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AGENDA

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Committee | CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE |
| Date and Time of Meeting | TUESDAY, 19 OCTOBER 2021, 2.00 PM |
| Venue | REMOTE VIA MS TEAMS |
| Membership | Councillor Merry (Chair) Councillors Hinchey, Jenkins, Lent, Lister, Naughton and Parkhill |

| | | <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 5 - 10</i>) To approve as a correct record the minutes of the previous meeting. | |
| 4 | Corporate Parenting Strategy Progress Report (<i>Pages 11 - 36</i>) Members will be provided with an update on the progress made between April 2022 and September 2021. | 2.05 pm |
| 5 | Children Looked After and Care Leavers Participation Service (<i>Pages 37 - 42</i>) To provide Members with an update in respect of Priority 3, Corporate Parenting Strategy. | 2.20 pm |
| 6 | Foster Wales Launch (<i>Pages 43 - 56</i>) To provide Members with information in relation to the launch of Foster Wales, its aims and the anticipated impacts. | 2.35 pm |

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

- 7 Young Person Gateway** (*Pages 57 - 62*) 2.55 pm
To provide Members with information on the Accommodation Gateway for young people aged 16 – 21.
- 8 National Transfer Scheme** (*Pages 63 - 66*) 3.10 pm
To provide Members with details of the agreement made between Local Authorities to ensure a more even distribution of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children.
- 9 Independent Reviewing Officer Report** (*Pages 67 - 86*) 3.25 pm
To inform Members of any updates and trends for Children Looked After.
- 10 Performance Dashboard - Quarter 1** (*Pages 87 - 92*) 3.40 pm
To provide Members with a synopsis of the Performance Monitoring as it relates to Children Looked After for Quarter 1 2021 - 2022
- 11 Forward Work Programme 2021 - 2022** (*Pages 93 - 102*) 3.55 pm
To approve the Forward Programme 2021-2022.
- 12 Urgent Items (if any)**
- 13 Date of next meeting**
The date of the next meeting of the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee is on 18 January 2022 at 2.00 pm via MS Teams.

Davina Fiore

Director Governance & Legal Services

Date: Wednesday, 13 October 2021

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

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CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

20 JULY 2021

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

159 : APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bowden and Lister.

160 : DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

161 : APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR AND COMMITTEE

The Committee noted that Council, at its Annual Meeting on 27 May 2021, appointed Councillor Sarah Merry as the Chairperson and the following Members to the Committee for the municipal year 2021/2022:

Members of the Committee:

Councillors Bowden, Hinchey, Jenkins, Lent, Lister, Naughton and Parkhill (and one vacancy).

162 : TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Committee noted that Council, at its Annual Meeting on 27 May 2021 agreed the Terms of Reference for the Committee.

163 : MINUTES

The Committee approved as a correct record the minutes of the meeting on 18 May 2021, as proposed by Councillor Lent and seconded by Councillor Jenkins.

164 : ENFYYS SERVICE UPDATE

The Chair welcomed Dr. Libby Erin and Dr. Matthew Lewis from Cardiff and Vale University Health Board to the meeting.

The Chair invited Dr Libby Erin (Consultant Clinical Psychologist, Cardiff and Vale UHB Child Psychology) and Dr Matthew Lewis (Clinical Psychologist, Cardiff and Vale UHB Child Psychology) to report on the current work undertaken by the Enfys service. Enfys is an NHS-based service for children and young people looked after, adopted or on the edge of care in Cardiff and the Vale. The team is based in open-plan offices and team members are unable to meet families and children on site.

The number of children becoming looked after has increased during the pandemic. In addition, many of the children and families supported by Enfys are in crisis. Increasingly the service is seeing a need to support children still residing with their

birth families. Most posts are funded in the short term which impacts on service development and staffing.

Members were asked to comment or raise questions on the information received. Those discussions are summarised as follows:

- Members enquired how many core positions are funded into the next financial year. Members were advised that half the team is permanently funded including 5 core members of staff. The team started with a small amount of core funding from the NHS and a small contribution from Cardiff Council. The team has been built up using ICF funding which ends in March. The service is looking to secure sustainable funding.
- Members enquired about the issues young people present with and whether service users were aware of the funding issues. Members were advised that presentations are wide-ranging and include behaviours that challenge people, aggression, absconding, withdrawal, self-harming, depression and anxiety. Enfys works with CAMHS to provide wraparound support. Its goal is to upskill adults to better understand young people's behaviour. Healing comes with the relationships young people have with adults. It is a challenge to make long-term plans but the team is working hard to ensure things become permanent.
- Members enquired whether there was anything Cardiff Council could do with regards to funding. Members were advised that there was a need to work with colleagues in the local authority to discover how much Enfys had saved across agencies, comparing what was previously being spent and now is not because of the service. The service cannot continue to run on a provisional basis.
- Members asked for a further update at the next Committee Meeting.

RESOLVED: To note the update.

165 : VOICES FROM CARE CYMRU - WELSH GOVERNMENT REVIEW OF CORPORATE PARENTING UPDATE

The Chair welcomed Christopher Dunn, Programmes Manager, Voices from Care Cymru, to the meeting and invited him to provide the Committee with an update on Voices from Care Cymru's involvement with Welsh Government's Review of Corporate Parenting.

Voices from Care Cymru is working with Welsh Government on extending the duties of corporate parenting to all public bodies in Wales and enshrining this in legislation. They will produce a Corporate Parenting Charter which will enable stakeholders to sign up to a common statement of improved support and action when working with care experienced children. Voices from Care Cymru would welcome support during the consultation phase on Corporate Parenting, and referrals from care experienced young people in Cardiff.

Members were asked to comment or raise questions on the information received. Those discussions are summarised as follows:

- Members were reminded of the forthcoming operational group looking at Corporate Parenting Strategy. Investigations were underway to see how the efforts of different bodies could be linked to avoid duplication.
- Members were advised that a new chair is required for the Cross Party Group on LAC.
- Members enquired as to the responses from local authorities across Wales to the Corporate Parenting Charter. Members were advised that responses were similar and there was a widespread recognition that an extension of duties was needed.
- Members were advised that the members of the Directorate Management Team had committed to various actions that would benefit young people.

RESOLVED: To note the update.

166 : MIND OF MY OWN PROJECT UPDATE

The Chair welcomed Leigh Vella and James Agutu, Account Manager, Mind of My Own, and invited them to report on the Mind of My Own Project (MOMO) which is being implemented across Children's Services.

Mind of My Own is a set of accessible digital apps that allow children to express themselves and communicate with Social Workers and other professionals. It has recently gone live in Cardiff. Currently training has to be delivered online via Microsoft Teams rather than face to face. Initial feedback from other local authorities has been that this has been successful.

Members were asked to comment or raise questions on the information received. Those discussions are summarised as follows:

- Members were advised that around 150 languages are available on the app.
- Members were advised that data from Mind of My Own is only visible to the local authority client and not to the company.
- Performance data will be managed within the Children's Management Team. The Committee will be updated on uptake and usage.

RESOLVED: To note the report and accept the recommendations contained therein.

167 : VALE, VALLEYS AND CARDIFF ADOPTION COLLABORATIVE PERFORMANCE REPORT 2020-21

The Chair welcomed Natasha Hilderley, Operational Manager, Children's Services, and invited her to report on the Vale, Valleys and Cardiff (VVC) Regional Adoption Collaborative Performance Report 2020/21.

The adoption services had performed well given the adaptations that had been necessary during the Covid-19 pandemic. Figures were given for the number of

children referred to services, placing orders made, children successfully placed, children adopted and children matched who had significant complex needs. 45% were able to secure orders within 6 months of a court order. There had been a year-on-year increase in the number of adopter enquiries and adoption approvals.

There had been significant increase in adoption support services and significant pressure on adoption services from complex care packages. Overall services continue to provide placements of sibling groups and diverse family make-ups in a timely way.

RESOLVED: To note the report.

168 : BRIGHT SPARKS PARTICIPATION UPDATE

The Chair welcomed Samantha Anderson, Participation Officer, National Youth Advocacy Service Cymru (NYAS Cymru) and invited her to report on the activities of the Bright Sparks Club in relation to the 2nd of 5 priorities outlined in the Corporate Parenting Strategy, Emotional Wellbeing, as well as other activities.

Young people's stories are being collected for 'What's Your Story', which will challenge media stereotypes and stigmatisation of children and young people in care and will be on the NYAS website later in the year. A review into the recruitment of volunteers to the Independent Visitor Project has been carried out. Bright Sparks members have been involved in new developments regarding Advocacy work in Cardiff and ensuring that NYAS complies with RISCA (The Regulation and Inspection of Social Care (Wales) Act 2016). Feedback on the draft Cardiff Anti-Bullying Guidance has been provided to the Child Friendly Cardiff Team.

Members were asked to comment or raise questions on the information received. Those discussions are summarised as follows:

- Members were pleased to hear that young people were becoming more interested and involved in politics and noted that there is a forthcoming public event during Democracy Week in October which will examine the role and responsibilities of Councillors.
- Members noted that Julie Morgan MS was being invited to talk to young people about their experience of elections and asked if, in the interest of political balance, members of opposition parties could be invited too. Members were advised that it was intended to do so.

RESOLVED: To note the report.

169 : DELIVERING A CHILD FRIENDLY RECOVERY

The Chair welcomed Suzanne Scarlett (Operational Manager, Partnerships and Performance) and Philip Norton (Youth Service) and invited them to report on the recent Cabinet report entitled 'Recovery & Renewal: Delivering a Child Friendly Recovery' of 20th May 2021.

Members were asked to comment or raise questions on the information received. Those discussions are summarised as follows:

- Members enquired about attempts to engage with Children Looked After regarding summer activities. Members were advised that young people who are care experienced as well as other vulnerable young people are given priority access to activities. An Early Bird booking system allowing vulnerable children and young people to be given priority access has been effective.
- Members were advised that there has been extensive engagement with young people through the Youth Service website and social media. As well as the Summer of Smiles the Youth Service is providing its usual summer programme through Youth Centres, as well as Roadshow events and pop-up youth provision. Youth mentors are supporting Year 11s at risk of disengagement.
- Members were advised that capacity had been added into the pre-16 CLA education team to ensure additional mentoring capacity. Teams are being joined up across Education, Children's Services and People and Communities to engage in a life coaching programme entitled Compass for Life.

RESOLVED: To note the report and the recommendations accepted by Cabinet.

170 : PERFORMANCE REPORT (DASHBOARD)

The Chair welcomed Jade Harrison and invited her to report on the Performance Report (Dashboard).

The Dashboard has developed since the last meeting and is still in development. A fuller Dashboard with health information will be available by October. Data still to be added includes children missing, placement breakdowns, number of children open to health services, community dentist registrations, children open to Emotional Wellbeing services, information around medicals for Children Looked After and children adopted, and data on the Specialist Nursing Team for Children Looked After.

Information was also provided about the latest developments in into work services and housing placements, and in education.

RESOLVED: To note the content of the report.

171 : COMPLAINTS AND COMPLIMENTS REPORT

The Chair welcomed Deborah Driffield (Director of Children's Services), to the meeting and invited her to report on complaints and compliments received.

There has been an increase in the number of complaints over the last 4 quarters, but there has also been a significant rise in referrals during the same period coinciding with the pandemic and lockdown.

Members enquired whether it would be possible to have comparative numbers for complaints over the last 4 years. Members were advised that the Performance Team

would be asked to look at the figures for preceding years and provide percentage comparisons.

RESOLVED: To note the content of the report.

172 : FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The Chair invited Leigh Vella to report on the Forward Work Programme.

For the next meeting agenda items will be based on Priority 3 of the Draft Corporate Parenting Strategy, and there will be a biannual report on the progress of the Corporate Parenting Strategy.

RESOLVED: To approve the Forward Work Programme.

173 : QUALITY OF CARE REVIEW REPORTS

RESOLVED – That the public be excluded from the meeting at this point during consideration of this item as the Committee discussed exempt information of the description contained in paragraphs 12 of Part 4 and paragraph 21 of Part 5 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972. The public may be excluded from the meeting by resolution of the Committee pursuant to Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 during discussion of this item.

RESOLVED: To note the content of the report.

174 : URGENT ITEMS (IF ANY)

No urgent items were received.

175 : DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting of the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee is on Tuesday 19 October 2021 at 2.00 pm via MS Teams.

The meeting terminated at 4.10 pm

**CARDIFF COUNCIL
CYNGOR CAERDYDD**

CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

19 October 2021

**Corporate Parenting Strategy Progress Report April 2021-
September 2021**

Reasons for the Report

1. This report provides an update to the Committee on the progress that has been made since the launch of the refreshed Corporate Parenting Strategy. The progress report outlines the achievements, developments and service changes made across Children Services and with partners against the 5 key priorities of the strategy.

Background

2. The Corporate Parenting Strategy is a three-year multi-agency 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. The Corporate Parenting strategy outlines five key priorities 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
3. The strategy has been co-produced from consultation with Children Looked After, Care Leavers, and members of the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee and a wide range of professionals from over 70 different organisations. The Corporate Parenting Strategy was agreed by Corporate

Parenting Advisory Committee in March 2021 and has been agreed by Children and Young people Scrutiny Committee, Cabinet and Council.

4. To show the work that has been undertaken by Children Services and partners against the 5 priorities in the strategy it was agreed that a progress report will be reported to the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee twice a year. The report is attached at **Appendix A**.

Corporate Parenting Operational Group

5. To help drive forward the work of the Corporate Parenting Strategy a multi-agency operational group has been established. This group includes representation from Children Services, NHS, Housing, Education and Police. The operational group provides a platform to share ideas and increase accountability helping to drive forward Corporate Parenting amongst partners and improve outcomes for Children Looked After and Care Leavers in Cardiff.
6. The role of members of the operational group is to galvanise staff in each directorate and organisation. In August an initial meeting took place, the meeting was very positive with officers and all organisations in attendance outlining a pledge to Children Looked After and Care Leavers.
7. Members of the operational group have also contributed to the Corporate Parenting Strategy action plan setting out how each service area or organisation can contribute to delivering improved outcomes for Children Looked After and Care Leavers. Actions set out in the action plan are measured by a red, amber or green status helping to improve accountability and to help status or projects are kept on track. This action plan has formed the development of the Corporate Parenting Strategy Progress report.

Financial implications

8. Whilst there are no direct financial implications arising from this report, it is important to ensure that any interventions in support of the Corporate Parenting strategy are costed and funding identified

Legal Implications

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

RECOMMENDATION

10. The Committee is recommended to note the development of the Corporate Parenting Strategy Progress report in **Appendix A** and to make any suggestions or comments.

DEBORAH DRIFFIELD

Director of Children's Services

28th September 2021

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Cardiff Council Corporate Parenting Strategy Progress Report

April 2021- September 2021



Introduction

In May 2021 Cardiff launched a refreshed Corporate Parenting Strategy for 2021- 2024 outlining commitments to our Children Looked After and Care Leaver across the city. Co-produced by children, young people and a range of professionals the Corporate Parenting Strategy sets out what we all need to do as corporate parents to support our Children Looked After and Care Leavers to enable them to thrive.

The Corporate Parenting Strategy 2021- 2024 was produced following feedback from Children Looked After in Cardiff who shared their experiences, worries and aspirations for the future. These views have formed 5 priority areas of work required to deliver on our vision.

