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AGENDA

Committee	CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Date and Time of Meeting	TUESDAY, 9 MARCH 2021, 2.00 PM
Venue	REMOTE MEETING VIA MS TEAMS
Membership	Councillor Merry (Chair) Councillors Bowden, Hinchey, Jenkins, Lent, Lister and Naughton

		<i>Time approx.</i>
1	Apologies for Absence To receive apologies for absence.	2.00 pm
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 (<i>Pages 3 - 8</i>) To approve as a correct record the minutes of the previous meeting.	
4	Corporate Parenting Annual Report - 2019-2020 (<i>Pages 9 - 44</i>)	2.10 pm
5	Corporate Parenting Strategy 2021 - 2024 (<i>Pages 45 - 80</i>)	2.20 pm
6	Family Thrive Project (<i>Pages 81 - 84</i>)	2.35 pm
7	Bright Sparks Club - Participation Update (<i>Pages 85 - 102</i>)	2.50 pm
8	Provision for Care Leavers Update (<i>Pages 103 - 110</i>)	3.10 pm
9	Performance Report (<i>Pages 111 - 116</i>)	3.35 pm
10	Complaints and Compliments Report (<i>Pages 117 - 124</i>)	3.45 pm

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- 11 **Forward Work Programme 2021-2022** (*Pages 125 - 136*) 3.55 pm
- 12 **Urgent Items (if any)**
- 13 **Date of next meeting**

The next meeting of the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee is on Tuesday 18 May 2021 at 2.00 pm

Davina Fiore

Director Governance & Legal Services

Date: Wednesday, 3 March 2021

Contact: Mandy Farnham, 02920 872618, Mandy.Farnham@cardiff.gov.uk

CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

17 NOVEMBER 2020

Present: Councillor Merry(Chairperson)
Councillors Bowden, Hinchey, Jenkins, Lent, Lister, Naughton

Officers Deborah Driffield, Jade Harrison, Davina Fiore, Sharlane Bird,
Present: Rose Whittle, Gillian James, Leigh Vella

120 : APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence have been received from Elly Jones, NYAS representative (Committee Advisor).

121 : DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None received.

122 : MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 28 January 2020 were agreed as a correct record subject to the amendment of a typographical error on page 6, minute number 108, which should read Kinship.

123 : ELECTED MEMBER SAFEGUARDING PROTOCOL

Members were advised that the Elected Member Safeguarding Protocol allows Members to consider the revised draft Protocol on the Role of Members on Safeguarding Vulnerable Children and Adults. This Protocol has been independently reviewed and updated.

Davina Fiore, Director of Governance and Legal Services and Phil Hodgson presented the item.

The Director of Governance and Legal Services explained that the document covers issues that Members were concerned about and also refers to the All Wales Safeguarding, GDPR and there was an emphasis on Members Ward roles. Sensitive information was not routinely shared unless consent had been given, but there can be discussion with Ward Members around that.

The document had been considered by Standards and Ethics Committee who had made a few changes and delegated to Director of Governance and Legal Services and Chair of Standards Committee to make any amendments before full Council. The document had also been sent to Scrutiny, will go to Cabinet and then Council for adoption, taking into account any views received.

Phil Hodgson advised that he had met Members and had facilitated workshops around Safeguarding Protocol in January. The introduction to the document reinforces that Safeguarding cannot be achieved by one person or one organisation; it reiterates the importance of dynamic interventions.

Page 17 outlines the responsibilities of elected Members and the process by which to report concerns is set out.

It was noted that a change had been suggested to paragraph 7.6 so that it reads 'process for raising Safeguarding concerns of Officers' to differentiate between Annex 1 and 2.

The Cabinet Member agreed with the change as it had caused some confusion. He thanked Phil Hodgson and the work Welsh Government have done around Child Protection.

The Chairperson invited questions and comments from Members;

Members discussed the first paragraph and considered that it leans quite heavily to an emotional reaction whereas in reality this would be the case if something serious has happened. Officers noted the comments made in the discussion and stated they would talk to the Chair in relation to any amendments.

Members had a discussion around paragraph 7.6 and asked why this was needed as there is already a Members Code of Conduct. Members considered it may feel to new Members that they cannot criticise Officers; 'unwarranted criticism' could be open to interpretation and future Members may feel they cannot raise legitimate concerns about senior Officers. Officers explained that the Members Code of Conduct was high level and did not contain as much detail as paragraph 7.6; they had chosen to add it to provide absolute clarity for Members; it was by no means meant to prevent anyone from raising legitimate concerns, just when a Member behaves in a way that causes problems in managing a Safeguarding situation, not to stifle genuine concerns.

Members were encouraged by the work that has taken place since January and were delighted that Cardiff was setting a bar that others will follow. Members considered it was helpful to have clarity on their role as advocates; bringing issues to Officers who are professionals, to deal with them.

Member discussed the need to obtain written consent to access information, stating that this can cause a delay on a time sensitive issue and cause a dilemma for Members. Officers explained that this is needed in law due to GDPR. Officers would always seek to support Members in their Ward Role and assist them in obtaining written consent but they have to comply with the law. Officers also explained that in complex cases it is not always clear who needs to give that written consent. The Cabinet Member understood the need to know and stressed that this should be balanced with Children's rights, but there is a threshold to be met before information is divulged.

RESOLVED to:

1. Note the revised draft Protocol on the Role of Members in Safeguarding Vulnerable Children and Adults, attached at Appendix A to the report; and

Provide the Monitoring Officer with any comments, views or observations on the draft Protocol for consideration in consultation with the Chair of Standards Committee.

124 : PERSONAL ADVISOR LEAVING CARE UPDATE

The Chairperson invited Sharlane Bird (Social Worker, Personal Advisor Service) to present this item, after which Members were invited to ask questions or make comments.

Members were pleased to see the partnership working and asked in relation to locality working, whether the team covers the whole City working with locality teams. Members were advised that teams work alongside all locality teams; they have created a referral process and they capture the young people at 16 at which time the pathway and planning is pivotal. Members were advised that there were no particular concentration areas in relation to locality teams, they were balanced across the City.

Members noted young people must be emotionally drained and asked Officers if they felt they provided the supportive role that parents would. Officers explained that young people often have many different support workers throughout their lives and building relationships was very important. Between ages 16-18, relationships and trust needed to be further developed. Some young people have clear ideas about i.e. education; some come from the Youth Justice Service; each young person will need different levels of support. Officers deal with crisis on a daily basis. It was also noted that some people are not ready at age 21 and this can cause a breakdown or a crisis so there has been a need to extend to age 25 in some cases.

Members commended the work by Officers. Members asked in relation to Higher Education, how funding is found when there are no parents to fall back on. Officers explained that they support a number of young people in Higher Education with some great success in Cardiff. They help with financial support such as finding bursaries, helping with Council Tax exemption and getting all benefits that they are able to access.

It was noted that PA's are doing so many things and opening up so many avenues for young people, the personal touch they provide is overwhelming. Moving forward it was important to progress the thousands of contacts the Council has to connect young people to its partners such as the Cardiff International White Water Centre.

RESOLVED: To note the Personal Adviser service update which outlines statutory responsibilities to children leaving care; and to make any observations or comments.

125 : YOUNG PERSONS PARTICIPATION UPDATE

The Chairperson invited Jade Harrison (OM, Service Improvement & Strategy) and Leigh Vella (Senior Policy Officer, Service Improvement Strategy) to present this item, after which Members were invited to ask questions or make comments.

Members considered it was an inspiring presentation and were glad that the issue of age groups had been addressed, adding it was important to reach primary age children as well as those hard to reach children who often are not forthcoming in sharing comments but usually have valid points to share.

Members were intrigued about the mutual participation between young people, their forum and CPAC, but sought advice on the format in which the young people would like this to take place. Members suggested that when meeting face to face they could meet somewhere familiar to the young people.

The Cabinet Member thanked Officers for the work stating it was going in the right direction. It was considered that remote meeting would be in place for some months to come and that young people are well used to the technology and participating remotely. He added that in the last six month engagement with young people, digitally had good and the feedback had been positive. Officers added that initial meetings and the setting up of the new group would be in January and by the next committee meeting in March there should be a clear pathway of how to move forward.

Members wished to stress to young people that that they are keen to hear from them and it would be an opportunity for them to raise any issues and would be positive all around. They wished to state it would not be intimidating. Officers stated then when the new group is formed in January, they will invite Members to attend, to meet and welcome the young people into CPAC.

Members discussed Corporate Parenting training and asked that the Chair write to those who have not completed the training, stressing the importance of doing so.

RESOLVED: to note the Young Person Participation update which outlines the mechanisms in place to capture the voice of looked after children; and to make any observations or comments.

126 : CPAC ANNUAL REPORT 2019-20

The Chairperson invited Jade Harrison (OM, Service Improvement & Strategy) to present this item, after which Members were invited to ask questions or make comments.

It was noted that the report was slightly different this year due to the pandemic; the traditional format had been used once again but there was an opportunity to change this format going forward.

Members considered it was a very well written report.

Members discussed various visits that they had been on that were not included in the report but noted the report referred to an historical timeframe.

Members noted that there had been discussion around reviewing the forms in relation to visits to include what Members get from the visits.

RESOLVED: to consider, if necessary amend, and approve the attached draft Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee Annual Report 2019- 20 to be laid before Council.

127 : BRIEFING REPORT(S)

The Chairperson invited Deborah Driffield (Assistant Director, Children's Services) to present a briefing report on Quarter 2 Performance and Complaints, after which Members were invited to ask questions or make comments.

It was noted that the report outlined Complaints and Compliments, it was pleasing that there had been less complaints and only one had progressed to stage 2. It was hoped that more qualitative data would be provided to Committee going forward.

RESOLVED: To note the briefing reports.

128 : WORK PROGRAMMING

The Chairperson invited Jade Harrison (OM, Service Improvement & Strategy) to present this item.

The work programme was outlined to Members and it considered that an informal work programming meeting be scheduled in January for Members to discuss the work programme going forward.

Members thanked Jade Harrison for working with Democratic Services for organising the work timetable, which has improved work over the past year.

129 : URGENT ITEMS (IF ANY)

None received.

130 : DATE OF NEXT MEETING

5 January 2021

The meeting terminated at 4.00 pm

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**CYNGOR CAERDYDD
CARDIFF COUNCIL**

CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

9th March 2021

**CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE ANNUAL
REPORT 2019-20**

Reasons for the Report

1. To approve the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee Annual Report 2019/20 for submission to full Council.

Background

2. The overarching objective of the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee, is to champion the life changes and rights of Children Looked After; Children in Need; Care Leavers and children and young people in the criminal justice system across the Council on behalf of Elected Members and partners.
3. The term 'corporate parenting' indicates that the local authority has the same interest in the progress and attainment of looked after children as any reasonable parent has for their own children.
4. This Annual Report was prepared in early in 2020 however the impact of the coronavirus pandemic delayed it progress.

Issues

5. A copy of the Committee's Annual Report 2019/20 is attached at Appendix A. This report outlines the Committee's activities from May 2019 to March 2020

Financial Implications

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

Legal Implications

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

RECOMMENDATION

8. The Committee is recommended to approve the attached draft Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee Annual Report 2019- 20 to be laid before Council.

DEBORAH DRIFFIELD

Director of Childrens' Social Services

3rd March 2021

Cardiff Council

Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee

Annual Report
2019/20

Chair's Foreword

I am delighted to introduce the 2019/20 Annual Report of the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee. I have been proud to chair this important Committee again this year. As Deputy Leader of the Council and Chair of the Committee I would like to thank my fellow Committee members for their focus and hard work to ensure the wellbeing of our looked after children and care leavers.

As you will see from the report the Committee has once again considered a very large volume of work during the year and we have been very busy. Highlights have included hearing detailed feedback from young people through a number of engagement sessions which will inform our work as a Committee and for the upcoming Corporate Parenting Strategy. It has been great to see the experiences of our looked after children first hand and their feedback will be vital in our forward work plan.

Our commitment to our looked after children and care leavers and the importance Committee members place on their role can be seen from the variety of work undertaken throughout the year. Of particular interest has been finding out more about our Child Friendly City Programme an exciting programme aimed at ensuring Children rights are adhered to and that young people across the city can have a voice and have an input in decisions that impact them.

Attendance at Committee meetings has remained high throughout the year showing the dedication our individual elected members have to the work undertaken by the Committee and the will to support our looked after children and care leavers across the city.

I look forward to chairing the Committee again in 2019/20 and for us all to continuing to work as corporate parents to nurture, respect and to be as ambitious for our looked after children and young people as we would for our own children.

I would also like to thank those managers and partners who have taken time and effort to share and impart their knowledge and understanding of issues, solutions, good practice and achievement. We as Committee members are grateful for those insights.

Councillor Sarah Merry

Chair of the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee

Assistant Director's Overview

The Annual report for 2019/2020 continues to showcase the wide range of work the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee have been involved in over the past year. Throughout the report there is a strong focus on the voice of our looked after children across the city. A great example of this is from a wide range of engagement sessions held with our Bright Sparks Forum and previous engagement through our Bright Spots Survey.

Based on what our young people have told us about their concerns, things that are working well and their dreams and aspirations for the future the annual report has been structured to highlight the work undertaken by the Committee based around a number of these themes. This information will also be used to shape our Corporate Parenting Strategy.

This exciting strategy will aim to strengthen the links between our looked after children and Corporate Parenting Committee and our shared Corporate Parenting action plan will bring together our key stakeholders to help improve the lives of our looked after children and care leavers.

The links between our looked after children across Cardiff and the Corporate Parenting Committee will be strengthened with our young people shaping our future work programme for the upcoming year.

This will build on a wide range of initiatives to support our young people across the city such as Cardiff 2030 vision, our Child Friendly City programme and Cardiff Commitment all aimed at improving the outcomes, educational attainment and aspirations for young people across the City.

Deborah Driffield

Assistant Director Children's Services

Introduction

Cardiff Council's Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee are collectively responsible for ensuring that all children who are looked after by the Council receive the best possible care and support. That they are appropriately safeguarded and achieve the best possible chances in life.

This report presents the Committee's main activities during 2019/20. It begins with background information that is helpful in understanding the Committee's function, purpose and the scale of its responsibilities. Following sections summarise activity. Those sections include:

- A record of meetings and attendance.
- Young Person Participation.
- The Annual Programme
- Activity in Monitoring Performance.

Background

Corporate Parenting

The term "corporate parenting" indicates that the local authority has the same interest in the progress and attainment of looked-after children as a reasonable parent has for their own child.

The Welsh Local Government Association Corporate Parenting Workbook states:

"...good corporate parenting only happens when elected members and officers are working together to protect and promote the interests of looked-after children".

The overarching objective of the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee as stated in the terms of reference is:

"To seek to ensure that the life chances of looked after children, children in need and care leavers are maximised in terms of health, educational attainment, and access to training and employment , to aid the transition to a secure and productive adulthood".

Governance

A Corporate Parenting Panel was established in Cardiff during 2007 as a good practice mechanism to support the discharge of the Council's responsibilities. That Panel had no statutory role or formal decision making powers.

In 2014 the Corporate Parenting Panel and the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee undertook a joint Inquiry to consider:

- Ways to raise the profile of corporate parenting.
- The role of the Panel.
- Lines of accountability.

As a result of the recommendations arising from the inquiry, a formal Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee was created to replace the Panel. The Committee met for the first time on the 8th of October 2014. The current Membership is now in its third year, with a small number of changes in individuals during the period.

The Annual report covers the period of beginning of May 2019 to the end of April 2020

The Current Terms of Reference for the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee are set out below which covers the period reported. The current Terms of Reference are under review and subject to change.

An independent expert was appointed to under a review of the Member Safeguarding Protocol. In January 2020, Council considered and approved an ordinary resolution which welcomed the independent review of the Members' Safeguarding Protocol and put forward proposals in relation to the remit of the review which included; the development of a protocol on the corporate parenting role of Councillors to align with the Member Safeguarding Protocol; a review of the terms of reference and operation of the Corporate Parenting Committee; and, make recommendations on how the role of the committee can be strengthened. Due to restrictions as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic the review was not completed during this reporting period.

Terms of Reference

As a Committee, the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee has a remit:

- To advise and make recommendations to the Cabinet or Council (pursuant to s.102 (4) of the Local Government Act 1972) with regard to the discharge of corporate parenting functions.
- To ensure that Corporate Parenting has a role and status within the Council.

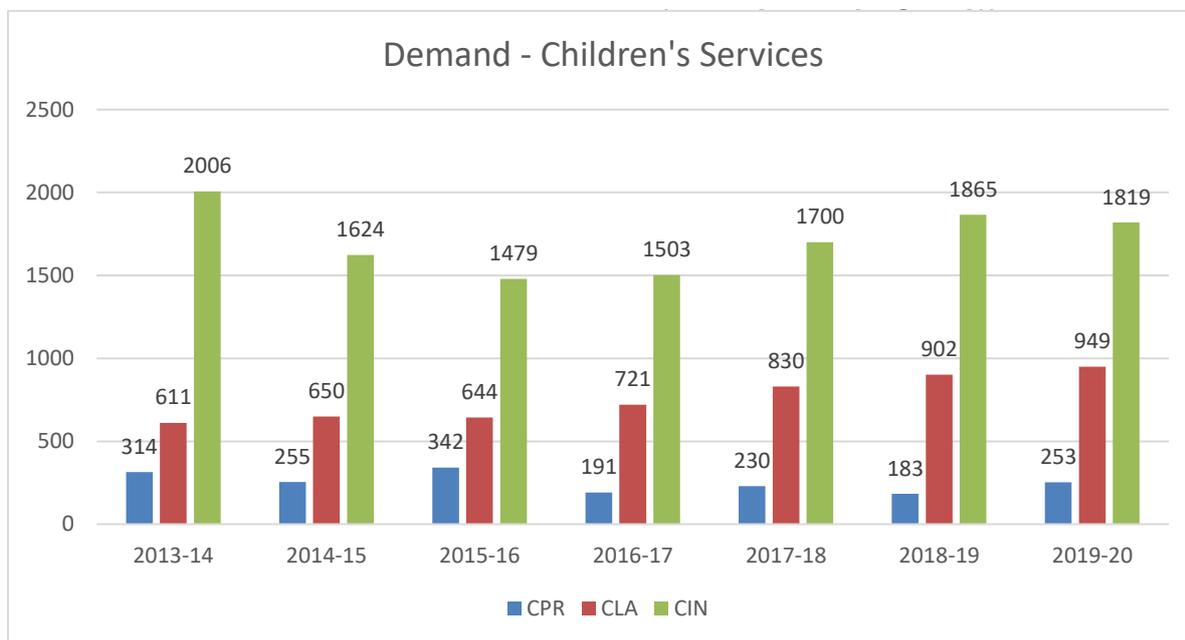
During 2019/20 the Committee operated within the following terms of reference:

- | | |
|-----|--|
| a) | To champion the life chances and rights of Children Looked After; Children in need; Care Leavers and children and young people in the criminal justice system across the Council, with Elected Members and partners. |
| (b) | To actively promote real and sustained improvements by ensuring that there are mechanisms in place to: |

ascertain and have regard to the child or young person's view, wishes and feelings, so far as reasonable practicable; have regard to the importance of promoting and respecting the child or young person's dignity; have regard to the characteristics, culture and beliefs of the child or young person; have regard to the importance of providing appropriate support to enable the child or young person to participate in decisions that affect them; have regard to the importance of promoting the upbringing of the child by the child's family, in so far as doing so is consistent with promoting the child's well-being; Where the child is under the age of 16, ascertain and have regard to the views, wishes and feelings of those with parental responsibility for the child, in so far as doing so is consistent with the well-being of the child, and reasonably practicable; That there is a follow on provision for young people leaving care that meets the need of young adults.

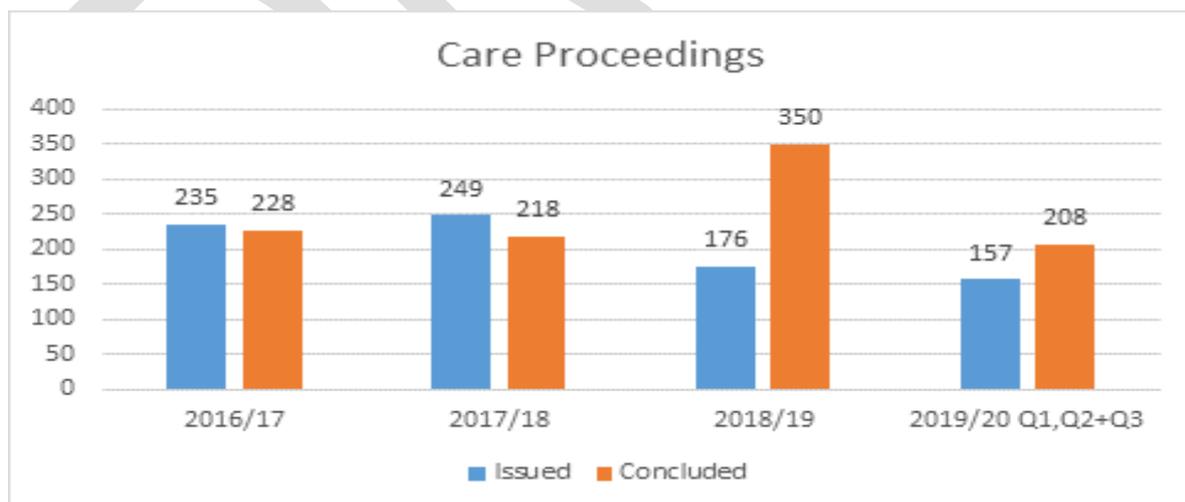
- (c) To develop and undertake a programme of consultation, listening and engagement events with Children Looked After, Children in Need and Care Leavers as well as visits to services providing support and advice to those children and young people.
- (d) To recommend ways in which more integrated services can be developed across all Council directorates, schools and other stakeholders to lead towards: - Improved education attainment and achievement for Children Looked After, Children in need and Care Leavers; Emotional and Mental Health and Well-being Support for Children Looked After, Children in Need, and Care Leavers; Improvements in services for children with disabilities; To encourage Looked After Children, Children in need and Care Leavers to become active citizens.
- (e) To ensure performance monitoring systems are in place, and regularly review performance data to ensure sustained performance improvements in outcomes;
- (f) To benchmark and learn from best practice of other Local Authorities;
- (g) To receive all relevant Children's Services inspection and annual reports, including: Children's Homes Quality of Care Report; Child Practice Review Themes, Fostering Annual Quality of Care Report; Adoption Fostering Annual Quality of Care Report; 4C's Commissioning; Out of Area Annual Report; Education Report; Children's Complaints reports; and Advocacy Annual Report;
- (h) To develop, monitor and review a corporate parenting strategy, and ensure its effective implementation through work plans and corporate parenting training programmes;
- (i) To submit an annual progress report to the Cabinet and make recommendations where responsibility for that function rests with the Cabinet;
- (j) To report to the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee as necessary;
- (k) To recommend the appointment of co-opted members to the Committee for approval by Council;
- (l) To submit an Annual Report on the work of the Committee to full Council;
- (m) All Members of the Committee will be required to undertake relevant training to enable them to properly discharge their duties;

The Population

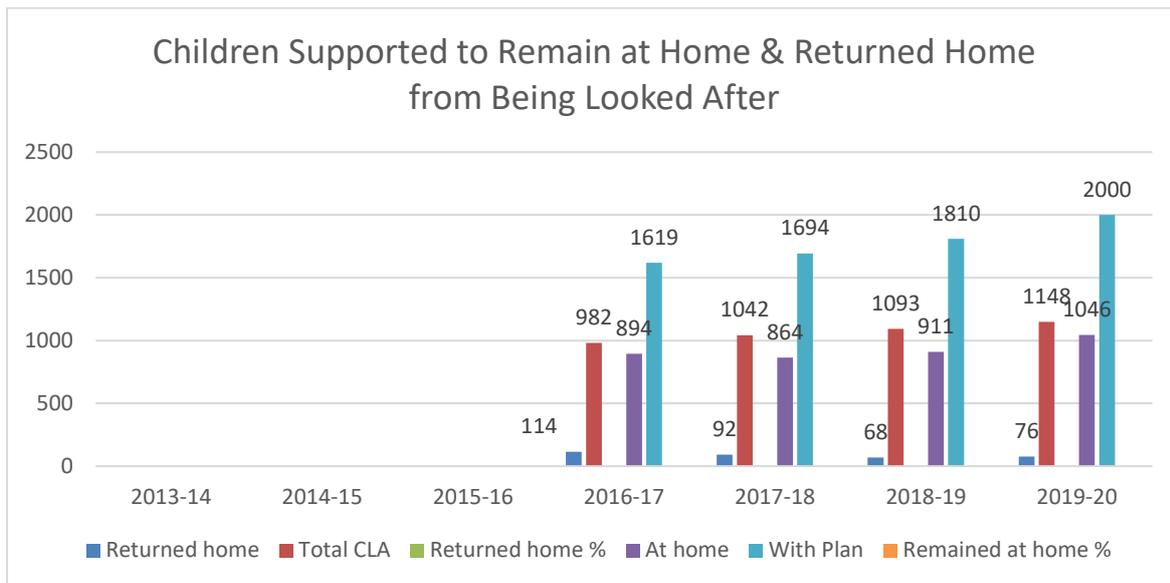


Of the 2000 children with a Care and Support Plan at 31st March 2020, 52.3% were supported **to live at home** and were therefore not being looked after.

