Strategy and new residential homes in Cardiff. As the number of new residential placements in Cardiff was increasing, the

Committee would need to decide how it would like progress updates and annual reports to be shared going forward.

Members discussed and sought clarification on the following:

- Members felt it was important to be provided with an overview of the whole residential accommodation estate and stressed the differences between accommodation of different sizes. For example, even though provisions and care might not be different for 2 and 6 bedded properties approaches would be.
- Members discussed the importance of having an overview of need as well in order to gain an indication of the resources in terms of staffing and the percentage of time the bed had taken.
- Members discussed unregistered placements and asked for an indication of why it was not easy to buy property and employ staff. Officers responded that they would ensure that Members were kept up to date with any developments in unregistered provision.
- It was suggested that residential homes could become a standard agenda item for each Committee and officers to attend to provide an overview and update to Members.

RESOLVED:

1. To note the content of the report;
2. To provide comments and feedback.

54 : FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The Chair invited Lucy Thomas, Senior Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee & Participation Officer to provide an update on the Forward Work Programme.

Members were aware that the Corporate Parenting meeting agendas were arranged thematically with a Corporate Parenting policy theme. Today's meeting was Educational Achievement, Employment and Training.

The theme for the next meeting was better connections, improved relationships. Members were informed that the agenda items for the next meeting was as follows:

- Guaranteed interview scheme for CLA or care leavers,
- Mentoring Scheme currently in process of putting together - Pilot scheme whereby volunteers would work with small cohort in supported lodgings,
- Residential Homes Annual Report Update,

- Voices from Care Cymru Update– good opportunity to hear from them and involvement in Government programmes,
- Youth Service Report Update – An overview of the Youth Service and what they are doing in terms of their support of children in Cardiff
- Children in Cardiff NYAS – Committee can hear about Children Looked After
- Child Friendly Cities Report
- CLA Performance Dashboard Update.

RESOLVED:

1. To agree the Work Programme and;
2. To identify any other topic for inclusion on the Work Programme

55 : URGENT ITEMS (IF ANY)

There were no urgent items.

56 : DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Due to the proximity of meetings the date of the next meeting of the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee was agreed to be re-scheduled to Monday 22 January 2024 at 2.00 pm in Committee Room 4, County Hall, Cardiff.

The meeting terminated at 4.15 pm

**CORPORATE PARENTING
ADVISORY COMMITTEE****22 January 2023**

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR, CHILDRENS SERVICES

NYAS UPDATE**Reasons for the report**

1. This report sets out an update regarding the work undertaken by NYAS Cardiff Advocacy Service for the reporting period of April – September 2023.

Background

2. The National Youth Advocacy Service (NYAS) is a national charity providing information, advice, advocacy, and legal representation to some of the most vulnerable children, young people, and adults across the UK. NYAS Cymru is a registered provider of advocacy services under RISCA 2016.
3. NYAS Cymru is commissioned by Cardiff and the Vale to provide a regional advocacy service to children and young people in receipt of support from Children's Services.
4. NYAS Cardiff Advocacy Service offers independent professional advocacy (IPA) to children and young people aged 0-25 who are involved with Cardiff Children's Services. The overall remit of the project is to enable and empower children and young people to have a voice and to effectively participate within decision making processes.
5. The service ensures that the rights of children and young people involved with Cardiff Children's Services are upheld in accordance with legislative and policy framework within Wales.
6. The service provides both the active offer of advocacy and an issue-based advocacy service.
7. For the financial year April 2023 and up until Sept 2023, 408 referrals were received into the Advocacy Service.

Issues

8. The Advocacy Service has received a total of 17 referrals for children and young people placed out of county, including those from neighbouring authorities as well as those residing further afield in both Wales and England.
9. The service has continued to provide an accessible and inclusive support for those referred in and have provided support to 10 UASC (Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children), 24 children with disabilities, 6 Gypsy and Roma travellers and 1 LGBTQ+ child and 17 were children or young people placed out of county.
10. NYAS attend scheduled meetings with social service teams including PA (Personal Advisor), IRO and UASC team to provide information on advocacy support and raise awareness of the advocacy service for Children's Services staff.
11. The service has continued to attend St David's College and Cardiff and Vale colleges on a regular basis and is strengthening advocacy awareness to the large number of care experienced children and young people who attend and has provided support with any advocacy needs they may have.
12. NYAS offer a child led service and will continue to undertake advocacy meetings via Teams or face to face in line with their feelings and wishes as well as age-appropriate methods following Welsh Government guidelines.
13. NYAS are the chosen charity of Deloitte and in October 2023, volunteers from Deloitte, Splash and the Grangetown Pavillion came together to co-design a wellbeing garden area which was opened by Cllr Ash Lister.

Financial Implications

14. This report is for information only and does not lead to any new financial commitments. The advocacy service is funded by Cardiff Children's Services until Jan 2026

Legal Implications

15. There are no legal implications arising from this report

RECOMMENDATION

16. To note the information shared within the update as outlined at **Appendix A** and to discuss way within which the committee can support the needs of the service.

DEBORAH DRIFFIELD
Director, Childrens Services
14 December 2023

Appendix A– NYAS Update

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NYAS Cardiff Advocacy Service Update

1. Reasons for the Report

The report aims to inform the Committee on the work undertaken by NYAS Cardiff Advocacy Service for the reporting period of Apr – Sept 2023.

2. Background to the Service.

- The National Youth Advocacy Service (NYAS) is a national charity providing information, advice, advocacy, and legal representation to some of the most vulnerable children, young people, and adults across the UK. NYAS Cymru is a registered provider of advocacy services under Regulation and Inspection of Social Care (Wales) Act 2016 [RISCA] Regulations.
- NYAS Cymru is commissioned by Cardiff and the Vale to provide a regional advocacy service to children and young people in receipt of support from Children's Services.
- NYAS Cardiff Advocacy Service offers independent professional advocacy (IPA) to children and young people aged 0-25 who are involved with Cardiff Children's Services. The overall remit of the project is to enable and empower children and young people to have a voice and to effectively participate within decision making processes.
- The service ensures that the rights of children and young people involved with Cardiff Children's Services are upheld in accordance with legislative and policy framework within Wales.
- The service provides both the active offer of advocacy and an issue-based advocacy service.

Active offer

The National Approach to Advocacy (NASA) places a duty on Children's Services to ensure all children and young people who become either looked after by or part of the child protection system are provided with the opportunity to meet with an advocate and receive timely information on how the advocacy service can support them. Following an active offer meeting, the child or young person can either decline or accept the offer of advocacy.

Issue based Advocacy.

This service provides issue-based advocacy, whereby children and young people define the issues they want help with and decide how they wish to resolve these issues with the help of their advocate. Once their issue is resolved, or they decide they no longer want advocacy to support them the referral is closed. However, children and young people can return to the project in the future if they require support around other issues.

3. Overview of Referrals Received

- For the financial year April 2023 and up until Sept 2023, 408 referrals were received into the Advocacy Service. These are broken down as 178 Issue Based Referrals with a total of 244 issues supported and 230 Active Offer Referrals.
- The Advocacy Service has received a total of 17 referrals for children and young people placed out of county, including those from neighbouring authorities as well as those residing further afield in both Wales and England
- Service requests can be broken down by referrals to support children and young people within the Child Protection System (76), and by requests for the service to support care-experienced children and young people (82). The service also received referrals from care leavers (4) as well as children and young people who were 'care and support' (outside of child protection) (16), but these numbers were comparatively much lower in total.
- The majority of Issue based advocacy referrals received were made by children and young people themselves (120) followed by social services (46)

and a small number referred by education, foster carers, health and third sector agencies. Where issue-based referrals resulted from the active offer of advocacy these were recorded as self-referrals as the young person had identified the issue, they wanted support with themselves.

- Of the issues presented to date during this financial year the majority of requests were to support children and young people to have a voice and for them to participate within their Children Looked After and Child Protection Meetings (105 in total). The service has also so far received 37 contact issues, 21 placement issues, 5 access to services issues, 14 school-based issues, 7 care leaver issues, 2 health-based issues, 2 home life, 15 emotional and wellbeing issues and 29 social services-based issues. A total of 7 complaints have been received to date, all of which were resolved with the support of the advocate.
- The service has continued to provide an accessible and inclusive support for those referred in and have provided support to 10 UASC, 24 children with disabilities, 6 Gypsy and Roma travellers and 1 LGBTQ+ child and 17 were children or young people placed out of county.
- The service has provided NYAS Cymru bursary support for 7 Cardiff young people including providing a bicycle to help a young person supporting their family with caring responsibilities travel to college and an IPAD to help with education and learning English and specialist sports clothing to support a UASC attend a cricket club. The Deloitte bursary fund has also donated 17 refurbished Laptops to young people individually and to support children and young people living in residential settings in Cardiff.

4. Awareness Raising

- The service has continued to attend scheduled meetings with Children's Services teams including Personal Advisor, Independent Reviewing Service and the Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children [UASC] team to provide information on advocacy support and raise awareness of the advocacy service for Children's Services staff. The Senior Advocate has been working

closely with staff within Cardiff's inhouse residential provision to develop the monthly visits with the residents. A monthly report is collated and included in the quarterly monitoring reports.

- The project co-ordinator developed and delivered a practice matters workshop as part of a partnership offer being supported by NYAS Cymru and Cardiff Local authority social services teams. The purpose of the workshop was to share advocacy with social service staff members and develop a wider understanding of the rights and entitlements to advocacy and the importance of children's views, wishes and feelings in all matters that are about them.
- A range of publicity information for children and young people was made available to Children's Services to disseminate to the workforce, this has included a new multi-lingual leaflet for UASC that has been developed by the UASC NYAS Cymru project team in consultation with young people. A poster has also been created and shared with wider partners to support accessibility for UASC. The service has developed a leaflet for parents of children with additional learning needs and disabilities to help them understand the role of an advocate and how advocates will deliver advocacy to their children and young people in an inclusive and accessible way. A leaflet to explain the way that the service will deliver non-instructed advocacy is under development, we look forward to sharing these when finalised for dissemination.
- The service has continued to attend St David's College and Cardiff and Vale colleges on a regular basis and is strengthening advocacy awareness to the large number of care experienced children and young people who attend and has provided support with any advocacy needs they may have.

5. Key Achievements and Challenges

- Children and young people are routinely asked to provide feedback on the service, and this is recorded in the quarterly monitoring reports. From the feedback we have been able to record children and young people were extremely positive about their experiences and felt that advocacy had helped them have their voice, wishes and feelings heard in all meetings about them.

Also, they have felt supported in finding resolutions to the issues they were facing.

- Children and young people were regularly afforded the opportunity to participate in the running of the service in several ways. Young people took part in recruitment of both NYAS Cymru and social care staff, helped devise their own advocacy plans and new publicity material. Young People also participated in a recent practice matters event whereby they created and delivered a presentation to social care staff, sharing their experiences of the care system and providing examples for changes they felt would make a difference to the experiences they had. This was extremely well received and, with children's services staff feeding back how impactful this was. The young people have been asked to deliver another session planned later in the year.
- The service continued to see an increase in active offer referrals within this period which is positive. However, incomplete referral information has continued to cause delays in children and young people accessing the service and referrals are often arriving either too late to facilitate the timeline required to deliver the WAO, or after the Initial meeting has taken place. The service has continued to seek solutions by working with Children's Services business support team and the operational manager. Together they have implemented a variety of solution-focused approaches that the service hopes will have a positive impact, leading to a more effective delivery for the WAO.
- The service continues to offer a child led service and will continue to undertake advocacy meetings via Teams or face to face in line with their feelings and wishes as well as age-appropriate methods following Welsh Government guidelines.
- Whilst referrals continued to increase from care experienced children and young people and those within the child protection system, referrals remained low from children and young people subject to care and support outside of the child protection arena. The service has been raising awareness by meeting with teams from the relevant Children's Services departments to raise

awareness and promote the service. The service hopes to see a rise in referrals from these teams.

- The service received 2 requests to provide an appropriate adult to young people within the age assessment process. This has been on a spot purchase basis as this is not part of the core service.
- The service worked with their charity partners Deloitte, Grange pavilion and Splash projects to co-design a community garden redesign with fifty volunteers developing improvements to the garden spaces to provide alternative meeting spaces for the children and young people accessing the service. The redesigned garden was kindly opened by Councillor Lister and community leaders.

Candice Lloyd

Service Manager

Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan Service Manager NYAS Cymru

4th December 2023



gwasanaeth eiriolaeth
ieuenctid cenedlaethol
national youth
advocacy service

Our Presentation to You

A brief overview of our service

By Candice Lloyd & Scott Giles

NYAS Cymru Cardiff



Who are



gwasanaeth eiriolaeth
ieuenctid cenedlaethol
national youth
advocacy service

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NYAS Cymru are a leading rights-based charity who provide **independent advocacy services** for children and young people aged between 5-25 in Cardiff

We ensure their rights are upheld and their views, wishes and feelings are **respected** and their voices are **heard**.

▪

Active Offer Advocacy Services

Children and young people are eligible for the active offer when they are new to the Looked After or Child Protection system.

This covers children of compulsory school age 5 plus

Issue Based Advocacy services

Children and young people who are on the Child Protection Register, Looked After, receiving Care and Support (including children and young people with disabilities) or care leavers are eligible.



1 Placement

2 Contact and Family Time

3 Support at Meetings

4 Education

5 Leaving Care

6 Support to make a Complaint

7 Access to Legal representation

Types of Issues

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Annual figures : Apr – Sept 2023

Referrals: 408

178 Issue based

230 Active offers

This includes:

- Supporting 24 CYP with disabilities and 10 Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking CYP
- 17 referrals were for children and young people placed out of county



*I'm happy to have had an advocate, if you are too scared to say something with your Mum or somebody that you can still tell someone **From a young person***

Annual figures : Apr – Sept 2023

178 Issue based advocacy referrals

Page 29 We have worked with **244** issues
105 of these were for support at
CLA and CP Meetings.



I just want to say, thank you so much for everything that you have done for me. Thank you for all the support and for the meetings that you set up for me. Nothing would have changed if you weren't my advocate. You made sure everyone listened to me and you were the

Annual figures : Apr – Dec 2021

230 Active Offer referrals

141 Meetings were held and

88 Accepted

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“ I am glad I had advocacy 'because I can tell stuff that I can't tell any other people.'”

QUOTE FROM YOUNG PERSON

Participation opportunities for CYP - practice matters workshops, Advocacy plans and staff & volunteer interviews

Page 31

Children and young people provided positive feedback to the service on their experiences of advocacy



7 Deloitte bursary's have been awarded to young people to date

17 laptops have been gifted to children & young people from the Deloitte Charity Partnership

Case Study

- **23-year-old care leaver 'A' with a moderate learning difficulty was referred to NYAS by her PA with A's consent.**
- **5 years ago, A was referred to the Friendly Trust who acted as an Appointee to manage her finances. A was not fully aware of the nature of the service and decided that she no longer wished to use it. A communicated her feelings to her keyworker, however A's keyworker continued using the service on A's behalf, given the Appointeeship in place.**
- **In order for A to request her money, she had to telephone the keyworker and the keyworker would then make purchases on A's behalf. A felt that the process made her feel as though she had a lack of autonomy and caused her to experience anxiety over contacting her keyworker. A's PA recognised this and discussed the issue with the keyworker.**
- **The PA informed the keyworker that A no longer required the service, however the service provision continued.**

- The advocate contacted A to write a consent letter to enable them to ask questions on her behalf and to enable her to end the agreement with the Family Trust.
- The key worker responded and confirmed there was a formal procedure that needed to be followed, prior to ending the agreement with the Family Trust. Part of that procedure was that A would need to undergo a Mental Capacity Assessment (MCA) performed by a Social Worker.
- There was a delay in the completion of the MCA and therefore A was informed that she had a right to complain about the service she had received, if she so wished. A decided that she wanted to submit a stage 1 complaint with advocacy support.
- A had a positive response to her complaint and received confirmation from the disability team that they would perform her MCA. A's MCA was undertaken in the presence of her advocate 2 weeks after the initial complaint was raised.
- A's advocate provided support by liaising with the disability team to monitor the progress of the MCA.