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

This report sets out the work that has been undertaken and the contributions made by partners, showing the progress that has been made against each of the priorities over the period April 2021 to September 2021

The Local Context – Our Children

50 Children on Residence orders supported by the Local Authority

283 Children on Special Guardianship Orders

3% of Children were adopted

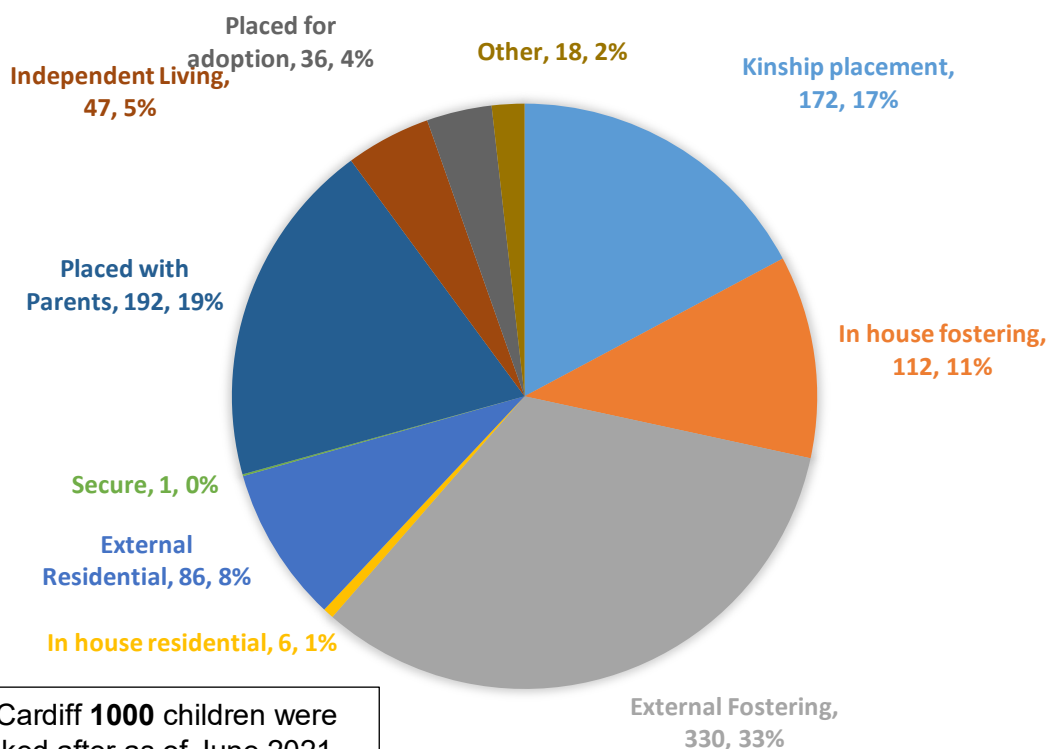
94% of Care Leavers in suitable accommodation

89% of those who left care had a personal adviser 2020/2021

7% of those who left care experienced homelessness

90% Care Leavers had a pathway plan

TOTAL CLA BY PLACEMENT TYPE AS AT 30.06.21



In Cardiff **1000** children were looked after as of June 2021

Male **54%**

Female **46%**

19% aged 0-4 years

33% aged 5-10 years

31% aged 11-15 years

18% aged 16-17 years

69% white British

31% other ethnicity

In Cardiff **1000** children were looked after as of June 2021

Male **54%**

Female **46%**

19% aged 0-4 years

33% aged 5-10 years

31% aged 11-15 years

18% aged 16-17 years

Priority 1: Improving emotional wellbeing and physical health

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.

Well-being

Over the summer the Cardiff Child Friendly City team held a series of events to promote well-being for Children and young people across Cardiff during the school summer holidays. The Summer of Smiles was a programme of free engaging experiences across the city aimed at children, young people, and their families.

A range of exclusive opportunities have been provided for Children Looked After through the Summer of Smiles programme.

These included:

- Exclusive early bird access to book onto a range of activities a week prior such as : arts and crafts, sport , science and technology
- Access to the main Summer of Smiles festival main site with additional information and activities
- A Pirate adventure experience trip to Flatholm Island

Feedback from the Summer of Smiles programme was very positive amongst young people and families.

“The pirates made me laugh. It was so fun to be on an island in the middle of the sea! Going fast on the boat was the best!” quote from CYP Pirate Island adventure

Enfys

The Enfys service has continued to support the mental health and well-being of those young people on the edge of care or who are looked after.

Enfys work comprises of consultation, training, and therapeutic support to the whole system around a child.

From May 2021 – September 2021 the Enfys service has ran 4 Nurturing attachment groups, 1 DBT skills group and 20 workshops which have been delivered to schools, and health and social care staff. These workshops have had a specific focus on well-being and difficulties with eating regulation.

60 pieces of work have been completed with families, with the Enfys team also completing 142 consultations in this period. An online coffee morning has also been established to support carers.

Corporate Parenting Scorecard

To help understand the health and well-being needs of our young people a key performance indicator dashboard has been developed. This dashboard provides key information from a cross section of agencies including housing, health, and education. The dashboard has been agreed by members of the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee and will help to identify gaps in services and help to improve outcomes. The dashboard will continue to be developed to help capture more data.

Participation and Collaboration

Working with Cardiff University students, Child Friendly Cities, Active Involvement Team and our Bright Sparks Participation group, an accessible guide for Children Looked After and Care Leavers has been developed. This prototype outlines information in an easy and accessible

way to help our young people understand what services are available to them, supporting them to navigate through their care journey.

Work is underway to build on this to include a series of creative digital stories to help enhance the guide, with our young people taking a lead role in its development. A Kickstart Participation Officer will support this area of work working with our youth services to host the guide on an online information platform.

Emotional Wellbeing & Mental Health

A PHD researcher from the University of Bath is undertaking a piece of academic research to help gain an understanding of the barriers faced by our Care Leavers in accessing mental health services. A cohort of Care Leavers are currently being identified to take part in the research and share their experiences, feedback from this research will help develop services for the future.

In July a new National Well-being and Counselling service was launched to offer specific support to care experienced young people. The service is provided by Voices from Care Cymru and provides information, advice, counselling, and group work to help improve the well-being of Children Looked After and Care Leavers. The service uptake has been high and will continue to be promoted in Children Services and wider networks with regular meetings taking place between Voices from Care Cymru.

Health Assessments

The lead consultant for Children Looked After has scoped referrals for medicals, consent, timing, and delays in achieving health assessments.

As a result, the process between Children's Services and Cardiff and Vale University Health Board around timeliness of health assessments is being strengthened and links between performance management and the

consultant have been made to help develop more effective information sharing.

Further work has been identified to develop a mechanism for a paediatrician to be notified of all Children Looked After who present to the emergency department at Cardiff University Hospital. Progress of this work will be monitored through the Corporate Parenting Operational group.

Priority 2: Better connections, improved relationships

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.

Mind of My Own

In July 2021 a Mind of My Own app was launched across Children's Services to help enhance the voice of our children and help improve relationships between workers and young people.

Mind of My Own is a set of accessible apps that provide a unique digital solution to advancing children's rights. The Mind of My Own digital apps help children and young people express themselves freely and communicate with Social Workers and other professionals who regularly work with them.

A series of virtual training sessions have been delivered to a wide range of Children's Services staff and partners to help them to use the app with our young people.

Mind of My Own will continue to be promoted across social work teams, NYAS, health and education colleagues by way of champions, train the trainer sessions and will be a standing agenda item at team meetings. This will build confidence amongst staff helping them to use the features of the apps which will strengthen the voice of our young people, helping to capture evidence the views, wishes and feelings of the young people in our care.

Case study

“During a statutory visit Jessica and foster carer were shown how to use the Mind Of My Own app. Jessica signed up prior to the Children Looked After (CLA) review and used the app to state that she would like to chair CLA reviews in the future. Jessica will be having lessons on how to chair the review by herself with a plan that the young person will chair future reviews in the future”

The Mind of my Own apps build on other current mechanisms that help to establish trust amongst Children and Young people and workers.

Advocacy

Advocacy enables our young people to speak up, making sure that their rights are respected, and their views are heard. An advocate can help children and young people with issues such as where they live, seeing family and leaving care arrangements. Advocates can also provide support to children and young people in meetings by representing them or accompanying them.

Our Advocacy service provided by NYAS Cymru continues to provide regional advocacy services to children and young people in receipt of support from Children’s Services.

During the period May – July a total of 291 referrals for advocacy have been made to NYAS Cymru to support young people via advocacy helping

to ensure children have their voices, wishes and feelings heard within decisions being made about them. These issues included placement, contact and Education

Feedback from young people, parent/ carers and officers on the service has remained positive.

"You do help a lot cos you're like a voice recorder but also a friend as well and I can ask you to do different things and you listen to what I have to say"

Young person feedback on NYAS Advocacy service

The service will continue to develop and build on the work that has been achieved continuing to create connections and build meaningful relationships. Advocacy will remain a priority for the service area and will continue to be promoted across Children's Services teams.

Reunification Framework

A Reunification Framework is currently being operated as a pilot in the East social work team with a small team of staff undertaking the reunification assessment.

A Reunification Framework supports practitioners and managers to apply structured professional judgement to decisions about whether and how a child should return home from care.

Support staff have been recruited to assist with the reunification project and suitable cases for reunification been identified through a screening process.

There has been reduction in the pilot locality area of twenty-one children being subject to Placement With Parents (PWP). Twelve children have been taken through the fast-track PWP discharge pilot. It is anticipated that there will be a further cohort of discharges of PWP placement by end of Quarter 3 with continued progress planned for Quarter 4.

Kinship Service

Since April we have enhanced our Kinship service. These have included an additional 3 Social Workers Assistants, 3 Social Workers and a Principal Social Worker. Improvement plans are underway to strengthen Connected Person and SGO assessments further, considering the Review of Public Law Outline by the Judiciary.

A monthly SGO carer group has also been developed to provide an opportunity for SGO carers to share ideas, discuss difficulties and provide feedback. The group has been meeting virtually and will be strengthened to include training and guest speakers based upon the needs of the group. Members of the group will be supported to take ownership and will have an increased role in facilitating as the sessions continue.

This has helped to provide greater support for family placements, increased support for children making the transition to family carer placement.

Priority 3: A comfortable, safe, and stable home whilst in care and after

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.

Homes for Children in Cardiff

As set out in the Right Homes, Right Support 2019-22 Children's Commissioning Strategy, Cardiff Children's Services have undertaken to review and develop our internal residential provision, with the result that one provision is complete, and another is nearing completion.

Falconwood House is a 3-bed home, which has been developed as our new short-term assessment provision. Children's Services have designed a multi-disciplinary assessment process to take place over the course of a young person's 10-week residence at the home, with input from Children's Services, Health, Education, and other agencies as required, to ensure that young people's next move, whether back home to family or on to a new placement, is as suitable as possible for their needs and well-being.

With key partners including Cardiff and Vale UHB's Enfys service and the Council's Adolescent Resource Centre, Falconwood will employ a trauma-informed approach, and will also work closely with potential new placements where the assessment identifies that one is required, to help ensure the success of that placement and the best possible outcome for the young person.

Over the past year an emergency pop up residential provision has also been developed. Oakway residential will support young people requiring emergency care. Staff have been successfully recruited and building work is being finalised. Care Inspectorate Wales inspection visit is being undertaken shortly.

As well as providing new residential provisions, current services have been enhanced to help progress with this priority.

Fostering

Our Fostering team continues to promote fostering opportunities amongst under-represented groups including the LGBTQ+ community. The team have worked with senior management at Pride Cymru to help share recruitment advertisement which has included dispelling myths advertisement.

Fostering Panel - Participation

Since June a care leaver has sat weekly as an independent member on the fostering panel providing valued lived-in experience and a different perspective to panel decisions.

Looked After Protocol for Residential Homes

A protocol is currently being devised between Youth Justice Service (YJS) and the Police as a response to incidents within residential homes that could result in criminal proceedings yet can be dealt with via a restorative intervention with YJS and Police oversight, where supportive and reparative intervention is deemed to be the best outcome for all.

Whilst the protocol is awaiting ratification with senior leadership, the practicalities of introducing the YJS police officers to residential staff and young people is underway.

Independence planning

In July a pilot between Children's Services and housing commenced to improve independence planning. The workshop took place to inform staff and stakeholders about how to plan for independence for young people leaving care. Care leavers shared their experiences and informed staff of the challenges they faced moving to live independently.

This feedback has been used in the pilot which has helped support staff to understand options and how they can further work with leaving care services. Due to the successful pilot these workshops will now be delivered across other social work localities.

Young Person Gateway

Our Young Person Gateway service continues to support our young people to resolve their immediate uncertain housing situation and to prevent homelessness or the risk of homelessness through advice, support, and mediation.

If appropriate and assessed as needing accommodation a range of accommodation options are explored such as hostel placement or self-contained units in the community.

When deemed ready to live independently young people are given tenancy training, helping them to acquire skills to live independently and maintain their tenancy. During the COVID 19 pandemic training sessions were delivered online ensuring young people could move on to independent living throughout the crisis.

As of September 2021 394, young people have received tenancy training and 319 young people have been housed since 2016. Tenancy sustainment rate has remained high with 99% of young people able to maintain their tenancy with 100% of young people reporting that they are happy with the support they have received.

Priority 4: Educational Achievement, Employment and Training

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.

Leaving Care

In July a new Well-being Coordinator was recruited to make links between young people and the Department of Work and Pensions. This role supports Care Leavers to identify appropriate activities helping to build confidence, overcome barriers to employment and reach their aspirations.

A number of activities have already taken place which has included surfing, local trips, and training, this has helped to enhance well-being, build confidence, and develop employability skills for our Care Leavers. Young people have attended a 3-night residential trip and have taken part in a range of activities during the trip which has included hill walking, shelter building and fire making. The young people were also supported to cook for themselves and clean their rooms helping to develop skills and encourage independence.

From the work that has been undertaken 5 Care Leavers have now been supported to gain full time employment in a range of different sectors including the leisure and hospitality industry. The feedback from our young people has been very positive:

Quote from young person “It’s been really good, it has given me structure and helped me out financially as well. It was a really good environment to work in as everyone was friendly and they’re keen to help you progress by putting you on more training”

The Well-being Coordinator role will continue to identify employment opportunities as well as further activities that will help to build confidence and improve the well-being for our young people. The role will work to reduce the number of young people not in education, employment, or training through working in partnership with providers to develop work, volunteer, traineeship, and education placements.

Compass for Life Training

Children Services staff have taken part in a bespoke coaching and training programme lead by Education as part of the Child Friendly recovery approach post pandemic. The training provides a consistent coaching and mentoring framework helping professionals to support children and young people to achieve their aspirations. The programme upskills staff to become advanced coaches and mentors' helping to empower our young people to reach their potential. Initial feedback from the training has been very positive.

“The training is so far the most informative, well planned and executed training I have been on in many years. The knowledge and experience from the trainer and the guest speakers have really opened my eyes and that of others on the training”

The Compass for Life training will continue to be implemented across the Children's Service and Education to help raise the aspirations of our young people. This includes implementing within Cardiff Children's Homes, our Looked After Children's Teams and the Personal Advisor Service.

Private Sector Opportunities

Relationships between private construction businesses and Children's Services have been strengthened to increase the profile of Children Looked After and Care Leavers.

A programme of training is being developed to help our Care Leavers learn DIY and house maintenance skills which will help and support them to live independently. Initial planning sessions have taken place to help deliver the programme in November.

Discussions have also taken place to increase placement opportunities for our Care Leavers in the construction industry. Work is ongoing to help our young people undertake basic construction training and be part of a work placement scheme helping our Care Leavers to be and site ready and help them to find employment opportunities in this industry.

Work will continue with the private sector to increase and develop opportunities for our young people in a variety of settings.

Education

Within our Education Directorate 4 Looked After Children Youth Mentors have been recruited to improve attendance and attainment supporting young people in their transition to post-16 education, employment, or training.

All schools and social workers of Y11 pupils have now been contacted to confirm destinations, conditions of offers to college / sixth form and to report any concerns.