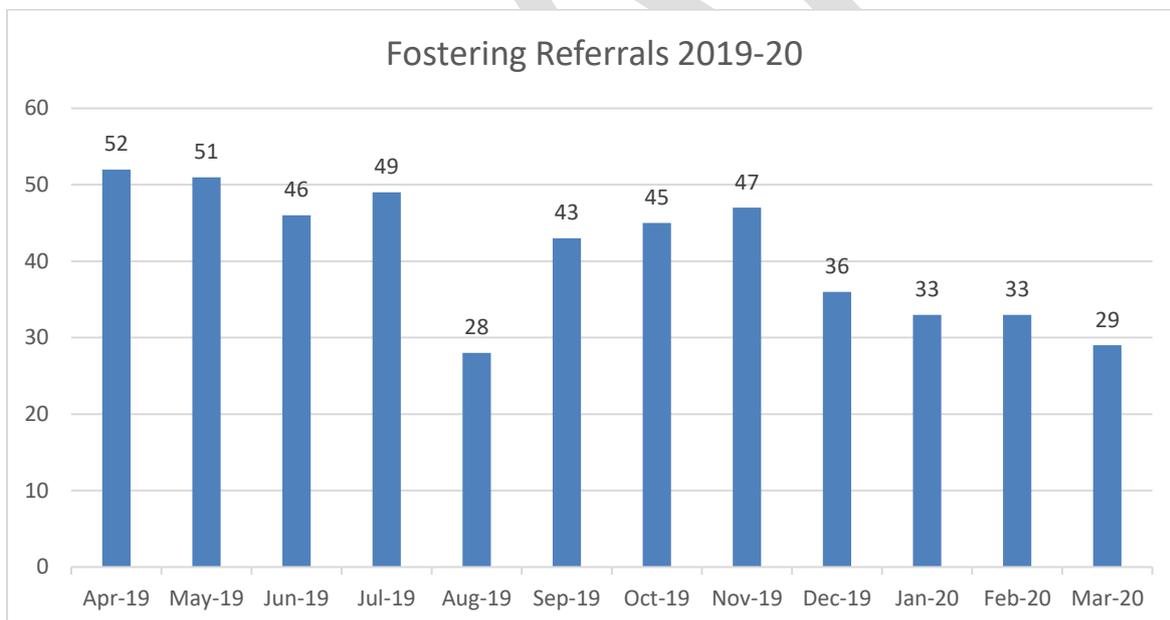
Care proceedings data outlined below cover up to quarter 3, quarter 4 data is currently unavailable at the time of report due to difficulty in collating manually during COVID 19 pandemic restrictions.



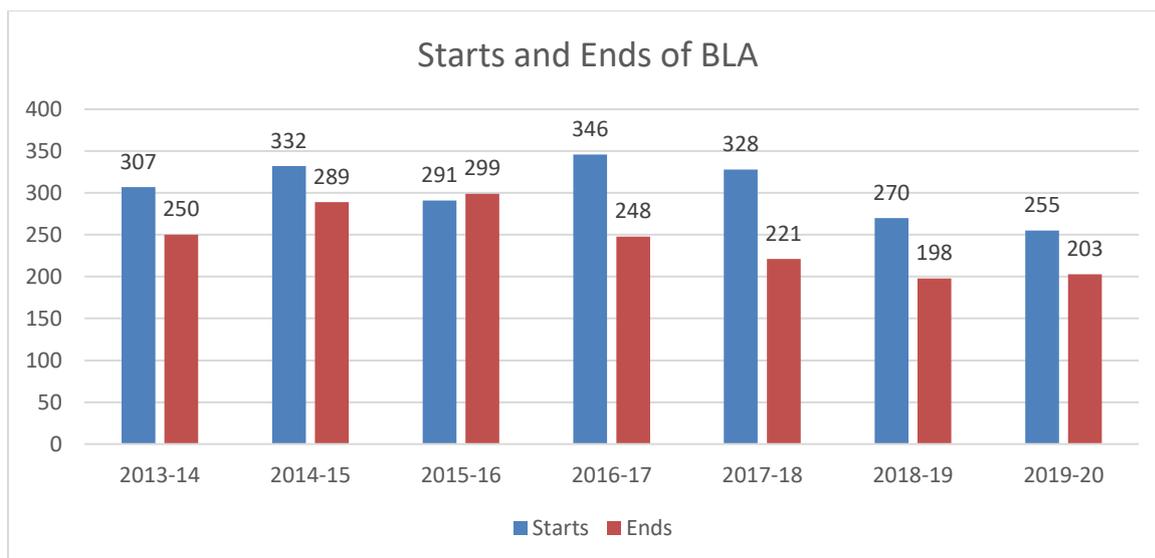
Of the total number of 1,148 children who were looked after during the 2019/20 year, **76 returned home**.



In addition to the 76 children who were returned home from care, **171 children were in the care of their parents**, but remain subject to a Care Order, and **148 children were placed with relative carers**.



Care proceedings issued and concluded data covering 2018-2019 is still being formulated at the time of the report.



56.6% (388/685) of looked after children in regulated placements were placed in Cardiff as of 31st March 2020

65.5% (449/685) of looked after children were in **external provider placements** as of the 31st March 2020.

Of the children who were **care leavers** in 2018/19, **54%** (40/74) were engaged in **education, training or employment** one year after leaving care.

Of the total number of **care leavers**, **21.39%** (77/360) experienced **homelessness** during the year.

As of 31st March 2020 **81 children were in external residential placements**

93.7% of care leavers were in suitable accommodation at the time of leaving care

8.07% (77/954) of children experienced **more than 3 placements**. The ceiling target is not to exceed 9% which we were in line with. Cardiff were and continue to strive to ensure all children are in the right placement for them and that children are returned to Cardiff from out of area placements where appropriate for their needs.

Attendance

Meetings

During the 2019/20 municipal year, four Committee meetings were held

The scheduled meetings were held on the 15th July 2019, 17th September 2019, 18th November 2019 and 28th January 2020.

Membership

Membership of the Committee is decided at the beginning of each year by full Council. Seats are allocated on a politically proportionate basis. The Committee is chaired by the Deputy Leader of the Council and includes 3 Cabinet members. There were two changes of individual membership during the 2018/19 term. During 2018/19 members of the Committee were as follows:

COUNCILLOR REPRESENTATIVE		ATTENDANCE	
		<i>Meetings: Possible</i>	<i>Meetings: Actual</i>
Sarah Merry Chair	Labour (Deputy Leader, Cabinet Member for Education, Employment and Skills)	4	4
Cllr Sue Lent Deputy Chair	Labour	4	3
Cllr Fenella Bowden	Independent	4	4
Cllr Sean Driscoll *	Conservative	3	3
Cllr Fenella Bowden	Independent	4	4
Cllr Graham Hinchey	Labour (Cabinet Member for Children & Families)	4	4
Cllr Robert Hopkins**	Liberal Democrats	3	3
Cllr Shaun Jenkins	Conservative	4	3
Cllr Ashley Lister	Labour	4	4

*Members who left the Committee during the year. **New Members of the Committee.

Meetings were also attended by a core group of senior managers from Children's Services Education and Cardiff and Vale University Health Board along with a young person. They attended in the capacity of advisors to respond to questions. Invited guest speakers presented to the Committee. Further information is provided on those discussions in the following section of this report.

Summary of 2019/20 Business

Engagement / participation of young people

The Committee's current terms of reference require its members to hold events and undertake visits. To ensure mechanisms are in place to enable looked after children, children in need and care leavers to play an integral role in service planning and design and to act upon feedback. The Committee may recommend the appointment of co-opted Committee Members for approval by Council.

Children's Rights

The rights of children and young people must be upheld in accordance with the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014, the Children Act 2004, Children Act 1989, the United Nations (UN) Convention on the Rights of the Child 1991, and the Human Rights Act 1998.

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child infers that:

- All departments and all levels should put children's interest first (article 3).
- Special attention should be given to any children who are suffering discrimination (article 2).
- The active and informed participation of children as citizens and rights holders should be promoted (article 12.)

Extracts from the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

Article 2

1. States Parties shall respect and ensure the rights set forth in the present Convention to each child within their jurisdiction without discrimination of any kind, irrespective of the child's or his or her parent's or legal guardian's race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national, ethnic or social origin, property, disability, birth or other status.

2. States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to ensure that the child is protected against all forms of discrimination or punishment on the basis of the status, activities, expressed opinions, or beliefs of the child's parents, legal guardians, or family members.

Article 12

1. States Parties shall assure to the child who is capable of forming his or her own views the right to express those views freely in all matters affecting the child, the views of the child being given due weight in accordance with the age and maturity of the child.

2. For this purpose, the child shall in particular be provided the opportunity to be heard in any judicial and administrative proceedings affecting the child, either directly, or through a representative or an appropriate body, in a manner consistent with the procedural rules of national law.

The Committee throughout the year were updated on how the voice of looked after children have been incorporated in a range of areas of work and were made aware of a range of initiatives and projects in development to further strengthen the voice of the child.

It should be noted that listening, consultation, and engagement permeates throughout the Committee's programme, as detailed in further sections of this report. Through a number of reports such as Complaints and representations reports and Independent Reviewing Officer service report the voice of looked after children are placed at the centre. There has also been a wide range of specific Participation initiatives, programmes and projects presented to the Committee aimed to strengthen the voice of a young person and ensure that our young people have meaningful engagement to have an active role in shaping services that affect them.

Theme

Participation

1. To ensure that mechanisms are in place to enable Looked After Children, Children in Need and care leavers, to play an integral role in service planning and design, and that their views are regularly sought and acted upon;

The experience of looked after children and outcomes

2. Promoting permanency
3. Providing high quality placements.
4. Provide young people leaving care with appropriate preparation for adult life, taking account of all of their needs including their wellbeing.

Specialist services

5. Continue to improve services for children with disabilities, including short break care.
6. Improve and support the emotional health and mental wellbeing of looked after children.

Education

7. Improve the education attainment and achievement for all looked after children.

The role of the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee within the Council

8. Strengthening the role of the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee within the Council.

Young Person Participation

Presentation on UNICEF UK Child Friendly City Strategy

During July 2019 a member of the Community Education team presented to the Committee. The presentation informed members on the Partnership between Cardiff and UNICEF UK in working towards Cardiff becoming a Child Friendly City. The programme is aimed to help make cities and communities places where all children including the most vulnerable feel safe, heard and nurtured.

The vision of the Child Friendly City was shared with the Committee

“A city with children and young people at its heart, where the voices, needs and rights of all children and young people are respected.

“A city where all children and young people, regardless of belief, ethnicity, background or wealth are safe, healthy, happy and able to share in the city’s success”

Details were given on how the vision could be reached through a set of 5 goals with 17 commitments to action showing how the goals would be reached

The 5 goals presented to the Committee were:

- Goal 1** Every child and young person is valued, respected and treated fairly
- Goal 2** Every child and young person has their voice, needs and priorities heard and taken into account
- Goal 3** All children and young people grow up in a safe and supportive home
- Goal 4** All children and young people access high quality education that promotes their rights and helps them develop their skills and talents to the full
- Goal 5** Children have good physical, mental and emotional health and know how to stay healthy

Members expressed concern at the number of elected members who have still not undertaken the UNICEF training and queried whether there is an expectation that all staff will undergo the training. Members were advised that the training provided by UNICEF concentrated on police officers, those officers from education and social services as opposed to across the board. However, there is a mandatory eLearning module which staff have to undertake.

Discussions were held for the need for a child in care to get their voice heard, the prioritisation of education for the child who is looked after and queried how is more funding and support being identified for these children and not necessarily through a classroom environment. Members were advised that it is a difficult challenge, and that engagement can only take place when they feel it is appropriate. It is important to have the processes and structure to be able to have meaningful conversations. There is still work to be done on this, the Child Friendly City is an umbrella but Children’s Services and Education have the responsibility of doing the work.

The Mind of my own app

In November 2019 the service manager for children services provided a presentation on a digital app to increase participation of looked after children. The Mind of my Own App would provide an opportunity for looked after children to provide real time feedback to services and support. Members were given case studies and key statistics outlining how the app has worked in other local authorities. Information was also given on how looked after children with additional needs would be able to access the app and get their voices heard.

Members expressed concern as to what would happen if communication was urgent, officers informed members that there is a process whereby reports are screened and contact will be made after. Such details will be clearly identified through an implementation plan. Discussions were held around the age of the young people using the app and how those with additional learning needs would be able to benefit. The Committee were informed that those children with additional learning needs who may struggle to share their views with the App will be able to share their views, wishes and feelings via Mind of my Own Express which is aimed at supporting communication in a primarily pictorial format.

CPAC were informed that a small group of young people in the Bright Sparks group tested the app, one person had literacy needs. The young people were actively engaged in the app and thought it was something that would benefit them and they would use.

Bright Sparks Awards

On the 15th November 2019 Committee members Councillor Hinchey and Councillor Lister attended the Bright Sparks Awards ceremony, in 2019 the theme chosen by young people was the theme of "Heroes" providing an opportunity for looked after children to reflect on what and who a hero is. The event was attended by approximately 150 people including a range of staff from Social Services and the Lord Mayor. As part of the awards, the young people chose to introduce a Lifetime Achievement Award and dedicated the award to a foster carer who has provided an amazing 25 years of service to caring for children and young people. Committee members noted that it was really encouraging to hear young people talk of their parents, teachers and caregivers as heroes and to see how they recognised the people who have made a positive impact on their lives.

Voices from Care Cymru

Voices from Care Cymru is an organisation that provides an independent voice for care experienced children and young people in Wales and delivers a range of services to support young people.

During January 2020 the Programmes Manager from Voices from Care Cymru provided the Committee with information about the project including the importance on supporting young people with their emotional and mental health, of sibling relationships; of being loved; and of stability and breaking the stigma that young people in care cannot do things that others can.

Members expressed concerns on how they could help support the Voices from Care organisation and were advised that responsibilities of corporate parents and raising an awareness of the voices from care; if there are activities and initiatives taking place young people would welcome the attendance of corporate parents; be champions for care experienced young people.

Presentations / Reports	Dates presented	Guest speaker
1. Child Friendly City strategy	July 2019	Community Education team
2. Mind of my own App	November 2019	Operational Manager
3. Voices from Care Cymru	January 2020	Programme Manager – Voices from Care Cymru

Experience of looked after children and outcomes

Good practice in leaving Care

Sections 105 to 115 of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 place duties on a local authority to provide support for children and young persons who it has 'looked after' when they cease to be looked after (care leavers). The support provided is intended to be equivalent to that which a child who has not been looked after might reasonably expect from his or her parents.

During July 2019 Committee meeting, members were presented with what support was available to those Looked after children who have left care. The Committee were presented with information about categories of looked after children leaving care and what support is available.

The presentation outlined the key challenges facing care leavers that is faced UK wide:

- 43% are not in training, education or employment at the age of 19 years. (Wales figures)
- 43 per cent of care leavers felt the main professional supporting them had been unhelpful in helping them think about future housing needs. (UK figures)
- 40 per cent of care leavers say that not having enough savings for a deposit was a barrier to accessing accommodation. (UK figures)

Under section 108 of the 2014 Act, local authorities have duties towards young people in foster care who wish to continue living with their foster parents beyond the age of 18. The Committee were given information on the "When I'm ready" scheme.

During the meeting, members discussed a range of issues in relation to support for care leavers. Members referred to the Mind of My Own app and asked whether consideration is being given to those leaving care being allowed access. Officers noted that as the app is being purchased by the authority, the view is that access should remain with care leavers certainly until the age of 25. Members queried how we support our young people who are attending university. Officers advised that Personal Advisors were very good at providing advice, whether that be finance and budgeting issues, housing, the yellow box scheme which is an equipment exchange. It is largely about creating independence as opposed to dependency. As officers it is also necessary to sign off on financial assistance, for example for a gap in finance for accommodation. As parents we would provide that for our children, and the authority has to offer similar assistance.

Fostering update

The recruitment and retention of foster carers continues to be a priority area for the service to address the balance between placements with in-house foster carers and independent fostering agencies. In January 2019, a Fostering Project Team was established to review fees & allowances and recruitment & retention.

The Operational Manager for Substitute Family Care provided an update to the Committee in September 2019 on the Fostering arrangements and provisions across Cardiff. Information was given on the recruitment and retention of foster carers, the impact on recruitment and plans for the future.

Members were informed of next steps including a review of resources and an additional funding of 300k recurring this will help with service modernisation, providing 24 hours informal support and plans to introduce 'finder's fee' for existing foster carers.

The Operational Manager noted the impact including a significant increase in enquiries including enquiries from IFA foster carers wishing to transfer to the in house service.

However, the Operational Manager stated that there was no quick solution and that the timeframe for application of fostering arrangements to placement is approximately 9 months. During the meeting members discussed the compliance monitoring which has now been in place for the last few months which allows the team to look at blockages and drift.

Members were advised that currently foster carers receive in the region of £450 per week, the majority of the monies received is not taxable and foster carers are still entitled to other universal benefits.

NYAS residential review

The National Youth Advocacy Service (NYAS) is a service that provides advocacy support to children and vulnerable adults.

In November 2019 Committee meeting, members were provided with a presentation from the service manager of (NYAS) on its participation programme. Members were informed of the meaning of participation and the Committee were invited to comment, seek clarification on the presentation.

The Committee discussed the involvement of young children and the feedback provided. It was noted that small focus groups were formed with young people to discuss the service provided by Social Workers, the quality of the support provided, the contact provided and the aftercare support for care leavers. It was also noted that young people have been taking part in the interview process with in the service. Members queried the nature of changes as a result of the participation and were pleased to note that there were tangible outcomes and that the listening events provided a good source of feedback.

Children Services Locality Review

In November 2019 members were provided with a detailed presentation outlining the new locality model for Children's Services. The Committee were informed that Cardiff will be split into three areas, with each area having an Operational Manager; Cardiff North, Cardiff East and Cardiff South.

The Committee were informed that the goal was to deliver excellence and to improve a child's journey by aligning services to the model. A number of key factors were analysed in establishing the areas:

Key factors were:

Deprivation,
Policing,
Education,
Health

It was noted that as the city grows the population density changes the proposed areas will need to be periodically reviewed. Officers also presented the current cases held in each area:

1. Cardiff North -718 cases,
2. Cardiff East- 877 cases
3. Cardiff South - 791 cases.

Members expressed their support and for the model and locality regions that have been created. Discussions were held around the need for joint working, particularly between Social Workers and Education. Members raised the need for funding for children who are looked after, it was noted that the PDG for looked after children is administered by the consortia. Members welcomed the opportunity of hearing from the Consortia as to how that funding is allocated.

Out of area placements update

Members were provided with an update on Children's out of area Placements at the January 2020 Committee meeting. Information was presented in regards to the types of placements, issues and a forward work plan. Officers presented information in regards to the reasons a child may be placed out of county:

- Exploitation/High risk behaviour
- Abuse and Neglect
- Drug & alcohol
- Terminally ill parents
- Domestic violence
- Sexual Abuse

Information was shared in regards to the issues facing out of area placements such as the insufficient numbers of in house foster carers, the reliance on independent fostering agencies and that placements are often led by what vacancies were available at the time.

The vision of local placements for local children was shared with the Committee and a forward plan to meet some of the challenges was outlined to members. This included actively recruiting in house foster carers and working with IFAs and local residential providers to develop relationships as well as introducing planning and forecasting.

The Operational Manager outlined to the Committee what work was underway to meet some of these challenges, such as a new in house residential provision. This would provide an in house assessment unit and would provide the opportunity to assess children and young people over a 12 week period, avoiding crisis driven moves.

Members queried how the authority kept in touch with those children who reside further afield and were informed that Social Workers undertake visits and reviews and that the Independent reviewing Officer would always have an oversight.

Presentations / Reports	Dates presented	Guest speaker
1. Good practice leaving care	July 2019	Operational Manager – Specialist Services
2. Fostering update	September 2019	Operational Manager
3. Locality Review	November 2019	Operational Manager
4. NYAS review	November 2019	Service Manager for NYAS
5. Out of area placements	January 2020	Operational Manager

Specialist Services

Care and Support Plans

The Social Services and Wellbeing Act (Wales) 2014 places a requirement to record information under the act there is a statutory requirement for every looked after Child to have a Part 6 Care and Support plan in place within 10 days of becoming looked after. These plans need to be updated regularly, including in preparation for a Looked after Child Review.

In July 2019 the Operational Manager for Specialist Services presented the importance of the voice of young people involved in their care and support plans as outlined in legislation. Details were given of when a care and support plan begins, how the plan is reviewed and what the plans aim to achieve in order to provide the best outcomes for looked after children.

Cardiff and the Vale UHB emotional and mental health development work

In September 2019 the Committee were provided with information from a clinical psychologist on the Developmental Trauma Service for children who are looked after. The Committee were provided information outlining the service model, team structure and the challenges facing the service.

Members were given an outline of the service including the issues that were faced by young people and their families and the nature of problems and barriers that arose during meetings. Discussions also took place around funding, work with schools and training.

Fostering Well-being Programme

In November 2019 Committee members were provided a presentation on a new Welsh Government funded Fostering Wellbeing programme. Members of the Fostering Network team presented a short video and outline of the programme.

Following a successful pilot in conjunction with Cwm Taf social services 2017 – 2019. The Fostering Network noted that they were rolling out the programme in phases by across Wales.

The programme aims to run a series of masterclasses to enable foster carers and supervising social workers to gain the skills, competence and confidence needed to help inspire and equip children and young people to fulfil their potential.

The programme focused on 5 basic needs that contributes to a looked after child's well being

- 1- Social – including being confident and forming appropriate relationships

- 2- Physical – including having a well-balanced diet, suitable accommodation, good health and recreation.
- 3- Emotional – including a positive self-image, managing of stress, the giving and receiving of love being free from abuse
- 4- Cultural – including having a sense of identity and belonging and understanding cultural norms and behaviours
- 5- Learning - access to formal and informal learning

Members confirmed their support of the programme but expressed concern about the financial pressures on schools who have a number of children who are looked after; The Committee were informed that there would be investment in the programme.

Members were keen to ensure that that knowledge in the masterclass will be widely shared. Foster Carers will be recruited as programme pioneers, as well as the skills and experience they have, they will receive training and support to help them cascade learning. This will aid sharing resources and understanding local issues. Concerns were raised by the Committee that Foster Carers are still not feeling valued and queried whether involvement in this programme could lead to some form of recognised qualification. Members were advised that Foster Carer Pioneers would receive some payment.

Presentations / Reports	Dates presented	Guest speaker
1. Care and Support plans	July 2019	Operational manager – Specialist Services
2. Cardiff and the Vale UHB emotional and mental health development work	September 2019	Clinical Psychologist
3. Fostering Well – being programme	November 2019	Fostering Well-being network- manager

Education

Pupil Development Grant

The Pupil Development Grant is a grant available to schools to support looked after and formerly looked after children. In September 2019 the regional lead for the Pupil Development Grant presented to the committee an outline on how the grant is allocated, the national model and the outcomes and objectives of the grant.