Outcomes / Feedback:

- A received a positive outcome from the MCA, which confirmed her capacity to make independent financial decisions.
- The Friendly Trust confirmed that they would contact the DWP to end their appointee ship and enable A to access their benefits independently as well as access their savings and bank account.
- A had a positive response to their complaint apologising for the delay and gained access to their savings and benefits soon after this.
- A was very happy and told her advocate that she was very grateful for all his support.

Feedback From Young People, Parent, Carers and other Professionals:

YP

“ If I hadn't had advocacy, I wouldn't have been able to have people hear me in meetings”

Family member

“I said to my social worker that you're the only one that has consistently checked in with A while all the changes have been going on for him.””

Social Worker

“Thank you so much for your NYAS reports, I feel they were really powerful in conference, and made a difference to the final decision made”

Class teacher

“ It was definitely very helpful to have his views clearly expressed via a third party, so thanks for that.”

Parent

“ I'm glad to hear that you will be seeing him, his sister likes you”

Chair at RCPC

“it's always good to have an advocate at a meeting to hear from the children and young people”.

YP

“you're amazing, and you really help me, and I don't like a lot of people, so it says a lot that I actually like you”

YP

“ Thank you so much for your help with the complaint, it's been so helpful having someone able to advocate for my side -YP”



**Any final questions
or queries?**

Thank you very much for
joining us today.



gwasanaeth eiriolaeth
ieuenctid cenedlaethol

national youth
advocacy service

**CYNGOR CAERDYDD
CARDIFF COUNCIL**



**CORPORATE PARENTING
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

22 January 2023

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR, CHILDRENS SERVICES

CHILD FRIENDLY CITY UPDATE

Reasons for the report

1. This report sets out an update regarding the work undertaken by Child Friendly City and their work in Cardiff being the first city in the UK to achieve UNICEF Child Friendly City status on 27th October 2023.

Background

2. The journey to attain UNICEF Child-Friendly City status began several years ago when Cardiff initiated comprehensive efforts to ensure children's voices were heard, their rights protected and they were encouraged to take part in decisions that impact them.
3. The city's leadership, in collaboration with various stakeholders and partners, implemented a number of initiatives aimed at enhancing the quality of life for children and young adolescents across the diverse communities within Cardiff.
4. UNICEF's endorsement of the work currently being undertaken by Cardiff City Council highlights the city's commitment to prioritising the rights and wellbeing of children and young people, underpinning a milestone step toward creating a more inclusive, safe, and nurturing environment for its youngest residents.

Issues

5. Whilst the UNICEF recognition is rightly celebrated, there is also an opportunity to improve in areas that were identified during the collaboration. These areas include, but are not limited to:
 - Tackling discrimination (with special attention to youth justice, policing, school exclusions and behaviour policies and disaggregating data).
 - Strengthening the 'participation loop' so children and young people understand the extent of their influence and the impact of their engagement.
6. Robust strategies to address these highlighted areas have been added to the Cardiff Child Friendly City Sustainability Plan 2023-26.

7. Child Friendly City has several key priorities for 2023-2026:

- Series of Child Rights Education

Roll out child rights e-learning to 80% of council staff; extend applied child rights training to other departments and external partners; identify and up-skill child rights policy officers; Deliver Elected Members training programme

- Participation

Provide quality assured, high quality opportunities for C&YP to influence decision making including younger children, further embed National Participation Standards and develop a dashboard for disaggregated data.

- Place – Urban Planning & Design

Evidence gathering and engagement, train staff, commission research, developing the strategy, implementation of delivery plan and monitoring and review

- Equal & Included

Equal and Included CFC delivery plan with a focus on gender equity
Cardiff Youth Justice Services Disproportionality Policy and Action Plan
Deliver consultation on transport improvements

8. Cardiff's UNICEF Child Friendly City recognition will serve as a catalyst to continuously improve and innovate programs and policies benefiting children and young people. Cardiff aims to build on this success by expanding initiatives, engaging more of our partners and stakeholders, and fostering a culture where the voices of children and youth continue to shape the city's future.
9. Cardiff's classification as a UNICEF Child-Friendly City stands as a testament to the city's dedication to creating an environment where children and young people thrive, feel safe, and have their voices heard.
10. This achievement not only elevates Cardiff on the global stage, but also sets a leading example for other cities, showcasing the positive impact that can take place when championing the rights, and prioritising the wellbeing, of the youngest members of our society.

Financial Implications

11. The costs of retaining and maintaining accreditation are to be found from existing budgets and would be subject to any future annual budget setting decisions.

Legal Implications

12. There are no legal implications arising from this report.

RECOMMENDATION

13. To note the information shared within the update as outlined at **Appendix A** and share their comments in how this may benefit Children Looked After in Cardiff.

DEBORAH DRIFFIELD
Director, Childrens Services
21 December 2023

Appendix A– Child Friendly City Update

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CFC Assessment Outcome

Formal Recognition

UNICEF UK recognises that significant progress towards realising rights for children and young people has been made by the council and its partners.

Recognition was formally announced in a series of joint activity between Cardiff Council and UNICEF UK on October 27th

3 reports can be found using the link below, these are:

CFC Evaluation Report

C&YP Evaluation Report

UNICEF Assessment Outcome Report

[Global recognition for Cardiff, as city is crowned UK's first ever UNICEF Child Friendly City : Child Friendly Cardiff](#)

UNICEF – areas for further action

The assessment also highlighted 2 areas that required further attention:

- Tackling discrimination (with special attention to youth justice, policing, school exclusions and behaviour policies and disaggregating data).
- Strengthening the ‘participation loop’ so children and young people understand the extent of their influence and the impact of their engagement.

Robust strategies to address these highlighted areas were added to the Cardiff CFC Sustainability Plan 2023-26.

Next Steps – Discovery 2.0

A series of activities are planned Sept 23 – March 24 that will see key stakeholders including children and young people inform future CFC priorities to further embed children’s rights.

- Situational analysis
- Consultation and engagement programme with C&YP
- Commissioned research with Cardiff University
- Development of Theory of Change model

Key priorities for CFC 2023 - 2026

- **Child Rights Education**

Roll out child rights e-learning to 80% of council staff; extend applied child rights training to other departments and external partners; identify and up-skill child rights policy officers; Deliver Elected Members training programme.

We are planning to carry out a short mapping exercise to understand the overlay between where CLA pupils attend school and our Rights Respecting Schools Award. This award embeds rights education and values across school community and we want to ensure as many CLA pupils benefit from this award.

- **Participation**

Provide quality assured, high quality opportunities for C&YP to influence decision making including younger children, further embed National Participation Standards, develop a dashboard for disaggregated data.

We are keen to receive the findings of the recent consultation and engagement exercise as part of the CS Participation Strategy to better understand the needs and views of CLA regarding how they would like their views heard. We can then incorporate this into our work broadly, including when we provide advice when supporting Child Rights Impact Assessments (CRIA)

- **Place – Urban Planning & Design**

Evidence gathering and engagement, train staff, commission research, developing the strategy, implementation of delivery plan and monitoring and review

- **Equal & Included**

Equal and Included CFC delivery plan with a focus on gender equity – *Intersectionality* - we would welcome the opportunity to run a focus group with CLA girls and young women to build a better understanding of their lived experiences to inform a report being produced in the spring.

Cardiff Youth Justice Services Disproportionality Policy and Action Plan (BAME)

Deliver consultation on transport improvements – *It will be important to consider appropriate opportunities for CLA when WELTAG consultation starts later in 2024*

**CORPORATE PARENTING
ADVISORY COMMITTEE****22 January 2023**

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR, CHILDRENS SERVICES

VOICES FROM CARE CYMRU UPDATE**Reasons for the report**

1. This report has been prepared to provide the Committee with an update in relation to Voices From Care Cymru and the work they are doing to support care experienced young people in Cardiff. The report is accompanied by The Radical Reform Summit Declaration, signed by The Welsh Government and Young Ambassadors.

Background

2. Voices From Care Cymru (VFCC) is an independent Welsh voluntary organisation that has been supporting care experienced children and young people for thirty-five years.
3. VFCC support individual care experienced children and young people through their wellbeing services, helping them develop resilience, and independent living skills and enabling them to support each other through both formal and informal peer support.
4. The service offer care experienced children and young people the opportunity to take part in wellbeing activities and influencing work, as well as the chance to relax and have fun with others who share their experiences.

Issues**Wellbeing Services**

5. VFCC offer individual wellbeing support to young people, enabling them to address barriers they face to living independently. Each programme is tailored to

the individual young person's needs and may include learning practical skills, e.g. budgeting, personal strategy skills, such as understanding how past trauma may be affecting their lives now and developing strategies to help address this. This service has recently been expanded to include professional counselling.

6. Peer support cafes enable care experienced young people to come together to support each other and learn through their shared experiences. VFCC currently offer the Care Experienced Parents Support Café, the Care Experienced Student Support Café and the LGBT Care Experienced Support Café.
7. There is a new Sky's the Limit project, which is a project that aims to overcome barriers to taking part in sports and art activities. It is offered to care experienced children between the ages of 8-14.
8. The Bibliotherapy Project enables care experienced young people to use supported journaling to help them manage their feelings, address negative thoughts and strengthen positivity. The key tool for this work is a journal designed by young people themselves.
9. VFCC also offer fun activities and experiences which include theatre trips, meals out, bowling, and outdoor activities. All activities are chosen by the children and young people, who's voices are at the heart of everything they do. VFCC has a care experienced choir that rehearses weekly, and is open to children and young people, foster carers and other professionals.

Influencing

10. The other main area of work for VFCC is their campaigning to improve the lives and futures of care experienced children and young people.
11. Before the 2021 Senedd Election, young people worked together to develop a manifesto setting out some key goals that they asked political parties to commit to. After the election, the new Programme of Government set out some specific commitments to the care experienced community, and VFCC have been enabling young people to work with Welsh Government in delivering on these.
12. VFCC facilitated a group of young people to work with Welsh Government to develop the Basic Income Pilot and have convened practitioner forums to identify issues through the roll out. The service is now supporting young people's involvement in the evaluation of the scheme.

13. VFCC have supported young people to participate in the development of the new Corporate Parenting Charter. Whereby young people sit with professionals on the national Board overseeing the role out, and young people will be involved in monitoring delivery in those public bodies that sign up.
14. The Programme for Government also committed to “explore radical reform of services for children looked after and care leavers”. This was discussed with Welsh Government, which then led to the First Minister and the Deputy Minister for Social Services commissioning VFCC to organise a ‘Summit Meeting’ between Welsh Ministers and care experienced children and young people.
15. A team of 40 Young Ambassadors from the care experienced community across Wales attended the Summit at the National Museum in Cardiff. The Young Ambassadors created a series of asks that formed a draft Declaration to be discussed with Welsh Ministers at the Summit.
16. Ministers and Young Ambassadors then fed back to the wider group and to the First Minister in a Plenary session, and the draft Declaration, with amendments, was agreed.
17. The Declaration (copy attached) was signed by the First Minister and representatives of Young Ambassadors at a ceremony in May.
18. The Declaration sets out what radically reformed services will look and feel like to children and young people and their families. It builds on what young people have told Ministers works well and addresses those things they have said need to change.
19. A national follow up Summit is planned for March next year, where Young Ambassadors will meet with Ministers to assess progress.

Financial Implications

20. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Legal Implications

21. There are no legal implications arising from this report.

RECOMMENDATION

22. The Committee is recommended to note the Voices From Care Cymru Update and consider their involvement in future summits held with Welsh Government and Young Ambassadors.

DEBORAH DRIFFIELD
Director, Childrens Services
19 December 2023

Appendix A– Voices From Care Cymru Update

Report to the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee January 22nd 2024

Voices From Care Cymru

Introduction

Voices From Care Cymru is an independent Welsh voluntary organisation that has been supporting care experienced children and young people for thirty-five years. We support individual care experienced children and young people through our wellbeing services, helping them develop resilience, and independent living skills, enabling them to support each other through peer support, formal and informal. We organise enjoyable activities, enabling care experienced children and young people to relax and have fun with others who share their experiences. And, crucially, we enable young people to work together to influence the decisions that affect their lives. This report focuses mainly on our influencing work, but first a brief overview of our wellbeing work.

Wellbeing

We offer individual wellbeing support to young people, enabling them to address barriers they face to living independently successfully. Each programme is tailored to the individual young person's needs and may include learning practical skills like budgeting, addressing the need to develop health supportive relationships and friendships, and understanding how past trauma may be affecting their lives now and developing strategies to help address this. We have recently been able to expand this service to include professional counselling.

Our peer support cafes enable care experienced young people who share particular experiences or characteristics to come together to support each other. Currently these are the Care Experienced Parents Support Café, the Care Experienced Student Support Café and the LGBT Care Experienced Support Café.

Our new Sky's the Limit project works with younger care experienced children aged 8 to 14. It helps them overcome barriers to taking part in activities, such as sport and the arts, and build links in the community.

The Bibliotherapy Project enables care experienced young people to use supported journaling to help them manage their feelings, address negative

thoughts and strengthen positivity. The key tool for this work is a journal designed by young people themselves.

We have just begun work on our Success Clubs, a new initiative working with care experienced children and young people to overcome barriers to success in education.

Our fun activities vary according to what young people are interested in doing. This year they have included theatre trips, meals out, bowling, and outdoor activities. Our care experienced choir rehearses weekly, and is open to children and young people, foster carers and other professionals. It is a great celebration of our care experienced community.

Influencing

Campaigning to improve the lives and futures of care experienced children and young people has always been at the heart of our work.

Before the 2021 Senedd Election young people worked together to develop a manifesto setting out some key goals that they asked political parties to commit to.

After the election the new Programme of Government set out some specific commitments to the care experienced community, and we have been enabling young people to work with Welsh Government in delivering on these, ensuring that the voices of care experienced young people are at the heart of the processes.

We facilitated a group of young people to work with Welsh Government to develop the Basic Income Pilot, and have convened practitioner forums to identify issues through the role out. We are now supporting young people's involvement in the evaluations.

We have enabled young people to participate in the development of the new Corporate Parenting Charter. Young people sit with professionals on the national Board overseeing the role out, and young people will be involved in monitoring delivery in those public bodies that sign up.

In addition to the specific commitments the Programme for Government also committed to "explore radical reform of services for children looked after and care leavers". We discussed with Welsh Government how this exploration would take place, and this led to the First Minister and the Deputy Minister for Social Services commissioning us to organise what they called a Summit

Meeting between Welsh Ministers and care experienced children and young people. We recruited a team of 40 Young Ambassadors from the care experienced community across Wales. Their ages ranged from 14 to 25, and they included young people from diverse backgrounds and with diverse characteristics, including LGBT young people and young asylum seekers. They worked with care experienced children and young people to develop a series of asks that formed a draft Declaration to be discussed with Welsh Ministers at the Summit.