Those where there are concerns around engagement or attendance, those with no planned destination and those young people who are at high risk of becoming NEET are then supported to ensure appropriate advice is in place, make applications to employment or training or signposted to relevant support services.

The role of the youth mentors will continue to be developed to include tracking and monitoring all Key Stage 4 Looked After Children in Education to ensure early identification and help provide tailored support. Many young people in the at risk of NEET category would already have

an identified person to support them for example Personal Advisors or other mentors through youth service. The LACE mentor enhances this support and helps to gather more accurate and detailed data.

Bright Start Traineeship

Our Bright Start Traineeship scheme for care experienced young people aged 16-24 continues to help young people find traineeships within the council to gain practical work experience. The placement helps boost knowledge, confidence and soft skills, hopefully leading to employment. Working with their mentors, young people identify possible work areas that would interest them. The Into Work Advice Service Employment Liaison team then sources the best opportunities.

The first round of placements began on 19 July 2021 for up to six months with positions in Parks, Cardiff International White Water, Waste Management and the Into Work Advice Service. Future placements have been agreed with the new Onsite Construction Academy, Cardiff Dogs Home, Storey Arms Centre and Connect 2 Cardiff among others. Young people are supported throughout their placements by the Bright Start Support Worker and receive a Bright Start training allowance that doesn't affect their benefits.

8 care experienced young people will be attending a 12-week programme helping to create an outdoor healthcare and rehabilitation facility in 14 acres of woodland and meadow next to a local hospital. The young people will attend one day a week and be supported by the Bright Start Support Worker. They will also receive a Bright Start training allowance.

“Bright Start has helped me get my confidence back. The mentors are so kind and dedicated to helping us better our future. This scheme has helped me so much. (Trainee)”

“From our point of view, his confidence and self-esteem have grown a lot and this placement seems to suit him.” (Foster Carer)

Priority 5: Celebrating our children and young people

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.

The views of the young people, carers and families we support is essential in order to provide the services that help them to keep them safe and to achieve their full potential.

Young Person Festival

During the Covid 19 pandemic many of our young people have felt isolated, scared, and worried about the future. In order to promote the health and well-being of our young people and to celebrate their resilience a young person festival is scheduled to take place in Spring 2022.

This will bring together key partners to provide information, advice in a fun and engaging way with range of fun activities based on the views and interests of our young people. A planning group has met with representation from a variety of agencies to share ideas, resources and help to run and facilitate the day.

Participation champions

There are now several Participation Champions across many Children's Services departments to ensure that Participation remains a priority for the Directorate. The role of the champion is to disseminate information of participation work at a national and local level to their team and actively promote and contribute to participation development plans across the service.

The Participation Champions have met and discussed initiatives that can help support Children, young people and families to have a greater say on the services that impact them. One of the first key pieces of work the champions have been involved in, is the development of a Participation Framework.

The Participation Framework sets out the current ways we can engage with families we support and what opportunities there are to increase participation of Children and families in service planning and development. The Participation Framework will further be developed and be available on Children's Services website in November.

The Bright Sparks Forum continues to be the main participation platform for Children looked After and Care Leavers to have a say on the issues that are important to them. Work to strengthen and increase membership to the group continues with planning underway for an engagement session between the bright sparks group and members of the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee to help build and strengthen relationships.

The Participation of our Children and are young people is now a standing item at the Cardiff Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee with participation worker from NYAS providing regular updates on the work of the Bright Sparks group to the Committee.

A Participation and Communications officer has been recruited as part of the Kick-start Apprentice Scheme. This role will help support the development of a Young Persons Festival as well as supporting the drive for participation of Children, young people, and families.

Work will be undertaken to help strengthen and build upon this priority based on the views and priorities of our young people, feedback will be gained from our young people and any changes made to this priority in February 2022.

“Our voices make a difference”

“We are a care family working together to make changes”

Quote from Bright Sparks group

Governance

A Corporate Parenting Operational group has been established to support the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee and the City of Cardiff to ensure that Council and its partners are ambitious for children and young people in care and Care Leavers.

The operational group will work collaboratively to drive the work of the Corporate Parenting Strategy in order to improve the life outcomes for Children Looked After and Care Leavers in Cardiff including reviewing how each service area is contributing to the ethos and aspirations of the Corporate Parenting Strategy and championing each of the five priority areas within the strategy.

Members of the group have also contributed to the Corporate Parenting Strategy action plan setting out how each service area or organisation can contribute to delivering improved outcomes for Children Looked After and Care Leavers. Actions set out in the action plan are measured by a red , amber or green status helping to improve accountability and to help status or projects are kept on track.

Membership

We know that our young people use and meet a range of services and therefore there is representation from a wide range of stakeholders who sit on the Corporate Parenting Operational Group.

| Directorate / agency | Role |
|------------------------|---|
| Children's Services | Director of Children's Services (Chair) Operational Manager (Vice Chair) Corporate Parenting Officer |
| Housing & Communities | Operational Manager Strategy and Housing Need |
| Voices from Care Cymru | Participation Manager |
| South Wales Police | Detective Chief Inspector |

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Education | Achievement Leader Key groups |
| Child Friendly City team | Child Friendly coordinator |
| Into Work Services | Into work Manager |
| NYAS Cymru | Service Manager |
| Cardiff and the Vale Health Board | Lead consultant for Children Young People and Family Health Services |
| Venues, Tourism and events | Head of Culture |
| HR | Chief HR Officer |
| Cardiff Commitment | Cardiff Commitment Programme Manager |
| Youth Service | Achievement Leader |
| DWP | Partnership Manager |

Half Yearly Progress Reflection

Good Corporate Parenting involves a cross section of partners and agencies working together to improve the outcomes for our children and young people.

Over the last 6 months, the profile of Corporate Parenting has been raised across Cardiff with relationships strengthened between the private sector, third sector and Council Directorates.

The Corporate Parenting Strategy went live April 2021, in the context of the Covid-19 Pandemic recovery and positive progress has been made against the Action Plan.

The response from partners has been very positive and will continue to be built upon throughout the strategy's timescales demonstrated in this progress report. The Corporate Parenting Operational Group will drive the workstreams forward.

We would like to thank partners for their positive contributions to the report and the ongoing commitment shown to help ensure that our care experienced children and young people are supported to thrive and reach their potential.

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**CARDIFF COUNCIL
CYNGOR CAERDYDD****CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE****19 OCTOBER 2021**

**CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER AND CARE LEAVERS PARTICIPATION –
PRIORITY 3 CORPORATE PARENTING STRATEGY**

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 primary participation mechanism for Cardiff Children Looked After and Care Leavers. This update will inform the committee of the activities that Bright Sparks has undertaken in relation to the third of the 5 Priorities outlined in the Corporate Parenting Strategy – A comfortable, safe and stable home whilst in care and after. It will also include other activities in which the group has participated.

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 (CYP) are afforded a voice and are active participants in shaping policy and service provision within the council and within a wider external context.
3. In addition, Bright Sparks is 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. The NYAS Cymru Participation Officer facilitates fortnightly group sessions which have been online since the Covid 19 pandemic. 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.

Issues

**Priority 3 – A comfortable, safe and stable home whilst in care and after -
The following work has taken place in relation to this priority.**

4. Bright Sparks members were asked about their initial thoughts on a piece of work being undertaken by the All Wales National Steering Group on a children's rights approach to policing. One of the objectives of the group is to ensure that all care experienced children and young people have a right to access a "Return Interview or Debrief" when they go missing. This is a statutory requirement in England but not in Wales where some Local Authorities have this in place and others do not. Bright Sparks were asked to look at the effectiveness of the use of language and the term Return Interview/Debrief. They were also asked what they would want from a return interview.
5. The majority felt that the terms Return Interview/Debrief were considered to be too formal and not young person friendly, in particular "debrief" was a term that the majority were unfamiliar with and felt sounded more relevant to police operations or to a medical setting. It was felt that these terms did not sound like they are related to CYP being missing. Alternative names were discussed such as "a talk", "returning home chat", "misper follow-up", "check-In" and "wellbeing check-in".
6. All of the young people felt that this service is very important for Looked After CYP and that this service, delivered by independent professionals, should be statutory in Wales as it is in England.
7. The Steering Group has put in an application to the Joseph Rountree Foundation to undertake more research specifically aimed at children who have gone missing from care to gather further feedback on CYP's thoughts on return interviews. The Participation Officer is looking forward to working with Cardiff Local Authority to take the next steps once funding has been secured.
8. Bright Sparks members fed into the NYAS Cymru campaign which focused on children's belongings and moving home - My Things Matter. This campaign has emerged from feedback from children and young people as well as the experiences of staff and volunteers when children are moving home. To shape the campaign, a series of three surveys were launched aimed at those 11-25, under 11's and a survey for professionals.
9. The findings of the survey have been presented to the NYAS Campaigns and Advisory Group and a report is being written which will include a ten-point moving checklist for Local Authorities. They will be asked to sign up and pledge to children and young people that they won't move their belongings in binbags, help them find lost and damaged belongings, support them through the moving process, etc. The My Things Matter campaign will be launched in January 2022 and NYAS will then work with Cardiff Local Authority to ensure that the

experiences of children and young people moving and improved and carried out in a respectful way.

10. Bright Sparks members have continued to work with PhotoVoice on their Care Leavers in Focus project. The project develops advocacy materials with care experienced young people to inform and improve services and support for young people leaving care.
11. To ensure the voices of care-experienced young people are central in championing change, participants shared their views of what is working and what could be improved in their support by engaging in photography and storytelling workshops. The insights from the initial workshops identified the thematic areas of Identity, Belonging, On-going support, Voice, Being Prepared and Looking forward.
12. The theme that was the focus in this period is Belonging and the group tested the resources and reflected on imagery and use of language related to the concepts of:
 - Home – friendships, siblings
 - Contact – keeping in touch
 - A support network
 - A feeling of ease
 - Housing
 - Having a sense of home

After the launch of these resources later in 2021 the Corporate Parenting Officer shall be engaging with PhotoVoice to ensure that Cardiff is one of the Local Authorities who utilises these resources within Children's services.

13. Children in Wales facilitated a session on independent living which included "When I am Ready" which gives all young people living with foster families in Wales the right to stay with their foster carers once they reach the age of 18. In this meeting he demonstrated how to use resources on their website related to life skills, employment, benefits and entitlements, leaving care, food shopping tips, getting around, decorating homes, keeping yourself safe, housing, universal credit and utilities. Information was also shared on the St David's Day fund – the eligibility criteria and how to apply.
14. As a first step in partnership working with the Active Involvement Team a Senior Youth Work Officer facilitated a workshop on finances which complimented the previous workshop facilitated by Children in Wales. The session covered benefits and tax credits, student entitlements, budgeting and support available. The session included a case study to check knowledge.

Other Work Undertaken

15. Bright Sparks have been updated on the Welsh Youth Parliament and informed that NYAS were successful in their application to be a Partner Organisation. They have been consulted on how they feel the NYAS representative in the parliament should be elected. decided on. Children and young people will be supported to apply for the role.
16. Bright Sparks were a part of activities in the summer at the Summer of Smiles at Cardiff City Hall. The NYAS Participation Officer and IV Co-ordinator hosted a section of the event which members of the group also attended. This provided an opportunity to promote the work of Bright Sparks, learn about participation work in Cardiff and to meet staff from the other stalls at the event. Other organisations and projects present included Cascade Voices, TGP Cymru and Children in Wales. In keeping with the fun theme NYAS hosted a Hula Hoop workshop which was enjoyed by many of those attending the day.
17. Trained Bright Sparks members continue to sit on interview panels for Advocacy and IV positions. A member also sat on the panel to recruit the new NYAS Service Manager for Cardiff.
18. Bright Sparks members have been integral in the planning of the event on October 29th 2021 where members of Bright Sparks and the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee will meet in a meaningful and fun way. Plans have been developed for an in-person meeting at Insole Court in Cardiff. Risk management procedures in regard to Covid regulations will be followed and the safety of all in attendance will be paramount.
19. Following initial consultations with the group they decided that rather than attending a CPAC committee meeting they would prefer to meet in a less formal environment. This will be an opportunity for Bright Sparks to update on the work that they have been doing on the 5 Priorities which helped inform the Corporate Parenting Strategy. By the end of the meeting Bright Sparks will have had the opportunity to meet the Councillors and will have gained an insight into them and their role.

Financial Implications

20. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report and the funding for this participation comes from the National Youth Advocacy Service.

Legal Implications

21. There are no legal implications arising from this report

RECOMMENDATION

22. The Committee is recommended to note the Participation update and to make any observations or comments.

DEBORAH DRIFFIELD
Director Children's Services
28 September 2021

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**CARDIFF COUNCIL
CYNGOR CAERDYDD**

CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

19 OCTOBER 2021

FOSTER WALES LAUNCH

Reasons for the Report

1. This report provides the Committee with information in relation to the launch of Foster Wales, national partnership of local authority fostering services. The report aims to inform the Committee on the purpose of Foster Wales, how it will look and the impacts we expect to see from the project.

Background

2. The National Fostering Framework was established as part of a work programme, led by the Ministerial Advisory Group. The group aims to improve outcomes for looked after children and young people, and the people and families who care for them.
3. This programme identified the need for a national framework for Local Authority fostering services. A collaboration of fostering professionals from across Wales who share a common purpose to meet the evolving needs of foster children and the people who foster them. This is the National Fostering Framework.
4. The National Fostering Framework (NFF) leads many workstreams across Wales to achieve its goals, one of which was to develop an **All Wales Brand for Local Authority Fostering**. The NFF commissioned communications consultancy Narrative Edge to work with key stakeholders to deliver that workstream.
5. Between August 2018 and August 2019 Narrative Edge worked with a nominated and empowered working group representing Local Authority fostering services across Wales to co-create a brand proposition for Local Authority Fostering, that will support the recruitment and retention of more foster carers for the 22 Local Authorities across Wales. That brand has now been completed and approved and launched July 2021

6. Local Authority Fostering is facing a recruitment challenge; put simply, there are more children in need of foster placements than there are registered carers.
7. It is estimated that across Wales we need to recruit 550 new foster carers and families every year to keep up with the increase in numbers of children who need that care and support, whilst also replacing carers who retire or don't take on a new placement.
8. Local Authority Fostering Teams across Wales have decided to take action, to significantly increase the number and range of foster carers recruited directly to Local Authorities. This requires Local Authority fostering and recruitment teams across Wales to think bigger, to combine our efforts and expertise to create a significant national impact on awareness that fostering is an option, and that fostering with your Local Authority is the best option.
9. By working in this way, we will create an integrated approach on a bigger scale to make a national impact across Wales, without losing the advantages of our specific local expertise and community roles. This new collaboration is called Foster Wales.

Issues

10. Developing a new way of working collaboratively with all 22 other local authorities, embedding the regional marketing role, and making Foster Wales work for Foster Wales Cardiff. Ensuring we support the national campaign, while meeting our own specific recruitment needs.

Financial Implications

11. Any costs that have previously arisen or will arise in the future, in connection with the delivery of Foster Wales Cardiff have been, or will be, met from existing Council resources, supplemented by national resources. Where costs exceed resources available then action will need to be taken in order to ensure that costs are contained within the budgetary resources available.

Legal Implications

12. There are no legal implications arising from this report. If the creation of this new collaboration named "Foster Wales" results in any changes to the legal structure of the National Fostering Framework, consideration should be given to taking legal advice.