Members were informed that the Pupil Development Grant is allocated:

1. For The Salary for regional lead
2. To Support for Children placed outside of Wales
3. Strategically Delivered Support

Funding is allocated to clusters of schools and settings to build capacity and to provide bespoke interventions, both of which need to be based on evidence and impact. All activity in relation to the grant should consider sustainability beyond the lifetime of the grant.

The Committee were informed of the vision, values and objectives of the consortium and were given detail of the how the impact will be monitored. Information was given Projects must aim to enhance curriculum opportunities to support social and emotional development, which impacts on the following areas: Raising attainment/achievement, Improve attendance, Reduce exclusions.

Discussions were held amongst the Committee in regards to funding going to clusters of schools in order to provide bespoke interventions and build capacity. It was noted that funding will be based on evidence and impact. The clusters will have a CLA lead who will work across both primary and secondary schools. Members were advised that although a presentation had been provided outlining the new reporting arrangements as yet the figures cannot be reported.

Educational outcomes for Looked after Children 2018- 2019

In January 2020 members were provided with the annual Briefing report in respect of the Performance of Cardiff Looked After Children which provided analysis of the educational outcomes for the academic years of Children Looked After in years 2, 6 9 and 11. Members were advised that it was important to note, with particular reference to the Key Stage 4 information, the reporting mechanism has changed; the information provided is from a specific point in time, namely the end of March 2019 which shows that 79 young people were looked after in year 11, 27 of which were out of County.

The report provided an analysis of educational outcomes for the academic year 2018/19 for children in the care of Cardiff Local Authority and identified the main strengths and shortcomings in performance. It also sets out future key actions.

Educational outcomes for children and young people in Cardiff have improved over the past five years, reflecting the focus on education as a key priority for Cardiff at the heart of the Council's Capital Ambition:

"A good education provides the best start in life and remains the surest route out of poverty. We will continue to improve and invest in our schools and to make sure that every child has the best possible start in life."

In October 2019, the council launched 'Cardiff 2030: a ten year vision for a capital city of learning and opportunity', building on progress made since the launch of 'Cardiff 2020' in 2016. Against this overall improving picture, 'Cardiff 2030' highlights the continuing importance of focused action in a number of areas, including the continuing need to improve educational outcomes for looked after children.

Officers noted that the attendance of looked after children educated in Cardiff schools in the primary phase is very good with an overall primary attendance figure of 94.76%. attendance of looked after children educated in the secondary phase is significantly below that of all pupils. The overall secondary attendance figure 93.8%. The drop in attendance through the key stages links directly to the drop in overall attainment. Officers will analyse in greater depth the reasons behind KS4 lack of achievement and identify changes that can be made and additional support that can be given. Additional staffing to support looked after children within the Education Directorate will be explored and the work on improving and monitoring the PEPs to identify underachievement will be central to improving performance

Members noted the report and queried the difference in performance of those in care and school locally as opposed to those out of county. Officers advised that emphasis is placed on bringing young people back to Cardiff as soon as possible and that the best chance for those young people is that they are attending school locally so that they have access to all the support services that can be provided. Concern was expressed amongst the Committee as to whether schools could do all that they could not to exclude children in care in secondary schools. Officers advised that schools are always challenged by the team about any proposed exclusion but if children are in school out of county it is far more difficult to challenge.

Extract from the report

We have focussed on increasing the transparency of data and a central robust tracking system. Our central Virtual tracker is being used effectively to track Looked After children. This was highlighted by Estyn as excellent practice.

- We have stronger working relationship between the local authority and the Challenge Advisors in the Consortium ensuring that schools receive the appropriate degree of challenge.

They are updated on a regular basis to the number and year group of looked after children in their schools. Any particular concerns are raised in termly meetings.

- Stronger, effective partnerships with Children’s Services have meant quicker responses to concerns and removal of barriers impeding pupil progress.
- Education teams have all committed pledges to support looked after children in their joint role as corporate parents.
- A new PEP format and a new system of responsibility for completing PEPs by designated teachers in schools was initiated in September 2019. This will be an ongoing development priority but already there are improvements to note.

Presentations / Reports	Dates presented	Guest speaker
6. Pupil Development Grant	September 2019	Operational Manager
7. Education performance report	January 2020	Achievement Leader

The role of the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee within the Council

Cardiff Children’s Services Strategy 2019 – 2022

In July 2019 Assistant Director for Children’s Services provided the Committee with information of the need and development of a new Cardiff Children’s Services Strategy 2019 -2022.

The Committee were provided with an outline for the need for the strategy focusing on key areas of significant pressures:

1. External demands and complexities
2. Placements
3. Legislation and work with the Courts
4. Workforce

The presentation outlined key performance indicators and future improvements that would be made to meet the challenges and pressures. Key priorities were set out including how Children’s Services would develop a strength based approach and how outcomes and improvements would be measured. A staff structure was provided to the Committee which provided a new locality focus model.

A discussion was held noting that the development and implementation of the strategy was a huge piece of work, Members noted that the task would prove

disruptive and wanted to be reassured that it was transformative and that the service would be better. Members were advised that a lot of consideration has gone into the strategy and officers accepted that it was indeed a huge piece of work but was necessary to ensure that a difference is made to the lives of our young people and their families.

Corporate Parenting Strategy

The terms of reference required the Committee to develop, monitor and review a corporate parenting strategy, and ensure its effective implementation through work plans.

In January 2020 the Committee were presented with an update from officers on the new Corporate Parenting Strategy. Officers informed the Committee of the vision of the strategy and legislation applicable to looked after children and children in care to provide context to the document. The Committee were informed how the strategy will be co-produced with young people. Details were given on the work undertaken so far to engage looked after children including a timeline and details of engagement with young people and future engagement with stakeholders were outlined to the committee.

Member visits

Councillor Bowden advised Members that she and Councillor Merry had attended a local High School in January. The purpose of the visit was to see the work undertaken to support looked after children and their carers. At the time of the visit there were 26 looked after children, it was noted to the Committee that only a few needed academic intervention. Although this is a positive it was noted that the biggest need for support was to support the emotional well-being and managing traumatised looked after children, there is a strong team at the school and staff are trained using Trauma Informed practice. The staff at the school are proactive in identifying the emotional and educational needs of young people and the well-being of staff was supported. There are 330 pupils on the SEN register, 34% of the school. They have been successful in obtaining 25 statements in 4 years

The Committee were advised that support is available to years 7 and years 8 via the ELPC to adjust to high school and that a permanent counsellor is employed via the Pupil Development Grant. Councillor Bowden and Councillor Merry were given a tour of the school and were able to meet a number of staff including the Deputy Head teacher and Safeguarding officer.

The key messages gained from the visit were:

- School does not use pupil exclusion but find different ways to tackle problems.
- Kinship carers – their need for support from CS together with funding for the carers to enable them to provide for the child; In many Kinship arrangements there is no one objectively organising contact with birth family & siblings; & there are no respite provisions;

- The lack of provision in Cardiff for an emotional trauma centre for young people who need it; the need for stronger advocacy. To support the family and the young person in care.

Councillor Bowden advised members that a visit was conducted by herself and Councillor Lister to a local prison. The purpose of the visit was to observe how children looked after were educated and supported by staff, as well as noting any issues surrounding children looked after whilst in prison. At the time of the visit 43% of the individuals at the prison would have been in the Local authority care at some point in their lives. The Youth Offending Institute (YOI) has an 'Excellent' rating by Estyn and has annual inspections.

Councillor Bowden and Councillor Lister were provided with a tour of classrooms and vocational workshops at the prison and met staff including the Head of Education for the YOI and resident Social Worker. The Committee were informed that the young people were supported to choose their education pathway and that each young person's educational and progress outcomes are tracked and shared at a multi-agency meeting about the young person.

Young people were able to develop basic skills including numeracy whilst undertaking workshops such as a carpentry. It was noted the importance of these workshops in not only developing skills for the young people but also to build self – confidence.

Over the last 12 months there has been a vast amount of work in improving the interface between Youth Justice, Education and Children's services. Attendance at meetings by all services is regularly monitored and reported on at a senior level and in a variety of forums with continuous improvement being evidenced. The Youth Justice Education worker has access to Educational databases and information relating to young people is shared and updated on a regular basis. Over 60% of the Youth Justice caseload is 'joint-worked' with Children services teams and there is ongoing work to strengthen relationships with Early Help services to ensure maximum partnership working.

All Youth Justice Staff have undergone further Asset Plus training around assessment, planning and reviewing - feedback has been positive. A Quality Assurance framework has been implemented to ensure that assessments are timely and accurate.

Presentations / Reports	Dates presented	Guest speaker
1. Children's Services strategy	July 2019	Assistant Director of Children's Social Services
2 Corporate Parenting Strategy	January 2020	Operational Manager

Themes	Dates	Detail
1. Young person Participation	July 2019	Presentation on UNICEF Child Friendly City Strategy
	November 2019	Mind of my own app presentation
	November 2019	Bright Sparks Awards
2. Experience of Looked After Children and Outcomes	July 2019	Good practice leaving care
	September 2019	Fostering update
	November 2019	Locality Review
	November 2019	NYAS residential review
	January 2020	Out of area placements
3. Specialist Services	July 2019	Care and support plans
	September 2019	Cardiff and Vale UHB emotional and mental health development work
	November 2019	Fostering Well- being programme
4. Education	September 2019	Pupil Development Grant
	January 2020	Education Performance Report
5. Role of Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee within the Council	July 2019	Children services strategy
	January 2020	Corporate Parenting Strategy

Monitoring Performance

The terms of reference for the Committee require the Committee to regularly review performance data and ensure performance monitoring systems are in place to achieve sustained improvements. The following table lists the reports presented during 2019-20

Performance reports	Dates presented
1. Children's Homes Quality of Care report	September 2019
2. Children's Services report	November 2019
3. Complaints and representation report	January 2020
4. Independent Reviewing Officer Report	January 2020

1. Children's Services performance report

During November 2019, Quarter 1 of 2019/2020 were reported to the Committee. The purpose of the report was to help the Committee to understand the factors that impact on outcomes for children in need, looked after children and consider opportunities for improving outcomes.

Extracts from the report

At Quarter 1 2019/2020 Children's

934 children looked after.

71 starts of being looked after this quarter

39 ends of being looked after this quarter

385/ 676 (57.0%) children looked after in regulated placements are placed within Cardiff, increasing to 78.1% when taking neighbouring authorities into consideration.

97.7% of children looked after allocated to a social worker. Permanence secured for 7 children through adoption since 1 st April 2019.

In Quarter 1 it was reported that the following were working well:

Soft launch of Early Help Gateway in April - recruitment process for Family Support element of the Cardiff Family Advice Service completed and staff training and development is in progress. Staff morale is good and positive feedback has been received from families. Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) visited the Family Support Service in April 2019

• *Children's Services Strategy "Delivering Excellent Outcomes" developed with engagement with children and young people from the Bright Start Forum, 11 Plus Team and the Adolescent Resource Centre*

• *Fostering Fortnight was held during Quarter 1 to raise awareness of the in house fostering service and recruit new foster carers to Cardiff. At present, the number of children in in house fostering remains relatively stable, although the number of enquiries has increased - there were 15 full assessments ongoing at 30th June 2019.*

But managers were worried about:

The interface and relationship between MASH / Support4Families and Family Help / Gateway needs strengthening to ensure consistent and correct step up and step down mechanisms.

• *More work to do fully embed rights and participation in everything we do from practice to strategy and to communicate effectively.*

• *Supply of the right type of services for our most vulnerable children, including the lack of appropriate placement provision, scarcity of residential and foster care provision in a timely way to meet the needs of children and young people with more complex needs*

• *Social Worker vacancies in Children's Services - for Quarter 1 stand at 31.6% and result in an over reliance on agency social workers.*

• *Capacity within the Independent Reviewing Officer Service to complete timely children looked after review reports is challenging.*

• *Challenges in the Children Looked After Service as the service prepares to move into a locality model.*

• *Management of demand and complexity of caseloads.*

• *Numbers of children waiting for adoption 12 months after Placement Order made (51, 31 of whom are not yet placed).*

Plans in place:

Continue to work with the Institute of Public Care to explore best practice procedures and embed these into the service.

• *Implement the Mind Of My Own app which will give young people an instant and convenient way to express their views, wishes and feelings, and social workers a smart way to record them.*

• *Implement the priorities in the Commissioning Strategy, including development of emergency placement options.*

• *A post to drive forward recruitment and retention was recruited to during Quarter 1 and a second post that will focus on workforce planning activities was also appointed to in the same recruitment process.*

Members noted that the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee's Terms of Reference require the Committee to ensure performance monitoring systems are in place, and regularly review performance data to ensure sustained performance improvements in outcomes for looked after children, children subject if Care and Support plans and care leavers.

The reports in respect of this item were considered exempt from publication as they contained exempt information of the description contained in Paragraph 12 of Part 4 and Paragraph 21 of Part 5 of Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972.

2. Complaints & representations report

The Committee's terms of reference state that it will receive Children's Services Complaints reports. 2. The current Welsh Government guidance and regulations in relation to social services complaints and representations came into being on 1st August 2014.

Citizens making complaints have a right to be listened to properly and have their concerns resolved quickly and effectively. Children's Services emphasis is on listening to concerns and using this learning to improve services for everyone who uses them. Complaints should be handled in such a way that the complainant is the focus, not the process, and that the particular circumstances of the complainant are taken into account (including their age or disability).

Where the complaint relates to a looked after child, a child in need or a care leaver the local authority has a duty to provide an advocate as required. All children or young people who make complaints are offered a meeting and all children and families will receive a written response to the concerns they have raised.

In January 2020 the Committee were presented with a Complaints and representation report covering the period from 1 st July to 30th September 2019

Extracts from the reports

During this quarter, the number of complaints received by Children's Services was 37, a decrease of 2 from Q1. a. Of the 37 complaints received, 12 of the complaints received were in relation to the Social Worker or the service received, a decrease from 20 recorded in Q1. A further 12 were disputing decision-making, a slight

increase from Q1 were 11 were recorded. 3 complaints were received alleging a delay in providing service and 2 alleging inaccurate information being recorded. b. 13 complaints were received regarding the Child in Need Service, a slight decrease from Q1 (14). 13 complaints were received regarding the Looked after Children Service compared with 15 in Q1. Complaints regarding the Intake & Assessment Service remained static as 7 complaints were recorded in both Q1 and Q2. There were 2 complaints recorded under the Council's Corporate Complaints procedure.

Summary for Quarter 2 19. As at the 30th September 2019, the service were working with 2,877 children and young people and of these, we received: a. 37 complaints, a slight decrease from Quarter 1. 5 were directly from the young person, the same as Quarter 1 b. 19 compliments. Responses to AM / MP / Councillor Enquiry Letters 20. 18 AM / MP / Councillor Enquiry letters were received by Children's Services during the quarter, a decrease of 3 from Q1. 21. Requests for Information from statutory agencies: a. 150 requests were received and responded to on time, this compares to 177 received in Q1. b. 0 were completed outside of the statutory time frame. c. 0 requests were withdrawn d. There are no new requests in process at the time of writing. 22. The turnover has to be rapid due to the nature of the enquiries. Of these: a. 67 requests were from the Probation Service asking if there are children living in a household with individuals who have been bailed or will be etc. and wanting background information b. There were 20 requests from other Local Authorities' Children's Services Departments c. 63 requests were received directly from other services such as HMRC, Education and Health Services.

The Committee noted the content of the reports.

Children's homes quality of care reports (Regulations 73 visits)

Under Regulation and Inspection of Social Care Act (2016), Regulation 73 requires that the Responsible Individual undertakes visits to the care home every 3 months Under Regulation 80, the Responsible Individual must undertake a quality of care review every 6 months

In September members received the Annual Quality Assurance Report for Ty Storrie short break service and Crossland's Childrens home covering the period April 2018 – April 2019. The aim of producing the report was to inform and drive improvements in the quality of care provided to the young people living in the home.

The reports outlined visits which included interviews with residents, managers and staff, inspections of the premises, inspection of the daily log of events and inspection of the record of complaints.

The Operational Manager for resources in Social Services presented members to the Committee The presentation covered complaints and allegations, staffing, feedback from young people and parents and areas of development.

Ty Storrie short break centre is purpose built to accommodate a wide range of disabilities and needs of users and their families who require this specialist facility.

Extract from the report (Annual Quality Assurance Report)

Ty Storrie Report

6 new children were offered overnight respite during the period and 2 children received tea visits prior to overnight stays being introduced.

Contracted to deliver 863 bed spaces per year and 881 nights were delivered and 22 tea visits. Reference to a positive inspection report which was received in March 2019. The report stated that children were looked after by a committed and caring staff team, individual needs were understood and good relationships exist with parents and partner agencies. Overall it determined that children received a good standard of care and support during their stays with evidence of positive outcomes being achieved

Extract from the report (Annual Quality Assurance Report)

Crosslands report

An inspection took place in October 2018 – which found that young people were well cared for by consistent staff and management team. Staff were well trained using Signs of Safety as the underpinning model alongside RA, individual plans and risk assessments.

- Care is taken to involve young people in education, health social and leisure activities and to maintain positive family links in line with individual care plans. Young people were making progress.
- There were no areas of non-compliance.

Members noted the significant staffing challenges during the period with two changes of interim managers, and that, amongst other things, future focus is on ensuring a more consistent and settled period for staff which will in turn have a positive impact on the quality of care.

Independent Reviewing Officer Service Monitoring Report

Local authorities are required by law to appoint an Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) to every child who is looked after. They monitor care plans, convene and chair reviews for children subject to care orders or accommodated voluntarily in placements with foster carers, in residential, secure establishments, living with kinship carers or placed for adoption. Their role is to ensure that each care plan clearly sets out the help, care and support each child needs and takes full account of each child's wishes and feelings and to raise any issues with a care plan if they are identified.

In January 2020 the Committee were provided with a performance report from the Independent Reviewing Officer service.

The report outlined to the Committee the role, the function and activity of the Independent Reviewing Officer service.

Members discussed the increase in the Looked after Children population and noted the trends identified through case audits and population analysis in particular in reference to the Courts making greater use of a legal process to place children at home with a parent under Placement with Parent Regulations (PWP). Members noted that it can be difficult to evidence satisfactory progress to the Court that there has been sufficient change that would warrant changing the order. It was noted that a team has been reviewing all the PWP care orders. The Officer advised that whilst the rising number of children has placed additional pressure on staff workloads no local authority is meeting the 100% threshold. Reviews are very rarely more than a few days out of time and if that is the case IRO's make a concerted effort to ensure as much information is available to ensure the best for the child.

Extract from the report

The IROs role is to monitor, both at formal Looked After Review meetings and in between as well. The purpose of the review meeting is to consider the plan for the child, monitor progress and enable decisions to be made. Part 6 of the Social Services & Well-Being Act (Wales) 2014 relates to Looked After Children and the role of the IRO.

Under this part of the Act it is a statutory requirement for each Looked After Child to have an effective Care and Support plan that meets their day to day long term needs and which identifies the outcomes for the child, and also demonstrates the multiagency plans to meet the child's needs.

The plan achieves this by setting objectives for work with the child, birth family and caregivers in relation to the child's developmental needs. These needs include health, education, emotional wellbeing and behavioural development, identity, family and social relationships, social presentation and self-care skills.

The Safeguarding and Reviewing Service is responsible for coordinating and chairing Child Protection Conferences as well as independently chairing and reviewing children who are Looked After. The staffing establishment includes 15.5 members of staff employed as Independent Reviewing Officers (IRO's) with an

additional IRO post that exclusively reviews families open to the Integrated Family Support Service (IFSS).

All IRO and Child Protection (CP) chairs in the service are able to undertake dual functions chairing Looked After Children reviews and/or Child Protection Conferences. The Independent Reviewing Officers are mostly all experienced social workers, however there have been some new additions to the team. A combination of experienced staff and new recruits has meant that the team has remained knowledgeable and innovative

Conclusion

During 2019/2020 Committee members were provided with a vast variety of information from a number of sources helping the Committee to get a broad range of issues for Looked after children and those leaving care. The Committee were able to evaluate from departments in the authority and external partners to help build on their knowledge and gain a greater understanding of the everyday challenges faced by looked after children across the city.

As well as gaining an understanding of the challenges faced, the Committee were able to work with teams and be informed of initiatives to help overcome these challenges and were provided with a series of projects and programmes aimed at helping to improve the life chances of those young people who are looked after and those who have left care. Of particular interest were those projects that strengthened the voice of young people and strengthened children's rights.

Areas of particular interest to members during 2019/20 were:

- Child Friendly City Programme
- Mind of my own app
- Educational performance for looked after children.

Moving forward into 2020/21

The Committee will continue to place looked after children at the centre of what they do and further strengthen the voice of the child in their work programme for the upcoming year.

A Corporate Parenting Strategy will be launched with an exciting action plan which will be able to deliver tangible outcomes for looked after children and care leavers across Cardiff.

The terms of reference will be reviewed in order to reflect the vision of the Committee which will provide greater focus to specific areas of work.

Key areas of development for the year ahead

Key areas of development to be taken forward during 2019/20 will be to realign activity to achieve the requirements of the new terms of reference. Specifically:

- Ensuring new **mechanisms are in place to promote the sustained improvements** and to promote greater involvement in young people in the work of the Committee
- **Benchmarking and learning from best practice**
- To develop and undertake a programme of **consultation, listening and engagement events**
- To develop, monitor and review the **corporate parenting strategy 2020- 2023**.

The Committee continues to receive a significant and large volume of information at its meetings. Further work to be undertaken is to streamline information linked to the new Corporate Parenting Strategy, action plan and participation of young people.

The forward work programme will be shaped by members and young people feedback, the programme will be flexible based on current issues and challenges at the time, connections between internal and external partners will be strengthened which will contribute to the ongoing work of the Committee.

**CARDIFF COUNCIL
CYNGOR CAERDYDD**

CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

9th March 2021

Corporate Parenting Strategy 2021-2024

Reasons for the Report

1. The report has been prepared to update the Committee on the development of the Council's Corporate Parenting Strategy. In consultation with our looked after children across the city and partners this three year Corporate Parenting Strategy outlines Cardiff Council commitments, challenges and the key steps that need to be taken to ensure that Cardiff's children have the best possible outcomes in life.

Background

2. When a child or young person enters the care of the Council, the role of being a parent is taken on by the local authority. This is known as Corporate Parenting. The term describes how Cardiff Council collectively fulfil their parenting responsibilities, by seeking positive outcomes for looked after children and young adults who are care leavers in the same way we do for our own children. From early years into adulthood all our children, young people and young adults are safe, happy and have every opportunity to thrive.

3. Section 78 of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 imposes a duty upon a local authority to safeguard and promote the well-being of each child it looks after. Under sections 104 – 118, a local authority has similar duties to promote the well-being of care leavers.
4. The role of a corporate parent is to seek for children in public care the outcomes every good parent would want for their own children. Local authorities in Wales have a legal and moral duty to provide such support to the children it looks after. Elected Members have a responsibility to ensure that children looked after by a local authority are able to thrive, are nurtured, supported, educated and prepared for adult life in the way any parent would want for their own children.

The Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee

5. The Cardiff Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee brings together representatives from strategic partners to work with and for the Councillors elected by the citizens of Cardiff to improve outcomes for children looked after and care leavers.
6. The Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee terms of reference states the requirement - to develop, monitor and review a corporate parenting strategy, and ensure its effective implementation through work plans and corporate parenting training programmes;
7. The Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee vision was to develop a co-produced strategy with a range of partners, but more importantly looked after children who would be directly impacted by the work undertaken outlined in the strategy.

8. Individual feedback sessions were held with Members of the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee to gain their views and feedback on the Corporate Parenting Strategy. Changes were then implemented and a consultation session with members of the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee was held for further changes to be made.