The Summit took place at the National Museum in Cardiff last December. It was attended by the 40 Young Ambassadors, the Ministers for Education and Social Justice and the Deputy Ministers for Mental Health and Social Services. Working in four Workshops, the Young Ambassadors explained the thinking behind the clauses in the draft Declaration to Ministers and agreed amendments. Ministers and Young Ambassadors then fed back to the wider group and to the First Minister in a Plenary session, and the draft Declaration, with amendments, was agreed.

The Declaration (copy attached) was signed by the First Minister and representatives of Young Ambassadors at a ceremony in May.

The Declaration sets out what radically reformed services will look and feel like to children and young people and their families. It builds on what young people have told Ministers works well and addresses those things they have said need to change. The Welsh Government has developed a process to deliver this radical agenda.

We are supporting young people who sit on the Transformation Delivery Group which oversees the delivery of transformation in children's services. We also support them to participate in subgroups below that.

We organised a further Summit in the north in October to ensure that a wider range of voices of young people from the north and from rural communities were heard in the process and we will continue to work with Welsh Government to deliver the Radical Reform they have promised.

A national follow up Summit is planned for March next year, where Young Ambassadors will meet with Ministers to assess progress.

In addition to supporting young people to work with Welsh Government on the Radical Reform agenda we have supported young people to give evidence to

the Senedd Children, Education and Young People Committee during the Committee's enquiry into Radical Reform.

To help strengthen the evidence base around what works in supporting care experienced children and young people we have developed a partnership with Cascade, the specialist unit at Cardiff University that focuses on this area of work. This includes training young people to work as peer researchers.

We also support young people to participate in a range of consultation processes, nationally and locally.

Next Steps

Voices From Care Cymru already has a positive working relationship with Cardiff City Council. For example, some of the Summit Young Ambassadors are from Cardiff, and our Success Clubs are being piloted in a Cardiff school.

We are always keen to strengthen and deepen our relationship, to ensure that our services and opportunities are available to as many care experienced children and young people in Cardiff as possible. We are grateful for the opportunity to meet with the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee as part of that process.



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government



Radical Reform Summit

DECLARATION

Contents

1	Foreword
2	Background and Statements
4	The Vision
9	The Commitment

Foreword

In the 22 years since devolution, successive Welsh Governments have prioritised the rights and needs of children and young people and there have been some major achievements. In 2001, in response to the Waterhouse Report, the office of the Children’s Commissioner was established; the first in the UK. In 2011 the Rights of Children and Young Persons (Wales) Measure was passed, partly enshrining The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child into Welsh law. In 2020 the Abolition of the Defence of Reasonable Punishment (Wales) Act was passed, giving children equal protection from violence under the law in our nation.

As a nation, Wales can be proud of these and other achievements but there is much more to do to allow our care community to aspire and to achieve their full potential.

Welsh Minsters and Young Ambassadors, who are here today to represent the national voice of our care experienced community of children and young people, met today to address this issue.

This Summit today has discussed steps necessary to promote the rights – based on the United Nation Convention on the Rights of the Child, (UNCRC) – and well-being of care experienced children and young people.



Background Statements

Welsh Government

In our Children and Young Peoples' Plan, this Welsh Government sets out our ambition:

'We want Wales to be a wonderful place to grow up, live and to work, now and in the future.'

The Plan goes on to say:

'We believe all our children and young people have the right to:

- have the best start in life
- take part in and enjoy learning and have the best education possible to expand their knowledge, develop their creativity and fulfil their potential
- enjoy healthy lifestyles and be protected from harm, abuse, neglect, and discrimination
- be able to play and have fun
- be listened to and treated with respect
- have a home and a community that is a nice place to grow up
- have enough financial and material support for that they need.'

The Plan goes on to set out some of the many actions that the Welsh Government will take, with others, to put that belief into practise and make those rights a reality.

We owe care experienced children and young people a particular duty of care to ensure that their rights are fully realised. This is a major area of concern for us.

We know that many children and young people have positive experiences in the care system and do well in life. They thrive and grow, cared for and supported, and go on to achieve their full potential. We have seen positive changes in recent years. For example, far more care experienced young people are now going to university than ever before. We are proud of young people's achievements and resilience, and we are grateful to all those who care for and support them. But far too many care experienced children and young people do not have their rights realised. Far too many care experienced young people experience homelessness. The percent of care experienced young people leave school with five good GCSE or more is still too low.

Care experienced children and young people are stigmatised, and often do not receive the support they need to overcome the trauma that they have experienced.

To us, the Government of Wales, this is unacceptable. In our Programme of Government – the document where we set out our promises to the people of Wales – there are a number of promises to care experienced children and young people and their families that we have begun to keep. For example, we have introduced a Basic Income Payment for care leavers to give them a better start into their independent lives and we have begun the process of stopping companies making big profits out of caring for children and young people. But we know this is not enough.

We have made a bigger promise in our Programme of Government. We have promised to:

'explore radical reform of current services for children looked after and care leavers.'

This Summit is a big step forward in exploring what radical reform of services could mean for care experienced children and young people.

Young Ambassadors

We, the Young Ambassadors, have been working with other care experienced children and young people to explore what radical reform means. We started with the dictionary. Radical has two meanings; through, complete, total, entire: and revolutionary, progressive, reforming. Reform means improve, make better, mend. These are great words.

We are glad that Welsh Government understands the need for radical reform. Some of us have been involved in consultations before, and we haven't always felt that we were listened to and our concerns we acted on. But we are proud of the work we have already been doing with

this Welsh Government – for example around developing the Basic Income Pilot – and we believe we are being listened to now. We have been working with other care experienced children and young people to understand their experiences of current services and what needs to change. We have come to this Summit with our ideas about what radically reformed services could look like and deliver for care experienced children and young people and their families. We have shared these ideas, to help create a vision of what radically reformed services will look like and deliver. A Vision that we and Welsh Government can agree.



The Vision

Welsh Government

We have listened to what the Young Ambassadors have told us about their experiences and the experiences of other care experienced children and young people.

We have heard their ideas about what radically reformed services should look like and should deliver for care experienced children and young people. Together we have developed this Vision, which we support.

Young Ambassadors

Welsh Ministers have listened to our experiences and our ideas for a Vision of what radically reformed services could look like and deliver.

We support the Vision set out below.

Here is some of what will be different:

- All children and young people who are affected by the care system will be spoken with and listened to at every stage. People listening to them will understand that it can sometimes be hard to express your views or tell the whole truth. They will support children and young people, including little ones, to speak out. When children and young people's wishes about where and with whom they live can't be agreed to because they need to live somewhere else so that they can thrive, what is happening and why will be properly explained to them.
- No child or young person will be taken into care unless everything possible has been done to help their family look after them well, unless there is an emergency.
- Families whose children might be taken into care will all have an independent advocate to help and support them and make sure their voices are heard. Children and young people in the family will have their own independent advocates too (see below), to make sure their voices are heard.
- When a child or young person is taken into care, services will work with the family and the child or young person to do everything possible to help the family be able to come back together, if it is possible to help the family support the child or young person to thrive. Children and young people will be listened to if they say they don't want to go home, and their wishes and feelings will be considered. When children and young people do go home professionals will check in regularly to make sure everything is going well and help if needed.
- When children and young people are taken into care, they will be supported to stay in touch with their birth family if this is possible. Their views about contact with their birth family will be listened to and acted on if possible. No child or young person will be pressured into contact that they do not want.
- When children and young people are taken into care professionals will continue to work with the family. This is important because these families may have more children, and because when care experienced young people are old enough, they often want to be in touch with, and sometimes live with, their birth families.



- When care experienced people become parents they will be helped and supported to look after their babies and children. Babies and children will never be subject to child protection action just because their mother or father is care experienced.
- When children and young people are taken into care, they will all have a fully independent advocate to help them get their voices heard when decisions are being made about them and their care. They will be able to stay in touch with their advocate if they wish, so they do not have to keep explaining things over and over.
- When children and young people are taken into care, they will be able to stay close to their family and friends in their own communities and their own schools. They will only be sent far away if they are in danger or at risk.
- Everyone working to support care experienced children and young people will understand that being taken into care throws children and young people into trauma/crises. We as a nation need to understand how trauma affects us as individuals and as a community.
- There will be more foster carers, so children and young people who are taken into care can find the right people to take care of them straight away. Care experienced children and young people will not have to move time and time again, from home to home.
- When foster carers are recruited care will be taken to ensure that they have the right values and behaviours to support children and young people to grow and thrive.
- Foster carers will be trained to understand trauma and how it effects children and young people. They will get regular training and support.
- Foster carers will be trained to support all children and young people. They will understand the different needs of children and young people with protected characteristics and know how to support them.
- Foster carers will all be paid fairly. Kinship carers will not be paid less, and cares will not be paid more if the child or young person they are looking after is 'difficult.' Care experienced children and young people will not be labelled like that.

- There will be enough staff with the right values, skills, and experience to support care experienced children and young people. They will be provided with all the training and support they need and will show empathy and understanding at all times. Care experienced children and young people will be able to access support when they need it, not just between 9 and 4 on weekdays.
- If foster care is not right for a care experienced child or young person there will be a range of options available to them so they can live a life that suits their needs.
- Children and young people living in residential settings will have the same rights as children living in foster care.
- Care experienced young asylum seekers will be supported in ways that work for them. They will have more access to interpreters to help them express their needs and do practical things like making appointments with the health service. Online translation doesn't always work.
- Care experienced young asylum seekers will have the same right to an education as every other child and young person. They will be supported to learn English quickly and will be able to decide whether face to face or online learning works for them.
- They will be able to learn life skills to help them understand the community they are living in, and if, they are old enough, will be able to undertake work experience placements to help them find work when they are able to.
- Care experienced young asylum seekers will have the same support as that which is provided to other care experienced children and young people. They will be supported to develop lasting relationships with adults they can trust. They will have the same support wherever in Wales they are looked after. They will receive the same financial support as other care experienced children and young people.
- Professionals working with care experienced children and young people will communicate well with each other. For example, social workers will make sure schools know about changes for a child or young person. Children and young people will never have to explain these things themselves, and they won't have to keep telling their stories over and over again.





- Organisations that plan and provide care will not make lots of money and give that money to the people who own the organisations. All the money that is spent to provide care for children and young people will be used to provide that care and to make that care better. No child or young person will be left without a home that is right for them if their care home closes or changes because of this, and all the money saved by not paying profits will stay in the system to care for children and young people.
- If children and young people raise concerns about how they are being cared for they will be listened to and believed. There will be a proper investigation of their concerns. Children and young people will never be left in placements when they have said they feel unhappy or uncared for.
- Care experienced children and young people will be supported to take part in activities in their communities, including youth work opportunities. Youth workers will be trained to understand the challenges that care experienced young people may face and will know how to support them.
- Schools and colleges, and everyone who works in them, will really understand care experienced children and young people. They will know that they might need extra support sometimes to learn and be happy, and schools and colleges will make sure they get that support. They will understand that care experienced children and young people often experience discrimination because of stigma, and they will work hard to bring that stigma to an end.
- Care experienced children and young people will do as well at school and college as other children and young people, getting good qualifications and access to opportunities.
- Care experienced young people will be just as likely to go to university as any other young person.
- Care experienced young people will be just as likely to get an apprenticeship and a good job as any other young person.
- All care experienced young people will be supported by their corporate parents until they are 25. There will be support available to those young people who want it after that age.
- All care experienced young people will be able to stay with their foster carers until they are 25 if they choose, and there will be enough money for the foster carers to carry on supporting them. Young people who are living in residential care when they reach 18 will be supported to continue to live in the community near the Home if they want to and be able to stay in touch with staff and turn to them for support.
- Young people leaving care will begin to learn to live independently long before they have to do so. They will be supported to plan for the future they want, and that support will be there for them for as long as they need it. They will not be made to live independently until they are ready.

- No care experienced young person will ever be homeless when they leave care. They will be supported to find not just anywhere to live but a comfortable home where they can learn to be independent and happy. They will be supported to keep that home. They will never be evicted if they have nowhere to go. They will be supported until they can manage.
- Young people in care and young people leaving care will be no more likely than any other young person to get in trouble with the law. If they do end up in trouble with the law, they will be treated exactly the same as any other young person. If they end up in prison, they will continue to be supported so that when they leave, they can find a home and have a chance to start again.
- Care experienced children and young people will be able to get help to support their mental health whenever they need it, as soon as they need it.
- They will never lose support when they become 18 and move to adult services. Professionals will make sure that children and young people, and their carers know what support is available and how to get it.
- How well care experienced children and young people are cared for and supported will never depend on where they live.
- People who decide things about care experienced children and young people's lives will know them and understand them. They will meet them often and they will listen to them and act on what they say.

Welsh Government and Young Ambassadors

This is just the beginning of the Vision. This is a living, growing Vision. It will grow as we work with and listen to more care experienced children and young people and those who work with them and support them now. We will learn more. There will be more things that we can make better, and more ideas as to how to do that.

The principle behind everything that we have set out and will set out in the Vision as it grows, is that care experienced children and young people should have the same chances as every other child or young person to have their rights (as set out in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, and therefore in the Welsh Government's Children and Young People's Action Plan) realised.

The Commitment

Young Ambassadors and Welsh Government

We have learned from each other today. We know that there are good things being done to provide good services for care experienced children and young people and we can learn from and build on these. We know that the changes needed to deliver on the Vision, and grow it, are huge.

We know that not everything can change overnight, but we also know that things can change quickly when everyone works together.

We trust each other to play our part in making those changes. Below we set out our commitments to the next steps.

Welsh Government

These are our commitments:

1. Delivering the Vision will be one of our main priorities – one of the things that is most important to us – in the next four years.

2. We will work closely with everyone who currently delivers services for care experienced children and young people to work out how we will deliver the Vision.

3. We will help them do it and we will make sure they do it.

4. We will make sure that delivering the Vision is placed at the heart of all actions to deliver the Children and Young People’s Plan.

5. We will make sure that all Welsh Government Ministers who are not here today meet with care experienced children and young people to help them understand how their portfolios can support Welsh Government to deliver the Vision.

6. We will put in place systems to make sure we keep checking on whether the Vision is being delivered and how.

7. We will make sure that there are enough staff, with the right values, training and skills, to support the delivery of the Vision. We will make sure that they are fairly paid and supported so that they will stay in their jobs.

8. Where we need to, we will change the law, so that organisations supporting care experienced children and young people will have to provide the right services and support. If they do not, we will support care experienced children and young people to use the law to make sure that they do.

9. We will make sure that every child or young person who is care experienced has their rights realised and duly acted upon wherever they live in Wales.

10. We will work closely with care experienced children and young people, and those organisations which support them to have their voices heard and to ensure that Vision is being delivered. We will listen to them and act on what they tell us. We will work with them to grow the Vision and to make sure that we truly deliver radical reform to improve the outcomes and eradicate all stigma associated with our care community in Wales.

11. We will meet again with care experienced children and young people in 12 months at a Follow Up Summit to review the progress on delivering this very exciting Vision.

Young Ambassadors

We speak here for the care experienced community. It may not be us as individuals, but there will be many, many others who will commit with us to taking this journey with Welsh Government to ensure that the rights of care experienced children and young people are fully

realised in our nation, and that the experiences of the next generation of care experienced children and young people are better than many of ours. We are proud of what we have already done and are looking forward to helping deliver big changes – radical reform.