RECOMMENDATION

13. The Committee are recommended to note the Foster Wales update and to make any observations or comments

DEBORAH DRIFFIELD
Director, Children's Services
28 September 2021

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OUR STORY

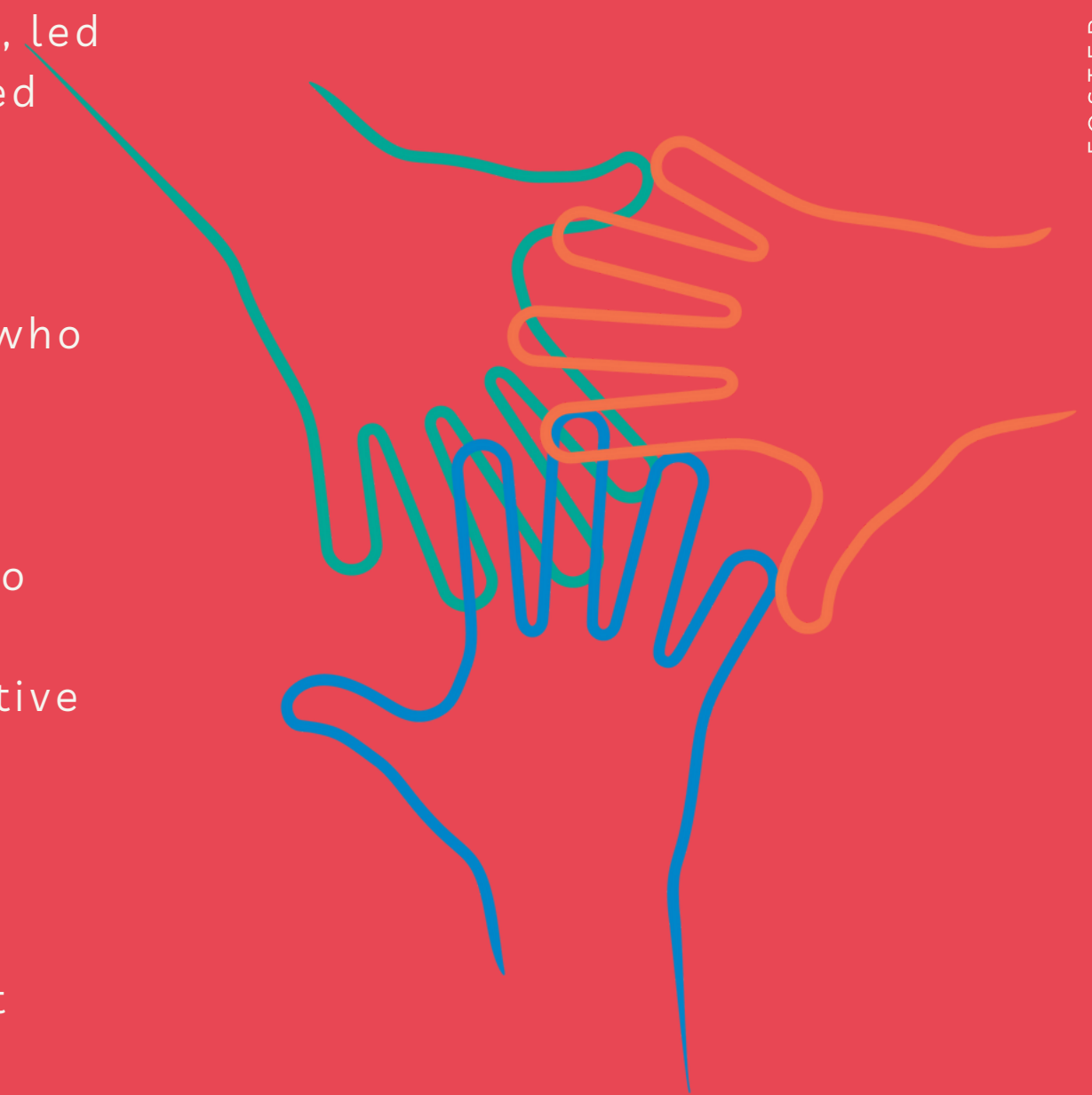
Working together to build better futures for local children.

FOSTER WALES REGIONAL
MARKETING OFFICER

AMY MCARDLE

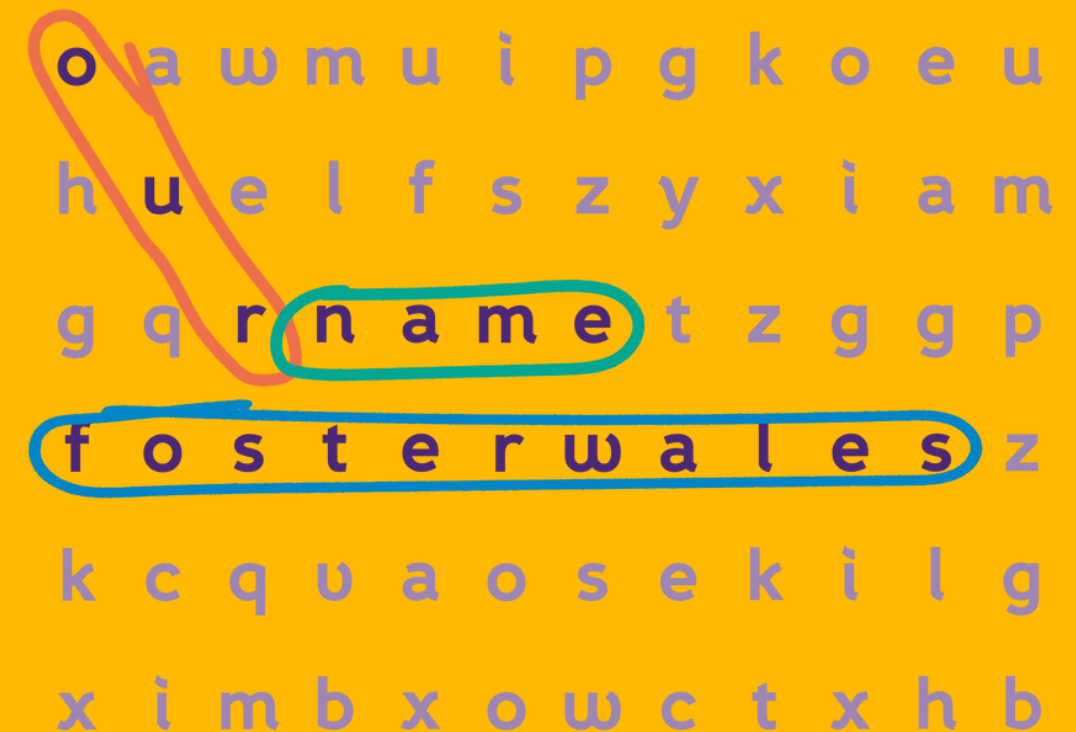
THE NATIONAL FOSTERING FRAMEWORK

- The National Fostering Framework was established as part of a work programme, led by the Ministerial Advisory Group. The group aims to improve outcomes for looked after children and young people, and the people and families who care for them.
- This programme identified the need for a national framework for Local Authority fostering services. A collaboration of fostering professionals from across Wales who share a common purpose to meet the evolving needs of foster children and the people who foster them. This is the National Fostering Framework.
- The National Fostering Framework (NFF) leads many workstreams across Wales to achieve its goals, one of which was to Develop an **All Wales Brand for Local Authority Fostering**. The NFF commissioned communications consultancy Narrative Edge to work with key stakeholders to deliver that workstream.
- Between August 2018 and August 2019 Narrative Edge worked with a nominated and empowered working group representing Local Authority fostering services across Wales to co-create a brand proposition for Local Authority Fostering, that will support the recruitment and retention of more foster carers for the 22 Local Authorities across Wales. That brand has now been completed and approved and launched July 2021!



BRIEF INTRODUCTION

- Local Authority Fostering is facing a recruitment challenge; put simply, there are more children in need of foster placements than there are registered carers.
- It is estimated that across Wales we need to recruit 550 new foster carers and families every year to keep up with the increase in numbers of children who need that care and support, whilst also replacing carers who retire or don't take on a new placement.
- Local Authority Fostering Teams across Wales have decided to take action, to significantly increase the number and range of foster carers recruited directly to Local Authorities. This requires Local Authority fostering and recruitment teams across Wales to think bigger, to combine our efforts and expertise to create a significant national impact on awareness that fostering is an option, and that fostering with your Local Authority is the best option.
- By working in this way, we will create an integrated approach on a bigger scale to make a national impact across Wales, without losing the advantages of our specific local expertise and community roles.
- This new collaboration is called **foster wales**.



UNDERSTANDING THE BRAND

WHY

Our Purpose

As a Not-for-Profit organisation responsible for the children in our care, Foster Wales believes in working as a team with Foster Carers to build better futures for local children by helping them stay in the local area when it is right for them. It keeps them connected, builds stability and confidence.

HOW

Our Method

By encouraging people across Wales to make a difference in their local community and become Foster Carers with their Local Authority, we can find the best matched homes and family environment for each child, building better futures for children and the families who Foster them.

WHAT

Our Product or Service

FOSTER WALES: Local Authority Fostering for children in your community across Wales.

FOSTER WALES VALUES



DEDICATED

We've been doing this for years, we're in it for the long-term, and we'll be beside you every step of the way.



POWERFUL

This all means that we stand for something and, when combined with our values, creates a role in society for Foster Wales that is both traditional and progressive.



SURPRISING

We're not here to sustain a picture of anguish and despair. While remaining transparent and authentic, we're here to blow the conversation open and reflect the energy, diversity and delight that comes from Fostering.



FORWARD-LOOKING

We have a heritage, and we have traditional values. But rather than focusing on the past and the issues that got us and the child to this point, we turn the page and work with Foster carers to write the next chapter and build a better future.



REAL

More than anything we care! We care about the children under our responsibility, and the foster carers who look after them. We are friendly people with expertise and empathy, able to provide guidance and comfort in equal measure.

IN ACTION

SOME VISUAL IDEAS OF HOW FOSTER WALES MAY COME TO LIFE



LOCAL IMAGERY

Using our own photographs of real people in the real local community. Not landmarks or tourist attractions but the streets residents recognise and live in.



SIMPLE CREATIVES

Use of hands to show togetherness, and the rings of care, the child, the foster family and the community working together.

FOSTER WALES CARDIFF

BECOMING FOSTER WALES

We need to embed the principles of the Brand across all areas of practise in the Fostering team and wider service, embracing the Values, competing with the private sector in all areas of support and customer service with both prospective foster carers and our existing ones.

CREATING COMMUNITY AMBASSADORS

Use our network within the local authority to trickle out this message. Make it clear to all staff and stakeholders, the need for Foster Wales families within Cardiff. Help to build the conversation in our own communities.

SENDING A PUBLIC MESSAGE

The use of local PR, local stories to send the Foster Wales messages to our community. Including the message we send to all our Foster Families.

DELIVERING THE NATIONAL CAMPAIGN

Working with Vale of Glamorgan and the other regions across Wales to ensure we deliver the national campaign on a local level, including social media responses, events and PR.



FOSTER WALES CARDIFF

INCREASING THE NUMBER OF NEW FOSTER CARER APPROVALS

We are already making huge improvements but we have years of deficit to build. Foster Wales should see enquiries to grow exponentially.

ENABLE US A BETTER CHOICE OF FOSTER HOME AND ULTIMATELY BETTER MATCHING

This will take time, but ultimately to allow us choice when placing a child. Not placing out of necessity but knowing that foster family is best place to meet the needs of that child.

INCREASE THE DIVERSITY AND ABILITIES OF OUR FOSTER FAMILIES

Foster Wales will enable us to reach new audiences, dispel myths and encourage carers from different professions, age groups and cultures.

IMPROVE THE RETENTION OF ALL OUR FOSTER FAMILIES

By giving us more choice, we can avoid adding pressure to carers in emergencies and allow for more flexibility with respite and general support from other carers.

Along with using the national platform to recognise the incredible work our Foster carers do.



OUR 6 WEEK CAMPAIGN- SEPTEMBER 20TH

NATIONAL TV AD

6 weeks running Adverts across major channels in both english and welsh. Following a teenage boy making his way home to the warmth of his foster family. Focusing on the message of warm homes across Wales opening up to support local children and young people. A similar radio advert will run alongside for the 6 weeks.

PUBLIC INSTALATION

Instalation outside the senedd of 22 front doors in Foster Wales branding, to boost publicity of the message coming through the TV advert and national radio advertisement.

ONLINE AND SOCIAL MEDIA PRESENCE

Press releases will be localised and sold in conjunction with the first viewing of the TV AD and the front doors displays. Along with paid social media and other online advertisement with regular new social media content on new national pages.

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**CARDIFF COUNCIL
CYNGOR CAERDYDD****CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE****19 OCTOBER 2021**

Young Person Gateway

Reasons for the Report

1. This report provides the Committee with information in relation to the Young Person Gateway (YPG) which is the Accommodation Gateway for young people aged 16-21. The report aims to inform the Committee of the current structure of the YPG, data on outcomes and information around the expansion plans for the Gateway.

Background

2. The YPG initially launched on 5th October 2015 and is an accommodation and support gateway for young people in Cardiff who are threatened with homelessness or who need to move on from care.
3. Upon presentation the young person is met by an Advice Worker from our partner agency Llamau. They will obtain information necessary to support the young person which will include the reason for presentation and whether they are already open to either homeless or Children's Services. Llamau will also capture as much risk and support information about the young person as possible, which can include liaising with other professionals including Youth Offending Service and Schools.
4. For any 16 / 17-year-olds presenting who are not already open to Children's Services, they will be advised of their right to a Child Looked After assessment under the Southwark Judgement. A social worker and housing representative will carry out this meeting with the young person who will choose whether they wish to become a Child Looked After or not.
5. The Gateway was set up to allow better partnership working between Housing and Children's Services, ensuring that regardless of whether a young person is

owed a housing duty or a Children's Services duty, their accommodation options and pathways were the same. The Gateway was also intended to reduce the number of high-cost placements for Looked After Children.

6. In May 2019 the YPG was recommissioned with accommodation and support now sitting under two contracts with a total of 166 units of accommodation:
 - Contract 1 is led by the Salvation Army in partnership with Church Army and Taff Housing.
 - Contract 2 is led by Llamau in partnership with Hafod Care Association.
7. Contract 1 has a total of 106 units of accommodation and comprises of larger hostel spaces (largest is 29 units) along with several self-contained units in the community. Support ranges from 24 hour on site for larger accommodation projects and floating support for self-contained flats.
8. Contract 2 has a total of 60 units of accommodation which all have staff on site 24 hours a day, with no more than 7 units in each of the buildings. These schemes are intended for young people with higher support needs.
9. Outcomes for the young people are generally very positive, especially given the high needs that many present with. Between 1st April 2020 and 31st August 2021, move on out of the Gateway was as per below from each contract:
 - Salvation Army
 - **114 (82%) young people positively moved on from the YPG**
 - 66 (46%) moved into social housing
 - 33 (25%) positively returned home / stayed with friends
 - 2 (1%) moved into the Private Rented Sector
 - 13 (10%) moved out of area
 - **25 (18%) young people experienced a negative exit**
 - 1 (1%) abandoned (was subsequently reaccommodated)
 - 10 (7%) were evicted (6 were subsequently reaccommodated within YPG or Single Person Gateway)
 - 7 (5%) were sentenced to prison and are currently still there
 - 1 (1%) was denied access to public funds
 - 6 (5%) room closed by provider due to low occupancy
 - Llamau
 - **39 (84%) young people positively moved on from the YPG**
 - 21 (46%) moved into social housing
 - 15 (31%) positively returned home / stayed with friends
 - 3 (7%) moved into the Private Rented Sector
 - **7 (16%) young people experienced a negative exit**

- 4 (9%) were sentenced to prison and are currently still there
 - 3 (7%) evicted due to antisocial or violent behaviour (1 subsequently imprisoned, 1 reaccommodated within Single Person Gateway and 1 currently being supported by Children's Services)
10. While in supported accommodation the young people are supported to learn independent living skills and performance against this is closely monitored. The contract with the providers includes detailed targets that they are required to meet which include the number of young people in Education, Training and Employment, the number of young people regularly paying their Service Charge and the number of young people maintaining contact with family where safe to do so. The providers are responsible for supporting the young person to achieve these outcomes and develop skills necessary to do so.
 11. Since its introduction in March 2016, the main pathway out of the supported accommodation provided by the Gateway is via the Tenancy Training scheme. Once a young person has been identified as being ready to live independently, they will be required to attend a training session which covers all the necessary information around managing a tenancy, such as, connecting utilities, how to pay rent, applying for any benefits, how to register with a GP and managing relationships with neighbours.
 12. Whilst the training used to be held in person, during the pandemic the training team have developed virtual training for young people meaning that young people have still been able to move on to independence throughout the crisis.
 13. Once training is complete the young person is given Immediate Priority on the Social Housing Waiting List.
 14. To ensure continuity the young people who move on from the supported accommodation provision continue to receive support from the same provider for 12 months and this can be extended if necessary. Should they prove not to be ready for independent living they can return to supported accommodation.
 15. As of 15.09.2021, since March 2016, 319 young people have been housed through the Training Tenancy scheme.
 16. There are only a total of 4 young people who have been unable to maintain their tenancies giving the Tenancy Training pathway a 99% sustainment rate.