Participation of young people

9. Engagement work has taken place between March and September 2020 in physical and virtual focus groups to actively involve looked after children in the development of our Corporate Parenting Strategy from the outset. These sessions took place through a range of creative means. Children, young people and care leavers participated age 5 to 27. Participants were from a range of looked after settings and backgrounds, including children with disabilities.
10. Sessions were held through a mixture of interactive group workshops using a variety of methods such as digital design, artwork and video making ensuring identities of the young people involved were protected. Separate engagement sessions were held according to the age of the looked after child in order to ensure the sessions were age appropriate and worthwhile with over 20 young people taking part.
11. Children looked after in Cardiff also had the opportunity to take part in a number of age appropriate surveys via the Bright Spots Survey. This survey was a partnership between, Bristol University, the Children's Commissioner for Wales and Cardiff Council. From the survey the views of 255 young people were gained through a number of key themes including relationships, resilience, recovery and wellbeing .The surveys were organised into three categories depending on age; a survey aimed 4- 7 year olds, a survey aimed 8- 11 year olds and a survey aimed at 11-18 year olds. This was to help young people to get the most out of the exercise, and where appropriate a trusted adult was able to support.

12. Feedback from these surveys helped influence our Corporate Parenting Strategy and together with findings from a number of engagement sessions with young people ensured that the document placed looked after children's views at the centre. The draft priorities in the Corporate Parenting Strategy were all developed from what young people told us.

COVID 19 restrictions

13. In line with COVID 19 restrictions a series of online sessions also took place with children, young people and stakeholders. The sessions obtained the views of what was working well, what could be better and what the aspirations were for looked after children and care leavers in the future. This feedback was fed directly into the strategy ensuring that the priorities outlined for the future were based on what looked after children in Cardiff said.

Consultation with partners

14. Throughout the development of the Corporate Parenting Strategy feedback has been obtained from a range of both internal and external partners to obtain their views and expertise.

15. Views were obtained via an online engagement stakeholder session with representatives from Education, NHS, Police, Youth Justice Services, Housing, Communities, Child Friendly City Team, Legal Services and Children Services.

16. Officers have also met with teams who were not able to attend the virtual session and updates have been provided regularly on the document.

Corporate Parenting Strategy

17. The Corporate Parenting Strategy is a three year strategy that sets out what we all need to do as corporate parents to support our looked after children and care leavers to enable them to thrive and improve outcomes. It outlines five

key priorities that have been formed based on the views and experiences of Looked after Children in Cardiff.

The five priorities identified by our young people were:

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

18. The strategy makes specific reference to the Childrens Rights including UNICEF UKs Child Friendly Cities and Communities initiative. Specific reference is also provided to safeguarding and inclusion.

19. National and local data is provided showing a range of indicators for Looked after Children data specifically relating to education, housing and care leavers. This data will help with decision making and service development planning for the future.

20. An action plan is being developed outlining the responsibilities of partners and key outcomes linked to the strategy. The action plan will take forward the priorities outlined in the strategy and influence the work programme for the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee for the upcoming year.

Financial Implications

21. The activities and initiatives referred to within this strategy will be funded from within existing internal resources and external grant funding, where relevant.

Legal Implications

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

RECOMMENDATION

23. The Committee is recommended to agree the draft Corporate Parenting Strategy 2021- 2024 appended as Appendix A, and recommend its approval by Cabinet

DEBORAH DRIFFIELD

Director of Childrens' Social Services.

3rd March 2021

Cardiff's Multi Agency Corporate Parenting Strategy 2021-2024





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Foreword

Our looked after children are some of the most vulnerable in society. It is crucial we as Corporate Parents work collaboratively with a range of partners to ensure that our children looked after and care leavers are supported in order for them to be safe, happy and thrive.

Through consultation with our children looked after and care leavers across the city this three year Corporate Parenting Strategy outlines our commitments, challenges and the key steps we shall take to ensure that our children have the best possible outcomes in life. Public services, the voluntary sector and the wider community all have their part to play. By working together we can support our children and those leaving care to take advantage of the range of opportunities our great city can offer to help them to reach their full potential.



Councillor Sarah Merry

Deputy Leader of the Council.

Chair of the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee.

Cabinet Member for Education, Employment and Skills.



Councillor Graham Hinchey

Cabinet Member for Children & Families

Corporate Parenting

When a child or young person enters the care of the Council, the role of being a parent is taken on by the local authority. This is known as Corporate Parenting. The term describes how Cardiff Council collectively fulfil their parenting responsibilities, by seeking positive outcomes for children looked after and young adults who are care leavers in the same way we do for our own children. From early years into adulthood all our children, young people and young adults should be kept safe, are happy and have every opportunity to thrive.

Leadership & influence

Effective Corporate Parenting requires not only strong collective ownership and leadership, but influence at the most senior level. The Cardiff Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee brings together strategic partners to work with the Councillors elected by the citizens of Cardiff to improve outcomes for children looked after and care leavers.

Values and Principles

The Committee are determined the right results can only be achieved by listening to children and young people to find out what matters to them, and by all professionals working together.

These Values and Principles underpin the strategy and the work of the Committee:

Values and Principles of the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee

The Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee shall actively work to promote the life chances of looked after children in the care of Cardiff Council and those young people who are care leavers. This shall be achieved through the Committees work programme and key performance indicators.

The voice of Children Looked After shall drive the Committee agenda and priorities.

The Committee shall ensure their agenda focuses on what Children Looked After identify as relevant for their growth and development.

The Committee shall monitor services that shall be delivered across all statutory and voluntary sector organisations.

Social Services, Health, and Education, the statutory agencies, shall influence and share responsibility by listening to Children Looked After to deliver relevant and dynamic services.

Throughout this document we shall refer to children and young people who are looked after or leaving care as “our children and young people”. This is fundamental to our vision.

Cardiff - a Child Friendly City

As a capital city, Cardiff aspires to be a 'child friendly city' and a great place to grow up. A city which has children and young people at its heart, where the rights of children and young people are respected and where all have an equal opportunity in life.

Cardiff is the first city in Wales to participate in UNICEF UK's Child Friendly Cities and Communities initiative. Since 2017 UNICEF have provided leadership and support to the Council, building upon the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child as its foundation.

[Cardiff's Child Friendly City strategy 2018](#) outlines 5 keys goals that need to be reached in order for Cardiff to be a great place to grow up in. These goals connect to the priorities set out in this Strategy. These include to be listened to, to grow up in a safe and supportive home, to have a good education and to have positive physical and emotional health.



Children's Rights and Corporate Parenting

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child sets out the rights that must be realised for children and young people to reach their full potential.

The Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee recognise the Convention as a vision for every child and young person in their care. They recognise that each looked after child and care leaver is an individual and a member of a family and community, with rights and responsibilities appropriate to their age. Our children and young people have the same human rights as adults but also specific rights that recognise their status as children who are dependent on adults to keep them safe.

We have set out in this strategy how the Committee and its partners as corporate parents recognise the fundamental dignity of all children and young people in our care and the urgency of ensuring their well-being and developmental milestones are supported. We wish to make clear the principle that a good quality of life is the right of every child and young person who is looked after, rather than a privilege enjoyed by a few.

Achieving this aspiration shall require partnership and coproduction to create a city where the voices, needs, priorities and rights of our children and young people are at the heart of public policies, programmes and decisions. This shall be facilitated through the role of the Committee. Fundamental to that task shall be to acknowledge and respond to the following:

- Children and young people are individuals.
- Children start life as totally dependent beings.
- The actions, or inactions, of the Local Authority and partner organisations impact children for whom they are corporate parents more strongly than any other group in society.
- Children and young people's views should be heard and considered in the processes that affect them.
- Many changes in society are having a disproportionate, and often negative, impact on children and young people.
- The healthy development of children and young people is crucial to the future well-being of our society.

Inclusion and Safeguarding at the heart of every priority

Safeguarding and inclusion are fundamental to Corporate Parenting. They are at the heart of our pledge to our children and young people and central to every priority in our strategy.

Safeguarding

Our children and young people are some of the most vulnerable in society. It is the collective responsibility and legal duty of all public services to work together.

Local authorities must safeguard and promote the well-being of the child it looks after (S.78 of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014) and this promotion of well-being should continue through a young person's development, which includes transition to adult hood.

In some families this need will be identified pre-birth, for others during childhood, or as a young person transitions into adulthood. We know that abuse and harm can be caused from within or outside their family and from a range of contexts.

We know that as our children and young people develop, grow and mature their behaviour and needs will also change.

The transition from young person to adulthood can be an unsettling and confusing time. It is important that agencies are able to adapt approaches in order to prepare young people in becoming adults. This shall be further developed in the forthcoming Adolescent Strategy which is currently in development.

We know that as young people grow up to adulthood they mature and their behaviour will change. Feedback from young people was that they should be allowed to make mistakes and that these mistakes should not follow them into the future.



Youth Justice Service

Of those young people who are in contact with Cardiff Youth Justice Service 49% of them are known to Children Services and 14% are Looked After. Therefore it is important that we work closely with our Youth Justice Service in order to support our most vulnerable young people who are children on the cusp of or within the youth justice system.

The Youth Justice Services development strategy 2020 – 2022 sets out a number of ways to achieve these outcomes for some of our most vulnerable young people and share common themes with this Strategy. Examples being placing young people's voice at the centre of what we do, working closely with a range of partners and building the resilience of a young person.

Inclusion

All of our children have their own identity and factors that make them unique individuals. Some of our children and young people are more vulnerable than others and require additional support to be safe and thrive. Children and young people with additional needs, including those who are disabled, unaccompanied asylum seekers, those from minority ethnic backgrounds, or have other protected characteristics may require additional consideration. There is evidence that they are more likely to become looked after, remain in care for longer and have a higher risk of being placed inappropriately in comparison to other children.

Opportunities, services and care planning must be inclusive and person centred. The aims and aspirations we hold for these individuals must, as for all other children, be tailored through individual care plans to support all of our children to reach their full potential.

We know that some individuals and groups will need specialist services. For this reason, during 2021 we shall launch our strategy for disabled children.



This Strategy

This Strategy sets Cardiff's approach to Corporate Parenting (2021-2024). This Strategy's development has been an inclusive process led by elected members, involving children, young people and professionals supported by an action plan.

The co-production process

- Over 20 of Cardiff's care experienced young people, living in a range of care settings, aged 5 - 27 and including children with additional needs, through real life and virtual workshops.
- 255 (44%) of Cardiff's children looked after participated in the 2018 Your Life, Your Care survey. The survey was conducted in partnership with Coram Voice and Bristol University, funded by the Hadley Trust/Children's Commissioner for Wales. Findings are referenced against each priority.
- 70 professionals from across agencies and sectors contributed.
- Over 20 carers and kinship carers we consulted in a feedback session

The work outlined in the strategy shall be overseen by the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee advised by an integrated reference group of young people and a network of multi-agency professionals. The strategy shall evolve over time to meet changing need.

The Committee shall report its findings to full Council and the Regional Partnership Board with regular dialogue between relevant scrutiny committees. This shall ensure the highest level of democratic and multi-agency oversight.

How it fits with the wider legislative and strategic context

The key drivers are (this is not exhaustive):

- The Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) act 2014
- The Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (Wales) Regulations 2015
- Cardiff Local Wellbeing Plan
- The Regional partnership Emotional and Mental Health strategy
- The National Review of Care for Children in Wales 2019, CIW
- Delivering Excellence in Children's Services and the Youth Justice Development Strategy: All our futures 2020-22.



National Context

In Wales **6,846** children were looked after on 31 March 2019

109 per 10,000 population aged under 18

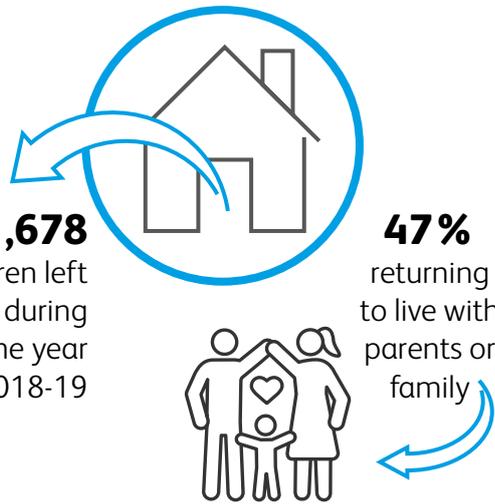
An increase of 439 (7%) on the previous year



2,125 children started to be looked after in 2018-19

1,678 children left care during the year 2018-19

47% returning to live with parents or family



309 children were adopted from care in 2018-19

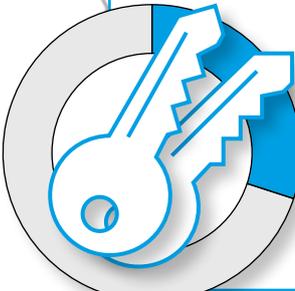
An increase of 3 (1%) on the previous year



Around **700** young people aged over 16 leave care each year. 1/3 of those being over 18

27% of care leavers moved into independent living arrangements during 2018-19

12% of care leavers experienced homelessness in 2018-19



49% of children looked after have a mental health difficulty



54% who left care in 2018/19 were in education, employment or training 1 year after

18% of children looked after have special educational needs

67% of children looked after achieved the core subject indicator at key stage 2 in 2017/18

18% of children looked after achieved the core subject indicator at key stage 4 in 2017/18



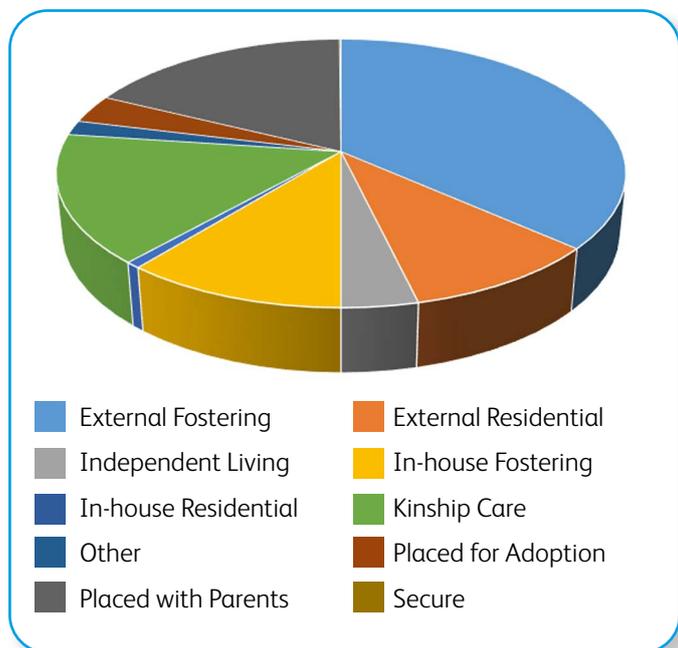
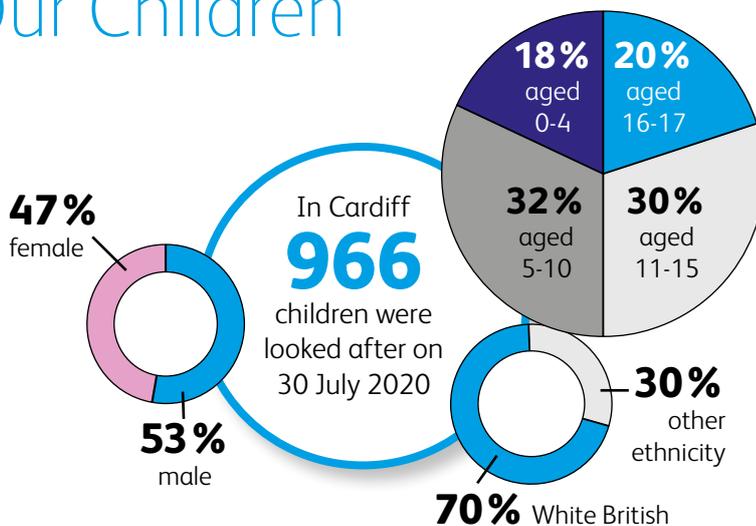
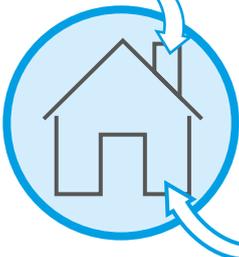
The Local Context – Our Children



51 Children on Residence Orders and supported by Local Authority

271 children on Special Guardianship Orders

3.8% of children were adopted from care in 2019-20

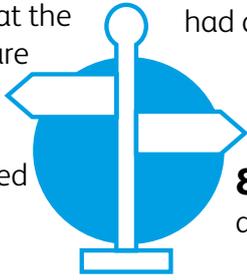
1046 children (52%) remained at home

255 children started to be looked after in 2019-20

8% had 3 or more placement moves

203 children left care during the year 2019-20

7% returned home



94% of care leavers were in suitable accommodation at the time of leaving care

93% of those who left care had a personal adviser in 2019/20

21% of care leavers experienced homelessness in 2019-20

87% had a pathway plan



54.1% who left care in 2018/19 were in education, employment or training 1 year after

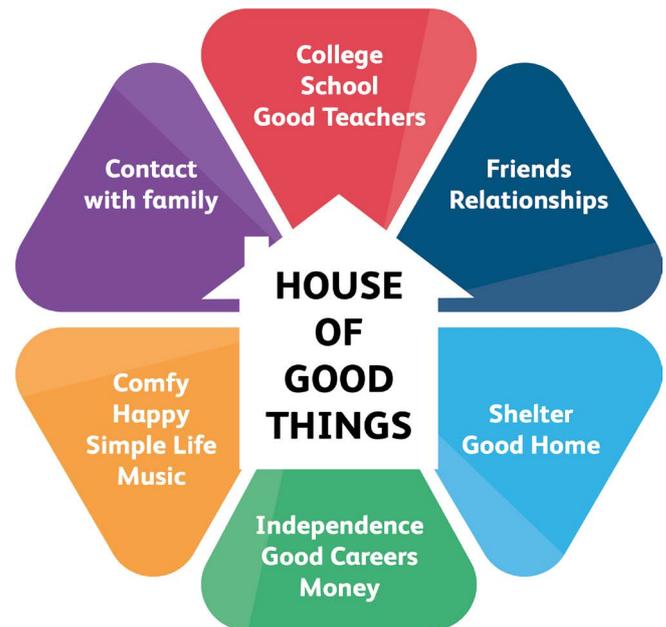
62% of children looked after at Key stage 4 have special educational needs

76% of school aged children looked after have a Personal Education Plan

Primary school aged children looked after had **94.76%** attendance in Cardiff schools

Messages from our Children and Young People

The following messages are from consultation with over 20 children and young people aged between 5 and 27 from a range of backgrounds. Cardiff is a Signs of Safety local authority. The consultation was structured in line with this model with the house of good things, the house of worries and the house of hopes and dreams.



Good things

Our Children and young people told us they enjoy the normal simple things in life that most children and young people want.

Two significant themes emerged:

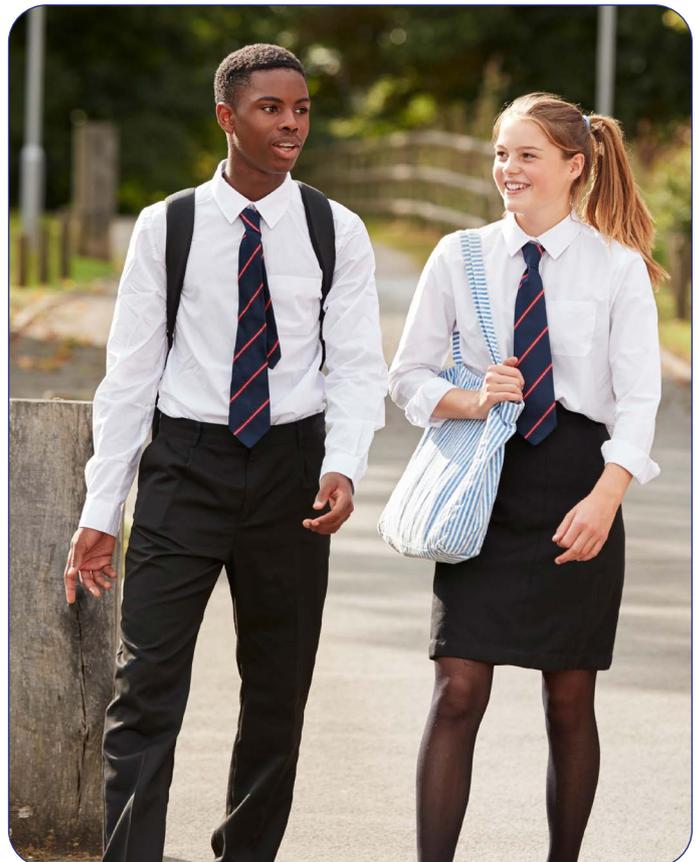
- **Relationships**

Having a secure, safe and trusting relationship with professionals is essential to know how they fit into and operate within 'the system'.

A strong relationship with another (a professional adult or partner) is essential for them to know who they are and have a sense of identity and worth.

- **Education**

They see school and college as a positive. That it provides options for further hope and a career. But more importantly it is a place where they can just be a 'normal teenager', talking about and doing teenage stuff, getting up to everyday mischief. Whether school is a good or bad teenage experience, it is the same as their peers.



Worries

Our Children and young people told us they feel the same pressures as most young adults.

- World affairs and politics leaves them feeling helplessness.
- They fear not being heard.
- They feel stressed.
- They worry about being bullied, friendships, not having friends and being lonely.
- They worry about College, lack of qualifications, not having transport and not getting a job.

But these worries are amplified by particular issues associated with their life experiences and being youngsters in care or leaving care:

- Their stress involves additional anxiety, anger, violence, worries about addiction or fear of dying.
- They worry about being able to care for themselves. About not having enough money and a home / about paying the rent.
- They feel isolated and stigmatised by being in care and worry about their parents.
- They worry about not being understood by other people such as their social worker and a lack of understanding and awareness about foster care in society.



Two significant themes emerged:

- **Emotional Health and Wellbeing**

Stress was a big issue in the conversations. They told us it is a multi-layered experience. That stress is heightened by experiences outside the normal day to day arena. That their ability to unload, unpack and process these issues is hampered by not having parental support.

This is why it is so important to have at least one strong steady dependable relationship.

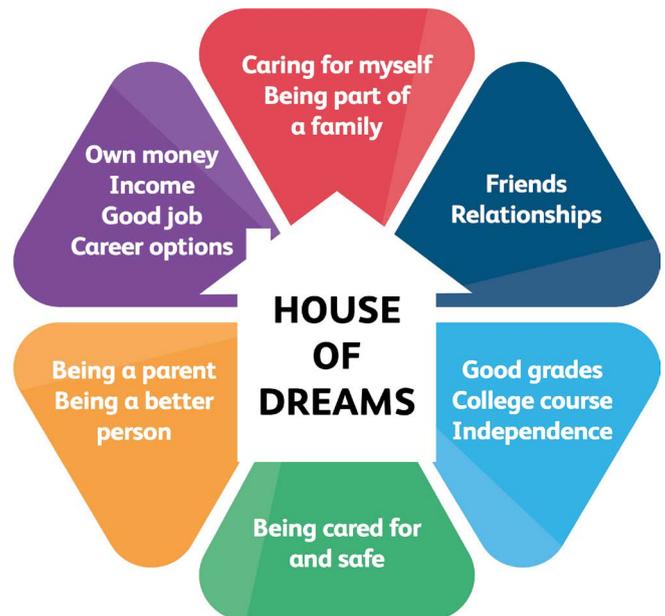
- **Stigma**

This formed the basis of bullying. They feel they are perceived as victims and therefore prone to be easy targets of victimisation. They told us, they have been bullied because they are perceived to have 'bad' parents who did not care about them, were not loved and are therefore unlovable. This caused feelings of isolation and loneliness.

Dreams

Our Children and young people told us they want security and control to build a stable future:

- To feel safe and be cared for.
- To build strong relationships with others. To find, be closer, or go home to family. To have their own family. To be a parent and to be a good parent. To be and have good friends and to feel connected.
- To achieve good grades to get on a college course, so that they can get a good job / dream career, earn money and have the income to own a home, have a car and be independent.



Three solid desires for their futures emerged:

- **They want to own a home**

This was a big issue. They told us they want to have a place that is theirs. They want somewhere they can make their own decisions about how it looks. A place that is their sanctuary and comfortable.

- **They want family and identity**

They told us they want family. By being reunited with their own family, by changing their name back, or wanting to start their own biological family, to be parents themselves.