These are our commitments:

1. We will continue to work with Welsh Government to grow the Vision, working with care experienced children and young people and those who work to support them.

2. We will meet with those Minsters who were unable to be present at the Summit to support them in developing an understanding of how their portfolios can contribute to delivering the Vision.

3. We will work with Welsh Government to share the Vision with all those responsible for delivering services to care experienced children and young people and to help them understand the Vision. This will enable them to work to deliver services that we can all be proud of, ensuring children and young people in their care are not part of a system that does not appear to care, building services that help us develop long-lasting, loving relationship. We will work with our collective corporate parents and with our corporate grandparents, our Ministers, our Government.

4. We will continue to work with care experienced children and young people throughout our nation to ensure that their experiences and ideas are fed into the growth of the Vision and all subsequent work to ensure that the Vision is co-delivered with children and young people remaining at the heart of the journey.

5. We will meet with Welsh Minsters in 12 months at a Follow up Summit to review progress on delivering our Vision.

We will work with Welsh Government on the basis of trust and mutual respect enshrined in the UNCRC, setting out the key principles of a children’s rights approach that will be central to this incredibly important and historic journey. Some of us are concerned that we might do this work and change may still not happen. But we believe in the good intentions of Welsh Government and the commitment and dedication of our First Minister, Mark Drakeford. We thank him for his strong commitment to improving our lives and our futures, and those of future generations.

Because of his commitment, and that of other Ministers across Welsh Government, we believe that, this time, radical reform can truly be delivered.

Signed on behalf of the Welsh Government:

Signed on behalf of the care experienced Young Ambassadors:

Young Ambassador

Young Ambassador

Young Ambassador

Young Ambassador

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**CORPORATE PARENTING
ADVISORY COMMITTEE****22 January 2023**

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR, CHILDRENS SERVICES

RESIDENTIAL HOMES UPDATE**Reasons for the report**

1. This report has been prepared to provide the Committee with an update in relation to the Children's Services Accommodation Strategy and the new residential homes that have been created in Cardiff

Background

2. On the 19th January 2023 Cabinet approved the new Children's Services Strategy, which has been developed to set out the vision and direction for service provision over the next 3 years.
3. The Children's Services Strategy sets out how we will seek to work with our partners to meet the needs of children, young people and their families, using the least interventionist approach. We call this "shifting the balance" and we are focusing on three key areas:
 - a. Place – ensuring that children remain at home with their family where it is safe and appropriate to do so.
 - b. People – recruiting a permanent workforce and reducing our reliance on agency social workers.
 - c. Practice - developing our practice to ensure it is strength based, trauma informed, restorative, research led and family focused.

4. Cardiff Children's Services have a clear vision for our Children Looked After and their families, in that we want to provide families with the right support, from the right person at the right time, in the right place and at the lowest safe level of intervention, enabling them to remain with their family where it is safe for them to do so.
5. However, for some children and young people their needs are best met in an accommodation setting and we want to ensure that there is enough sufficiency in Cardiff for them. All children and young people deserve to have a place they call home where they are safe, nurtured and protected.
6. The Accommodation Strategy, which was also approved at Cabinet on 19th January 2023 as an appendix to the main strategy, sets out the accommodation provision that we need. This strategy is closely linked with our work to implement The Right Place model in Cardiff (based on the North Yorkshire Model) and includes our ambitious plans to increase residential care provision for children and young people in Cardiff.
7. The strategy gives an overview of the current position, analyses demand and details the proposals for the following workstreams with consideration for The Right Place and NEST/NYTH (Nurturing, Empowering, Safe and Trusted) framework. It considers the following;
 - Children's Residential Provision
 - Children with Disabilities
 - Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing
 - Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC)
 - Parent and Baby
8. The requirement for an increase in residential placement provision is in part being driven by a reduction in the amount of external fostering placements. There has been a consistent and sustained fall in the number of placements between Quarter 4 in 2020/2021 (345 external foster placements) and Quarter 2 2023/2024 (288 external foster placements).

9. In order to meet the demands of the service the proposal is the utilisation of the current assets within the authority, as well as the acquisition and development of a number of other properties. Childrens Services have 5 new operational properties (3 General, 1 Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing and 1 for Children with Disabilities) with a further 4 due to be completed in the first half 2024.

Progress

10. Currently, the provision is:

- 'C'- Operational residential property comprising 6 young people beds
- 'F'- Operational residential property comprising 3 young people beds
- 'O'- Operational residential property comprising 1 young person bed

New Residential Homes since the implementation of the accommodation strategy:

- 'FH U1'- Operational and successfully registered with Care Inspectorate Wales (1 young person bed)
- 'FH U2'- Operational and successfully registered with Care Inspectorate Wales (1 young person bed)
- 'BP'- Operational and successfully registered with Care Inspectorate Wales (2 young person beds)
- 'AG'- Property Handover due December 2023. Furnishing planned for January 2024 with registration and occupation to follow (3/4 young person beds)
- 'H'- Property purchased and refurbishment works underway – estimated handover February 2023 (3 young person beds)
- 'MC'- Property purchased and refurbishment works due to start January 2024 (3/4 young person beds)
- 'HH'- Property purchase complete, schedule of works being finalised for refurbishment (4 young person beds)
- 'NS'- Offer accepted – property purchase being completed (2 young person beds)

For children with additional health and disabilities there are:

- Ty Storrie- Respite care comprising 4/6 young person beds

- 'BR'- Operational and in the final stages of registration with Care Inspectorate Wales (1 young person bed)
11. Children's Services are currently exploring the potential to purchase 4 smaller homes which would be used for solo placements, respite and shared care for children and young people who require additional health and disability support.
 12. 'CL' is a residential provision that is operational and providing solo placements for children and young people who require additional mental health and wellbeing support. It offers 5 solo placements and is currently in the process of being purchased by the authority, prior to undergoing registration with the Care Inspectorate Wales.
 13. 'CR' is a residential provision that is operational and providing placements for 6 Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC). Scoping is underway to deliver accommodation solutions for the medium term.
 14. There will also be a refurbishment of Ty Storrie, a specialist short break provision which will see it become a Child Health And Disability Hub.

Issues

15. The Right Place model recognises that Cardiff children need Cardiff homes and incorporates the No Wrong Door Policy adopted by North Yorkshire County Council.
16. This includes:
 - Residential Provision (Emergency and Medium term)
 - Hub Community Families – 2 Foster Carers dedicated to the Hub for short, medium and respite care.
 - Supported Accommodation – Independent units for older CYP to try out their independence.
 - High Need Supported Lodgings
 - Bespoke Placement Options – ad hoc bespoke placements to take CYP out of area when required
 - Multi – Agency Team – including residential staff, edge of care workers, Clinical Psychologist, Speech and Language therapist, Police Liaison Officer and portfolio leads including education.
17. The Right Place Model is also supported by the commitment from Welsh Government to end private profit from the care of children who are looked after.

From 1st April 2026, any new providers of care home services for children in foster care seeking to register with Care Inspectorate Wales will need to demonstrate their not for profit status. Existing companies will be expected to transition from for profit, to not for profit by 1st April 2027.

18. The aim for the next phase is to continue to drive the inhouse residential and work with providers, in line with the eliminate profit agenda and to register and open 12 new residential homes in Cardiff over the next 12 months. We want to provide homes for our children and young people where they feel safe, nurtured and protected.

Financial Implications

19. The strategy timespan is for three years and the accommodation strategy details additional properties to increase residential placement provision within the authorities boundaries. The acquisition of these properties will have a longer lifespan than the strategy, and when capital expenditure is being incurred, there will need to be a longer planning horizon, with a risk assessment and consideration of mitigations that might be required, to ensure that assets being bought, created or reconfigured will continue to provide benefits to the council over the lifespan of the asset. The accommodation strategy notes previous Capital allocations that have not been utilised to date and the possibility of external grants to fund the acquisition and adaptation of properties. Further work will be required to ensure the accommodation strategy is affordable within the current funding envelope and utilisation of grants are in accordance with timescales and the terms and conditions of the individual grants.
20. Currently there are significant cost pressures within Children's Services, as high-cost placements and bespoke care arrangements have arisen due to external changes since the pandemic and insufficient market capacity leading to increased prices. This strategy aims to manage and reduce the risk of significant overspends in future years through the implementation of several individual strands of work. An appropriate financial monitoring mechanism will be required, aligned with performance indicators and delivery plans, to measure and communicate financial

performance and cost effectiveness of schemes deriving from the strategy and ensure ongoing management control of schemes.

Legal Implications

21. There are no legal implications arising from this report.

RECOMMENDATION

22. The Committee is recommended to note the Children's Services Accommodation Strategy pilot to make any observations or comments and, if appropriate agree how the implementation of the Strategy is reported to this committee going forward.

DEBORAH DRIFFIELD
Director, Childrens Services
13 December 2023

Appendix A– Residential Update



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Cardiff's Right Place Accommodation Strategy



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Accommodation Strategy Summary



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- The Accommodation Strategy went to Cabinet on the 19th January 2023.

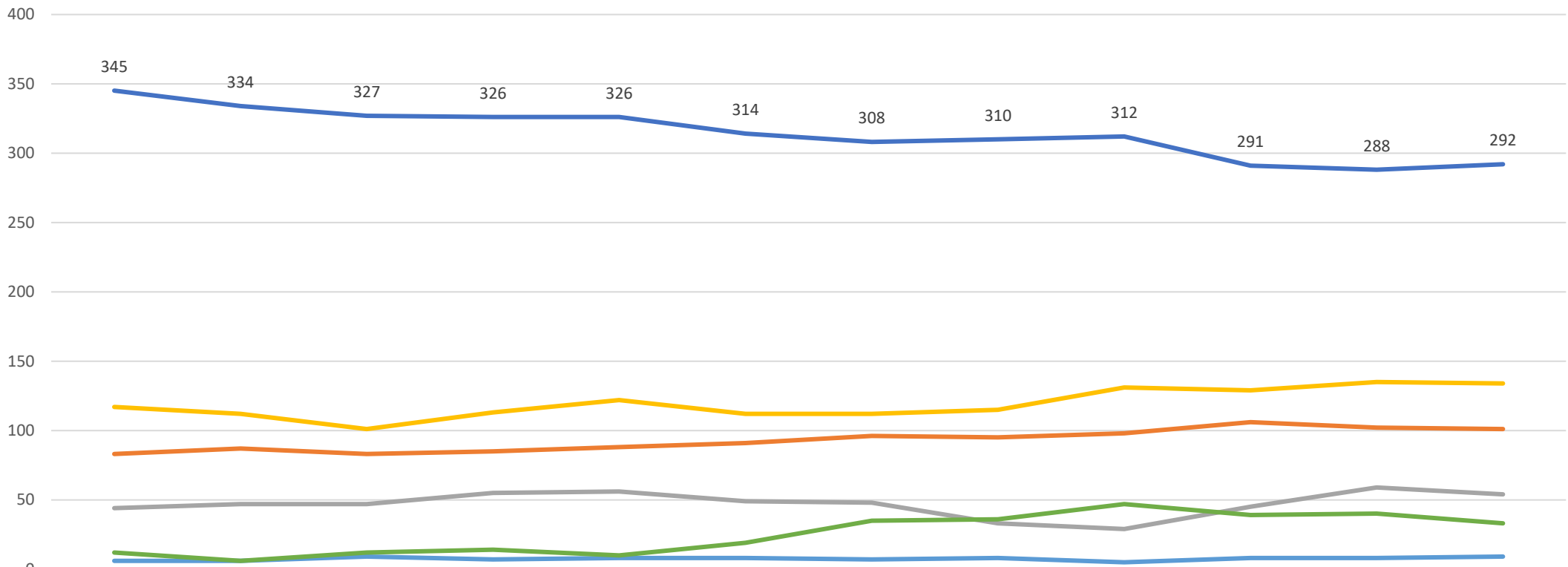
- The strategy gives an overview of the current position, analyses demand and details the proposals for the following workstreams with consideration for The Right Place and NEST/NYTH framework;
 - Children’s Residential Provision
 - Children with Disabilities
 - Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing
 - Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC)
 - Parent and Baby



Children's Residential Data

Graph showing CLA overtime by type of placement, with external fostering seeing quarter on quarter decreases : resulting in more children requiring residential placements

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	Q4 20/21	Q1 21/22	Q2 21/22	Q3 21/22	Q4 21/22	Q1 22/23	Q2 22/23	Q3 22/23	Q4 22/23	Q1 23/24	Q2 23/24	Q3 23/24
External Fostering	345	334	327	326	326	314	308	310	312	291	288	292
External Residential	83	87	83	85	88	91	96	95	98	106	102	101
Independent Living	44	47	47	55	56	49	48	33	29	45	59	54
In-house fostering	117	112	101	113	122	112	112	115	131	129	135	134
In-house residential	6	6	9	7	8	8	7	8	5	8	8	9
Other	12	6	12	14	10	19	35	36	47	39	40	33

External Fostering External Residential Independent Living In-house fostering In-house residential Other

Progress

Children's Residential Provision

Childrens Services have 5 new operational properties (3 General, 1 Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing and 1 for Children with Disabilities) with a further 4 due to be completed in the first half 2024.

Property/Home	YP Beds	Current Status
<u>Existing Residential Homes</u>		
C	6	Operational – Exploring potential kitchen extension and building upgrades
F	3	Operational
O	1	Operational
<u>New Residential Homes following the Accommodation Strategy</u>		
FH U1	1	Operational - recent successful registration with Care Inspectorate Wales
FH U2	1	Operational - recent successful registration with Care Inspectorate Wales
BP	2	Operational - recent successful registration with Care Inspectorate Wales
AG	3/4	Property Handover due for December 2023. Furnishing planned for January 2024 with registration and occupation to follow
H	3	Property purchased and refurbishment works underway – estimated handover February 2023
MC	3/4	Property purchased and refurbishment works due to start January 2024
HH	4	Property purchase complete, schedule of works being finalised for refurbishment
NS	2	Offer accepted – property purchase being completed
Interventions Hub & St Mellons Family Centre	1 + 1	Current staff office accommodation – Scope potential to create specialist space to support emergency placements for up to 24 hours

Children with Disabilities

Property/Home	YP Beds	Current Status
Ty Storrie (respite)	4 / 6	Operational
BR	1	Operational – in the final stages of registration with Care Inspectorate Wales
*Potential for 4 solo homes	4*1	Currently exploring potential to purchase 4 new smaller homes for solo placements, respite and shared care

Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing

Property/Home	YP Beds	Current Status
CL 77	5	Operational - 5 single residential units being used for solo placements. Currently being rented with steps to purchase underway and then registration with CIW.

UASC

Property/Home	YP Beds	Current Status
CR	6	Operational
* Potential for new properties	TBC	Scoping to deliver accommodation solutions for the medium term

Children with Disabilities



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- Ty Storrie our specialist short breaks residential home to become our Child Health and Disability Hub
 - Refurbish Ty Storrie to modernise and improve the sensory zones for children
- Attached to the CHAD Hub will be our existing residential home BR that is providing specialist long term residential provision
- Increase the provision of these solo placements that can be used for long term care, shared care and specialist respite provision
- Expansion of the inhouse service to support children and young people with their Domiciliary and Sessional Support requirements

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CHAD Hub
Ty Storrie

BR Solo Placement
Residential Home



4 New Smaller Homes for solo
placements / respite / shared care

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The Right Place Model (Cardiff homes for Cardiff Children)

- Residential Provision (Emergency and Medium term)
- Hub Community Families – 2 Foster Carers dedicated to the Hub for short, medium and respite care.
- Supported Accommodation – Independent units for older CYP to try out their independence.
- High Need Supported Lodgings
Bespoke Placement Options – ad hoc bespoke placements to take CYP out of area when required
Multi – Agency Team – including residential staff, edge of care workers, Clinical Psychologist, Speech and Language therapist, Police Liaison Officer and portfolio leads including education.