Next Steps

17. We have seen an increase in demand for accommodation within YPG. This has been due to an increase in Children Looked After (CLA), coupled with a general increase in youth homelessness.
18. Between March 2016 and June 2020, the overall number of CLA increased by 302 (47%), with the number in external fostering increasing by 38 (12%) and number in external residential placements increasing by 39 (80%).
19. As of 16.09.2021 there were 28 young people on the waiting list to enter YPG. The Accommodation Team work closely with Llamau Advice Officers and Children's Services to ensure that any particularly urgent cases are prioritised and provided with emergency accommodation.
20. Due to the increased demand, a dedicated YPG Prevention Officer was appointed who works with young people who are at risk of homelessness and supports them to either maintain their current accommodation where safe and suitable to do so or, if appropriate to secure alternative accommodation to YPG, e.g., Private Rented Sector.
21. We are also in the process of recruiting a Senior Accommodation Officer, dedicated to managing the YPG. A part of this role will be to work closely with Children's Services to continuously analyse potential demand for the YPG based on information known to them of young people currently placed outside YPG. This will allow an opportunity to ensure the most suitable accommodation option is secured based on the young person's needs and wishes.
22. In January 2021 it was also agreed to increase accommodation provision in YPG to assist with the increased demand. It was agreed that the YPG would be expanded by 4 x 4-bedroom units which would allow Children's Services to move Children Looked After from out of area high-cost residential placements into the YPG.
23. In May 2021 the first of these units was opened and is fully occupied. The second unit opened in September 2021 and is due to be fully occupied by the end of September 2021.
24. Children's Services are also increasing the provision of Supported Lodgings by an additional 24 units with the intention to create more emergency spaces using that accommodation method.
25. A new specialist project for young people with complex needs is also being planned which will comprise of 8 rooms, 2 emergency placement spaces and 2 independent flats. The young people referred for this project would be able to live independently but will have complex and challenging support needs

including, offending behaviour, substance misuse and high mental health issues.

26. We are continuously monitoring young people who present and assessing the accommodation available to ensure that the accommodation meets the needs of our clients.

Financial Implications

27. The YPG service is a base budget funded service. Additional expansion has allowed additional young people to move on from supported accommodation. The cost of expanding the service has been affordable through the reallocation of funds released from the costs previously incurred on supported accommodation. It is an area that will continue to be monitored closely to ensure the service continues to provide good value and remains within base budget.

Legal Implications

28. There are no legal implications arising from this report

RECOMMENDATIONS

29. The Committee are recommended to note Young Person Gateway update and to make any observations or comments

DEBORAH DRIFFIELD
Director, Children's Services
28 September 2021

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**CARDIFF COUNCIL
CYNGOR CAERDYDD**

CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

19 OCTOBER 2021

National Transfer Scheme

Reasons for the Report

1. This report provides the Committee with information in relation to National Transfer Scheme. The National Transfer Scheme forms the basis of a voluntary agreement made between local authorities to ensure a more even distribution of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC). The report aims to inform the Committee of the scheme along with an update on the developments thus far in its implementation.

Background – National Transfer Scheme (NTS)

2. The National Transfer Scheme (NTS) is intended to ensure that any participating local authority (LA) does not face a disproportionate responsibility in accommodating and looking after unaccompanied children, simply by virtue of being the point of arrival.
3. Any local authority supporting UASC at, or above, 0.07% of their general child population is able to refer a child into the NTS for transfer to another local authority under the rota arrangement.
4. Each region or nation involved in the NTS takes its turn on the rota in sequence. The expectation will be for that region or nation to fulfil the allocated number of placements at which point responsibility will move on to the next region, and so on. The rota aims to work on a quarterly cycle and therefore Authorities are able to effectively plan accommodation and support in preparation for when we are next on the rota. (Note that the rota is currently moving at a faster pace due to current demand)
5. The long-term objective of the voluntary transfer scheme is to ensure that children can access the services they need by achieving a fairer distribution of

unaccompanied children across all local authorities and parts of the UK, through a scheme which is equitable and transparent.

6. The National Transfer Scheme launched nationally on 26th July 2021

Regional Pilot

7. In March 2021, lead officers in both Cardiff and Newport developed a proposal to scope a regional delivery model of the National Transfer Scheme in Wales. Both Cardiff and Newport have the expertise and experience of supporting unaccompanied children and have strong networks of partnership support that can be drawn on to offer holistic support for the children placed in our cities.
8. Following discussions with the All-Wales Heads of Children's Services, it was agreed that Cardiff and Newport would proceed with the scoping exercise for a regional model for the NTS. The NTS scoping exercise is being delivered alongside a detailed investigative project plan which explores opportunities to improve and streamline the service offer and complete relevant feasibility studies for regionalisation.
9. The pilot will be delivered over 18 month period, and produce recommendations for the future model, which will be provided to Cabinet for consideration.
10. The regional pilot is resourced through grant funding from the Welsh Local Government Association and Welsh Government and has enabled the recruitment of a Project Manager, supplementary financial assessments and the development of key service delivery and management tools, such as a service dashboard.
11. The long-term arrangements are pending agreement following the findings and recommendations of the pilot, however a regional rota would introduce a model through which Cardiff and Newport accept NTS placements proportionate to Wales's annual allocation of UASC transfers (30 UASC's per year). The region would therefore, provide the placements and support for any transfer requests on behalf of the other 20 Local Authorities in Wales.
12. There will be approximately 7-8 UASC placed in Wales each cycle and where possible this will be shared across Newport and Cardiff to reflect service capacity (until the total allocation of 30 has been reached).
13. Cardiff provides support to approximately 16 spontaneous arrivals per year. Any spontaneous arrivals of young people in Cardiff will continue to be supported in the Local Authority by the UASC service, and those children transferred via NTS will be in addition to spontaneous presentations.

14. The pilot seeks to understand the full implications of this model for Cardiff and Newport and produce a comprehensive vision for a child-centred and sustainable service for the NTS Rota in Wales through the regional model, building upon the existing strengths of the two authorities, who have extensive experience and expertise in this area.

Regional Pilot Project Developments

15. Excellent progress has been made to date following the recruitment of the Project Manager. Detailed scoping is being delivered in a number of key areas including:
 - Planning sufficient and appropriate accommodation options ensuring that the right level of support is in place.
 - Delivering the launch of a specialist age-assessment centre at Colum Road Centre, which is due to become operational December 2021. The project will also investigate and support the implementation of a multi-disciplinary approach at this site, collaborating with key public and voluntary sector partners.
 - Working with advocacy services to ensure we keep children's rights at the heart of all developments and that the child's voice is reflected in decision making. This includes incorporating the use of the Mind of My own app for the cohort, to better capture the views and experiences of children supported by the service.
 - Developing pre and post-16 education provision to meet the needs including ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) support.
 - Developing and cascading training to staff and partners and to raise awareness of the UASC Service in Cardiff and Newport to key internal and external stakeholders.
 - Ongoing evaluation of the NTS pilot scheme drawing on key data and feedback from children, practitioners and partners to evaluate the impact.

Issues

16. There continue to be large numbers of arrivals at the port in Kent. Kent Children's Services were unable to accept any unaccompanied minors into their care for several months during the summer, as the demand on their service was so great that they would be unable to meet their statutory duties to safeguard these young people. Therefore, many children who arrived at the port in Kent in recent months are currently being supported by the Home Office.
17. This situation has impacted the speed of the implementation of the transfers across the UK and the Home Office has sought to accelerate the

placement of these children in other local authorities across the UK. This has been outside the scope of the BAU rota arrangements outlined above.

18. Through this process, Cardiff and Newport have provided a number of emergency placements for children and 13 children have been placed across the two authorities to date. Given the critical circumstances in Kent, other Welsh local authorities have also provided emergency placements over the summer,

Financial Implications

19. With support from the Council's accountancy function, a full financial assessment will be completed through the regional pilot to ensure that future participation in the NTS rota on a regional basis is sustainable and will contribute to an efficient and high quality UASC service for all children who access this support.
20. Whilst, Current financial assessments indicate that participation in the scheme will be cost neutral this position will be regularly reviewed through the use of information detailing current numbers and projected demand. Where financial pressures arise then actions will be taken to resolve without impact on the service.

Legal Implications

21. There are no legal implications arising from the Local Authority's involvement in the Regional Pilot.

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee is recommended to:

- a) Consider the report and identify how the committee would like to monitor progress in the NTS pilot.
- b) Note the information provided regarding Cardiff's involvement in the NTS scheme to date.

DEBORAH DRIFFIELD
Director, Children's Services
28th September 2021

**CARDIFF COUNCIL
CYNGOR CAERDYDD**

CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

19 OCTOBER 2021

Independent Reviewing Officer Monitoring Report July 2021

Reasons for the Report

1. The purpose of the report is to provide an update to the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee concerning key updates and trends for Children Looked After in the last period. The report has traditionally been completed on a bi-annual basis, however, has been on hold throughout the pandemic.

Background

2. 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, accommodated voluntarily, placed with foster carers, in residential or secure establishments, living with kinship carers or placed for adoption.
3. 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.
4. Independent Reviewing Officers have specific responsibility to escalate concerns about Looked After Children through a dispute resolution process. If the concern cannot be resolved within the line management structure, the process allows escalation to the Chief Executive and ultimately to the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS Cymru) to consider legal action if necessary.

Issues

5. The July 2021 monitoring report attached in **Appendix A** sets out key updates on the IRO service including the response and challenges as a result of the pandemic.

6. Key performance data is also set out in the report outlining key demographics of our young people including gender, age and placement type

Financial Implications

7. Whilst there are no direct financial implications arising from the report, there are costs associated in respect to the operation of the Independent Reviewing Officers. The Committee may want to consider if there is any financial information required for the Committee to undertake its Terms of Reference. The Next Steps section of the report sets out a series of initiatives some of which have been costed and funding identified and where this has not yet occurred then funding would need to be identified prior to action being commenced

Legal Implications

8. There are no legal implications arising from this report

RECOMMENDATION

9. The Committee are recommended to note the Independent Reviewing Officers Monitoring Report July 2021 in **Appendix A** and to make any observations or comments

DEBORAH DRIFFIELD
Director, Children's Services
30 September 2021

Independent Reviewing Officer Monitoring Report July 2021

Scope of Report:

The purpose of the report is to provide an update to the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee (CPAC), concerning key updates and trends for Looked After Children in the last period. The report has traditionally been completed on a bi-annual basis, however has been on hold throughout the pandemic.

Independent Reviewing Role:

The role and function of the Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) and the Local Authority in relation to care planning for Looked After Children are set out in the following –

- *The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014* sets out the main functions of the Care Planning Process and IRO
- *The Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (Wales) Regulations 2015* sets out the detail of the IRO's role
- *Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014, Part 6 Code of Practice* elaborates on the regulations and explain the role and function of the IRO in further detail.

It is a legal requirement for every Looked After Child to have an IRO. Social Care Wales, the regulatory body for Social Work in Wales, describes the IRO as a:

Social worker with particular responsibilities for making sure that individual children receive the care and support services they need. Their specific duties include participating in care and support plan, and placement plan, reviews. They will monitor how well the plans are being delivered to meet the child's well-being outcomes and take action to make sure the plans are revised or renewed where change is required. The independent reviewing officer has specific responsibilities to ensure children and young people's voices are heard, and that they are supported to participate.

The IRO Practice Standards and Good Practice Guide provides guidance for IRO's and Local Authorities in Wales. It summarises a number of issues relating to the role of the IRO that are useful to include here:

- *The IRO's role is to monitor, that is keep an overview of the child's case, not just at formal review meetings, but between review meetings as well.*
- *During the reviewing process the IRO has a duty to look at how the child has been looked after and how the care plan is progressing*
- *As the IRO does not have the power to overrule the Local Authority decision making process, there has to be some way of showing that they are concerned about the progress of a child or young person's case or a decision made in relation to a care and support plan. The local authority*

should have a dispute resolution process by which IRO's can make senior managers in the local authority aware of their concerns, with a view to resolving them. If that internal process does not work, then the IRO may refer to CAFCASS Cymru.

- *The role of the IRO carries with it personal responsibility for carrying out his or her functions. In a case in 2012, **A & S v Lancashire CC [2012] EWHC 1689 (Fam)** it was clarified that the IRO may be held personally responsible for:*
 - a) *Identifying if a child or young person's human rights are being infringed;*
 - b) *Ensuring that the local authority acts upon the recommendations of the LAC Review;*
 - c) *Referring to CAFCASS if the child/young persons' human rights are infringed or significant recommendations of the review are not acted upon.*

A key update that committee members will want to be aware of is the *Public law working group (March 2021)- Public law working group Recommendations to achieve best practice in the child protection and family justice systems*. This makes recommendations about enhanced support for and work with families prior to court proceedings, reducing the number of care proceedings and Looked After Children.

Looked After Reviews:

Looked After Reviews are held within 28 days of a child becoming Looked After. The first review then needs to take place within 3 months and the subsequent reviews take place at least every 6 months for the duration of the child remaining looked after. Where there has been a placement disruption or a significant other change (for instance moving from a foster placement to a residential placement) the review will be brought forward. In the case of children being placed for adoption, the same timescales are adhered to.

Whilst Looked After Reviews are traditionally a face-to-face meeting, throughout the global COVID 19 pandemic, reviews have been held virtually since March 2020. Initially these were convened via the telephone and Whatsapp to include children, carers and parents. Some were undertaken as a series of meetings, to include the right people and gather sufficient information to review the child's plan. Cardiff were one of the first authorities to facilitate review meetings via video conferencing, initially using Skype and then replaced in July 2020 by Microsoft Teams, which we have been using since this time.

The service had to reorganise how we planned and organised meetings, as scheduling and facilitating reviews for over 950+ children presented challenges. Not all carers, parents and children had the same technical knowledge or had access to devices to enable them to participate. Partner agencies also had different IT capabilities, however

all of these obstacles were able to be overcome. Whilst we were worried that virtual meetings could be a barrier to many young people and families participating, in most circumstances we have found the opposite. Children and young people have been telling their IRO's that they often prefer interacting virtually via computers and tablets, as they are usually very familiar with how these work. It has also meant that there is often improved participation from other professionals, as without the added pressures of travelling times, they are able to balance attending more meetings and reviews.

The Reviewing Service:

The Safeguarding and Reviewing Service is responsible for coordinating and chairing Child Protection Conferences as well as Reviewing the plans for all 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). The Service Manager directly line manages all IRO and CP chairs, and reports directly to the Director of Children's Services. 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, however since March 2020 a decision was made to manage both functions as related but separate teams. This decision was made to assist with scheduling, which has also helped increase the number of reviews that the team is able to undertake.