- **They want their own career**

They told us they want to gain independence by earning a decent income from a decent job / career. This is their ticket to getting their own place and earning good money to have the things they never had. This is why they are particularly anxious about College and not doing well.



Our Pledge to you

We shall

- Provide a safe, stable and comfortable home as a child and support you when you leave care.
- Ensure there are people who support and care for you.
- Help you have good relationships with the people who are important to you.
- Help you stay healthy and have good emotional wellbeing.
- Provide activities and interests you enjoy.
- Provide a first class education and the right training.
- Help you to feel ready for the future.
- Help you find fulfilment, purpose and ambition.
- Actively ask and listen to you particularly when decisions are made.
- Improve the things we aren't doing well.
- Celebrate your achievements and treat you with the dignity and respect you deserve.

To successfully deliver our pledge, we shall centre our activity on the following five Priorities, developed from the messages our children and young people told us.



Priority 1: Improving emotional wellbeing and physical health

This is important because...

Our children and young people have the same core health needs as all children, but their backgrounds and experiences mean they may be particularly vulnerable to poorer health outcomes. This is because children who enter our care may have unaddressed or current health issues which have arisen through poverty, neglect or abuse.

We also know children and young people who have experienced disrupted childhoods, trauma and inconsistent relationships with their parents and families are more likely to struggle with their emotional wellbeing. Young people can experience Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), these are stressful events occurring in childhood such as being a victim of neglect and child abuse, growing up in a household with adults experiencing substance misuse, mental health conditions or domestic violence.

The transitional period when care leavers experience during and after they leave care can present particular challenges to their emotional well-being.

Key facts

The Your Life, Your Care (2018) survey of our children and young people in Cardiff identified:

45% of children in foster care to **75%** of those in residential have mental health difficulties.

61% of 8-11yr olds and **71%** of 11-18yr olds worried about their feelings or behaviour. **18%** of 11-18yr olds thought they were not getting support with these worries.

17 (13%) of 11-18yr olds were identified as having low well-being. They were more likely to be girls and have poor relationships with their social worker and carers.

95% of 8-11yr olds had the chance to explore the outdoors. Not having contact with nature was associated with low well-being.



What our children and young people said

"It's really fun and we get to go down the caravan" (4-7yrs)

"I felt in my previous foster placement I could have received better emotional support as I needed to attend court as a victim" (11-18yrs)

"I would like to have a pet because I believe this would improve my mental wellbeing, preferably a dog" (11-18yrs)

"I like having my voice heard. I feel the social worker needs to listen to me more and remember that it's my life and not Dad's" (8-11yrs)



Our current activity

The health of our children is overseen by a Medical Lead and Designated Nurse for Children Looked After. They ensure our children have an assessment of their health needs and individual action plan.

All our children must be registered with a dentist and GP by their carers and be supported to have their health needs met. Our children have access to Paediatricians if required to ensure physical health needs are met.

In relation to emotional well-being, there are a range of therapeutic Psychology and Mental Health services provided by the University Health Board including;

- Enfys (formerly the Developmental Trauma Service)
- Children's Intensive Support Service for disabled children
- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
- Therapeutic support via the multi-agency Brighter Futures Panel
- The Resilience Project which works primarily through educational settings

- Primary Mental Health Specialists who are part of the Cardiff Family Advice and Support Service.

The Education Directorate and schools are currently adopting a THRIVE approach. This is a dynamic, developmental and trauma-sensitive approach underpinned by child development and attachment theory. Each school has a designated member of staff for a children looked after to share and talk about any worries and concerns they may have. Many of our schools also have designated safe spaces for our young people to share any worries in private and to actively support their wellbeing.

Advocacy, befriending, consultations and specific support groups such as Bright Sparks and the Young Person's Advisory Group provide structured opportunities for our young people to express and share their feelings and views. This is important to support our children and young people's emotional well-being.

How we shall achieve our aims

This strategy is underpinned by a detailed action plan connected to each priority.

Key actions are:

- Emotional Mental Health and Well-being is a key delivery priority of the Starting Well Partnership via the Regional Partnership Board. This includes multi-agency activity to strengthen joined up therapeutically led social and education services.
- Understand, through enhancing data systems in our children, young people and care leavers achieving their health and well-being outcomes. This will identify any gaps and improve outcomes.
- To improve how we listen to our children, young people and care leavers across our services to improve service improvement, design and delivery
- Ensure improvement in the timeliness and sharing of health assessments which is a statutory duty for all our children and young people.
- Ensure emotional well-being and therapeutic services meet need and demand
- Improving wellbeing through strengthening the offer for outdoor play, sport, leisure and cultural activities by working with senior leaders in the Council, partners and the private sector.
- Ensuring children placed out of area or who move between placements have portability of services and as minimal a disruption as possible through the multi-agency Brighter Futures Panel
- Ensure that life story work is completed with our children and young people
- Develop ways to increase the resilience of our children, young people and care leavers

Priority 2: Better connections, improved relationships

This is important because...

We know a trusted adult has been shown to be the main factor in helping children recover from traumatic events. We also know our children and young people want better connections and improved relationships in their lives.

Spending time with people important to our children and young people is a basic right and need. Sometimes staying in touch with certain people is not in a child's best interests. This can be harder to achieve for our children and young people who experience placement moves, for those placed outside of Cardiff, or as young people transition into independent living in adulthood.

We also know children and young people who have experienced disrupted childhoods, trauma and inconsistent or broken relationships may find it hard to form attachments with new people around them.

What our children and young people said

"We love seeing Mum and baby sister and we want more" (11-18yrs)

"I want to see my mum less"

"Social workers shouldn't abandon the young person and move around jobs. Don't like having to meet new people/workers all the time"

"I'd like to say to other kids in care – don't be scared. You'll be ok. If you have troubles you'll always have someone by your side. You'll get to see your family one day. Don't give up hope" (11-18yrs)

Key facts

100% of the 4-7yr olds, **95%** of the 8-11yr olds, and **90%** of the 11-18yr olds thought their carers noticed how they were feeling.

The level of trust in social workers was high amongst the younger children but decreased in the older age groups. **22%** of 8-11yr olds did not know they could speak to their social worker on their own.

The Your Life, Your Care survey of our children and young people identified:

19% of 8-11yr olds and **24%** of 11-18yr olds had no face to face contact with either parent. Most children and young people wanted more contact with family members and people who are important to them. Some children wanted less contact.

98% of children aged 8-11yrs had a trusted adult, but **1 in 10** 11-18yr olds did not. Not having a trusted adult was associated with low well-being.

98% of children (4-7yrs); **87%** of aged 8-11yrs; and **93%** of young people (11-18yrs) trusted their carers. **61%** of young people talked regularly with their carers about things that mattered to them. That is a similar proportion to the **65%** of young people in the general population who talk to their parents.

Our current activity

We seek to keep our children and young people living with family or friends wherever possible. We strive to keep siblings together unless not in their best interests pending a thorough assessment. Practitioners acknowledge connections are broad. A sense of belonging is derived not only from family, but also from community and sense of place formed through social, leisure and cultural opportunities.

Children's Services work with children and families in a strengths based way, using a Signs of Safety framework. This approach involves Family Network meetings to identify family and friends to look after children before foster or residential care is considered.

Cardiff is implementing the Reunification Framework to support permanency planning for children and build on kinship care.

We make sure, where safe, our children and young people regularly keep in touch and have contact with the people who are important to them.

Relationships are supported by advocacy, befriending, positive role models and networking opportunities. We recognise children have the right to live in Cardiff or as close to home as possible, unless there are safeguarding reasons why this cannot be promoted. We are working to develop greater numbers of local placements (Priority 3).

Where children and young people have developmental trauma or therapeutic needs, Enfys and the Children's Intensive Support Service for disabled children support and strengthen relationships with key people (Priority 1).

How we shall achieve our aims

This strategy is underpinned by a detailed action plan connected to each priority.

Key actions are:

- Helping our children, young people and care leavers to develop support networks including whilst in care, leaving care and into independence
- Supporting more children and young people to remain at home and enhancing the support available.
- Supporting more family members to become kinship carers or special guardians and enhancing the support available in a connected person first approach
- Introduce the Reunification Framework to support our children and young people who are already looked after to live safely with a family member
- Continue to improve recruitment and retention in Children's Services to enable relationship based practice
- Listen to our children, young people and care leavers to understand what they want to stay connected to the people and places important to them
- Adopt different ways of maintaining family time and contact with important people though virtual means, that for some, works better.
- Connecting care leavers to the Early Help Services if needed, to access early parenting advice and support as they become parents themselves. This will support a positive blueprint of parenting and prevent the potential inter-generational issues

Priority 3:

A comfortable, safe and stable home whilst in care and after

This is important because...

All our children and young people need and deserve a safe, comfortable, stable home. Home can be with parents, with a kinship carer, special guardian, foster carer, at a children's home, residential school, in supported accommodation or independently with floating support. But sometimes also includes secure accommodation or remand. This includes stable accommodation as an adult, including opportunities for home ownership.

No matter where a child lives, they must be supported to have positive outcomes and reach their full potential. Each setting must be chosen and matched to meet our children and care leavers' individual needs.

For most we hope this will be a positive, safe and comfortable experience, where new connections are formed with nurturing carers. But we understand that not every placement will go as expected, and our children and young people must have a positive and well planned alternative if things don't work out.

Key facts

The Your Life, Your Care survey of our children and young people identified:

87% of our children and young people reported that they felt safe 'all or most of the time' in their placements compared to only **75%** of children (8-13yrs) in the general population. **84%** of 11-18yrs old felt safe where they lived.

61% of young people 11-18yrs felt settled where they live. 7 children and young people reported they 'never' felt settled.

The vast majority of children and young people liked their bedrooms.

84% of 11-18yr olds wrote that they were taught independence skills 'All or most of the time' or 'Sometimes'. **16%** thought this was 'hardly ever' or 'never' true.



What our children and young people said

"Being in care made my life better by having a safe house and a bedroom" (8-11yrs)

"I love being in care because the people I live with are very nice and love me very much" (8-11yrs)

"Things could be fairer. Sometimes we can't make choices on our own and we have to have meetings before we can do things like go on holiday" (8-11yrs)



Our current activity

Children's Services is currently seeking to shift the balance of care (priority 2) so that more of our children and young people are placed with family or people they know.

We are working with partners to improve the volume and range of placements within Cardiff, to reduce the number of placements outside the County. This shall be achieved through implementation of the Children's Services placements Commissioning Strategy: The Right Home and the Right Support for our Children Looked After 2019-2022.

Where in-county placements are not possible, all requests for out of county placements must be made through the multi-agency Brighter Futures Panel which seeks to ensure all care, education and health needs are met.

Pathway Planning addresses the changing needs of our children and young people to plan changes in where they live and transition out of care or into supported adulthood and ultimately independence.

The Young Persons Gateway to Accommodation and Support follows a Positive Pathway model to provide information advice and assistance, supported accommodation and floating support with consistent pathways into settled adult accommodation.

Regardless of the location of the placements or age of the child or young person Independent Reviewing Officers, Independent Visitors and Advocates ensure the voice of our children and young people are heard and their wishes and rights are acted upon.

This strategy is underpinned by a detailed action plan connected to each priority.

How we shall achieve our aims

This strategy is underpinned by a detailed action plan connected to each priority.

Key actions are:

- Implementing Cardiff's Commissioning Strategy to increase placement sufficiency including;
 - Increase local placements for local children by increasing local capacity such in house placements, Oakway emergency placement for young people and the Assessment Centre with a multi-agency approach.
 - Continue to work with Independent Fostering Agencies and Care providers sufficient provision to meet need
- Ensuring there is appropriate support for placements to prevent breakdown
- Continuing to provide the Young Person's Gateway and develop additional provision to ensure demand is met
- Further enhance our data systems for care leavers in achieving a safe and stable home and well-being outcomes.
- Strengthen systems to plan accommodation and transition for young people transitioning to independent living and adulthood.
- Further develop the Kinship Team to support more family members to become kinship carers or special guardians and enhance the support available.
- Continue to working in partnership so that a placement move does not adversely impact on to education, training or health outcomes
- Explore how the council and partners can support care leavers to own their own homes such as shared ownership schemes
- Improving contextual safeguarding for risks outside of the home through the development of an Adolescent and Safeguarding Strategy and implementation of the RSB Exploitation Strategy.
- Children's Services with ENFYs will work to ensure that in house fostering an kinship carers are trained in PACE and Therapeutic Parenting models of care.

Priority 4: Educational Achievement, Employment and Training

This is important because...

There are 709 Looked after children in our Cardiff schools. 54% are of primary school age and 46% are at secondary school.

We want our children and care leavers to achieve the best possible educational and employment outcomes so that they can lead fulfilled and successful lives. Our children and young people told us this is their aspiration. Having a good job with a good income was seen as a means to obtaining their own home, income, fulfilment and to have the things they never had.

But we also know that due to the circumstances which led our children and young people into care, some will feel disenfranchised or have disengaged from school. Some will have changed school when entering or changing placement.

This disruption means that some young people may need additional assistance to achieve or they may achieve their accomplishments later than others. Research suggests that children looked after and young people are more likely to have a statement of special educational needs, to be excluded from school, and to leave school with no qualifications compared with children in the general population.

It is important to ensure that Education is considered fully when a change of placement is necessary, to ensure there is as little disruption to relationships and learning as possible. This can be particularly challenging when young people are placed outside Cardiff where provision may not be comparable.

We want to provide the best possible opportunities for all our children and young people, where all have the right to access a quality, broad and balanced education, in line with their needs and wherever possible in a mainstream school.

Key facts

The Your Life, Your Care survey of our children and young people identified:

75% of the 11-18yrs group liked school or college 'a lot' or 'a bit'.

94% of children (8-11yrs) and young people (11-18yrs) felt that their carers showed an interest in their education 'Most of the time' or 'Sometimes'.

13% wrote that they 'hardly ever' or 'never' were given trusted roles in school.

87% had access to the internet at home compared with **98%** of households with children and two adults in Wales; and **90%** of single parents in Wales

What our children and young people said

*"More contact with social worker finding jobs etc would make care better"
(11-18yrs)*

"It also upsets me that I may not have anyone outside of the care system to help me with financial problems (if I have them)"

"I feel extremely proud of myself at the moment with everything I have achieved" (11-18yrs)

Our current activity

The education of our children and young people is overseen by a dedicated Achievement Leader and Looked After in Education Co-ordinator who liaise strategically and operationally with schools and social services.

Each of our children and young people have a Personal Education Plan (PEP) which is monitored and reviewed regularly. The information held in the Virtual School, which includes the individual's attainment and progress data, helps us to ensure there is the earliest intervention and response to any underachievement. The Improvement Partners in the Consortium help us to monitor the progress and achievement of Looked after Children and ensure their needs are being fully considered by the school.

Such intervention is aided by a Pupil Development Grant, which is currently used to train all teachers to meet the needs of children in care. Designated teacher forums share good practice across schools, and training is available for all partners including governors, specialist teams, social workers and carers to ensure all are working together.

Education teams including specialist teachers and educational psychologists have pledged specific

support for our children looked after and young people. The pathway planning process when a young person is 16 ensures that care leavers have practical and financial support when they participate in any further or higher education.

The Brighter Futures project as part of the Into Work Advice Service supports our young people equipping them for employment or returning to education. Young people are assigned their own mentor and bespoke employment support, with access to free training, finance and interview preparation. When ready and confident they progress to a six month work placement.

Work experience, traineeships and apprenticeships are provided children who are looked after or leaving care by or through the Council's Economic Development Directorate, but also through The Cardiff Commitment. The Commitment is a partnership between Into Work Advice Service, education providers and employers to ensure that all young people in the city secure a job that enables them to reach their full potential.

This strategy is underpinned by a detailed action plan connected to each priority.

How we shall achieve our aims

This strategy is underpinned by a detailed action plan connected to each priority.

Key actions are:

- Ensure our children and young people placed out of area or move placements have their educational needs met and minimal disruption as possible through the multi-agency Brighter Futures Panel
- Understand, through enhancing data the provision available and outcomes to children looked after and care leavers to identify any gaps and improve outcomes.
- Ensuring all our children have access to the IT resources they need for education at home and minimising the impact of Covid 19.
- Transferring best practice from schools that are excellent in supporting and nurturing our children and young people city wide.
- Further develop access to employment and work experience opportunities in the Council, partners and the private sector
- Strengthen access to cultural, social and leisure opportunities in the council, with partners and the private sector to support the wider education needs of our children and care leavers
- Listen to and work with our children and young people to see what would make the difference to them with this priority.

Priority 5: Celebrating our children and young people

This is important because...

Many of our young people have had a difficult start in life and are likely to have faced barriers. It is vital our children and young people feel valued and their achievements are celebrated. It is important that they are treated with the dignity and respect that they deserve and our contact with children and care leavers reinforces this.

Our children and young people told us they worry about not being understood by other people. They identified a lack of understanding and awareness about children looked after in society and felt stigmatised by being in care. Some described being bullied as a result of being in care.

We know that each of our children looked after are unique, with their own life experiences. It is important that they are supported to develop their talents and share their strengths. This builds resilience for the future. As Corporate Parents we must support children looked after and care leavers to reach their full potential and champion their rights.

What our children and young people said

"Adults that know you are in care should keep it to themselves" (11-18yrs)

"I feel extremely proud of myself at the moment with everything I have achieved" (11-18yrs)

"My foster carers ... don't trust me and think I steal and lie which is hurtful to me because I don't" (11-18yrs)

"No, I don't have a really good friend"

Key facts

The Your Life, Your Care survey of our children and young people identified:

98% of the 4-7yr olds, and **98%** of the 8-11yr olds had a really good friend. **11%** of young people 11-18yrs wrote that they did not have a really good friend feeling isolated from friends was a strong theme from focus groups.

25% of 8-11yr olds looked after children and **30%** of 11-18yr olds were afraid to go to school because of bullying. Girls were more likely than boys to report feeling like this.

All 8-11yr olds felt supported with this. But a quarter of 11-18yr olds did not.

12% of young people recorded that adults did things that made them feel embarrassed about being in care.

54% of 11-18yr olds responded that they got a second chance 'all or most of the time'. **9%** felt they 'hardly ever' or 'never' got second chances.

39% of young people (11-18yrs) thought they were given opportunities 'all or most of the time' to show they could be trusted. **4%** wrote that they were 'never' given the opportunity to be trusted.

Our current activity

Currently there are a range of interventions and support available to help support our young people and families to build resilience.

Annually a Bright Sparks Award Ceremony celebrates the success of our children and young people across the city. This event is an opportunity to acknowledge their achievements. Not only does it provide celebration and recognition for our children and young people who participate, but as a sponsored event the successes of our children and young people are promoted to local businesses.

The Cardiff Commitment offers our young people work placements and training opportunities in the world of work. These provide our children and young people with opportunities to hold positions of trust, to gain knowledge, skills and confidence. The initiative not only helps overcome barriers our young people face in accessing or maintaining employment, but also provides employers and their staff the opportunity to meet our young people and receive training to better understand their needs.

Cardiff's Fostering Campaign and the National Adoption Campaign in seeking prospective foster and adoptive carers are also important public facing publicity campaigns. They raise awareness of our children and young people to wider society and raises awareness of fostering and adoption to increase the number of placements available.

The Police Crime Commissioner Project works with children and young people who are at risk of entering the criminal justice system or becoming victims of crime and anti-social behaviour. This project challenges stereotypes and perceptions of young people. It uses a child rights-based approach to address the criminalisation of care experienced young people.

The police have committed to not treating our children as offenders when behaving in ways many children behave at home. Children should be allowed to make mistakes and prevented from entering the criminal justice system.

How we shall achieve our aims

It should be noted this is the most challenging of our priorities, because it needs to reach beyond our sphere of direct influence. It is a developmental priority. It is the basis for our Big Ask of Our City and Communities. Members of the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee are champions for children looked after and care leavers. They shall promote the interests and opportunities for children looked after in their interactions with businesses, the voluntary sector and communities. Professionals shall seek new opportunities in the spirit of this strategy and action plan evolving over time. This strategy is underpinned by a detailed action plan connected to each priority.

Key actions are:

- Work with our children and young people to develop their own version of this strategy and further develop the pledge
- Strengthen participation for our children, young people and care leavers
- Develop stronger links between CPAC and our children, young people and care leavers.
- Exploring the subject of bullying prevention with schools to determine if there are opportunities to apply lessons learnt more widely.
- Develop a corporate parenting network of stakeholders to champion corporate parenting and meet the aims of this Strategy
- Supporting our children and young people in their campaigning and influencing work in a rights based way.
- Monitoring and making links with the Cardiff Commitment to promote our children and young people.
- Challenging negative stereotypes and educating others as to the reality of care experience.
- Exploring how the aspirations of our young people can be met through wider Council policy and initiatives including home ownership and access to services.

Making it happen

To achieve the right results, we know we need to get our message out, have a shared understanding and strong direction, ensure clear and effective leadership, and report on our priorities to the right people.

To do this we are going to make three big asks.

- The Big Ask of young people whose lives are affected.
- The Big Ask of our fantastic professionals.
- The Big Ask of our City and Communities.

The Big Ask of our children and young people whose lives are affected

We are proud of each and every one of our children and young people and want everything we do to be driven by what they need to be happy and established for life.

To do that, like every good parent we need to continually know what they experience, feel and think. We need them to get involved, tell us if we are getting it right and help us find the right way if we are not.

The Big Ask of our children and young people whose lives are affected by care, outlines eight key areas where we shall ask our children and young people to get involved to make a difference for now and the future, for themselves and for others.

Get involved in the Bright Sparks youth club for care experience children and young people, to do the following:

- Decide how the club is run - events, activities, and location.
- Decide on creative ways to decide what matters.
- Come to our Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee meetings or events if you want and tell us what to listen to.
- If you don't want to, tell us by animations, videos, pictures, or another way.
- Invite us to the places that matter to you if you want us to see for ourselves.
- Reach out to other clubs and communities with the help of our youth workers and advocates. Be their voice.
- Listen to our ideas about what might help.
- Tell us if we get it right and if we get it wrong.

Cardiff's social workers, foster carers, children's homes, advocacy providers, youth teams and young people themselves shall have a key role in promoting and advertising the big ask of young people whose lives are affected.

The Big Ask of our fantastic professionals

We know that professionals care. They want to make a positive difference to every young person's life.

So we asked professionals what is important to them in being a good Corporate Parent. They told us:

They fundamentally believe that Corporate Parenting is everybody's responsibility.

That we need to understand the needs of young people, advocate on their behalf, and search for solutions through the lens of wellbeing instead of risk aversion.

That every professional needs to understand and decide how their organisation shall contribute.

We should collectively aspire to achieve the best for our young people in every aspect of their lives. That there must be monitoring of progress and accountability.

The Big Ask of our fantastic professionals therefore outlines six key areas where we shall ask foster carers, residential workers, social workers, teachers, nurses, youth workers, therapists, housing providers and others to make a difference.

- We know you are working hard and are already making a difference. Come to our meetings and tell us about it.
- Listen with us to what young people tell us.
- Encourage children and young people to tell us what they think. Get involved and be the voice of young people who are disenfranchised or lack confidence.
- Work with us to find new creative solutions to deliver our priorities.
- Make a pledge.
- Build that in to your team or service area plan.
- Help us evaluate if the changes we make together work.

Cardiff's public sector, third sector and contracted service leaders and senior managers shall have a key role in promoting and advertising the big ask of professionals to their workforce.

The Big Ask of our City & Communities

We are ambitious for children in care and care leavers and we know the City and its communities are too.

The Big Ask of our City & Communities outlines four key areas where we shall ask businesses, the voluntary sector and communities to make a difference.

- Help celebrate the achievements of children in care and care leavers by sponsoring our Bright Sparks Awards or donating a prize.
- Pledge access to your organisation's sport, music, arts, leisure, cultural, or faith based activities for children in care, foster families and care leavers at low or no cost.
- Become a Fostering Friendly employer by promoting fostering in the work place or promote fostering in your venue. Help us let everyone know how important it is that our communities better understand that Children in Care Matter.
- Pledge work experience, traineeships, apprenticeships and work based mentoring to children in care and care leavers through Cardiff Bright Starts programme.

Cardiff's County Councillors as elected community leaders shall have a key role in promoting and advertising the Big Ask of our City and Communities.