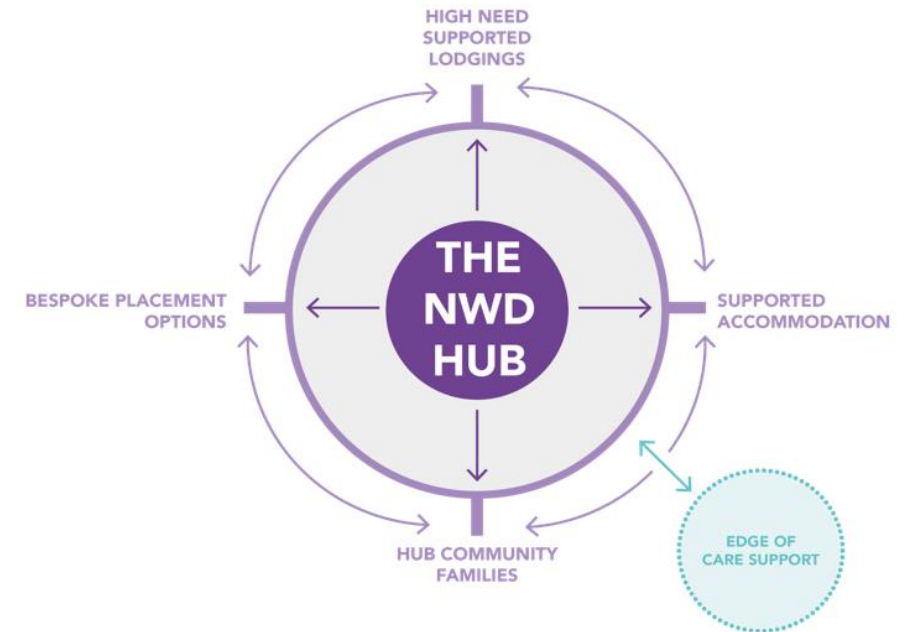
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A No Wrong Door Hub



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No Wrong Door®
Rethinking care for adolescents



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Removing Profit from the Care of Looked After Children



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- The co-operation agreement between Welsh Government and Plaid Cymru, commits to ending 'private profit from the care of children looked after'. The initial focus is on care home services for children and foster care.
- New providers seeking to register with Care Inspectorate Wales would have to demonstrate not-for-profit status from **1 April 2026**, with existing for-profit firms needing to transition by **1 April 2027**.

Next Steps;

- Further policy development on transitional arrangements
- Progress development of Local Authority Placement Commissioning Strategies.
- Expand and develop new local authority provision, supported by £68m funding over the next 3 years from Welsh Government.
- Further development of edge of care services to keep more families together if safe to do so.
- Introduction of Social Care (Wales) Bill in 2024.

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Aims for the next phase;

Continue to drive the inhouse residential and work with providers, in line with the eliminate profit agenda, to register and open 12 new residential homes in Cardiff over the next 12 months



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To achieve this, we will identify and purchase twelve new properties throughout the city. The properties will undergo the necessary refurbishment with consideration to regulations, including the installation of the necessary fire suppression systems and will be registered with Care Inspectorate Wales.

Each Residential Accommodation will;

- Provide a home where children and young people are safe, nurtured and protected.
- Have a core staff team to provide 24/7 support to our children and young people.
- Appoint a qualified and experienced registered manager to oversee the provision.
- Ensure building and regulatory compliance including fire regulations and health and safety compliance whilst ensuring the environment meets the wellbeing needs of the children or young people living there.
- Offer wraparound services where required including psychological support, speech and language and youth justice/police support. This will help provide a stable environment to improve the overall well-being and outcomes of our young people.

Identify Properties	Purchase Property	Refurbishment Works	Sign Off Works	Furnish	Register Property with CIW	Run for 5 years (+1/2)
Cardiff Council or Partner	Cardiff Council	Cardiff Council or Partner	Cardiff Council	Cardiff Council or Partner	Cardiff Council or Partner	Cardiff Council or Partner

To deliver this:



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Investment and increased capacity to the following roles

- Registered Individuals
- Commissioning
- Finance
- Legal
- Building – refurbishment, plus ongoing maintenance
- Project delivery capacity
- Workforce – recruitment and training
- Health & Safety
- Policies and Procedures
- Digital / ICT
- Business admin – including day to day finance



How can you help?



**STRONGER
FAIRER
GREENER**



- Support the accommodation strategy and development of Cardiff Homes for Cardiff Children
- Let us know if you see suitable properties in your area
- Any questions?



#GweithioDrosGaerdydd
#GweithioDrosochChi

#WorkingForCardiff
#WorkingForYou

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**CYNGOR CAERDYDD
CARDIFF COUNCIL****CORPORATE PARENTING
ADVISORY COMMITTEE****22 January 2023**

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR, CHILDRENS SERVICES

YOUTH SERVICE UPDATE**Reasons for the report**

1. This report has been prepared to provide the Committee with an update in relation to Cardiff Youth Service

Background

2. Cardiff Youth Service are part of Cardiff Council's Education department, who work with young people aged 11-25yrs to enhance personal, social and educational development through a variety of opportunities.
3. These opportunities include activities in communities, participatory experiences, as well as information, support and guidance enabling young people to reach their unique and full potential.
4. Cardiff Youth Service work with young people in a variety of settings offering both universal and, for those identified as vulnerable, targeted support.
5. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and children's rights underpins all the work that Cardiff Youth service undertake, with regular consultations occurring on an ongoing basis.
6. Cardiff is a child friendly city and Cardiff Youth Service are committed to working in partnership with their team and UNICEF to enhance the development of our children.

Issues

7. There are 13 youth work teams in Cardiff, who engage with young people in youth centres and youth clubs, on the street where young people are, as well as in schools and communities.
8. All Cardiff Youth Workers are a nationally qualified, registered workforce.

9. One of the ways the Youth Service offer support to our CLA is by the employment of specialist Looked After Youth Mentors.
10. Cardiff Looked After Youth Mentors offer support in a number of different ways, including one-to-one support with qualified and experienced Youth Mentors. Weekly sessions, sometimes more for a minimum of 1 hour.
11. Delivery of these sessions is completely flexible, with the option of taking place either in a school setting, the community or where they live. This also includes Cardiff children that are placed out of county.
12. Sessions focus on the needs of the young people with an intention to improve their wellbeing, improve attendance and attainment and decrease problematic behaviour.
13. Currently, Cardiff Youth Service have capacity to work with 60 young people across the team.
14. There is also a specialist CLA Wellbeing Group that is run weekly from Eastmoors Youth Centre. It provides care experienced or looked after children and young people with an opportunity to socialise and meet other young people and share experiences.
15. Sessions are focused on promoting emotional health and wellbeing through a variety of themed workshops, including cooking, games/activities, iCare Programme, and accredited activities such Youth Achievers Award and Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Financial Implications

16. There are currently no direct financial implications arising from this report

Legal Implications

17. There are no legal implications arising from this report.

RECOMMENDATION

18. The Committee is recommended to note the Youth Service Update and to consider ways they can support the service in the future.

DEBORAH DRIFFIELD
Director, Childrens Services
13 December 2023

Appendix A– Youth Service Update

Cardiff Youth Service

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@YouthCardiff

#CYSGWellbeing



Cardiff Youth Service



Who are Cardiff Youth Service?

- Cardiff Youth Service are part of Cardiff Council's Education department.
- We work with young people aged 11-25yrs to enhance personal, social and educational development through a variety of opportunities.
- This includes activities in communities, participatory experiences, as well as information, support and guidance enabling young people to reach their unique and full potential.
- We work with young people in a variety of settings offering both universal and, for those identified as vulnerable, targeted support.
- Children's rights and the UNCRC is embedded in all the work we do, with regular consultations occurring on an ongoing basis.
- Cardiff Council are committed to a partnership with UNICEF and Cardiff is a child-friendly city.

#CYSWellbeing



What do we offer?

- We have 13 youth work teams within the Youth Service, which include:
 - Open Access Youth Work
 - Streetbased Youth Work
 - Youth Mentoring
 - Digital Youth Work
 - Emotional Health, Wellbeing & CLA
 - Inclusive Youth Work
 - Post 16 Youth Work
 - Active Involvement Team
 - Pupil Inclusion project
 - Welsh/bilingual Youth Work
- Our engagement with young people takes place in youth centres and youth clubs, on the street where young people are, as well as in schools and communities.
- Our Youth Workers and youth support workers are a nationally qualified, registered workforce.

#CYSWellbeing



CLA Youth Mentoring

- One-to-one support with qualified and experienced Youth Mentors.
- Weekly sessions, sometimes more for a minimum of 1 hour.
- Flexible delivery within a school setting, the community or where they live, including those placed out of County. Focuses on the needs of the young people with an intention to improve their wellbeing, improve attendance and attainment and decrease problematic behaviour.
- Capacity to work with 60 young people across the team.
- Addressing the Youth Engagement and Progression Framework to reduce those not in Education Training or employment

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#CYSWellbeing



**CARDIFF
YOUTH
SERVICE
GWASANAETH
IELUENCTID
CAERDYDD**

CLA Wellbeing Group



- Targeted sessions are run weekly at Eastmoors Youth Centre.
- Provide opportunities for young people to socialise and meet other young people and share experiences.
- Activities are delivered to promote wellbeing and emotional health such as themed workshops, cooking, games and activities, iCare Programme, and accredited activities such Youth Achievers Award and Duke of Edinburgh Award.

#CYSWellbeing

CLA Activities

- Young people have opportunities to take part in several fun and active activities which improves their confidence, self-esteem and wellbeing.
- These activities are mostly delivered during school holidays, and weekends.



#CYSWellbeing



CARDIFF
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CLA Open Access

- Space where care experienced young people can participate in a range of activities in a safe environment.
- Have access to our team of Youth Workers which will support young people's social, educational and emotional development.
- Take part in fun activities, trips, receive support, advice and guidance and volunteering opportunities.
- Enables young people to make informed decisions about life choices and the opportunities that are available to them.



#CYSWellbeing

Challenges

- Meeting the needs of the CLA cohort with sufficient youth mentoring support
- Lack of transport is difficult for young people to attend planned evening sessions, often staff are expected to collect from where they live, and only limited spaces available, often excludes many.
- Managing the fallout of young people given short notices to quit in their foster placements causing additional distress and uncertainty and affecting their overall wellbeing.
- Providing consistency to the CLA cohort is essential as any changes effect the ability to build effective working relationships i.e. Social Workers Unregulated placements etc.

#CYSWellbeing



**CARDIFF
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End

Any questions?



@YouthCardiff

#CYSWellbeing



Cardiff Youth Service



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**CORPORATE PARENTING
ADVISORY COMMITTEE****22 January 2023**

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR, CHILDRENS SERVICES

GUARANTEED INTERVIEW SCHEME FOR CARE LEAVERS**Reason for this Report**

1. To inform the Committee about the Council's proposed Guaranteed Interview Scheme for our care leavers in Cardiff.

Background**Proposal**

2. As part of the Corporate Parenting Operational Plan, there is a proposal to implement a guaranteed interview scheme for young people who have left care, when they apply for job vacancies within Cardiff Council.
3. The scheme would only be applicable for jobs whereby Cardiff Council has authority to whom it employs, for example, it would not include school based jobs or partnership posts.
4. Care leavers would be guaranteed an interview as long as they identify as a care leaver on their application, and in addition, that they meet the essential criteria on the person specification. This would support care leavers to secure employment within the Authority.
5. This would be implemented by the end of first quarter 24/25 or sooner if system changes can be made to accommodate this.

Issues

6. Some changes would be required, prior to the implementation of the scheme. All recruitment systems will need to be updated and the variety of application forms, both electronic and hard will need to be updated to confirm whether an individual is a care leaver or not.

7. Work will take place with Human Resources to clarify the appropriate wording to be used in the documentation as well as provide them with a clear definition of the term 'care leaver'.
8. The Recruitment and Selection Policy will need to be updated with the amendment, and the change will need to be communicated widely across the Council to ensure all recruiting managers are aware of the position and what it means for the shortlisting process.
9. The guaranteed interview scheme will be applicable to Cardiff Care Leavers only and there will be no minimum period for having been in care to be classed as a care leaver.
10. Consultation will need to take place with Trade Unions regarding this change to policy.
11. There are other considerations to resolve prior to the implementation of the scheme:
 - How long after leaving care will it apply?
 - Will it cover those that have previously gained employment and are looking to move elsewhere or just those that are currently not working?

Legal Implications

12. There are no legal implications arising from this report.

Financial Implications

13. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

RECOMMENDATION

14. The Committee are asked to note the content of this report and the considerations for our Care Leaving Children.

**DEBORAH DRIFFIELD
DIRECTOR, CHILDRENS SERVICES
14 DECEMBER 2023**

**CORPORATE PARENTING
ADVISORY COMMITTEE****22 January 2023**

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR, CHILDRENS SERVICES

MENTORING SCHEME UPDATE**Reasons for the report**

1. This report sets out an update in relation to the Mentoring Scheme Cardiff Children's Services are currently in the process of implementing for our Children Looked After.
2. The Mentoring Scheme is designed to support and empower children and young people by offering them practical experiences and opportunities within the authority.

Background

3. The Mentoring Scheme will be a structured programme focused on providing guidance, support, and assistance to children and young people in various aspects of their lives.
4. The scheme will pair young people with adult mentors to offer them supervision, positive role modelling, and opportunities for personal and academic growth. This will be facilitated by way of practical work experience and volunteering opportunities within the authority.
5. The aim of the scheme is to increase social, academic and life skill development in children and young people by giving them positive, consistent role models to learn from. It is hoped that this will create a sense of community and belonging for those young people taking part in the scheme.

Issues

6. There are several issues to consider in relation to the implementation of the Mentoring scheme. Firstly, the creation and availability of the opportunities offered to our CLA.
7. Children's Services are actively promoting the scheme and the recruitment of volunteer mentors by delivering informative presentations across each Directorate.
8. Secondly, ensuring compatibility between mentors and mentees is key to the success of the pilot. There needs to be a robust selection and matching process in place to mitigate the risks associated with this issue.
9. In addition, consideration needs to be given to the promotion of regular and sustained engagement. The implementation of frequent check ins and appropriate support will aim to preserve engagement from all of those involved in the project but will need to be monitored closely.
10. There are plans to deliver further information sessions and presentations in relation to the mentoring scheme, to assist in the recruitment of more volunteer mentors.
11. Every Directorate has been contacted to ask for their suggestions as to how they can support the mentoring scheme, so that there is a consistent and varied programme on offer. Meetings will then be held in January 2024 to explore these prospects and include them in the Corporate Parenting Operational Plan.

Financial Implications

12. There are currently no financial implications arising from this report

Legal Implications

13. There are no legal implications arising from this report

RECOMMENDATION

14. To note the information shared within the update as outlined at **Appendix A** and to explore ways they can support the mentoring scheme.