The Independent Reviewing Officers are all experienced social workers, however some additional agency cover has been required to support staff maternity, some sickness and additional demand related to a large increase in Child Protection as well as children Looked After. Whilst the number of children Looked After has fluctuated over the last year, there has been an increase from 972 in January 2020 children to 986 currently and went over 1000 at one point in early July 2021. The team is stable with a good skills mix. Prior to the pandemic, the team was already mostly agile as meetings and reviews took place in the community and most staff worked from home to complete paperwork for efficiency. As such, the team was already used to home based working. Working from home for extended periods has affected everyone's wellbeing, particularly as most staff across all services have had additional responsibilities (such as child care), however the team have supported each other well.

The rise in children the Safeguarding and Reviewing service is responsible for reviewing has meant that caseloads have risen. There have been some temporary increases in staffing, but it has meant that there is insufficient management capacity, with only one manager for 18 staff across Child Protection and Looked After. A review of the service is underway to consider the staffing and expanding the management arrangements. Average caseloads for each staff member is approximately 95-100 children, a rise from approximately 90 in January 2020. The recommended maximum is between 65-75. This has meant that there is less available time for IRO's to monitor and track each child. Whilst undertaking reviews virtually can have challenges, there are significant time savings for staff, particularly when commuting to out of county placements. This has meant that they have had more time to monitor and review plans, talk to children and families, albeit with the limitations of not being able to undertake

visits and meetings face to face. With restrictions easing, the service is looking at what work can continue to take place virtually and when face to face meetings and visits have to be prioritised.

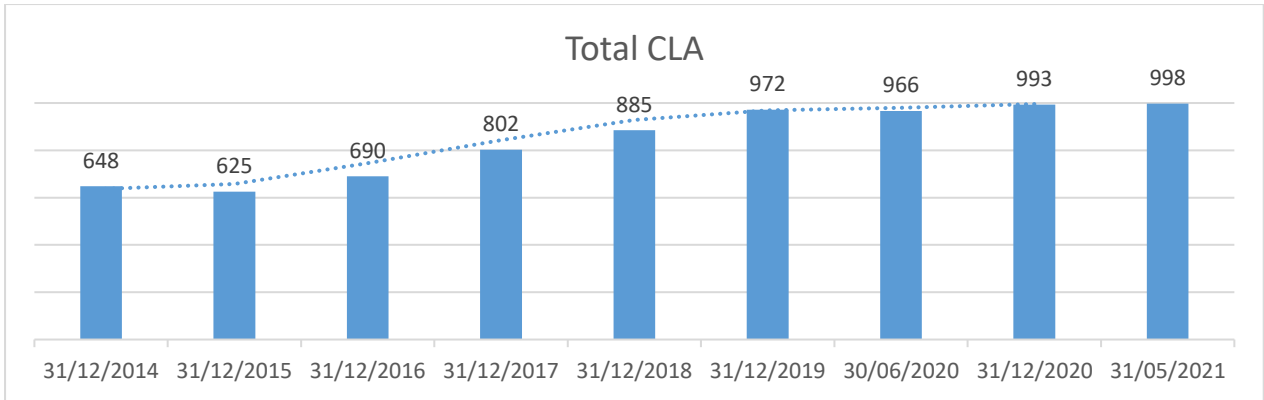
Frequency of Reviews

As outlined above within the updated legislation, guidance and case law, there is a duty for the IRO to continually monitor the child's plan and particularly where there are issues of concern or drift. Where there are issues or concerns there is a need to robustly challenge the plan. In practice, this means that there is significant work that the IRO needs to do on a frequent basis to ensure that they remain in contact with the child's social worker, reviewing the child's records and monitoring the progress of the plan. A key focus for the IRO is in determining what the child's lived in experiences are like when reviewing their plans. This can be more difficult when done virtually, however the team are creative in finding ways to communicate with children, carers and their support networks to find out what is going on for children.

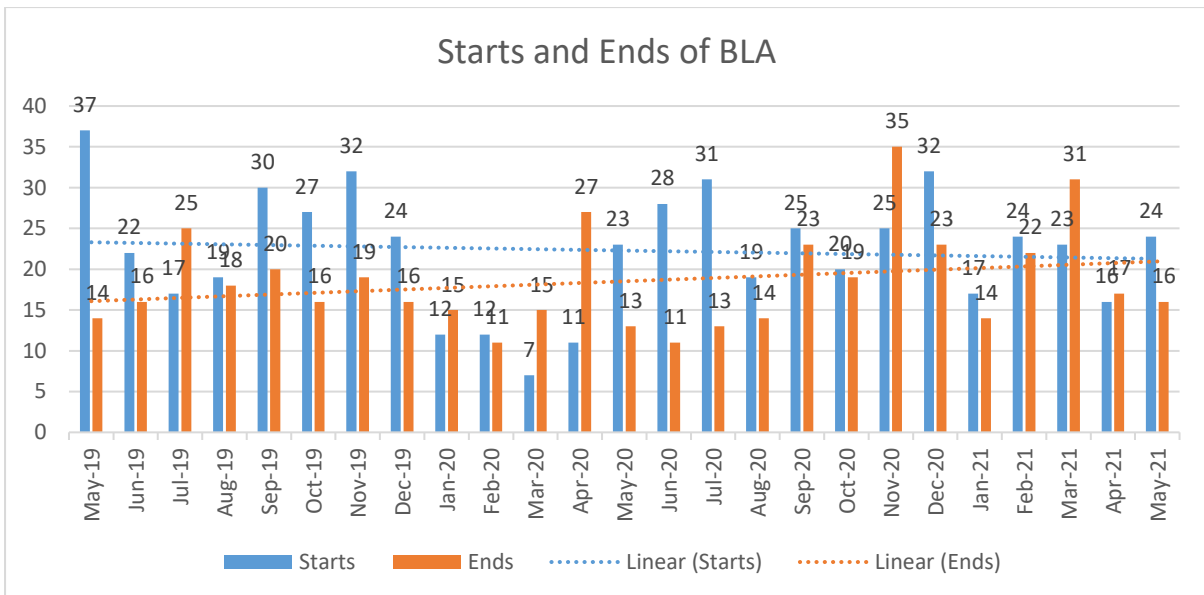
Performance in scheduling reviews has increased over the last year. 90% of all Looked After Reviews take place within necessary timescales and some children are reviewed much more regularly than the recommended timescales. Where the reviews are late, it is by a few days in almost all circumstances and usually because of scheduling difficulties or a change in worker. Monitoring and reviewing is however a continual process and not just limited to reviews. IRO's check in with children, carers, social workers and managers in between reviews. IRO's have introduced a midpoint monitoring review for many of their young people, to review where children's plans are and look at what needs to happen before their next review. This is not a statutory review, but good practice to help track progress.

Looked After Children Population:

At the time of writing, there were nearly 1000 children looked after by Cardiff Children's Services. At the beginning of the COVID 19 pandemic, there was a slight reduction in the number of children looked after, however the numbers have gradually climbed. Whilst the numbers are very high, the increase in new 'starts of being looked after', have levelled off compared to previous years as can be seen from the charts below.

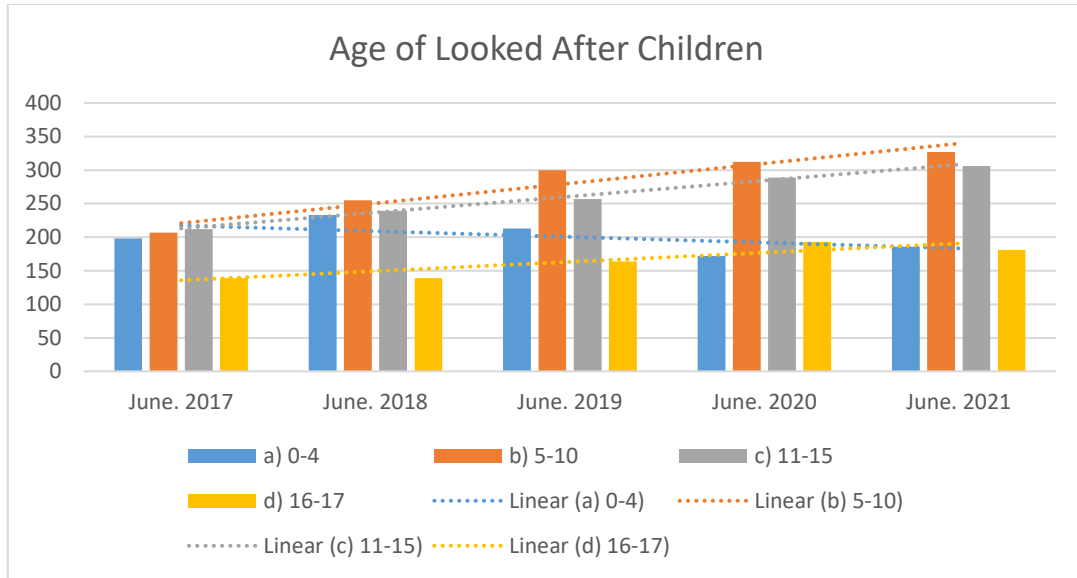


In recent years, there have been far more children becoming looked after than ceasing to be (e.g. returning home, adopted or turning 18). This trend has been slowly changing in recent years, which if it continues could start to see a decrease in looked after children.



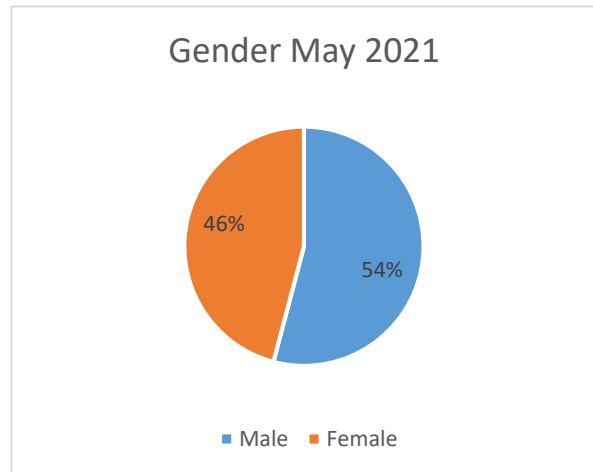
Ages of Looked After Children:

The average age of Looked After Children in Cardiff has changed over the last few years. In previous years there were a larger amount of children aged 0-4 years, however this age group has decreased relative to previous years (18.5%), whereas children aged 5-9 and 10-15 make up most of our Looked After population (32% and 31% respectively). The number of Care Leavers (16-17 year olds) remains similar to last year (18%), but is higher than in previous years. This could lead to a slight reduction in the overall numbers of Looked After Children when they leave care at 18. Children aged 5-15 continue to warrant particular attention as they will remain Looked for a considerable period of time and the numbers have increased.



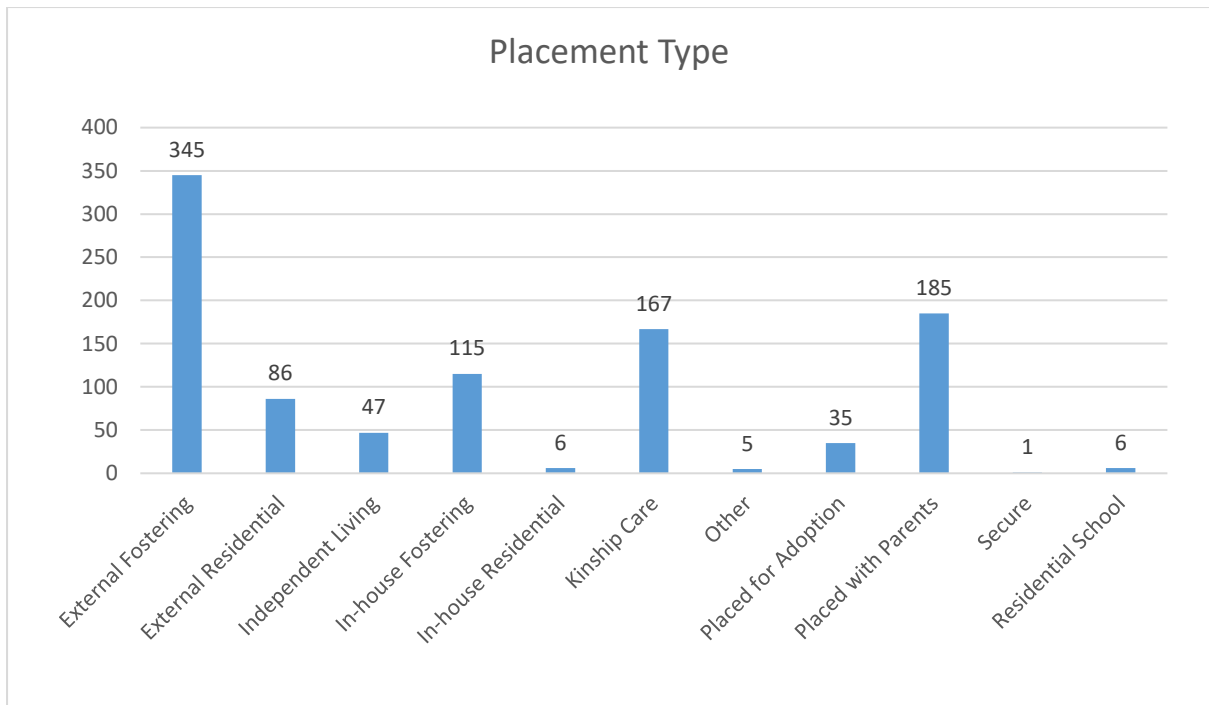
Gender:

There is a higher proportion of boys than girls, which has increased over the last year (51% were boys in the previous period). Some of this difference is related to unaccompanied asylum seeking children, the majority of which are male.