Pulling it together – the role of the Committee

Our strategy is based on the evidence we have now from working together, driven by elected members who want to make the difference.

We know we can do more to understand the issues. We know there are solutions we haven't yet found. We know there is more we can do to work together.

We also know that over the lifespan of the Strategy, the context of young people's lives will change. We hope they will improve as we implement our plans, but we also anticipate there will be new challenges, not least arising from the wide ranging social and economic impacts of the Covid 19 pandemic.

For that reason we believe it is important that our strategy is a living document that is continually monitored and evolves. That we seek out new activity and identify new actions as we proceed.

The Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee is our vehicle for this. Not only for governance, but also for engagement and development.

The Committee shall pull together all three Big Asks:

- Young people shall inform the Committee.
- Professionals shall continue to search for new solutions by listening and working together.
- Elected members shall lead cohesion, partnership and champion the cause of our children and young people for whom they are corporate parents.

How we shall do it

The Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee shall monitor the implementation of the strategy.

The Committee shall plan its meetings thematically according to the Priorities of the strategy.

The Committee shall consider feedback from children and young people engagement groups and creative feedback methods so that it can listen and further its understanding of each Priority in even greater depth.

Multi-agency groups shall work on delivering the individual priorities.

The Committee shall be the forum for cohesion and partnership in seeking solutions.

The Committee shall report its progress.

Finally it is important to stress, our corporate parenting principles and strategy do not exist in a vacuum. They should shape the mind-set of culture in every partner organisation, in how each carries out all of its functions.

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CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE**9th March 2021**

FAMILY THRIVE UPDATE

Reasons for the Report

1. This report provides the Committee with information in relation to the Family Thrive courses for parents and carers being explored and piloted by the Looked After Children in Education (LACE) Team. The report aims to inform the Committee on the purpose of the course, an overview of topics covered by the course and provide an update on how the first sessions of the have been received.

Background

2. Thrive is a dynamic developmental approach to working with children and young people that supports their emotional and social wellbeing as the foundation for improved learning. The approach consists of Thrive-Online, a web-based assessment and monitoring tool, and training. Thrive training focuses on the emotional needs of different age groups informed by established neuroscience and attachment research, as well as child development studies and research into risk and resilience factors.
3. Trained practitioners can deliver 1:1 and group interventions with children and use Thrive Online software to create action plans and monitor progress. 70% of schools in Cardiff are using Thrive and have at least one Thrive trained practitioner. The Thrive approach is most effective when embedded as part of a whole school approach. Offering a Family Thrive course is one way schools can continue to embed the approach.

4. Family Thrive is a six week course for parents and carers to introduce the fundamentals of Thrive and how it works in practice. The course covers the topics of: brain development, activities to develop our stress-regulation system, the importance of creativity and play, understanding behaviour as communication and ideas on how to calm ourselves and our children.
5. The purpose of the course is to support parents and carers to meet the wellbeing and social emotional development needs of their children. It also forms part of a whole school approach to wellbeing by communicating information about how Thrive is used in school to parents and carers and giving them tools and knowledge to compliment this approach at home.
6. The LACE Team has a Learning Mentor that is a trained Thrive Practitioner and is qualified to deliver Family Thrive courses. In September 2020 schools were looking for ways to reconnect with their families after lockdown. The LACE team wanted to explore the benefits of Family Thrive for the families of looked after children, with a view to incorporating this into future projects.
7. Ten schools expressed an interest in running a Family Thrive course with the LACE Team. Two schools were chosen to take part in trailing the course with their parents and carers. One Primary School and One Secondary School. Each group had five families enrolled containing a combination of foster carers, guardians and parents
8. Both schools completed one full course, concluding in February 2020. Initial feedback has been positive, further evaluation will now be undertaken. All participants that completed the course indicated that they felt more confident in their ability to manage their child's behaviour when they are having strong emotions and more confident in their ability to regulate their own emotions. Feedback from both schools was positive too. The Primary School would recommend the course to other schools and felt that when it can be delivered in person it will be even more effective for their families. The Secondary School found that the virtual model worked well for their parents and are planning to

train their own Thrive Practitioners as Family Thrive Course Leaders in order to continue this offer.

9. The Learning Mentor on the LACE team has since moved to a new role within the team so there are no immediate opportunities to undertake further pilots at this time. However, the evaluation of the training will provide valuable information that can be used to inform future projects. The outcome of the evaluation will determine the next steps with this project and whether more resource should be committed to this going forward.
10. The LACE Team are working to ensure that schools that have invested in Thrive are using it in the most effective way and that looked after children are experiencing the benefit this resource.

Issues

11. Currently Family Thrive has to be delivered online via Microsoft Teams rather than face to face. The course is designed to be delivered in person and therefore some elements of the course cannot be fully realised in a virtual environment. This method of delivery relies on families being able to access the required IT equipment and to be confident in using that equipment to participate in a meeting. The expectation is the courses would be delivered in schools when schools are able to host visitors.
12. In order to use this resource effectively the LACE Team would need to identify and prioritise the families that would most benefit from accessing the course. Early analysis identified that offering the course to individual schools is not necessarily the most efficient way to reach the parents and carers of looked after children as numbers of looked after children vary across the city. Involving Social Workers in this process would help reach the right families.
13. The LACE Team will continue to evaluate how Family Thrive can be used by the team and incorporate this into their project planning for the next academic year as appropriate. They will share their evaluation with other teams in the directorate that are using Thrive. For example, the Emotional Health and

Wellbeing Team. If more local authority officers or school staff are trained to be Family Thrive Course Leaders. The LACE Team will provide advice and support to these colleagues to ensure LACE and their families can access this.

Financial Implications

14. Any costs that have previously arisen or will arise in the future, in connection with the delivery of Family Thrive courses, have been, or will be, met from existing Council resources, supplemented by external resources, wherever possible.

Legal Implications

15. There are no legal implications arising from the report

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee is recommended to:

- a. Consider the report and identify how the committee would like to monitor progress in the development and roll out of the Family Thrive course and the outcomes that are anticipated to be achieved from its roll out.
- b. Note the development of the Family Thrive course.

DEBORAH DRIFFIELD
Director of Childrens' Social Services

3rd March 2021

**CARDIFF COUNCIL
CYNGOR CAERDYDD****CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE****9th March 2021**

PARTICIPATION UPDATE

Reasons for the Report

1. This report has been prepared to provide the committee with an update on the Bright Sparks Club. Bright Sparks is the current primary participation mechanism for our Children Looked After and Care Leavers. This update will inform the committee about the Bright Sparks Awards, the Bright Sparks consultation event and plans to address the first of the five priorities identified after consulting with care experienced children and young people (CYP) in Cardiff.

Background

2. National Youth Advocacy Service (NYAS) is a UK charity offering information, advice, advocacy and legal representation to the most vulnerable children, young people and adults. The core work undertaken by NYAS is an advocacy service for care experienced children and young people. NYAS are commissioned by Cardiff Children's Services to deliver a participation service to children and young people aged 11-25 who are receiving care and support from them, with the principle objective of ensuring that Children and Young People are afforded a voice and are active participants in shaping policy and service provision within the council and within a wider external context.

3. Bright Sparks also acts as a peer support forum for care experienced children and young people, providing them with opportunities to take part in social activities, other participation opportunities and avenues of support. NYAS Cymru deliver fortnightly group sessions, previously meetings were held at children's services offices, with social activities taking place in the community at venues accessible to children and young people. Since the Covid 19 pandemic Bright Sparks has continued to meet virtually.

4. Previous Work Undertaken

- Trained young people in recruitment and selection, preparing and supporting them to take part in young people's interview panels to recruit staff for new residential service provision in Cardiff
- Supported facilitation of group work sessions on Corporate Parenting Strategy (face to face and digitally)
- Consultation session held on the 'Mind of My Own App'. This app assists young people to communicate their views in a way that they are comfortable with. It can be used for them to say how they are feeling, what is important to them and what support they require.
- Consultation session held with 'Children in Wales' on guides and resources for Care experienced CYP
- Consultation session held with 'Children Commissioner for Wales Office' on Ambassador scheme
- Employability workshop held, facilitated by NYAS Peer Development Worker
- Bright Sparks members took part in separate Poetry /creative writing workshops
- Report submitted highlighting young people views and experiences (gained via group consultation and advocacy casework) to inform Children's Services strategy.

Issues

The Bright Sparks Awards

5. The awards celebrate the numerous achievements of care experienced CYP in Cardiff, whilst also acknowledging the commitment and dedication of others such as foster carers and supported lodgings providers. The event is the annual highlight of the Bright Sparks Club, it is the planning and organising that enable young people to feel empowered and heard. The event has been an excellent example of good practice in Participation.

6. The planning of the 14th Awards in 2020 took place during Bright Sparks meetings with some young people being consulted separately when unable to attend. The Pandemic had a negative impact on the numbers attending meetings, in addition to resulting in a virtual event.
7. The event is usually held in October but following a suggestion by the Cabinet Member for Children and Families to move the event to December, the group were consulted and agreed to holding the ceremony on the 10th December 2020. This resulted in more time being available for the CYP to engage with the production company.
8. The awards provide entertainment as well as an opportunity for the young people to demonstrate their talents. The group unanimously felt that entertainment should be provided by a talented singer who is a member of Bright Sparks, as has become tradition. Entertainment has always been an important feature of the ceremony.
9. The young person agreed, and conversations were had about song choice and being mindful of the issue of Royalties due to the event being recorded. The theme was agreed to be “supporting the NHS” with a Christmas backdrop. To get the feel of an awards ceremony the young people were provided by the Participation Officer with “winner’s envelopes” to open during filming. To end on a spectacular note, the young people were also provided with multiple balloons stuffed with sequins to pop at the end of the ceremony. Permissions were sought and received for the young people to be filmed and their images used.
10. The idea of making videos to thank NHS staff was later changed to each creating a piece of art as a tribute. The young people were each provided with art and craft materials and photographed their creation, this was sent to the production company.
11. Once nominations were received the Corporate Parenting Officer attending a meeting with the group to go through categories and decide on winners.

12. The pre-recording of the event involved the young people reading out the names of categories and winners which would be later edited by the production company. Unfortunately the group member decided not to perform and requested that they do so in 2021 when they hoped to perform live.

13. The recording was a lengthy process which took much longer than envisaged and proved to be a demanding task for the young people. They would benefit from relevant training and support in future. The young people did not use the provided envelopes and instead focussed on what they had to say on camera. One of the young people was also supported to prepare a speech which was to be used as an introduction to the awards.

14. Debrief of Awards

- There was disappointment that groups NHS tribute artwork was not included
- It was also suggested that all categories were revisited a head of the next awards.
- The ceremony was too short and appeared rushed on screen
- Sound quality needed improving
- Participants should all be muted by the person running the event

Consultation Event

15. Initial meetings related to planning the consultation event were attended by a cross section of officers from Children's services and the NYAS Participation Officer and Operational Manager. Children's services and NYAS jointly raised awareness of the event. HOW MANY CHILDREN INVOLVED and HOW MANY ATTENDED

16. This event was open to all children and young people aged 11 to 25 who are interested in joining the group or wanting to learn more. Age appropriate sessions took place – one for those aged 11-15 and another for those who are 16-25. Consent was sought from foster carers and risk information from Social Worker's prior to the CYP attending.

17. Those who attended and who now join will shape how the group will look in future and help to plan a relaunch. Those attending were made aware that future work would address the 5 priorities that were included in the Corporate Parenting Strategy and were identified from previous consultation with Bright Sparks members and other Children Looked after in Cardiff. We listened to what would encourage children and young people to attend future meetings and heard the type of fun activities they would like to do. Members will receive accredited training in Peer Mentoring, Peer Advocacy and other skill development to help them in their role.
18. Alternatives to the Bright Sparks name were discussed amongst the group and the overall decision was to stay with the current name. To promote the group and to recruit new members a new poster was created. This is in the process of being branded by the NYAS Communication and Marketing team.
19. The Participation Officer, a NYAS sessional Worker and a Youth Work student are facilitating each group. All those who attended the consultation event attend the regular fortnightly meeting except for one CYP.
20. 11 CYP attended and were referred by Social Services, a local school and from NYAS projects.

Priority 1 – Emotional Wellbeing

21. The following work has started on Improving Emotional Well-being, the first of the 5 priorities identified from consulting with Bright Sparks and other Children Looked After in Cardiff.
22. Bright Sparks members have been involved with a piece of work for The Fostering Network which will create a resource (videos) for professionals across Wales, including CAMHS, Education, Children's Services, Foster Carers and third sector groups. The aim is to explore the importance of good mental health and wellbeing for children and young people. They will explore

the lives of care experienced young people, what well-being means to them and how their dreams and aspirations have been shaped through their experiences over time.

23. Members of the group are also currently supporting a PHD research project at Cardiff University, through CASCADE: Children's Social Care Research and Development Centre. The research aims to study mental health services in Wales for care experienced young people, looking at what's working, where the gaps are and identifying ways in which the gaps can be closed. The young people have enjoyed being listened to and have received creative toolkits to express themselves.

Monitoring of service

24. NYAS Cymru and Children's Services have recognised the need to monitor and review the participation service separately from the advocacy provision, and these meetings have been taking place at regular intervals. We are in the process of agreeing a reporting template which will be completed on a quarterly basis. Key to monitoring of the service is eliciting children and young peoples' feedback and recent consultation work has been carried out to ascertain their ideas on their preferred methods of doing so.

Financial Implications

25. There are no financial implications directly arising from this report, with all activities referred to within the report being funded from within existing resources.

Legal Implications

26. There are no legal imps arising from this report.

RECOMMENDATION

27. The committee is recommended to note the Participation update and to make any observations or comments.

DEBORAH DRIFFIELD
Director of Childrens' Social Services
3rd March 2021

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**PARTICIPATION SERVICE UPDATE
FOR CARDIFF CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Samantha Anderson – Participation Officer, NYAS Cymru

Bright Sparks Awards 2021

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The Awards are the annual highlight of the Bright Sparks Club. 2021 will be its 15th year, it is the planning and organising that enable young people to feel empowered and heard. The event has been an excellent example of good practice in Participation.

“Participation means listening to children and taking their views meaningfully into account. All children should be supported to freely express their opinion; they should be both heard and listened to”.

(The Children’s Commissioner for Wales , “The Right Way”)

Bright Sparks Awards 2021

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continued

Due to plans to increase membership and hopefully an end to Covid 19 restrictions, the planning and event this year will be very different. Early planning will include:

- **Awareness of available budget**
- **Date & Time**
- **Theme**
- **Venue**
- **Invitations – Creation of & who to invite**
- **Individual roles of Bright Sparks Members**

Bright Sparks Awards

2021

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Continued

- Re-consideration of award categories
- Nomination Procedure
- Catering
- Entertainment & auditions
- Speakers
- Running Order
- Decisions on award givers
- Creation of running order
- Rehearsals
- Decoration/Design of room

Working Together in Partnership For 2021 Awards

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- **Corporate Parenting Officer**
- **Strengthening Bright Sparks Club**
- **Will be developed based on feedback from young people**
- **Incorporating virtual element**
- **Consider change of model (celebration event/Workshops/Awards incorporated)**

Increasing Bright Sparks Membership

- **Building on connections made when publicising the consultation event**
- **Co-hosting virtual monthly Drop-In**
- **Joint presentations and networking activities with Cardiff Project Co-ordinator**
- **Continuous networking**

Future Direction of Bright Sparks – 1st of 5 Priorities

1st Priority-Emotional Well-being

- Creation of a guide to being in care and a website to store things important to CYP
- Opportunities to share experiences of using mental health services
- Support to develop skills to promote wellbeing e.g. Mindfulness and physical activity via Social Media
- A participation update report will be provided at each committee meeting which will outline engagement and consultation activities that have taken place based around each priority

Links to CPAC

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Young people will confirm how they would like to engage with members of CPAC in future

Activities outside of Committee meetings are to be planned for e.g.

- **“Getting to know you” events**
- **Consideration of attending CPAC meetings**
- **Information sharing workshops**
- **Regular updates on work of Bright Sparks**

QUESTIONS ?

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**CARDIFF COUNCIL
CYNGOR CAERDYDD****CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE**9th March 2021

Provisions for Care Leavers update

Reasons for the Report

1. The report is to provide the Committee with an update inform the Committee on the current work that is undertaken to support young people leaving care to ensure they make positive transitions into education employment or training and are supported with their housing needs. The report also aims to showcase the multi-agency working that is taking place to ensure that we are taking a preventative approach to supporting young people where possible.

Background

2. Annual report data indicated that becoming Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) or experiencing homelessness disproportionately affected young people leaving care. Data indicated that we were below our annual targets and further work was required to enhance the support of offer and to better understand our data.

Annual Report Data – 1st April 2019 – 31st March 2020.

- The percentage of all care leavers who are in education, training or employment at 12 months after leaving care - 2019/20 = **54.1%** (40 / 74) (target 62%)
- The percentage of all care leavers who are in education, training or employment at 24 months after leaving care 2019/20 = **41.5%** (39 / 94) (Target 52 %)

- **21.4 %** of all care leavers who have experienced homelessness during the year 2019/20

3. It was clear that in order to have a positive impact on care leavers the support needed to be in place as early as possible and we needed to work better with our partners in order to build a holistic package of support that could begin when children are looked after and are in statutory education.

Care Leavers Not in Education Training or Employment

4. **Current data** – a new data collection format has been implemented for this year in order to show a truer picture of sustained engagement in education training or employment (EET) for care leavers. New measures capture those care leavers who have had 3 consecutive months of EET during the past year (for both those who left care a year ago and those who left care 2 years ago.) Results for these new measures so far this year indicate an improved picture.

Those who left care last year – 67% (last years figure 54%) – (target 55%)

Those who left 2 years ago - 56% (last years figure 41.5) – (target 55%)

5. Further work is under way to better understand the data we capture so we can improve and enhance a targeted response. Below data sets show numbers of current care leavers both in education training and employment and not in education training and employment broken down by age.

Category	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	Grand Total
NEET	11	28	33	36	44	28	7	2	0	0	189	11
EET	65	69	60	55	38	18	17	7	2	2	333	65
total	76	97	93	91	82	46	24	9	2	2	522	76

% NEET	14%	29%	35%	40%	54%	61%	29%	22%	0%	0%	36%	14%
% in EET	86%	71%	65%	60%	46%	39%	71%	78%	100%	100%	64%	86%

6. Support available

- **PA Service** - The personal advisor service in Cardiff provides young people leaving care with advice, guidance and support to build on their individual strengths, in order to achieve their goals and reach their potential

- **Extended Entitlement** - extending the PA service for 21-25 year olds

- **Into Work Service – Bright Futures** - Bright Futures Project is an Into Work Advice Service bespoke employment and training support for looked after care experienced young people in Cardiff.

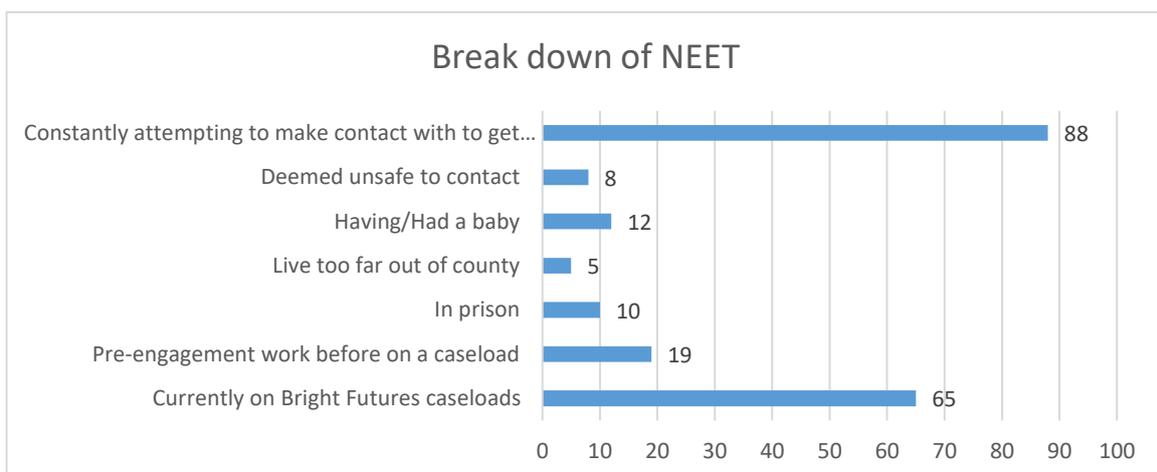
- **Into Work Service – Bright Start Work Placement Scheme** - The Bright Start Work placement scheme is a 6 month work placement.

- **Into Work Service – Miles Project** - - Some young people live in supported accommodation or a hostel. Due to these specific barriers, young people have access to the MILES Project as well as the Bright Futures Project.

- **Cardiff Youth Service – Youth Mentors** – Offering mentoring support to young people who are identified as not in education training or employment or who are at risk of becoming NEET

- **Adolescent Resource Centre** – Intensive therapeutic family support for young people who are deemed ‘edge of care’

7. Into Work Service data provides an enhanced analysis of the current care experienced young people 16-24 who are NEET. (as of 31/01/21)





8. Partnership Approach

Joint Vulnerable Young Peoples Panel - A weekly multi-agency partnership meeting to communicate and share information, discuss strategies and plan a multi-agency response for young people in Cardiff we are most concerned about. The panel is a way to identify gaps in support and escalate to the most appropriate service or panel if necessary and a mechanism to step up / step down between key services if required.

Adolescent Safeguarding Strategy –The strategy is due to be published by April 2021 –This is a multi-agency strategy and we have worked closely with young people to ensure the principles and goals laid out in the strategy are meaningful to young people and can be easily communicated. The strategy aim is;

Preventing and intervening to address adolescent harm; promoting adolescent resilience and enabling young people to live safely in their families and/or communities wherever possible.

Young Homelessness

9. Children’s Services are working closely with housing and communities to enhance and develop the accommodation available via the Gateway for young people including young care leavers.

10. Data from the young person’s gateway (Dec 2020) shows the numbers of young people that have a CLA due; who have been accommodated over the past 8 months.

Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Total
4	4	6	11	2	10	9	3	49

11. Forming part of the Adolescent Service we have a Homelessness Social Worker who specifically works with young people experiencing homelessness and undertakes Southwark Assessments when required. A Southwark assessment will assess the housing needs of 16/17 year olds and will identify if they need ongoing support from Childrens Services and become looked after.

Between September 2019 and Dec 2020;

- 50 Children (16/17 year olds) assessed for their housing needs by Southwark Social Worker
- 33 of these given their options under the ‘Southwark Assessment’
- 22 chose the housing route
- 11 opted for Children’s Services intervention
- 17 remaining – work undertaken in order to remain with family (, 3 of these on care and support plans)

Issues

12. Gateway accommodation is at capacity – it can be difficult to place young people into the most appropriate accommodation. We are working to resolve this and additional capacity is being added via housing securing additional properties and streamlining the Youth Gateway process. Improved working relationships between the service areas has helped. We have dedicated ‘champions’ within the PA service who can support other staff across Children’s Services understand and embed the gateway processes.

13. COVID has raised challenges for the work taking place with care leavers who are NEET – much of the engagement needed to take place online and work placements and training have been challenging to manage. Data from this period shows an encouraging picture with many new engagements and young people entering EET.

From January to October 2020 Bright Futures received **100** new engagements, of which **27** entered employment, **38** entered education, **38** started training and **14** started a Bright Start work placement.

14. We have identified that we need to make improvements in collating, sharing and understanding the data we have regarding young people who are NEET and who are care leavers. Service areas will all collect different data sets that are not easily comparable as they are on different data systems at present. There are also slightly different performance measures for each service (for example different age brackets, specific focus on looked after children or those leaving care.) We need to be able to track young people through their transitions to ensure support is in place where it is most needed and we can better identify gaps. We are currently working with the Youth Service to ensure that their NEET data and their Vulnerability Assessment Profiling tool identify all children looked after as requiring enhanced support.

Financial Implications

15. This report is for information only and does not, in itself, lead to any new financial commitments, with the activities referred to funded from existing resources. However, the report does reference capacity challenges, in relation to gateway accommodation. Should there be a need to invest in this provision, it would be expected for this to be met from within existing resources. Should that not be possible, a business case will need to be developed in advance of any investment taking place.