DEBORAH DRIFFIELD
Director, Childrens Services
21 December 2023

Appendix A– Mentoring Scheme Update

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CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

22 JANUARY 2023

Priority 5: Better Connections & Improved Relationships

Mentoring Scheme Update

Reasons for the Report

1. As part of the Corporate Parenting Strategy, Cardiff Children's Services are in the process of implementing an authority wide Mentoring Scheme to support our Children Looked After.
2. The Mentoring Scheme is designed to support and empower children and young people by offering them practical experiences and opportunities. This report outlines the objectives, structure, benefits, and challenges of the Mentoring Scheme, aiming to enhance the well-being and development of children and young people in the care of this authority.

Background

3. The Mentoring Scheme will be a structured programme focused on providing guidance, support, and assistance to children and young people in various aspects of their lives. The scheme will pair young people with adult mentors to offer them supervision, positive role modelling, and opportunities for personal and academic growth. This will be facilitated by way of practical work experience and volunteering opportunities within the authority.
4. The primary objectives of the mentoring scheme are to provide encouragement and guidance to young people facing challenges and to empower them to reach their full potential by fostering a sense of confidence and self-belief.

5. The aim of the scheme is to increase social, academic and life skill development in children and young people by giving them positive and consistent role models to learn from. It is hoped that this will create a sense of community and belonging for those young people taking part in the scheme.
6. A cohort of young people has been identified; initially it will be trialled with those who are currently in supported lodgings accommodation. There are currently three people over the age of 16, within this cohort group, that would be suitable to undertake the scheme.
7. It is hoped that the programme will then be scaled and made available to other young people who could benefit from it.

Project Development

8. At present, Matthew Osborne, Operational Manager and Lucy Thomas, Corporate Parenting Officer, are delivering comprehensive presentations relating to Corporate Parenting across each Directorate within Cardiff Council. The purpose of the presentation is to expand the knowledge and understanding of all our employees regarding their roles as corporate parents. The Mentoring Scheme is being included as one of the ways employees within the authority can fulfil their duties as corporate parents.
9. The aim is not only to promote awareness in relation to the project, but also to stimulate collaboration and the sharing of ideas across all Directorates within Cardiff, that not only further our corporate parenting objectives, but also the goals of the authority as a whole.
10. Significant progress has been made in regard to disseminating information about the Mentoring Scheme, and as a result, several scoping meetings have taken place with Parks and Leisure, Finance and Central Transport Services.
11. Some of these services are already offering work experience placements through a variety of channels, however, it is hoped that the mentoring scheme will

streamline the process and increase the availability of these opportunities specifically for CLA.

12. At present, the offer of work experience placements within the mentoring scheme will be for young people over the age of 16, however, the aim is to widen the offer to include younger children (GCSE age) in the future.
13. Volunteer/Mentor training materials are in the process of being prepared, which will focus on communication, young person development, and mentorship techniques. All mentors will be required to undertake this mandatory training prior to being matched with a suitable young person. Mentors will be chosen based on their suitability, empathy, and commitment. There will then be an assessment undertaken based on the needs and preferences of both mentors and mentees, prior to an appropriate match being made.
14. Careful consideration is being given to the wider logistics required to facilitate the scheme, including DBS processing, ongoing recruitment, and financial implications.

Issues

15. There are several issues to consider in relation to the implementation of the Mentoring scheme. Firstly, the creation and availability of the opportunities we can offer our CLA.
16. Secondly, ensuring compatibility between mentors and mentees is key to the success of the pilot. There needs to be a robust selection and matching process in place to mitigate the risks associated with this issue.
17. In addition, consideration needs to be given to the promotion of regular and sustained engagement. The implementation of frequent check-ins and appropriate support will aim to preserve engagement from all of those involved in the project but will need to be monitored closely.

18. Finally, any issues in regard to resource constraints will need to be explored and addressed as the mentoring scheme grows and increases capacity.

Next Steps

19. There are plans to deliver further information sessions and presentations in relation to the mentoring scheme, to assist in the recruitment of more volunteer mentors.

20. Every Directorate has been contacted to ask for their suggestions as to how they can support the mentoring scheme, so that there is a consistent and varied programme on offer. Meetings will then be held in January 2024 to explore these prospects and include them in the Corporate Parenting Operational Plan.

Matthew Osborne

Operational Manager- Children's Services

13 December 2023

**CYNGOR CAERDYDD
CARDIFF COUNCIL**



**CORPORATE PARENTING
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

22 January 2023

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR, CHILDRENS SERVICES

MEMBER VISIT UPDATE

Reasons for the report

1. This report sets out an update regarding the Member Visits that have taken place since the last committee meeting.
2. The visits take place at services and organisations that support care experienced young people in Cardiff.

Background

3. To ensure members of the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee gain a wider understanding of the services and organisations the proposed Members visits focuses on those services in line with the following 5 priorities of the Corporate Parenting Plan:
 - Priority 1: Improving emotional well-being and physical health
 - Priority 2: Better connections, improved relationships
 - Priority 3: A comfortable safe stable home whilst in care and after
 - Priority 4: Educational achievement, employment and training
 - Priority 5: Celebrating our children and young people

Issues

4. Since the last meeting has taken place, there have been member visits undertaken by Cllr Dan Naughton, Cllr Sarah Merry and Cllr Ash Lister.
5. Visits comprised:
 - St Teilos Comprehensive School-

Cllr Dan Naughton attended the school and met with Headteacher Mr Ian Loynd as well as having the opportunity to speak to pupils and youth service mentors working

within the school. Mr Loynd gave an indepth overview of the ethos of the school and their adoption of trauma informed processes for all of their pupils.

- Bright Sparks Awards 2023

Cllr Sarah Merry and Cllr Ash Lister attended the Bright Sparks Awards, which is now in its 18th year. The event took place in the committee rooms at county hall and saw over 200 people come together to celebrate the wonderful achievements of our looked after children. There were 14 different award categories, including career of the year, performing arts, sport and music. Cllr Merry presented the Bright Sparks Group with the volunteer of the year award.

6. **Appendix A** provides a comprehensive report of the member visits; members are invited to review the member visit programme and take up opportunities to attend future visits.

Financial Implications

7. In the event of there being costs arising as a result of the visit programme then this will need to be managed within the existing budgetary allocations for Member expenses thus effective communication needs to take place with Member Services.

Legal Implications

8. There are no legal implications arising from this report

RECOMMENDATION

9. To note the information shared within the update as outlined at **Appendix A** and to discuss way within which the committee can support and further the needs of the services.

DEBORAH DRIFFIELD
Director, Childrens Services
14 December 2023

Appendix A– Member Visit Update

Report of Elected Member Visit to Front-line Service within Children's Services



Individual(s) visiting setting:
Author of report: Cllr Daniel Naughton
Date of Visit: 10/10/2023
Date of Report: 19/12/2023
Date reported to Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee: 22/01/2024
Location and Name of Service/ Team visited: St Teilos High School
General description of visit – e.g. number of staff (approx) involved in meeting visitor; number spoken to and engaged in discussion; whether the visit involved service users and/or carers, how did the visit look, The visit was mainly meeting the headteacher Mr Loynd who took us on a tour of the School where we meet some of the staff and students of the school . I was able to see how the school talked and supported its student population including having a more tailored support for students which might more complex learning needs
Feedback on the service – Positive/ Negative It was positive to see the needs of the children come first and understanding that what works for some students will not work for all. The School does not undertake a punishment and rewards system . Which I think is an interesting idea the school instead focusing on giving out encouragement to the students . I found it was positive that the school keeps its expelled students on campus with a newly built section where they can still support them in the school setting .
Any other Comments

Report of Elected Member Visit to Front-line Service within Children's Services



Individual(s) visiting setting: Sarah Merry
Author of report: Sarah Merry
Date of Visit: 8/12/23
Date of Report: 12/12/23
Date reported to Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee:
Location and Name of Service/ Team visited: Bright Sparks, County Hall – awards ceremony
General description of visit – e.g. number of staff (approx) involved in meeting visitor; number spoken to and engaged in discussion; whether the visit involved service users and/or carers, how did the visit look, Staff had made a big effort to make the committee rooms look spectacular so that the children and families felt special. Outside they also provided a red carpet and a photograph area. There was also a quiet area for any children who needed to withdraw and a good selection of food was provided. It was hard to talk to others as it was quite loud – but people seemed to be having a good time. Awards were given out across the board and for different achievements and every child who was nominated for an award received something. The Bright Sparks compered and it felt very much as if they were driving the event. Cllr Lister and myself both gave out an award and I hope everyone had an amazing time. The team and Bright Sparks had worked very hard
Feedback on the service – Positive/ Negative My only slight issue was the noise of the music but that is probably my age! Everyone seemed to be having a great time so a big thank you to everyone.
Any other Comments I genuinely worried that the event wouldn't feel as special as in City Hall but as a

venue it looked spectacular.

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**CORPORATE PARENTING
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

22 January 2023

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR, CHILDRENS SERVICES

MEMBER VISIT PROGRAMME

Reasons for the report

1. This report sets out a programme of activity that will help the Committee to find out about the services and organisations that support care experienced young people in Cardiff.
2. The proposed members visits outlined in **Appendix A** have been developed to show the Children Services teams and other services within and outside of the local authority that support care experienced young people.

Background

3. To ensure members of the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee gain a wider understanding of the services and organisations the proposed Members visits focuses on those services in line with the following 5 priorities of the Corporate Parenting Plan:
 - Priority 1: Improving emotional well-being and physical health
 - Priority 2: Better connections, improved relationships
 - Priority 3: A comfortable safe stable home whilst in care and after
 - Priority 4: Educational achievement, employment and training
 - Priority 5: Celebrating our children and young people

Issues

4. The members visits will provide an opportunity for members of the Committee to meet the staff and teams that support young people. Some of the visits will also provide an opportunity to hear directly from the children and young people. It is proposed that the members who undertake the visits will then provide an update to the rest of the Committee.
5. To ensure that an open discussion can take place it is proposed that some of the visits to smaller establishments are limited to two members of the Committee per

member visit. The visits will be organised and facilitated by the Corporate Parenting Officer.

6. **Appendix A** sets out proposed dates, times and venues for the members visits with a short description of the services. These proposed times have been agreed by the organisation and service area but can be amended to work around the commitments of members of the Committee.
7. Additional visits can be set up on request if there are other services or provisions members would like to find out more about. The work programme will then be amended to reflect this change.

Financial Implications

8. In the event of there being costs arising as a result of the visit programme then this will need to be managed within the existing budgetary allocations for Member expenses thus effective communication needs to take place with Member Services.

Legal Implications

9. There are no legal implications arising from this report

RECOMMENDATION

10. To note the programme of visits as outlined **Appendix A** and indicate any expressions of interest in attending any of the visits contained within the programme.
11. To identify any other appropriate and relevant services or organisations to be included within the member visit programme that would benefit the committee in carrying out their role.

DEBORAH DRIFFIELD
Director, Childrens Services
13 December 2023

Appendix A– Member Visit Programme

Members Visits Programme

Service Area	Description	Proposed Date & Venue	Member Visiting
ENFYs	Enfys is an NHS based service within Child Psychology. Meet the team of clinical psychologists, graduate mental health workers, trainee clinical psychologists and an occupational therapist to find out about the support provided	Enfys Tuesday Mornings 9.00 – 10.00 Woodlands House, Maes-y-Coed Road, Cardiff, CF14 4TT	
Crosslands	Meeting staff at the home	Tuesdays or Thursdays at times to be agreed	
Cardiff Youth Justice Team/Service	Opportunity to meet and view the re-decoration of the centre, undertaken by some of the young people	John Kane Centre, 213a North Road, Cardiff CF14 3GH	
Into Work Service/Bright Start Apprenticeship Programme	Meet with staff and young people to hear about their experiences	Dates to be confirmed	
Fostering Events	Meeting families, carers and young people at a 'Cuppa & Catch up' support group	Quarterly event held at Mercure Cardiff North Hotel	
St Teilo's High School	Meeting teaching staff and children and young people at the school		
Rumney Primary School	Meeting teaching staff and children and young people at the school		

Tŷ Storrie Childrens Home	Meeting children and young people aged between 6 and 17 with disabilities and complex needs	Any Monday or Wednesday at a time to suit members	
Youth Service	Opportunity to meet with CLA Youth Mentors and discuss the work being delivered by Cardiff Youth Service to support CLA	Wednesday and Thursday through February and March	
Virtual School	Discussion with the Virtual Headteacher and staff within the virtual school to provide information and context regarding the work they do with CLA	Tuesday, Thursday and Friday afternoons	

**CORPORATE PARENTING
ADVISORY COMMITTEE:**

22 JANUARY 2024

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR, CHILDRENS SERVICES

FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME – MAY 2023 – APRIL 2024

Reasons for the Report

1. This report seeks approval of the Committee's Forward Work Programme as provided at **Appendix A**.

Background

2. The Forward Work Programme (FWP) for the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee sets out the committee business that will be considered during the period identified in the programme. The proposed programme has been developed to enable the committee to monitor the progress being made to support the children looked after by the authority.
3. Previously, the Committee identified that the agenda for its meetings should be driven by children looked after in Cardiff and that a greater emphasis should be placed on the participation of young people in the work of the Committee.

Issues

4. Following an engagement session with children and young people looked after in October 2022, several themes were identified and are mirrored in the FWP to effectively plan the work of the committee for the municipal year. This will ensure that the agenda and issues considered at the committee will reflect the needs of young people.
5. The themes to be reflected are as follows:
 1. Improving emotional well-being and physical health
 2. Having a safe and stable home in and after care
 3. Education, employment, and training
 4. Better connections, improved relationships

6. Each meeting of the Committee will focus on one of these themes with relevant reports and updates being provided by the service areas and partners.
7. Other items will be added to the Committee Forward Work Programme to ensure that it meets the requirements under its terms of reference .

Committee Engagement with Young People

8. Several workshops, meetings and events will be planned with Elected Members in a range of settings. This will enable young people to discuss and raise any issues in a more informal setting. The option of attending committee meetings to young people will continue to be made available and with officer support. Continuous engagement of children and young people will help to inform the future work of the Committee.
9. Participation Partnership working will remain a priority for the upcoming year for the service area. Updates will be provided to the Committee by the CPAC Officer on the key progress in this area which will include work undertaken on the development of a Participation Strategy.

Performance Monitoring

10. The programme includes an opportunity at each committee meeting to consider timely and relevant performance information. This will include a Bi Annual Performance Dashboard, looking at a range of data from statutory services. In line with the Committees Terms of Reference an Education Performance of Children Looked After Information report will be submitted annually. This performance information will inform the committee of progress being made in respect of the Corporate Parenting Strategy and the delivery of the services to our children looked after and young people.

Member Development

11. The FWP identifies a range of topics which committee members may be unfamiliar with. Committee members are requested to identify any learning opportunities which will support them in their role and would be beneficial to be added to the Member Development Programme.

Financial Implications

12. The report and accompanying appendix provide an overview of the planned work programme for the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee. As the committee fulfils an advisory role, there are no financial implications directly arising from this report. Any activities referenced within the report or programme are to be funded from within existing available resources.

Legal Implications

13. There are no legal implications arising from the report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

14. To consider and approve the Forward Work Plan (**Appendix A**)
15. To identify any future member development topics for inclusion in the Member Development Programme.