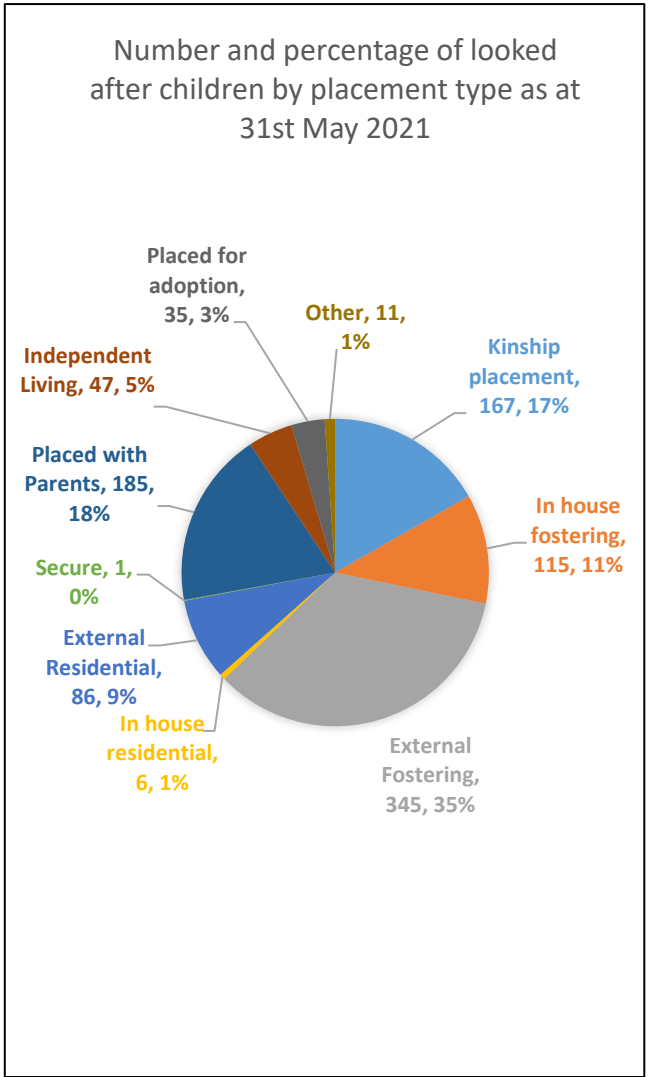
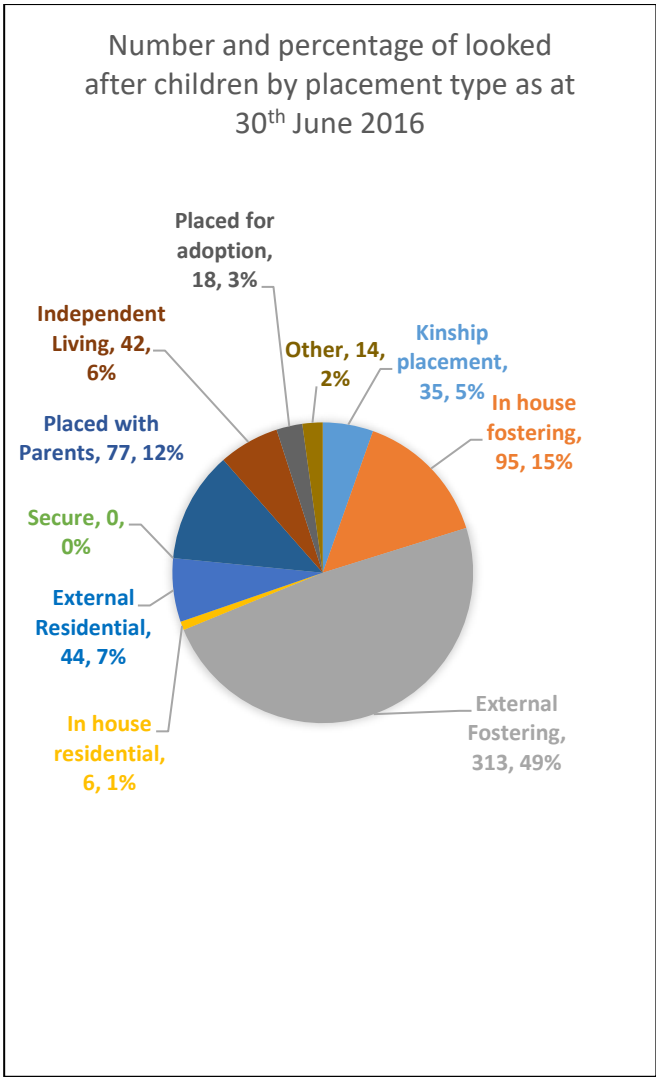


Placement Type:

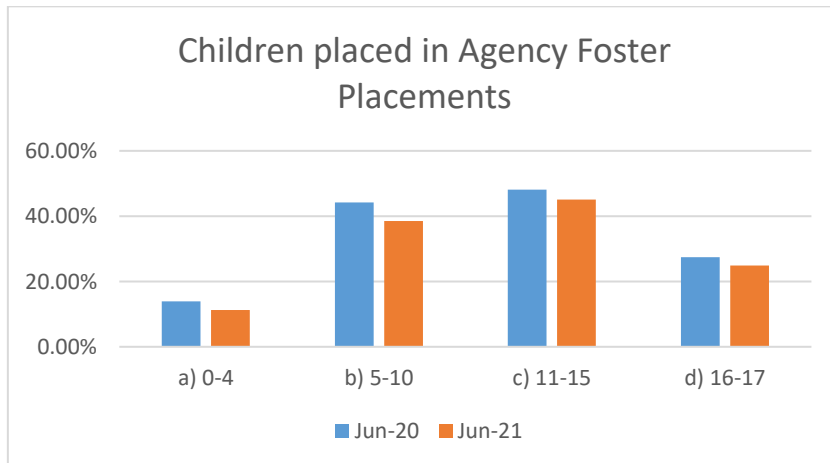
The majority of children looked After are placed in a foster placement, with 3 times as many children placed in agency foster placements as in house fostering.



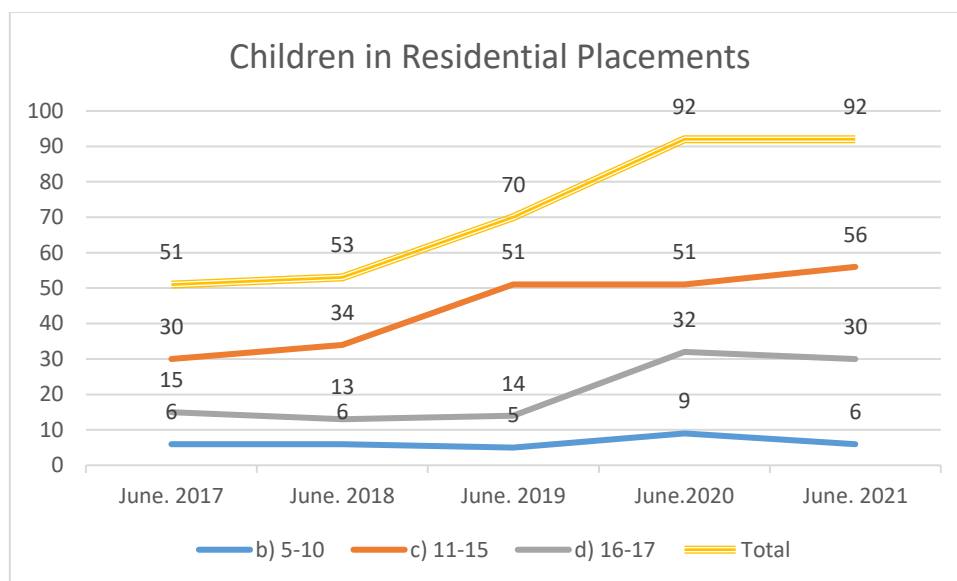
The chart above illustrates, in percentages and numbers, the placement types where our Looked After Children are residing. There has been a large increase in the number of children placed with their families (kinship foster care and Placement with Parents), which now makes up 35% of our Looked After population. The charts below outline the differences over time in the various placement types (comparing May 2021 against June 2016).



Whilst the percentage of children in an in house foster placement has reduced, the number of placements and children placed has actually increased. The Fostering Service is currently in the process of a restructure, which it is anticipated will assist in growing the number of in house placements. A national fostering service campaign is currently taking place, with plans to join up with other Welsh Local Authority fostering services to form a national brand. There has also been a decrease in children placed with agency foster placements across all age groups, as illustrated:



The number of children in a Residential Placement has increased in recent years, particularly when compared to 2016. A number of our Looked After Children have complex needs related to their early life experiences and Residential Placements play an important part in supporting their care plans. There is a shortage of foster placements however, and we know that there are a cohort of children who are placed in residential placements who could be better supported in a family placement. The following table illustrates the children in residential placements by age since 2017. Whilst the overall number is the same as last year, there has been an increase in 11-15 year olds.



A Residential Review project has been set up in the North Locality, with Operational Managers, Housing and the Reviewing Manager to closely review move on options for relevant young people that would benefit from moving on. Whilst early days, the project appears to be beneficial and could be extended to the East and South Localities. The Youth Gateway supports young people in finding housing and accommodation from as young as 16. Many young people require support, which these provisions are equipped to provide and supports transition to independence. Some of our young people require care as well as support and as such need to remain in a care arrangement (foster, residential or supported lodgings). The project is helping to explore and work with social workers in identifying the best move on plans for the young people.

Out of County Placements:

About a third of our Looked After Children are placed outside of Cardiff, with over half of these young people residing in an external foster placement. 18.5 % are placed with a parent or family member.

| Placement | No. |
|---|-----|
| Children's home outside LA boundary | 66 |
| Family Centre / Mother and Baby Unit | 1 |
| Foster placement with relative / friend outside LA | 44 |
| Foster placement with relative or friend outside LA | 1 |

| | |
|--|------------|
| Independent living | 3 |
| NHS / Health Trust / medical or nursing care establishment | 1 |
| Other placement | 1 |
| Placed with foster carer provided by LA outside LA | 12 |
| Placed with parents / person with parental resp. | 19 |
| Placement with agency foster carer outside LA | 187 |
| Residential School | 4 |
| Secure unit outside Wales | 1 |
| YOI or Prison | 1 |
| Grand Total | 341 |

The following heat map helps to show that most children are placed in Local Authority areas near to Cardiff.

Placements heat map by LA



Placements heat map by Post Code



Children placed outside of the Cardiff area are reviewed at the 'Brighter Futures' panel, attended by Health, Education and Children's Services. These panels are held monthly, however there is a review of the panel currently to consider the frequency and how the panel can best operate.

Nearly 20% of the children placed outside of Cardiff are in a Residential home. These placements can often be a considerable distance from Cardiff. The Council is investing in additional residential provisions, including an assessment Centre, to reduce reliance on external provisions and enable more young people to remain living in Cardiff.

Education arrangements:

Cardiff Children's Services work closely with colleagues in Education to support our Looked After Children. There is a dedicated Looked After Children and Education [LACE] team situated in the Education directorate. There are strong links between the LACE and Childrens Services teams to track and support Looked After Children.

The education arrangements over the COVID 19 pandemic have been carefully reviewed. Looked After Children were classified as potentially ‘vulnerable’ children and were eligible for attendance at hub provisions when most schools were closed or had limited access. Where Looked After Children were supported to learn at home, they were provided with access to Chromebooks. A Joint (multi agency) Vulnerable Learners Panel was set up in the first lockdown to help monitor the arrangements for vulnerable learners. This panel has continued even though schools have subsequently reopened as it provides an excellent opportunity for multiagency discussions to support young people.

There was a reduction in the number of children experiencing a school move in the last year –

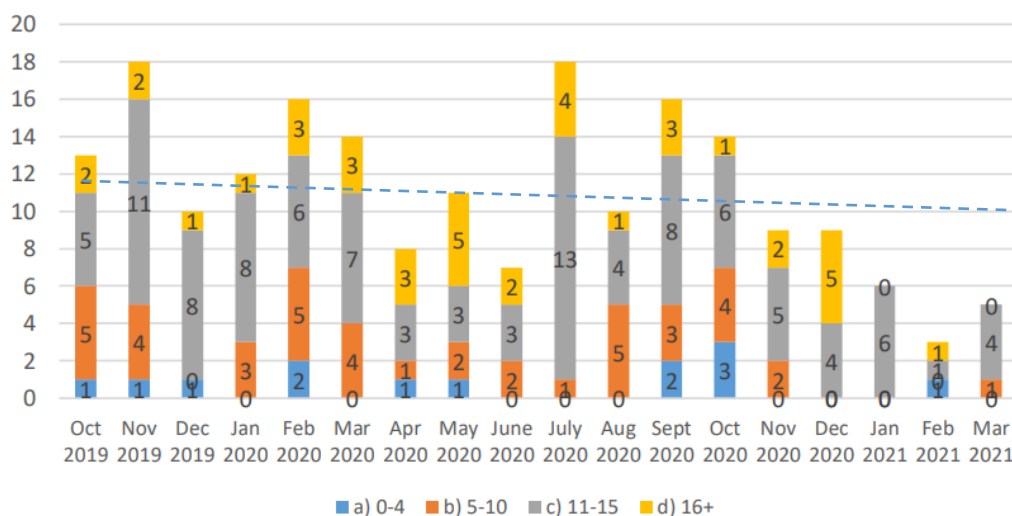
| Move of school within year | |
|--|--------|
| 2018/19 (not calculated in 2019/20) | 12.30% |
| 2020/21 | 8.30% |

The LACE team carefully track the education plans for all Looked After Children. 97% of all Looked After Child in School in Cardiff have an up to date Personal Education Plan to monitor their educational progress as a Looked After Child. We also know that 19% of Looked After children educated in Cardiff are subject of a Statement of Special Educational Need to support their learning.

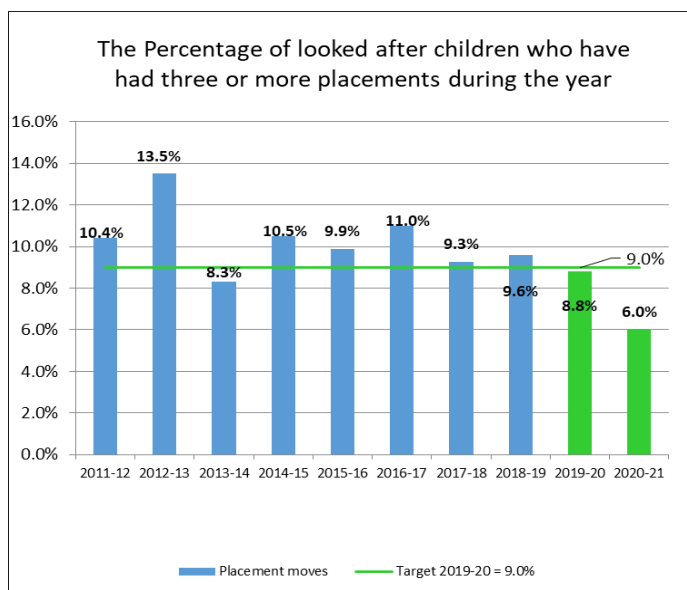
Unplanned Placement Moves

There has been a decrease in the number of unplanned moves over the last year. Unplanned moves can take place for a number of reasons, but are usually very disruptive for the young people involved. Children over the age of 11 are much more likely to have a placement disruption. It is really positive that there have not been as many disruptions in the last year (see chart below).

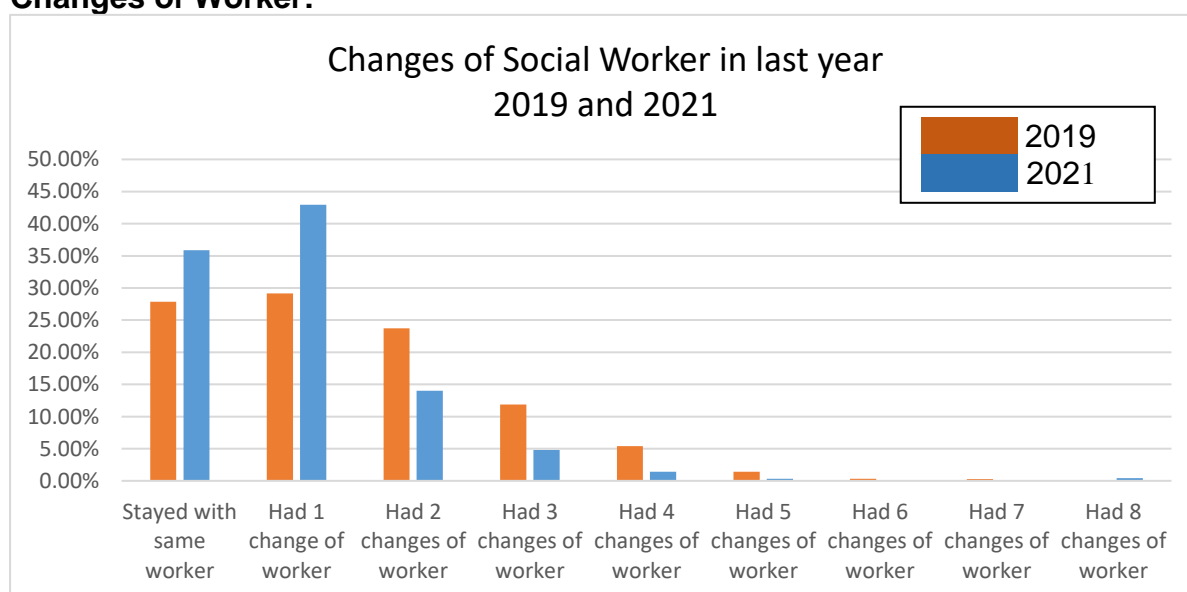
Unplanned Placement Moves by Age



The percentage of children that have had 3 or more placement moves over the last year has also reduced, which outlines that children are remaining in placements for longer.