Legal Implications

16. There are no legal implications arising from this report

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee is recommended to:

- a. Identify any concerns and how the planned improvements can be identified and monitored over the forthcoming year
note the update provided

DEBORAH DRIFFIELD

Director of Childrens' Social Services

3rd March 2021

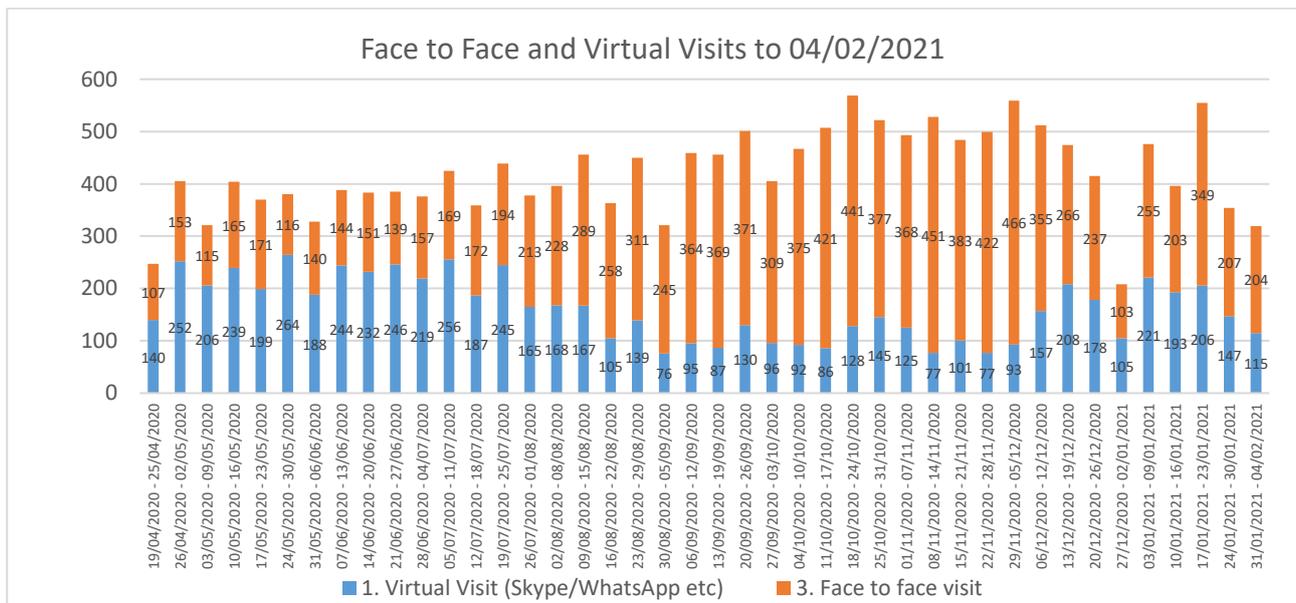
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**Cardiff Council
Children's Services**

Update for Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee February 2021

Updates to Children's Services Operating Model and Structure

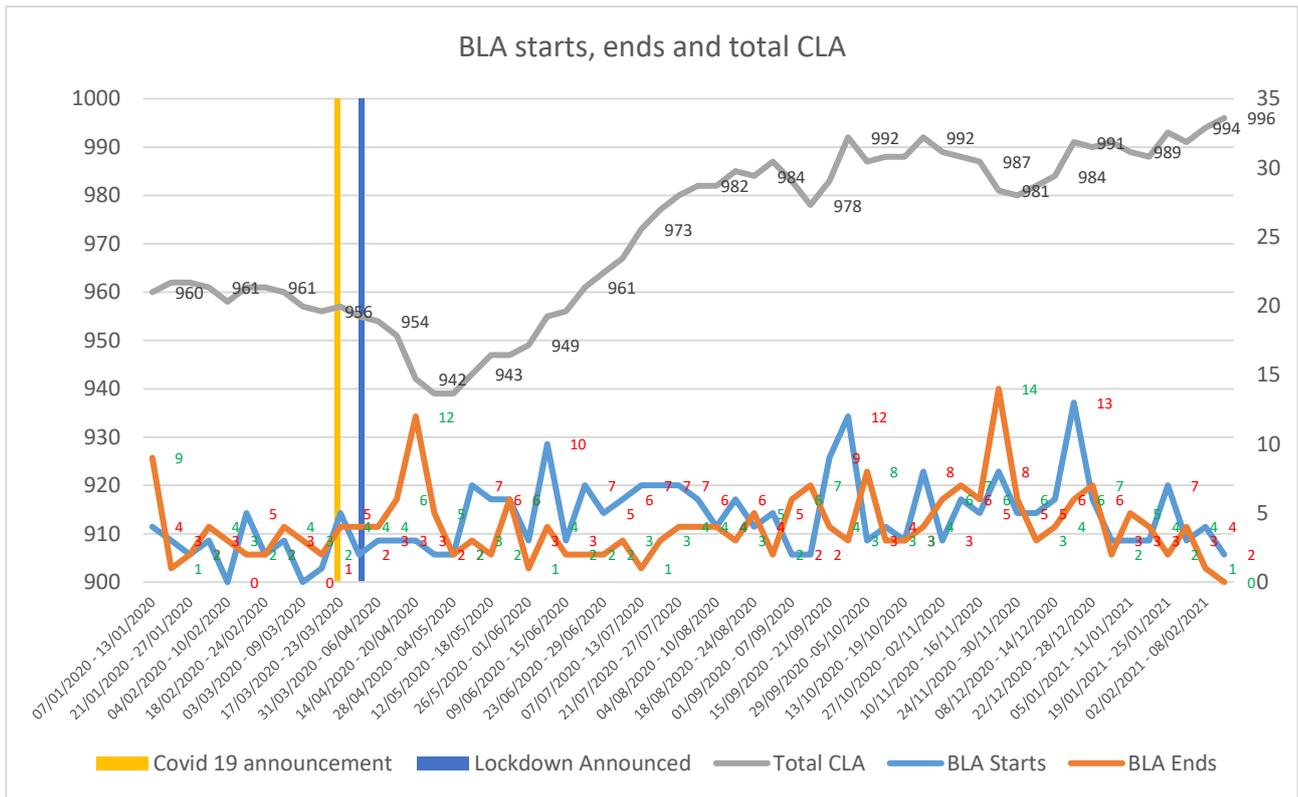
- Statutory visits to children on the Child Protection Register continue to receive face to face visits.
- Children who are looked after and placed with parents receive face to face visits if required on the basis of risk assessment.
- Other home visits are being undertaken remotely unless there are safeguarding risks or additional concerns.
- Arrangements are in place for staff from the PA Service and Fostering Service to keep in touch with children looked after with whom they have involvement to release capacity for social workers to support Child Protection cases.
- Contact risk assessments need to be completed prior to face to face visits.
- The graph below demonstrates the proportion of face to face and virtual visits over time.



- Commitment to recruiting to permanent social worker posts remains a priority.
- A clear exit strategy is in place for the departure of the Managed Team in March 2021. The gradual transfer of cases into the locality teams is being undertaken alongside the integration of specialist 11+ services into the localities.
- Recruitment to temporary posts has commenced to support locality teams to develop robust delivery of multi disciplinary services to develop a wraparound response to children and families in crisis.

Children Being Looked After

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 to 996 at 8th February 2021. The number of children looked after has been relatively stable since October, but is being closely monitored. 88 of the 220 children (40%) who started being looked after during the year to date were placed with parents on a Care Order, with family / friends or in parent and baby placements.



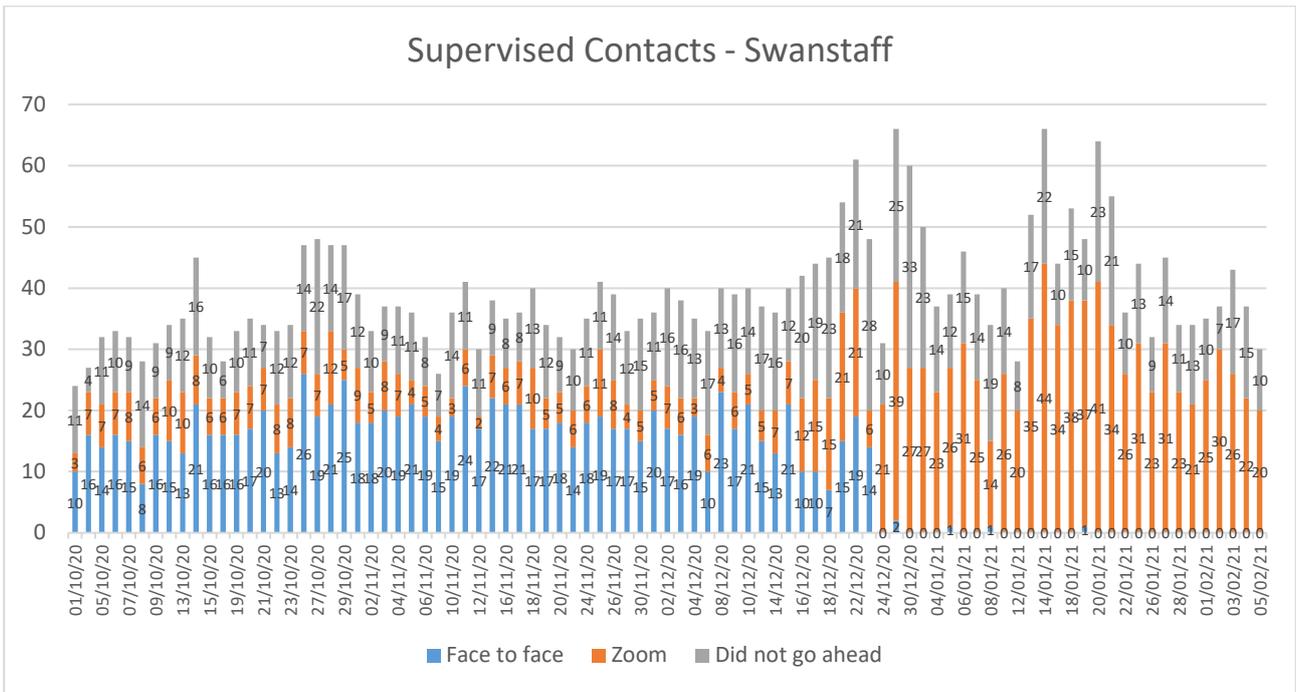
Contact

All contact is virtual unless there are exceptional circumstances (e.g. final contacts or where it is the risk of not going ahead with contact is deemed to be higher than going ahead). Face to face contact requires Operational Manager approval and agreement via the Children’s Management Team. In line with the guidance, all staff must ensure risk assessments and Contact Risk Assessments for children (that take account of their situation and people in their support network) are completed.

Supervised contact is primarily being delivered by a virtual model. With effect from w/c 1st February 2021 priority for face to face contact is being given to babies under the age of 1 on the basis of risk assessment for one hour per week.

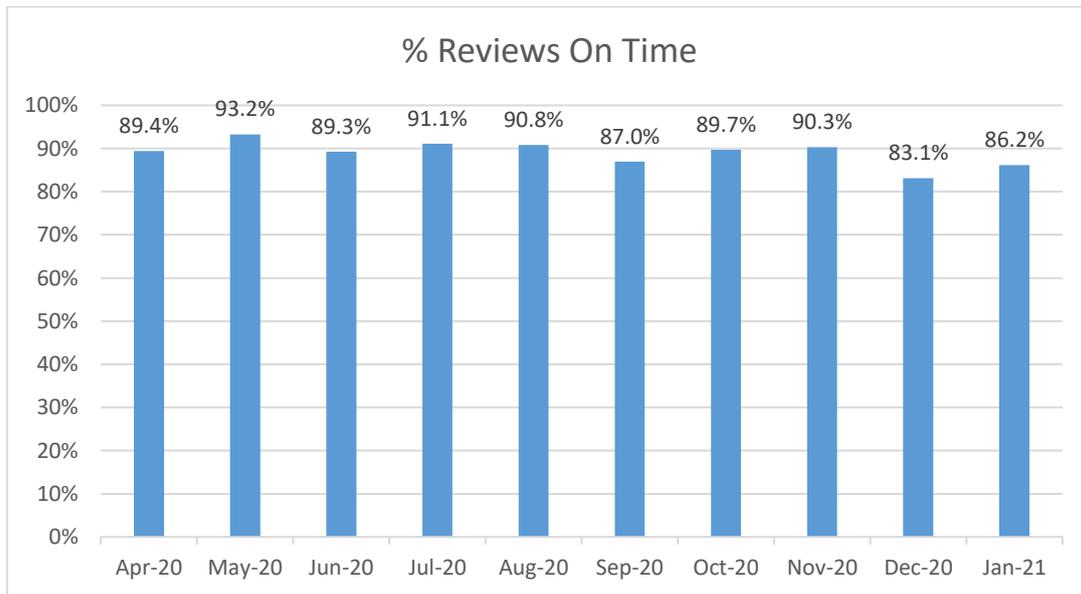
The reintroduction of face to face contact will be considered when it is clear that the risk of infection has reduced and the impact to services and those using services is seen as low. This is being reviewed weekly. In order to monitor the impact of contact moving from face to face to virtual, our provider is undertaking a survey to seek the views of carers and children, on the change to virtual contact. Alongside this a review of contact arrangements we will be undertaken with the social worker and families, to look at whether the frequency and length should be altered due to contact moving to virtual.

The graph below sets out the proportion of contacts undertaken on a face to face and virtual basis, and those that did not proceed.



CLA Reviews

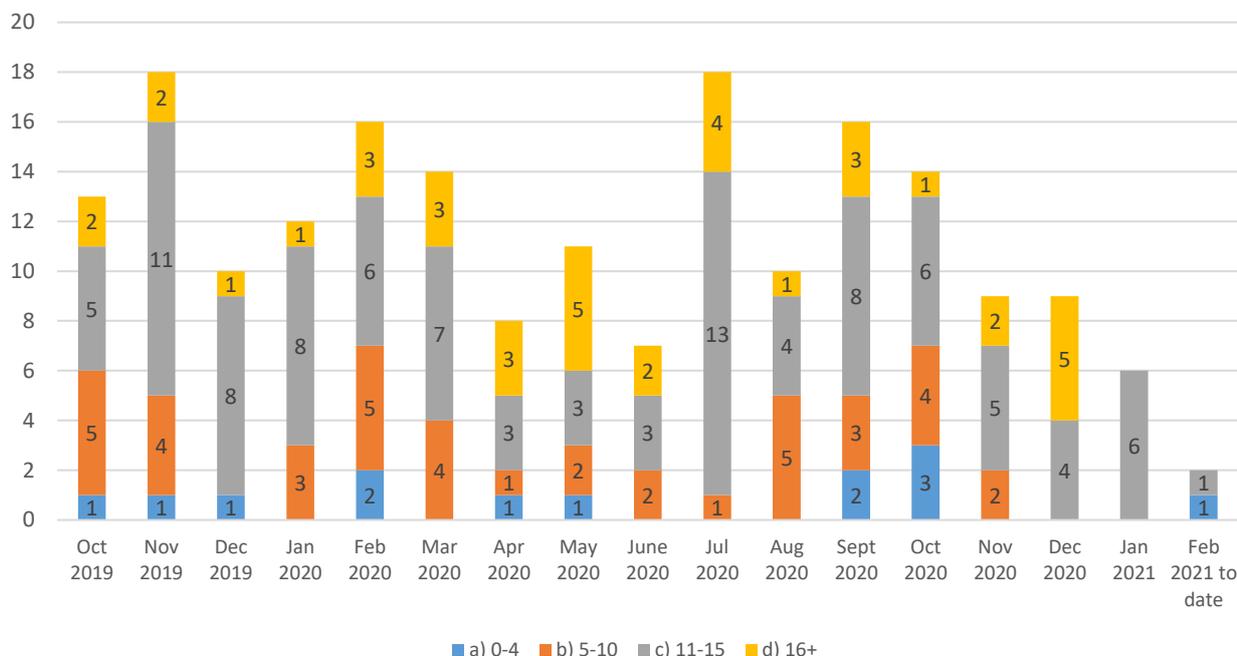
The process for children who are looked after continues as indicated in previous briefings. A hybrid model is being developed to build on the positive elements of virtual working identified during the COVID-19 crisis, however this will not be implemented until the level of infection in Cardiff reduces. Independent Reviewing Officers continue to actively speak to all parties, with children being spoken to separately before reviews to ascertain their views and wishes. Provisional figures on children looked after reviews show that the majority of reviews are taking place on time. The small dip in timeliness in December and January reflects capacity in the reviewing team (due to the increase in numbers of children on the Child Protection Register) and the impact of lockdown on availability and flexibility of staff and agencies; particularly staff with childcare responsibilities. To counter this, Independent Reviewing Officers have been doing more informal work to monitor plans, including reviewing of CareFirst, having virtual contact with children / young people and carers and having discussions with social workers.



Placements - Unplanned Placement Moves

After an increase in the number of unplanned placement move requests in the immediate aftermath of the COVID-19 announcement, the situation stabilised during Quarter 1. After an increase during Quarter 2 and the early part of Quarter 3, numbers have since fallen to 9 in December, 6 in January and 2 in February to date. The majority of unplanned placement move requests are for children aged 11-15.

Unplanned Placement Move Requests by Age



Providers

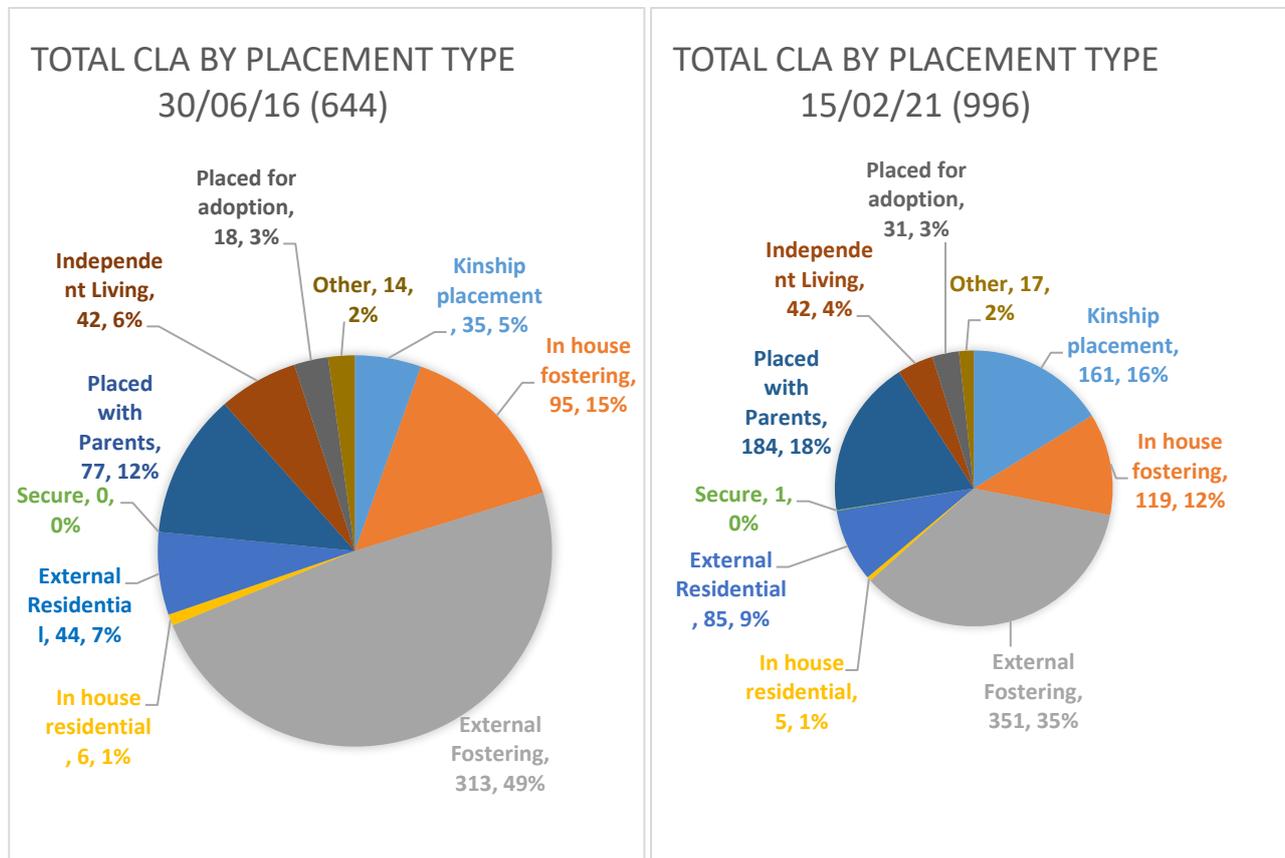
We are continuing to closely monitoring placements to ensure we are aware of those that are at risk of breaking down and we are working with the 4Cs to determine what support they might be able to provide to these placements. Decision making in relation to placements continues to be undertaken by the Children’s Management Team so all OMs have oversight of placement arrangements and arising issues.

An emergency residential provision for 11-18 years “Oakway” is being established – the registration application has been submitted to Care Inspectorate Wales. A further building has been purchased for an Assessment Centre, known as Falconwood, and work to prepare for opening is under way. The Manager and Deputy Manager are in post and recruitment to other posts is ongoing. The purpose of the provision will be to support a 10 week assessment to identify a young person’s needs to enable the right placement to be made going forward. This will include rehabilitation home as appropriate or move on to a fostering or residential placement. We are working with partnerships to develop and agree the multi agency approach to this assessment.

A mechanism is also in place to monitor future demand for Gateway provision / plans for young people aged 15.5+. We currently have 9 young people in agency fostering and residential placements who are waiting for a Gateway placement or tenancy, costing in excess of £16.4k per week. We continue to work with Housing to increase accommodation options for the young people via the Young People’s Housing Gateway and a deep dive exercise to better understand the needs of these young people to inform the development of provision is currently being undertaken.

Work is being undertaken to develop reporting and monitoring process to support CMT to monitor and track placements and demonstrate a shift in the balance of care.

The pie charts below show the growth in proportion of children placed with parents on a Care Order or in kinship arrangements with family members in recent years:



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Social Services Quarter 3 Feedback Report

1. Introduction

This report covers Social Services complaints & compliments for the period 1st October 2020 to 31st December 2020.

It is a statutory requirement under the following items of legislation for Local Authorities to have in place a Representations and Complaints Procedure for Social Services.

- ✓ Representation Procedure (Children) (Wales) Regulations 2014
- ✓ Social Services Complaint's Procedure (Wales) Regulations 2014

Statutory complaints relate to the provision of social care and are handled in line with the national regulations referred to above.

The procedure places the emphasis on the initial local resolution stage – Stage 1 - with complainants being offered a discussion to resolve the matter. The second formal stage (Stage 2) provides for independent investigation. If the outcome of Stage 2 does not satisfy the complainant s/he has recourse to the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales.

Citizens making complaints have a right to be listened to properly and have their concerns resolved quickly and effectively. Children's Services emphasis is on listening to concerns and using this learning to improve services for everyone who uses them.

Complaints should be handled in such a way that the complainant is the focus, not the process, and that the particular circumstances of the complainant are taken into account (including their age or disability). Where the complaint relates to a looked after child, a child in need or a care leaver the local authority has a duty to provide an advocate as required.

How were complaints received during Quarter 3?

During Quarter 3, 48 complaints were received by Children's Services. The four methods by which Children's Services received are detailed below with a comparison to previous months.

Children's Services				
Contact Method	2019/20	2020/21 Q1	2020/21 Q2	2020/21 Q3
Email	26 (17.8%)	5 (41.7%)	13 (48.1%)	24 (50.0%)
Letter / Complaints Form	32 (21.9%)	2 (16.7%)	3 (11.1%)	4 (8.3%)
Online Form	34 (23.3%)	3 (25.0%)	8 (29.6%)	10 (20.8%)
Telephone	54 (37.0%)	2 (16.7%)	3 (11.1%)	10 (20.8%)
Total	146 (100.0%)	12 (100.0%)	27 (100.0%)	48 (100.0%)



2. Quarter 3 Feedback Summary

During Quarter 3, there have been 102 cases of feedback recorded for Children's Services. These 102 cases consist of:

- ✓ **48 complaints**
- ✓ **54 compliments**

There has been a notable increase of complaints during Quarter 3, when compared to Quarters 1 and 2, when 12 and 27 complaints were received respectively.