DEBORAH DRIFFIELD
Director, Childrens Services
21 December 2023

Appendix A – Forward Work Programme

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WORK PROGRAMME CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE 2023 -2024– v.2

Topic type	Agenda Item	Agenda topic	Description	Responsible Service Area and Additional Invitees
Committee Date: March 2023				
A comfortable safe and stable home whilst in care and after	1.	Homes for our children	To gain an understanding on the residential provisions for our children and young people and to make any observations or comments.	Children Services
	2.	Young person Gateway	To receive an update on young person accommodation gateway – homelessness support and provision and to make any observations or comments	Housing Directorate
	3.	Charter – NYAS – My things Matter Campaign	To receive an update of the My Things Matters campaign- a national campaign to help improve emergency placement process and to endorse the My Things Matter Campaign charter	NYAS Cymru
	4.	Supported Lodgings	To be provided information about the Supported Lodgings scheme and to make any observations or comments	Childrens Services
	5.	Members visit- Unaccompanied Asylum Seekers Children team	Members of the Committee to be provided with an update of a members visit to the Unaccompanied Asylum Seeker Children team	Members of CPAC
Performance management	6.	To receive draft annual report for the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee	To receive the draft annual report covering the Committees work from March 2022- March 2023.	Children’s Services

Topic type	Agenda Item	Agenda topic	Description	Responsible Service Area and Additional Invitees
Committee Date: 26th June 2023				
Emotional Health & Wellbeing	1.	My Things Matter Campaign	Members to be provided with an overview of the My Things Matter 5 point pledge by Candice Lloyd of NYAS. The aim of the pledge is to improve the emergency placement process for children and young people who are looked after.	NYAS
	2.	Enfys overview	Update and Overview of the ENFYS service.	Health
	3.	Emotional Health and Wellbeing Project	Members to be update on a joint project between Children's Services and Health to Support Children and young people with Mental Health Needs	Children's Services
	4.	Children and Young People Emotional Wellbeing Mental Health Service	Members to be updated on the relaunched service and to consider how CLA are supported within this.	Health Service
	5.	Update on Statutory Health and Information for Looked After Children	To receive an update on the progress of the Health of Looked After Children and Health Monitoring	Health Service
Performance management	6.	CLA Performance Dashboard Q4 of 2022-2023	To receive an update on the progress of Looked After Children and to make any observations or comments	Childrens Services, Education, Health, Youth Justice Service

Topic type	Agenda Item	Agenda topic	Description	Responsible Service Area and Additional Invitees
Committee Date: 2nd October 2023				
Educational Achievement, Employment & Training	1.	Cardiff Commitment	To receive an update on the joint work undertaken with the Cardiff Commitment team and Children Services to provide specific employment support and opportunities	Cardiff Commitment / Children Services
	2.	Virtual Head Teacher and School	Members to receive an overview on the new Virtual Head Teacher and School	Education Directorate
	3.	Bright futures update- Traineeship programme	To receive an update on the Bright futures work programme and to make any observations or comments.	Education/ Community Directorate
	4.	Participation Strategy	For Members of the Committee to receive an update on the developments of a participation strategy which provides and outline on how to improve participation	Children's Services
	5.	Care Leavers report	To receive an update on the Care Leavers service including NEET and Care Leavers as Parents, Care Leavers going to university and entering employment	Children's Services
	6.	Updates on Member Visits with children and young people services	Updates will include Member Visits to Enfys, Crosslands Children's Home, Youth Justice Service, Foster Carers Event and a Brightsparks Participation Group	Corporate Parenting Officer and CPAC Member
Performance Management	7.	Annual Education – Performance of Cardiff looked after	To receive the Education report for looked after children and to comment, seek clarification or raise questions on the information received.	Education Directorate

		children report 2022- 2023		
	8.	Ty Storrie and Crosslands Annual report	To receive a update on the Ty storrie and Crosslands reports	

Topic type	Agenda Item	Agenda topic	Description	Responsible Service Area and Additional Invitees
Committee Date: 22nd January 2024				
Better connections, improved relationships	1.	Guaranteed Interview Scheme Report	Update regarding HR and Childrens Services working together to develop a Guaranteed Interview Scheme for CLA or Care Leavers who apply for vacancies within the Authority	Human Resources
	2.	Mentoring Scheme Report	Overview of the Mentoring Scheme pilot whereby volunteers of Authority employees will work with a small cohort of young people in supported lodgings	Children's Services
	3.	Residential Homes Annual Report Update	Update to the Committee on the Residential Homes within Cardiff, including the new Baden Powell provision as well as the existing homes.	Children's Services
	4.	Voices from Care Cymru Update	To provide the Committee with an update on Voices From Care Cymru's involvement In governmental programmes by supporting care experienced young people to shape policy in Wales	Voices from Care Cymru
	5.	Youth Service Report	To receive an overview of the Youth Service and what they are doing in terms of their support of children in Cardiff	Cardiff Youth Service
	6.	NYAS Update	An update on how NYAS are supporting our CLA with their advocacy services	NYAS Cymru

	7.	Child Friendly Cities Report	To receive an update on the Child Friendly Cities report, including the recent Rights Fest event that has taken place in the city.	Child Friendly City
Performance Management	8.	CLA Performance Dashboard	To receive an update on the progress of Looked After Children and to make any observations or comments	Childrens Services, Education, Health, Youth Justice Service

Topic type	Agenda Item	Agenda topic	Description	Responsible Service Area and Additional Invitees
Committee Date: 11th March 2024				
Celebrating Our Children and Young People	1.	Bright Sparks Awards Update	An update to the Committee in relation to the Bright Sparks Awards that took place in December 2023.	Children Services
	2.	Fostering Update	To receive an update on the recent fostering recruitment	Children's Services
	3.	Youth Justice Service Report	An update to the Committee in relation to the new Crossroads programme implemented by YJS.	Youth Justice Services
	4.	Update on Member Visits with Children and Young People Services	Updates will include Member Visit meetings with the Virtual School and young people taking part in the Bright Futures Apprenticeship programme	Corporate Parenting Officer and CPAC Member
Performance Management	5.	Registered Individual Update on Homes for Children in Cardiff	Registered Individual has legal responsibility for our residential homes for children in Cardiff. An update on our established and new provisions.	Children's Services

	6.	Corporate Parenting Strategy Update Report	To receive a progress report on the review of the Corporate Parenting Strategy and operational plan.	Children's Services
	7.	Annual Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee Report	To give an overview of the work of the committee in 2023-2024	Children's Services
	8.	Forward Work Plan for 2024-2025	For the Committee to agree the forward work plan and programme for 2024-2025	CPAC

**CORPORATE PARENTING
ADVISORY COMMITTEE****22 JANUARY 2024**

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR, CHILDRENS SERVICES

PERFORMANCE MONITORING DASHBOARD QUARTER 3 2023 - 2024**Reason for the report**

1. This report includes the Key Performance Indicator Dashboard (as provided in Appendix A), which the committee has agreed is a standing bi annual agenda item.

Background

2. The Key Performance Indicator Dashboard outlines a range of key data from internal departments and outside agencies that have an impact on the lives of Children Looked After and Care Leavers. This will help members of the Committee understand the services and organisations that support care experienced young people in Cardiff.

Issues

3. From engagement with partners, and as discussed previously by the committee, the key performance indicators include information from the following departments:
 - Cardiff and Vale Health Board
 - Children Services
 - Bright Futures
 - Housing Directorate
 - Education Directorate
 - Criminal Justice System
 - Adolescent/ leaving care services
4. Where Key Performance Indicators for Children Looked After and Care Leavers have not been developed Children Services will work with the relevant organisation to increase the monitoring of Children Looked After and Care Leaver outcomes.

Financial Implications

5. Any costs arising from the creation of a KPI dashboard need to be considered along with other service priorities at a time of finite financial resources and a currently reported significant overspend in Children's Services. Consideration should also be given to the impact a KPI dashboard will have in assisting value for money financial decisions

Legal Implications

6. There are no legal implications arising from the report

RECOMMENDATIONS

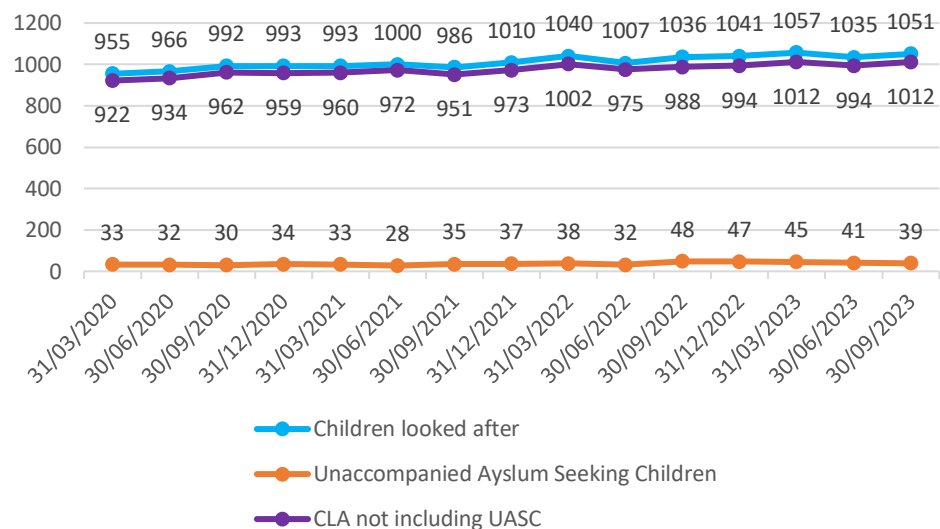
7. To make any observations and comments and note how the information is provided in the future.
8. To note any other services, departments, or organisations the Committee want included in dashboard

DEBORAH DRIFFIELD
Director, Childrens Services
19 December 2023

CPAC Dashboard Quarter 2 2023-24

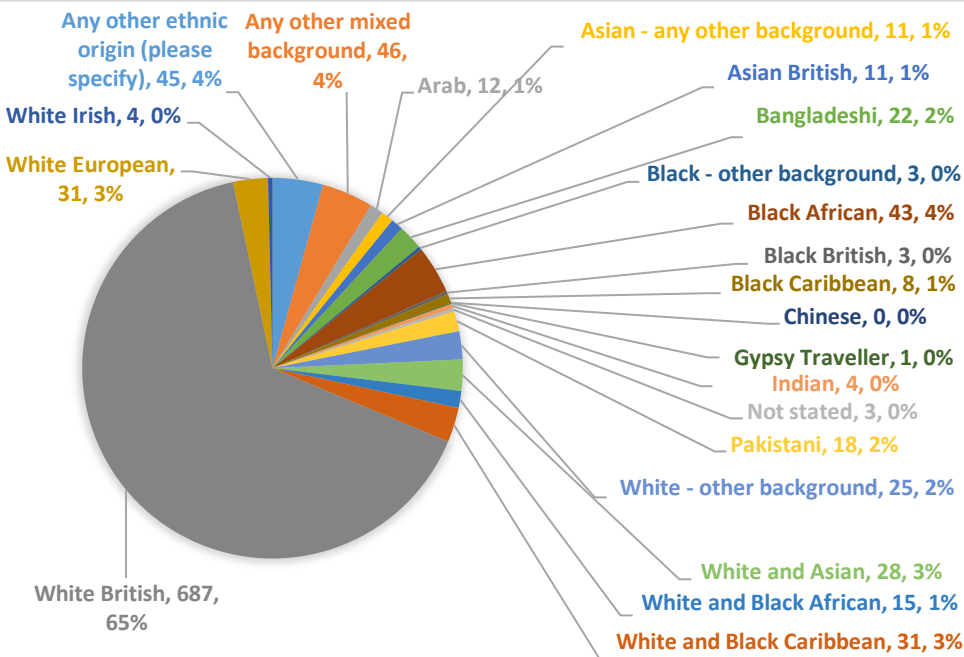
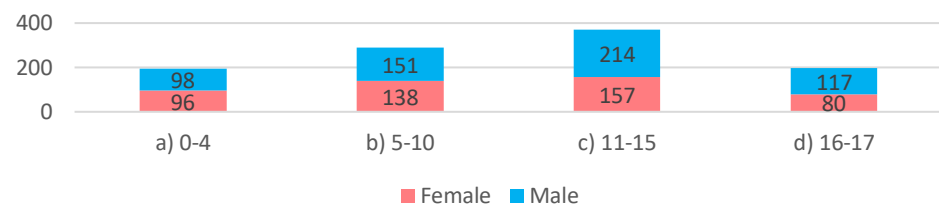
Children's Services

Children looked after showing impact of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking children (UASC)

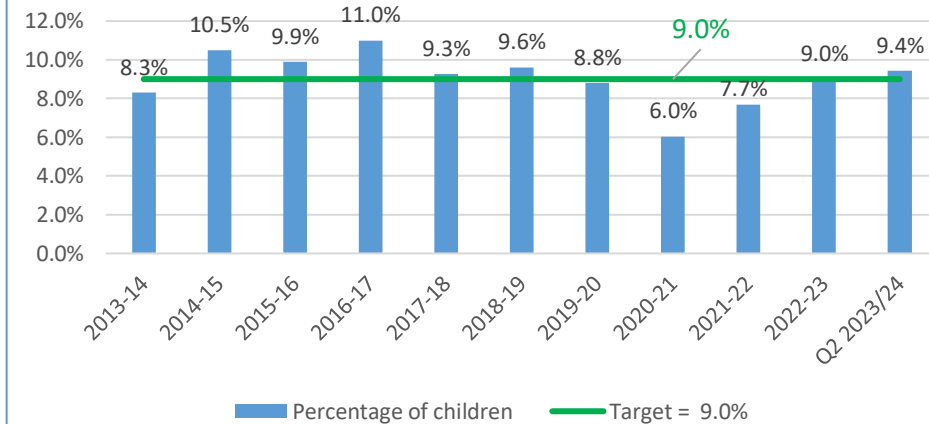


After a decrease in the number of children looked after in the early days of lockdown, a subsequent increase in new admissions led to a gradual increase from 939 at 27th April 2020 peaking at 1,040 at 31st March 2022. Since then, during Quarter 1 the number of looked after decreased to 1007 before steadily increasing through the rest of the year to reach 1057 as at the 31st March 2023 and then stabilising around 1051 as at 30th September 2023. 46 of the 132 children (34.8%) who started being looked after during the first half of 2023/24 were placed with parents on a Care Order, with family / friends or in parent and baby placements. 39 of the 1,051 were unaccompanied asylum seeking children as at 30th September 2023.