Complaints Received				
2019/20	2020/21 Q1	2020/21 Q2	2020/21 Q3	2020/21 As of 1.3.21
146	12	27	48	120

However, despite this increase, **we are still projected to have received fewer complaints for 2020/21 when compared to 2019/20**. At the time this report was produced (1st March 2020), Children's Services have received 120 complaints so far during 2020/21. 146 complaints were received during 2019/20.

While the increase in complaints during Q3 (and so far during Q4) may be a concern to some, we are moving away from the simplistic notion of an increase in number of complaints representing a worsening service being delivered by the service. On the contrary, we feel a growth in complaints is more indicative of an engaged customer base, who are more likely and more able to tell us when we are doing something well or poorly. We have enabled easy access to complaints processes for everyone and there are more channels than ever for our customers to tell us what went wrong or right. This, coupled with our established processes to ensure complaints are properly recorded, is of course likely to result in an increase in complaints.

To expand on this point, there has been a notable increase in compliments during Quarter 3, when compared to Quarters 1 and 2. Children's Services have already received a sizeable increase of compliments recorded when compared to the previous year.

Compliments				
2019/20	2020/21 Q1	2020/21 Q2	2020/21 Q3	2020/21 As of 1.3.21
101	30	41	54	153

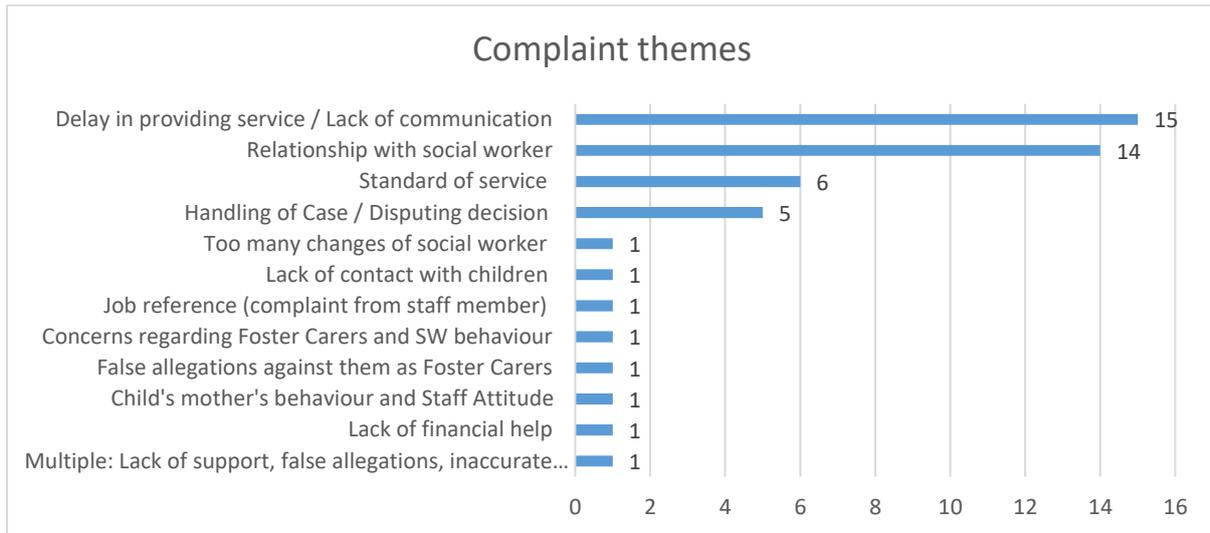
During each quarter, the majority of customer feedback recorded takes the form of compliments rather than complaints. Of all the customer feedback recorded, 52.9% of cases were compliments



3. Complaint analysis

Complaint themes

An analysis of complaints received during Quarter 3 suggests that our complaints are becoming increasingly complex as there is usually more than one point that a complainant will like us to consider. It is often difficult therefore to pick out an overarching ‘theme’ to some complaints. However, during Quarter 3, there were two specific themes that accounted for more complaints than others.



A **delay in providing service / lack of communication** has been the most dominant theme within complaints during quarter 3 and has accounted for just under a third (31.3%) of complaints made during the quarter.

THEME 1 - Delay in providing service / lack of communication is a recurring theme and often relates to issues where the complainant feels they are being ignored.

For example, leaving messages for a social worker and not having them returned in what they feel is a timely fashion. Pressure from work can mean that communication is not always as robust as it could be and this may be more about managing expectations about the level of contact that social workers can provide, rather than increasing communication. This is reflected in the complaint outcomes, as just under half (7) of the 15 complaints about this topic were ‘not upheld’. This is similar to the number of complaints ‘not upheld’ for all complaints during quarter 3.

A complainant alleging a poor **relationship with their social worker** has been the second most dominant theme within complaints during quarter 3 and has accounted for over a quarter (29.2%) of complaints made so far this year.



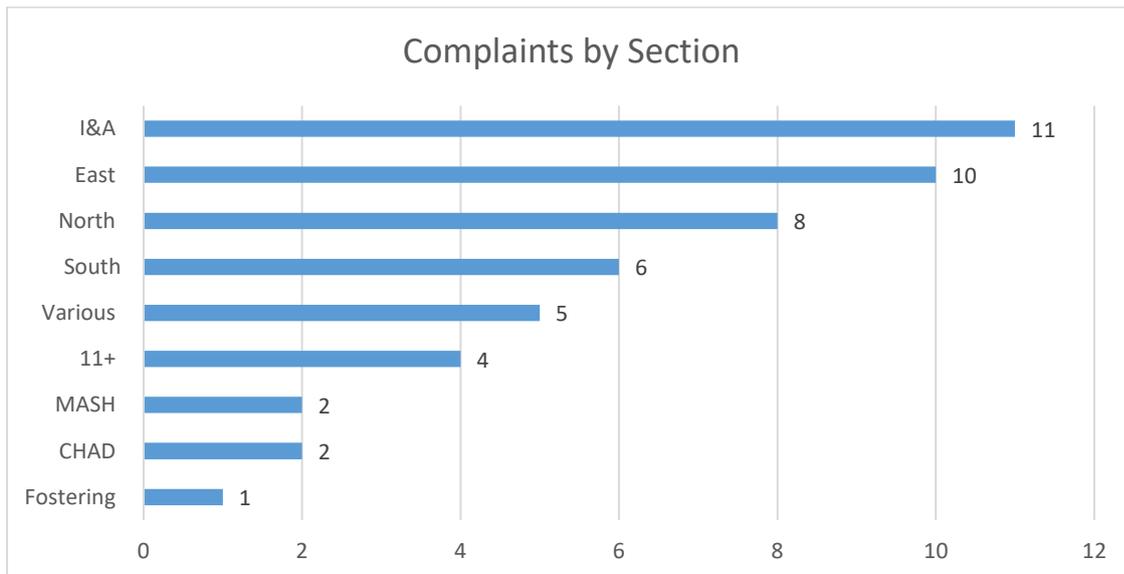
THEME 2 - Relationship with Social Worker often links to poor communication but it is harder to gather evidence in this area as it revolves around perceptions about the individual behaviour of a staff member towards a complainant. Whilst there will always be a push to strengthen relationships, due to the difficult messages that must be delivered by social workers, this will always be a subjective theme.

Complainants alleging a poor **standard of service** (15.1%) and **disputing a decision** (13.7%) were the other dominant themes within the complaints made.

THEME 3 - Disputing a decision is perhaps not a surprising theme as due to the nature of the work in Children’s Services, decisions must be made in the best interest of the young person, often without the consent of families. These complaints frequently link to the outcome of decisions following an assessment. However, 0% of these complaints were upheld during quarter 3 which provides evidence that professional decisions are being made in line with legislation and policies. The challenge may be around ensuring that these decisions are well communicated.

Complaints by section

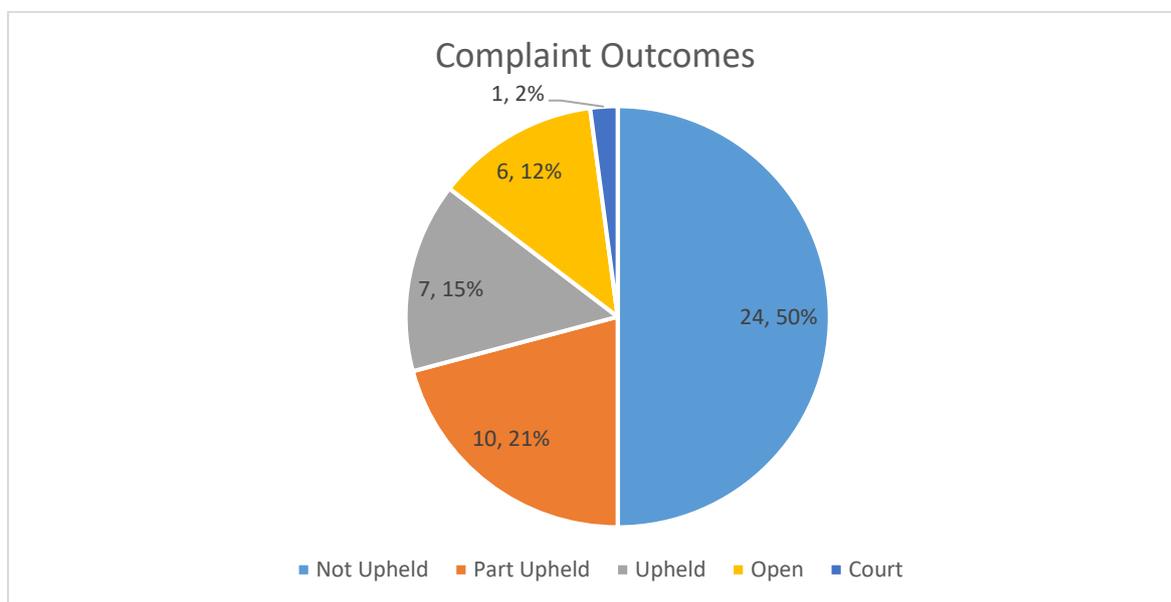
When comparing complaints by section, we see that Intake & Assessment accounted for 22.9% of complaints made during Quarter 3. They were closely followed by our East (20.8%), North (16.7%) and South localities (12.5%)



Complaint outcomes

At the time of publication, 42 of the 48 complaints received for Children’s Services during Quarter 2 have been closed. The COVID-19 pandemic continues to have an impact on the service’s ability to respond to complaints within statutory timescales as all Council officers have been concentrating on making sure that vital services are available to those residents who need them the most. Complainants receive regular updates on the status of their complaint if, for any reason, we are unable to respond to a complaint within our statutory timescales.

Of those complaints that were completed, just 15% were upheld and 21% were partly upheld. **Exactly half (50%) of Children’s Services complaints were not upheld.** 1 complaint was closed after it was found the complainants was trying to revisit issues that had already been considered in the court arena.



In addition to understanding the outcome of stage 1 complaints, it is important to consider how many complaints progress beyond stage 1. During 2020/21, relatively few complaint cases have progressed beyond stage 1. This suggests effective handling of complaints at stage 1.

Stage 2 complaints

2019/20	2020/21 Q1	2020/21 Q2	2020/21 Q3
10	0	1	3

3 complaints proceeded to Stage 2 during Quarter 3.



4. Compliment analysis

Children's Services received 54 compliments during Quarter 3. Examples of the compliments recorded are shown below.

From a young person in relation to Christmas presents that were delivered: "Hey Julia just want to say a massive thankyou to u and the other staff for the pressies xx'

From a parent in relation to Children's Services: "Just wanted to say thank you for all your hard work with our family in recent weeks. It has made a huge difference and I felt like we were all listened to. Hopefully X will get the help she needs."

From an IRO: "Steph, I am writing to compliment the work that you have undertaken with the families and specially with children. The use of the Three Houses Tool with children as part of your section 47 assessments has allowed us to hear the children's voices during the recent Initial Child Protection Conferences. It also gives us information on their daily life experience, which is important."

From a foster carer in relation to a social worker: Foster carer was very complimentary about how X has worked with her and the girls so far, describing him as a great match and that both girls had fed back after his discussions with them that they liked their new social worker'

From a family in relation to a social worker His mother said Jessica was the most proactive and helpful worker she had ever had. The grandmother said she was the most empathetic and understanding worker they had had and all the family responded well to her and trusted her. Nice to hear!

6 individual thank you cards were received from a family to a social worker (Emily). Assorted messages including

- Thank you for your support during this virus and also now
 - Thank you for helping our family
- Thank you for all your help with me and helping with my worrying and for all help with my family love X
- For all your work with our family. We have had some difficult times but we look forward now to brighter days. Thank you for always advocating for my fab 5, for being their voice when they needed you to be - and standing by your standards with courage and conviction. It didn't go unnoticed. Thank you.



8. Quarter 3 Comparison – Children’s Services

In summary, a comparison with data for other quarters highlights the following:

Number of complaints – increase (quarterly), decrease (annually)

There has been a notable increase of complaints during Quarter 3. 48 complaints were received during Quarter 3, compared to Quarters 1 and 2, when 12 and 27 complaints were received respectively.

However, despite this increase, we are still projected to have received fewer complaints for 2020/21 when compared to 2019/20.

Number of compliments – increase

In previous reports, there has been a concern that the good service provided every day by Children’s Services is not being represented with the number of compliments received. The complaints team have looked at ways of updating our recording procedure to ensure our compliments are captured and that we are continuing to take on board what our customers want.

Happily, compliments have increased for each quarter so far this year and 54 were recorded during Quarter 3. Children’s Services have already received a sizeable increase of compliments recorded when compared to the previous year. There have been 153 compliments recorded for Children’s Services so far in 2020/21 compared to 101 compliments in 2019/20.

Nature of complaints – similar challenges

‘Relationship with social worker’ has remained one of the dominant themes within Children’s Services complaints as well as ‘lack of communication’. Comments on reasons for this can be found on pages 4 and 5.

Outcome of complaints – Fewer complaints have been upheld

Finally, 50.0% of Children’s Services complaints were not upheld during Quarter 3. This compares favourably to 2019/20 when 46.6% of complaints were not upheld.

Complaints Progressing Beyond Stage 1 – slight increase

During Quarter 3, there were 3 requests to progress to stage 2 of the Social Services complaints process. This is a slight increase from Quarters 1 and 2. However, that such relatively few complaint cases have progressed beyond stage 1 suggests good complaint handling at stage 1.



**CARDIFF COUNCIL
CYNGOR CAERDYDD****CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE****9th March 2021**

FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME (May 2021- April 2022)

Reasons for the Report

1. This report seeks approval of the committee's Forward Work Programme (FWP) for the period May 2021 - April 2022 as provided at Appendix A.

Background

2. The 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 looked after children in Cardiff and that a greater emphasis should be placed on the participation of young people in the work of the Committee.

IssuesPlan Structure

4. Previous consultations with young people have identified, aspects of children and young people's support which are working well, those that aren't and the aspirations they have for the future. These have been collated into a number of themes which have been used to structure the (Draft) Corporate Parenting Strategy. It is intended that these themes be used to effectively plan the work of the committee for the forthcoming municipal year. This will ensure that the

agenda and issues considered at the committee will reflect the needs of our young people.

5. The themes that are contained in the (Draft) Corporate Parenting Strategy and which are planned to be reflected in the Committee's FWP are as follows:
 1. Improving emotional well-being and physical health
 2. Having better connections and improved relationships
 3. A comfortable stable home
 4. Education, employment and training
 5. Celebrating our young people
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.

Committee Engagement with Young People

7. The direct involvement in children looked after in formal public committee meetings would be a significant challenge for all participants. Therefore, to engage effectively with our young people, it is proposed that committee members and officers participate in engagement activities outside of formal committee meetings.
8. When facilitating the participation of young people, a set of National Participation Standards have been developed setting out seven key areas to note when planning to participate with young people. These are:
 - **Information** – Information is accessible , good quality and clear
 - **Choice-** Young people have enough time and support if they want to get involved
 - **No discrimination-** provide a range of opportunities and support to meet the needs of children and young people
 - **Respect-** Views and experiences are taken seriously
 - **You get something out of it** – work the best with what young people know and do things to build confidence and skills
 - **Feedback** - Inform young people how ideas and have been used and why
 - **Working better for you** – Ensure views make a difference to the ways plans and decisions are made

7. A number of workshops, meetings and events will be planned with Elected Members which 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.

Frequency of Meetings

8. To support these engagement activities with young people, it is proposed that formal meetings of the Committee be held quarterly. This will allow time for specific projects and consultation activities based around the identified themes to be held with young people. These engagement activities will be facilitated by officers and partners and can be attended by Committee Members. The outcomes of these activities and events will then be presented to the committee at its formal meetings.

Performance Monitoring

9. The draft programme includes an opportunity at each committee meeting to consider timely and relevant performance information. This will inform the committee of progress being made in respect of the (Draft) Corporate Parenting Strategy and the delivery of the services to our children looked after and young people. Performance reports will be presented to the committee outlining a range of data from a variety of partners according to theme of the committee meeting. A suite of proposed performance indicators for the committee will be presented at next committee meeting.

The FWP and Member Development

10. Committee Members previously requested that the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act awareness be provided for committee members to support their role. The Head of Democratic Services is collating topics for inclusion in the Member Development programme for 2021-22 and is intending to schedule this topic as part of that programme.
11. The proposed FWP identifies a range of topics which committee members may be unfamiliar with. Committee members are requested to identify any learning opportunities which support them in their role and would be beneficial to be added to the Member Development Programme. One such topic is be the Socio-

Economic Duty on Local Authorities which comes into force on 31st March 2021 and aims to deliver better outcomes for those who experience socio-economic disadvantage. For future consideration of performance monitoring information at committee meetings, members may find it beneficial to undertake some learning to develop their ability to analyse performance information

12. Committee members are requested to identify any other learning opportunities relating to the planned FWP which would assist them in their role.

Financial Implications

13. 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

14. There are no legal imps arising from the report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

15. The Committee is recommended to consider the proposed revision of the structure of the FWP including:
 - a. Each meeting being themed to reflect the priorities in the (Draft) Corporate Parenting Strategy.
 - b. proposals for engaging with Children Looked After and young people.
 - c. revision of the frequency of formal committee meetings to support the delivery of informal engagement activities.
 - d. provision and consideration of performance monitoring information at each meeting.
 - e. The identification of member development topics for inclusion in the Member Development Programme 2021-22.

16. approve the committee's Forward Work Programme (FWP) as at Appendix A

DEBORAH DRIFFIELD

Director of Childrens' Social Services.

3rd March 2021

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WORK PROGRAMME CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE 2021 -2022 – v.1

Topic type	Agenda Item	Agenda topic	Description	Responsible Service Area and Additional Invitees
Committee Date: 18 May 2021				
(Draft) Corporate Parenting Strategy Priority 1: Improving Emotional Wellbeing and Health	1.	Young person participation around Health and Well-being	To receive an update on work that has been undertaken by young people based on the theme improving Emotional Well-being and Health and to make any observations or comments.	NYAS
	2.	Assessment and Therapy update	To receive an update on assessment and therapy interventions for Children looked after	NHS/ Children' Services
	3.	The Resilience Project	To receive an update on The Resilience Project - The project aimed at building greater capacity, expertise and mental health resilience for children and young people, primarily through educational settings.	Mental Health Foundation
Governance	4.	Corporate Parenting Protocol	To receive the draft Corporate Parenting protocol for comment prior to wider circulation to CYP and Cabinet and before being presented to Council for approval	Children's Services
	5.	CPAC Terms of Reference	To receive the draft Corporate Parenting Protocol for comment prior to wider circulation to CYP and Cabinet and before being presented to Council for approval	Children's Services

Topic type	Agenda Item	Agenda topic	Description	Responsible Service Area and Additional Invitees
Performance Management	6.	Performance Monitoring – Proposed Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)	To receive the proposed KPI’s and other performance related information to effectively monitor the delivery of the (Draft) Corporate Parenting Strategy.	Children’s Services
	7.	Draft Corporate Parenting Strategy Action plan	To receive the (Draft) Corporate Parenting Strategy Action Plan and to provide any feedback to Cabinet.	Children’s Services

Topic type	Agenda Item	Agenda topic	Description	Responsible Service Area and Additional Invitees
Committee Date: 20 July 2021				
(Draft) Corporate Parenting Strategy Priority 2: Better Connections, Improved relationships	1.	Young person Participation – Connection and trusting relationships	To receive an update on work that has been undertaken by young people based on the theme for better connections, improved relationships and to make any observations or comments.	NYAS
	2.	Independent Reviewing Officers update	To receive an update on work that has been undertaken by the Independent Reviewing officer's team and to make any observations or comments.	Children's Services
	3.	Enfys (previously developmental trauma service)	To receive an update on the child psychology NHS service and to make any observations or comments.	Cardiff and the Vale Health Board
	4.	Mind of my own app	To receive an update on the Mind of my own app and to make any observations or comments	Children's Services.
Performance Management	5.	Fostering Annual Quality of Care Report	To receive the Fostering Annual Quality of Care Report and to make any observations or comments.	Children's Services - Fostering team
	6.	Adoption Fostering Annual Quality of Care Report	To receive the Fostering Annual Quality of Care Report and to make any observations or comments.	Regional Adoption Service

Topic type	Agenda Item	Agenda topic	Description	Responsible Service Area and Additional Invitees
Committee Date: October 2021 (TBC)				
(Draft) Corporate Parenting Strategy Priority 3: A comfortable safe and stable home whilst in care and after	1.	Young person participation around a stable home	To receive an update on work that has been undertaken by young people based on the theme for better connections, improved relationships and to make any observations or comments.	NYAS
	2.	Social care commissioning strategy	To receive an update on the Social Care Commissioning strategy and to make any observations or comments.	Commissioning team
	3.	Young person accommodation gateway update	To receive an update on young person accommodation gateway – homelessness support and provision and to make any observations or comments.	Housing Directorate
	4.	Kinship	To receive an update on the development of the Kinship service and to make any observations or comments.	Children's Services
Performance Management	5.	Children's Homes Quality of Care Report	To receive the annual Childrens Home Quality of care report	Children's Services
	6.	Ty Storrie and Crosslands annual report	To receive Ty Storrie and Crosslands annual report and to make any observations or comments.	Children's Services

Topic type	Agenda Item	Agenda topic	Description	Responsible Service Area and Additional Invitees
Committee Date: January 2022 (TBC)				
(Draft) Corporate Parenting Strategy Priority 4: Educational Achievement, Employment & Training	1.	Young people participation around Education / training	To receive an update on work that has been undertaken by young people based on the theme Education, achievement , employment and training	NYAS
	2.	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
	3.	The Cardiff Commitment	To receive an update on the Cardiff Commitment and to make any observations or comments.	Education/ Community Directorate
Governance	4.	(Draft) CPAC Annual report	To receive the draft Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee annual report and to make any recommendations or comments	Children's Services
Performance Management	5.	Education – Performance of Cardiff looked after children report 2021- 2022	To receive the Education report for looked after children and to comment, seek clarification or raise questions on the information received.	Education Directorate

Topic type	Agenda Item	Agenda topic	Description	Responsible Service Area and Additional Invitees
Committee Date: Early March 2022 (TBC)				
(Draft) Corporate Parenting Strategy Priority 5: Celebrating our Children and Young People	1.	Bright Sparks event update	To receive an update on the annual Bright Sparks Celebration Event.	NYAS
	2.	Advocacy and Participation Update	To receive an update on Advocacy and Participation work undertaken throughout the year.	Commissioning
	3.	Anti-bullying Policy – schools	To receive an update on whole school approach anti bullying policy and to make any observations or comments.	Education Directorate
	4.	Child Friendly Cities update	To receive an update Child Friendly cities programme and to make any observations or comments.	Education Directorate
Performance Management	5.	Corporate parenting strategy progress report	To receive a progress report on the implementation of the Corporate Parenting Strategy.	Children's Services
	6.	4C's Commissioning; Out of Area report	To receive the report from the Childrens Commissioning Consortium Cymru and to make any observations or comments.	Children's Commissioning Consortium Cymru