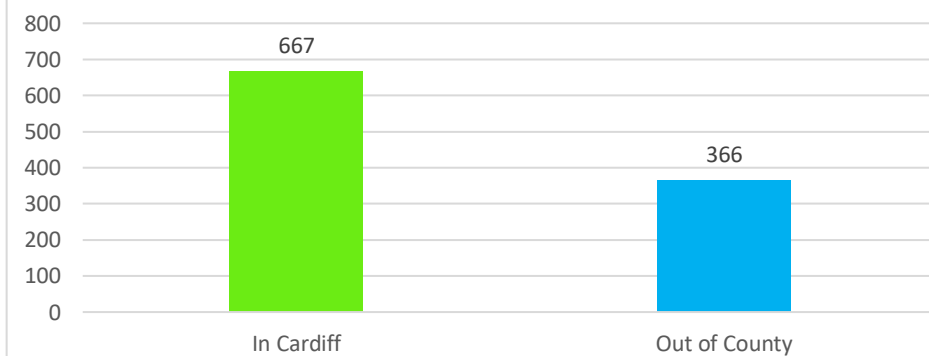
Children Looked After by age and gender as at 30/09/23



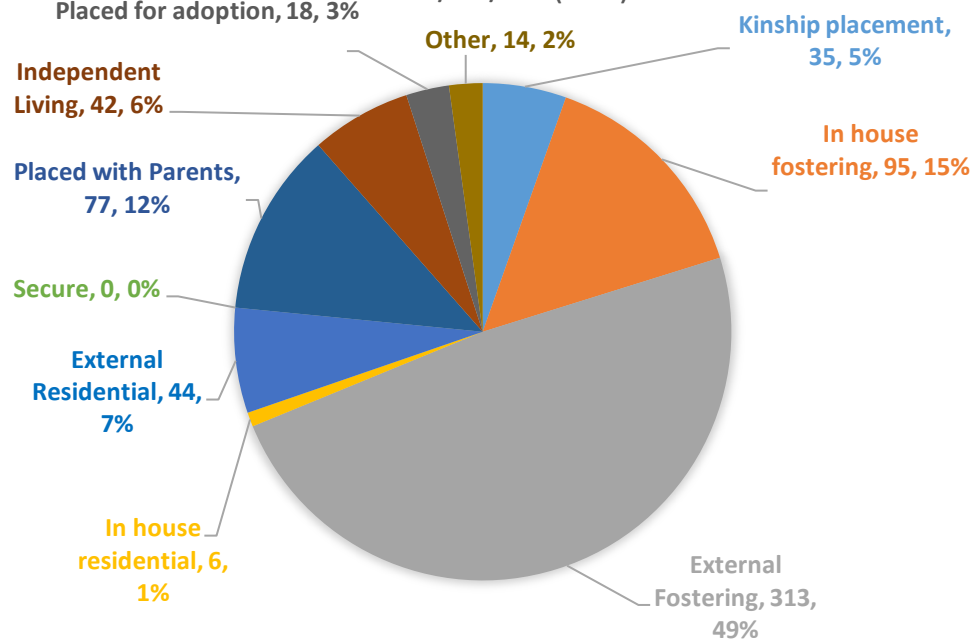
Measure 33 The Percentage of looked after children who have had three or more placements during the year



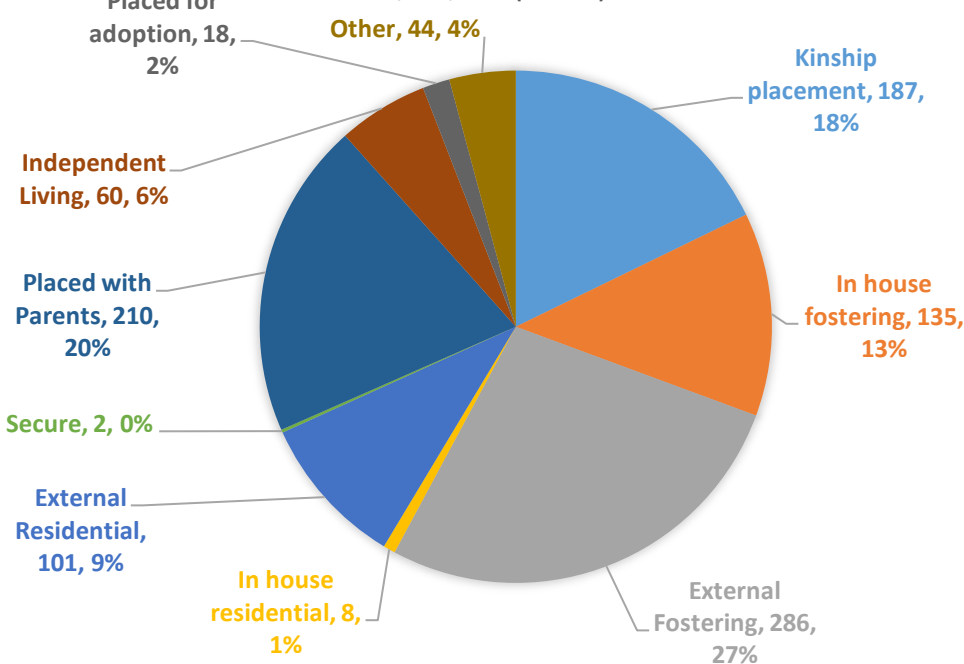
Children placed in or out of county (not including adoptive placements) as at 30/09/2023



Children looked after by placement type as at 30/06/16 (644)



Children looked after by placement type as at 30/09/23 (1051)



The graph at the top above shows the percentage of children looked after who have had 3 or more placements during the year = 9.4% (99 / 1,051.). This is a rolling result for the year, based on the children who were looked after as at 30th September 2023 and the number of placements they had during the preceding year. 99 of our children looked after as at 30th September 2023 had 3 or more placements during the year. This is in comparison to 9.0% (95 / 1,057) for the 2022/23 result as at 31st March 2023.

4 more children had 3 or more placements during the year to the 30/09/2023, than during 2022/23 (1st April to 31st March 2023). Over a third (37.6%) of those with 3 or more placements were 16 and 17 year olds, where changes are more likely to be based on transitions to independent living arrangements. Placement sufficiency continues to be a significant issue as the market is not currently able to meet the increase in demand for placements and the complexity of needs for young people. To address this, and in line with Welsh Government's commitment to remove profit from the care of children looked after, the Accommodation Project is ongoing.

The pie charts above show the **shift in the balance of care** we have achieved in recent years. The percentage of children being looked after and placed with parents on a Care Order or in kinship arrangements with family members has increased from 17% (112 / 644) to 38% (397 / 1,057). This increase accounts for 70% of the increase in the number of children looked after (285 / 407) and is due to a change of practice in the Courts.

CPAC Dashboard Quarter 2 2023-24

Education

1	The number and percentage of Cardiff looked after children (Reception-Year 11):	
	In a Cardiff school or setting	467 63%
	In an out of county school or setting	229 31%
	Educated Other Than at School (EOTAS)	36 5%
	Not in provision	12 1.6%

This data shows the number and percentage of Cardiff children who are looked after, in the School Years, Reception to Year 11, by Education setting as at the 31st March 2023.

Page 130

Special Educational Needs (SEN) and Additional Learning Needs (ALN):

2	The number and percentage of Cardiff looked after children with SEN / ALN (Reception-Year 11):	
	School Action	46 6%
	School Action Plus	29 3.8%
	Statement & Under Assessment	108 14.5%
	With Individual Development Plans	101 13.5%

This data shows the number and percentage of Cardiff children who are looked after who have Special Educational Needs (SEN) and Additional Learning Needs (ALN) as of 31st March 2023.

Exclusions:

3	The number and percentage of Cardiff looked after children with exclusions from Cardiff schools only: (September 2022 to June 2023)	
	Number of LACE with one or more fixed term exclusion	46 9.8%
	Number of LACE permanently excluded	1 0.13%

This data shows the number and percentage of Cardiff children who are looked after who received permanent or fixed term exclusions during the academic year of 2022-2023, based on the 31st March 2023 cohort.

Attendance:

4	Average percentage of Cardiff looked after children school attendance: (September 2022 to June 2023)	
	In a Cardiff school or setting	85.07%
	Educated Other Than at School (EOTAS)	54.89%

This data shows the average attendance of Cardiff children who are looked after in Cardiff and EOTAS schools / provisions during the academic year of 2022-2023, based on the 31st March 2023 cohort.

GCSE Results:

5	The number and percentage of children looked after who achieved GCSEs:	
	5 or more GCSEs at A*-C, including Maths and English	6 8%
	5 or more GCSEs at A*-C	2 3%
	5 or more GCSEs at A*-G	29 40%
	Less than 5 GCSEs at grade A*-G	19 26%

This data shows the number and percentage of Cardiff children looked after who achieved GCSEs on 24th August 2023, based on the 31st March 2023 cohort.

Personal Education Plans:

6	The number and percentage of Cardiff looked after children with Personal Education Plans (Reception-Year 11):	
	In a Cardiff school or setting	369 79%
	In an out of county school or setting	167 73%
	Educated Other Than at School (EOTAS)	33 91.7%
	Not in provision	7 58.4%

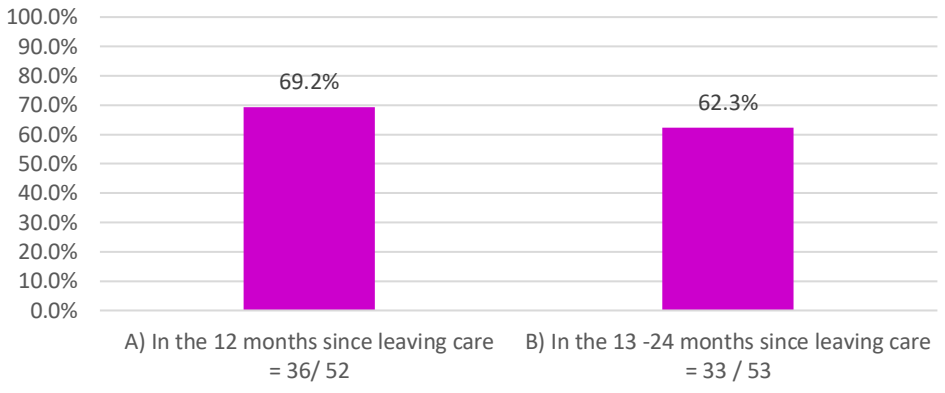
This data shows the number and percentage of Cardiff children looked after who had updated Personal Education Plans (PEPs) during the academic year of 2022-2023, based on the 31st March 2023 cohort.

Successful transition:

7	Successful Transition to Employment, Education or Training:	
	Total number of LACE in EET on October 31st	66 89%
	Total number of LACE in EET on October 31st (Cardiff)	36 92.3%
	Total number of LACE in EET on October 31st (OOC)	20 91%
	Total number of LACE in EET on October 31st (EOTAS)	10 77%

This data shows the number and percentage of Cardiff children looked after who successfully transitioned into Education, Employment or Training as of 31st October 2023, based on the 31st March 2023 cohort.

CPAC Dashboard Quarter 2 2023-24

Adolescents														
<p>Into Work Service</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">MONTHLY CASELOAD – (September 2023)</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding: 2px;">73</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">TRAINING OUTCOMES (Project Cumulative)</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding: 2px;">148</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">WORK EXPERIENCE/ VOLUNTEERING/BRIGHT START PLACEMENT (Project Cumulative)</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding: 2px;">93</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">FULL TIME EDUCATION (Project Cumulative)</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding: 2px;">86</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">JOB OUTCOME (Cumulative)</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding: 2px;">158</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">JOB OUTCOME (Oct - Mar)</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding: 2px;">16</td> </tr> </table>	MONTHLY CASELOAD – (September 2023)	73	TRAINING OUTCOMES (Project Cumulative)	148	WORK EXPERIENCE/ VOLUNTEERING/BRIGHT START PLACEMENT (Project Cumulative)	93	FULL TIME EDUCATION (Project Cumulative)	86	JOB OUTCOME (Cumulative)	158	JOB OUTCOME (Oct - Mar)	16	<p style="text-align: center;">During Quarter 1 and 2 of 2023/24, the percentage of care leavers in categories 2, 3 and 4 who have completed at least 3 consecutive months of employment, education or training in:</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p style="font-size: small; margin-top: 5px;">A) In the 12 months since leaving care = 36/ 52 B) In the 13 -24 months since leaving care = 33 / 53</p> </div> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin-top: 10px;">Source: CareFirst – half year result for 2023-24</p>	<p>Housing / Young Person Gateway</p> <p>Q1 and Q2 of 2023/24 combined:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 100% of care leavers prevented from becoming homeless (target is 90%) - 4 care leavers housed in supported accommodation in the Young Person’s Accommodation & Support Gateway - 4 care leavers housed permanently in social housing through the Training Tenancy scheme <p style="font-size: x-small; margin-top: 10px;">This figure is based on those who entered the Gateway as care leavers and those who entered whilst they were looked after and moved on post 18.</p>
MONTHLY CASELOAD – (September 2023)	73													
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<p>Bright Futures & Bright Start</p> <p>Bright Futures provides bespoke employment and training support for care experienced young people in Cardiff. The project aims to remove barriers to employment, education and training through one-to-one mentoring, wellbeing support and EET financial assistance. The Bright Start Scheme also falls under this project umbrella.</p> <p>As of September 2023, 12 young people completed their Bright Start pre-placement training this week, in anticipation of starting their 3-6 month work placements across Cardiff. All young people passed all parts of their training, including Food Hygiene. Now they are all eager to begin their placements! We currently have 14 young people in placements at: Cardiff Riding School, British Heart Foundation, Cardiff Dogs’ Home, White Water Rafting, Cardiff Community Housing Association, Beauty Lounge, Big Moose, Ministry of Life, Wales Millennium Centre and Boulders Climbing Centre.</p> <p>The Bright Start Celebration Event took place on July 28th to recognise, reward and celebrate all the young people that had the courage to take on and try a Bright Start placement since 2021. The event was well attended by young people who were welcomed and congratulated by Cllr Peter Bradbury.</p> <p>MILES (Youth)</p> <p>The MILES (Youth) project works closely with Bright Futures, supporting young people who are homeless or experiencing housing instability. This includes a significant number of Care Experienced young people aged 16-24. The project also aims to support young people into employment, education and training and runs weekly drop-ins in Youth and Adult Supported/Temporary Accommodation across Cardiff.</p> <p>Following the successful trial regarding the cooking and DIY sessions in Northlands hostel, where young people had the opportunity to learn these skills while also learning how to budget, we will be rolling this scheme out throughout various Hostels and Hwbs across Cardiff.</p>	<p>During the months of April – September 2023:</p> <p>The percentage of care leavers in categories 2,3 and 4 who have completed at least 3 consecutive months of employment, education or training in the 12 months since leaving care = 69.2%, compared to 64.5% during 2022/23 and meets the annual target of 65%.</p> <p>The percentage of care leavers in categories 2,3 and 4 who have completed at least 3 consecutive months of employment, education or training in the 13-24 months since leaving care = 62.3% compared to 66.0% during 2022/23 and the annual target of 65%.</p>	<p>The above Care Leavers data is in relation to over 18s.</p> <p>We have recently tendered for a further contract to sit under Young Person Gateway (YPG) which would allow an additional 24 units of accommodation. This accommodation is funded by Children’s Services and will allow young people placed in high cost residential placements to step down (where suitable) into alternative accommodation.</p> <p>The first 14 units under the new contract are now open and occupied. The remaining 10 units are pending properties being secured.</p> <p>There are currently 17 young people in residential placements who have been identified as needing YPG accommodation.</p>												

Views		
<p>Mind of My Own</p> <p>1st April 2022 – 30th September 2023</p> <p>During this period, we had a total of:</p> <p>336 statements sent to the Mind of My Own portal</p> <p>303 were One app statements and 33 were express statements</p> <p>136 Children and Young People signed up to Mind of My Own resulting in 229 accounts in total.</p> <p>85 Practitioner accounts were set up by workers resulting in 264 worker accounts in total</p>	<p>Mind of My Own is a set of accessible apps that allow our children and young people to express and share their views in a way that suits them. Young people can use the app alone or with their worker to say how they are feeling, what support they need and tell their worker about things that are important to them.</p> <p>Cardiff Children’s Services have a commitment to ensure that every child’s voice is heard in all meetings and discussions. We have given a commitment that all children will have the opportunity to have a Mind of My Own account or be supported by their worker to share their views using the app.</p>	