Changes of Worker:



The figures above show that whilst some children have had a number of social workers, there has been a positive decrease in changes of workers children have had compared to 2019. Recruiting and retaining social workers is challenging for all Local Authorities as there is a national shortage. There has been significant recruitment and retention efforts made within Cardiff Children’s Services, which have reduced the changes of workers for children, even if the number of changes remain too high. There have been some children that have been without a social worker for a period. In June 2021 there were 28 children without an allocated social worker, which is a reduction from the 40 or so children in June 2020. The social work teams have been very active in identifying support workers for these children, with close management oversight and visits by duty social workers at the required times. The teams allocate the cases as quickly as possible, which means that children are usually not without a qualified worker for long. They also ensure that where there are any issues or concerns, children get allocated as a priority. The Independent Reviewing Officers role is vital in these circumstances in minimising drift. They are often the person that has had the

longest relationship with the child, young person or their family. Coordinating reviews in timescales is also more challenging when there are changes of worker.

Children placed for adoption between 01/01/20 - 31/12/20

| Children Placed for Adoption | | | | | |
|------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| | Jun-17 | Jun-18 | Jun-19 | Jun-20 | Jun-21 |
| a) 0-4 | 22 | 23 | 38 | 22 | 31 |
| b) 5-10 | 3 | 3 | 7 | 11 | 5 |
| c) 11-15 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 25 | 26 | 46 | 33 | 36 |

A total of 36 children were placed for adoption between May 2020 and June 2021. This is a slight increase on the previous year. The children placed were mostly young (0-4 years). During the first lockdown in the COVID 19 pandemic, adoption introductions were interrupted for a short period as services adjusted to working virtually but have picked back up and the placement finding process is generally working well.

Placement with Parents

In June 2021 there were 185 children subject to a Care Order and living with their parents under Placement with Parent (PWP) Regulations. This is a 10% increase from January 2020. All of these children must be reviewed by an IRO in the same way as any other Looked After Child.

Cardiff has a much higher than average number of children subject to Placement with Parent Regulations. There is a significant amount of additional work in reviewing children placed at home with their parents, as by virtue of the Court Order, there are often considerable support needs. There is also an expectation that the Independent Reviewing Officer should review these children more closely.

There is a cohort of children who no longer require a Care Order, however it has traditionally been very difficult to discharge as it requires a Court application and significant assessment work. Children's Services have set up a PWP project, which involves the Children's Management Team (CMT), Reviewing Service and CAF/CASS to FastTrack applications. This is in its initial stages, but there is much clearer oversight of PWP plans.

Looked After Children Population

In addition to the areas outlined above, there are additional trends that are known:

- There has been a general population rise in Cardiff, which is set to continue.
- Increased complexity, with Looked After Children often requiring therapeutic plans and additional support in placements.
- 33 Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Looked After Children.
- Large increase in children placed on the Child Protection Register since March 2020 (nearly double). It is considered that this increase is related to the COVID

19 pandemic and fact that children and young people have been at home, less visible and with few support services undertaking direct work. Increases in the children on the Child Protection Register now could lead to more children becoming Looked After at a later date if they are not successfully supported to remain at home.

- Children placed at home under PWP has continued to increase, but there are some signs that the number of new PWP will decrease. This is linked to a recent Judicial Review outlined above, which will likely promote future reduction in PWP.
- Early Help - Cardiff Council has continued to invest and support Early Help Services to provide support to children and families without the need for formal Children's Services intervention.
- Adolescent Resource Centre- A coordinated effort is also being made to support all children at the edge of care into the Rapid Response and ARC as a means of preventing the child from ending up in the formal care process. There are currently 67 children receiving support from the ARC, which is an increase from 48 in January 2020. These are children that could otherwise be permanently looked after.
- Rise in adolescent Looked After Children linked to criminal exploitation- SAFE strategy is being developed to identify, assess and support all children who might be at risk of exploitation. The strategy utilises a contextual safeguarding approach linking up all relevant agencies in the Local Authority and partner agencies including, but not limited to Health and the Police.

IRO Resolution of Problems and Auditing

The Independent Reviewing Officer has an important duty in monitoring individual cases and checking children's plans. A key feature of the IRO role is that they should provide an independent perspective uninfluenced by managerial or resource pressures of the Local Authority. The IRO service provides robust challenge to social work teams regarding cases that have gone into drift or where the quality of care planning is not good enough. The IRO's are employees of the council and there is a delicate balance required by all Local Authorities to ensure that the IRO's remain impartial.

The Local Authority has an active Dispute Resolution Protocol (DRP) in place. This enables issues to be addressed via a formalised document that is retained and responded to within the Carefirst system. These comments on good practice and concerns are looked at and used to evaluate practice, policies and procedures. Following a Looked After review the IRO completes documentation that outlines whether a child's care plan is effective in meeting their needs. Where there are general low level issues of concern, this gets reported and the social worker/team manager are asked to respond and address these issues. Where there are more serious issues, the Protocol is raised as described above.

The key issues that get raised or escalated are:

- Care and Support plans not being updated in a timely manner.
- Drift in Care Planning – related to a service, resource, assessment not being progressed in an agreed timescales.

- Move on plan not being progressed in a timely manner.
- Disputes about allowances- Some foster carers would like to commit to children and young people via Special Guardianship Order, but require a long term payment to match their fostering allowance. The national guidance on this appears to discourage long term payment and independent legal advice on this is being considered by the IRO service.
- Twice as many reports of 'good' practice get reported, which is encouraging.

Occasionally, this challenge has met with some resistance from social workers or managers. Where matters have not been resolved satisfactorily they will then be escalated to an Operational Manager and then Director for consideration and resolution. Ultimately a referral can be made directly to CAFCASS if the IRO cannot seek resolution, however this is rare. The escalation process is currently being reviewed to shorten timescales for responding and resolving issues. The new process will also enable the service to more closely resolve issues.

Pathway Plans

IRO's also chair pathway plan reviews for Young People from age 16 to 17 years who are due to leave care at 18. They also review pathway plans for 'eligible' care leavers up to the age of 21 or 25 if in full time education. Reviews now also take place regularly for Young Adults 18+ years in response to "When I'm Ready" for Young Adults who want to remain in their foster placement or continue in full time education or training. Many young people however do not wish to have a review when they are over the age of 18. Where this is the case the IRO tries to ensure that the young person has made an informed choice and offers the young person advice about how to get in touch with the IRO in the future if they wish to change their mind. The arrangements for Pathway plans for Care Leavers (18+) are being reviewed with consideration as to how we can successfully support these young people in their transition into adulthood.

Consultation with children and young people

IRO's are encouraged to meet with a child or young person before each review and where appropriate between reviews for an 'IRO visit'. During the reviewing process the IRO ensures that the wishes and feelings of the child/young person are sought, and they are encouraged to participate in their review. Parents and foster carers are able to contribute to the review process, and also ensure that younger children also have an opportunity to discuss their feelings about the reviewing process and their experiences in foster care.

This has presented some challenges over the COVID 19 pandemic as meetings, visits and conversations with young people needed to be done virtually. What we have found is that many young people are very experienced in using a device and actually preferred to communicate via video. This isn't the case for all young people and some IRO visits and reviews have been face to face, where government guidance allowed. As a service we are looking to the future and assessing which meetings, reviews and consultations can take place virtually and what needs to be face to face. It is likely that

we will take a blended approach and will look at what works best for each child and family.

A good practice recording template, referred to in the previous IRO report, has been designed to be used when IRO's are visiting children and young people. This will start to be used next year when our new recording system Eclipse is launched.

All young people are also supported to access independent advocacy via NYAS. All young people have had the opportunity to meet with an advocate to explain their role and know how to access this service. IROs also support young people to access this service where appropriate.

Children and Young people are currently sent consultation forms prior to each Looked After Review. Not all young people want to fill in these consultation forms and they see them as old fashioned. Instead Cardiff Children's Services have invested in a purpose designed app, Mind of My Own, which specialises in supporting and enabling young people to communicate in a way that supports them and at a time that suits. All Looked After Children in Cardiff will have access to this. The portal software also allows us to have an overview of the information that children have provided to the organisation. This will help to support decision making at an individual, service or corporate level.

Some of the main issues and themes that children and young people have shared with their IRO include:

- Positive feedback about their worker, placement or carer.
- Recent achievements in sitting their school exams.
- Disappointment when they have a change of worker and need to tell 'their story' to a new worker- *It is positive that changes of workers have decreased, but it remains too high.*
- Lockdown - *the COVID 19 pandemic has been hard for most children, but it has been particularly difficult for some of our looked after children as it can increase feelings instability and insecurity. Others have benefited from more one to one time with their carers and educators (where they have attended hub provisions)*
- When they are not allowed to see their family- *face to face contact arrangements have been affected due to COVID 19 regulation. Virtual contact has been promoted, but some children and young people have struggled with this. All contact is now face to face.*
- Changes of school or placement – *a disruption of any type is very difficult for a child. The number of disruptions has decreased in the last year.*

Next Steps:

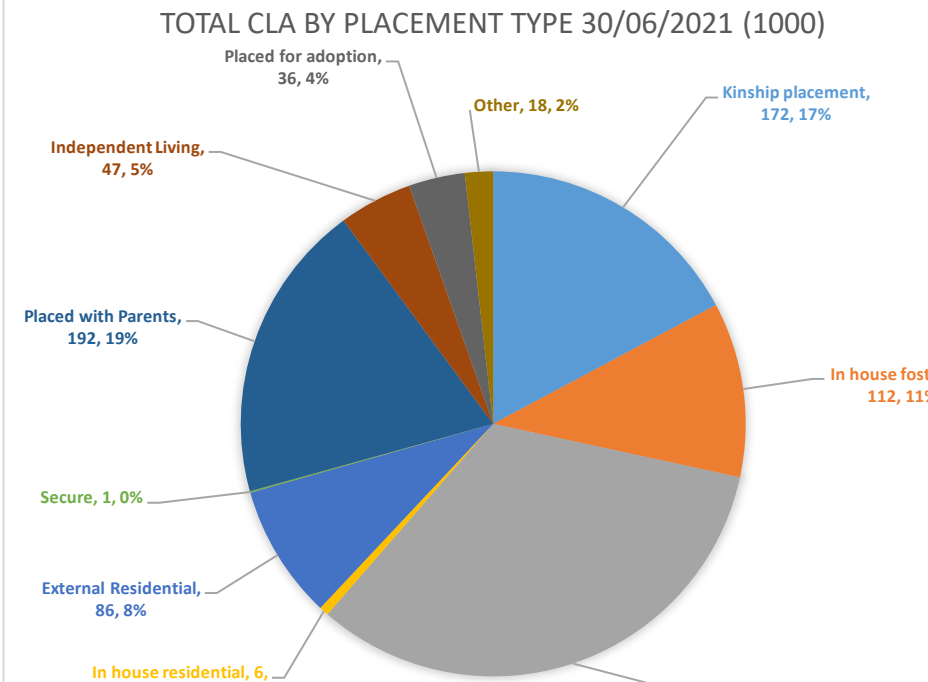
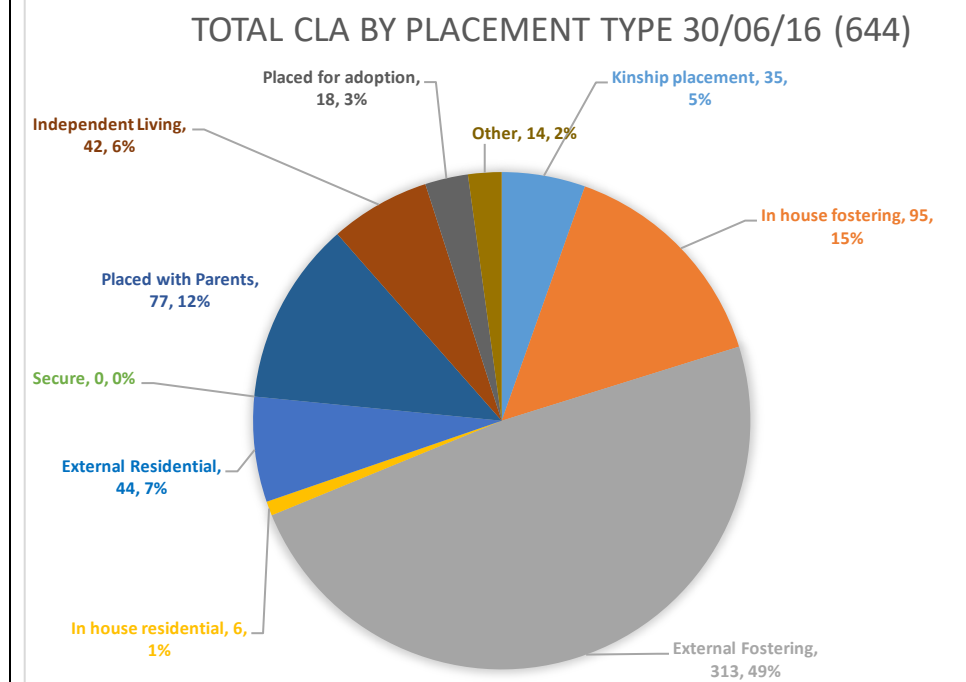
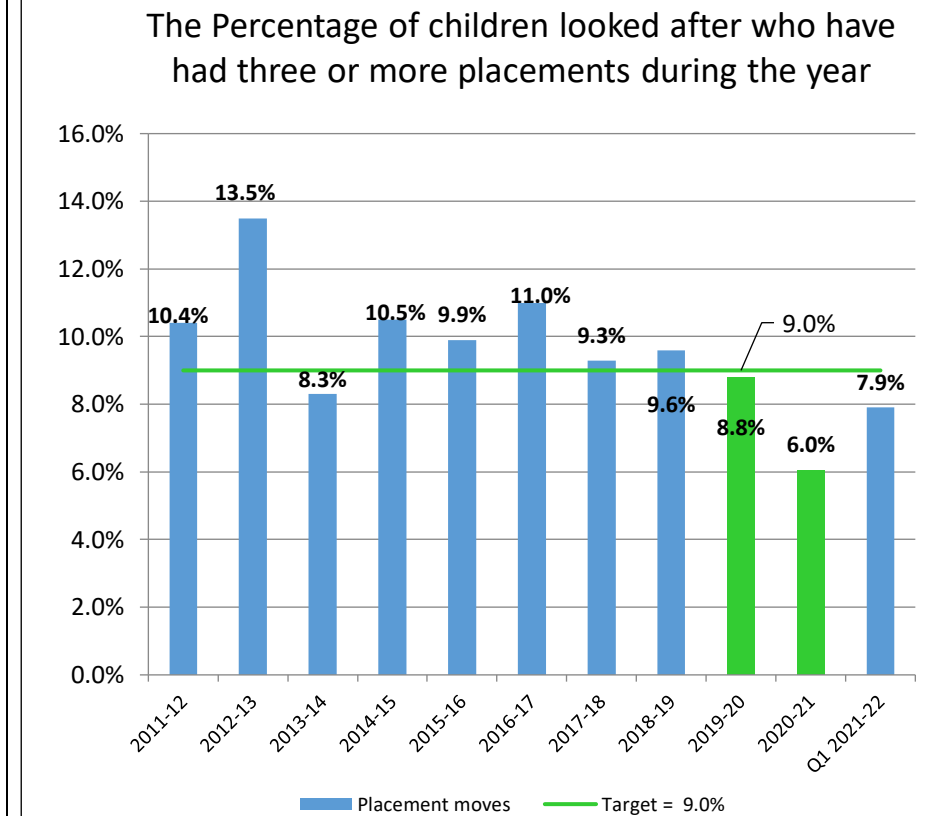
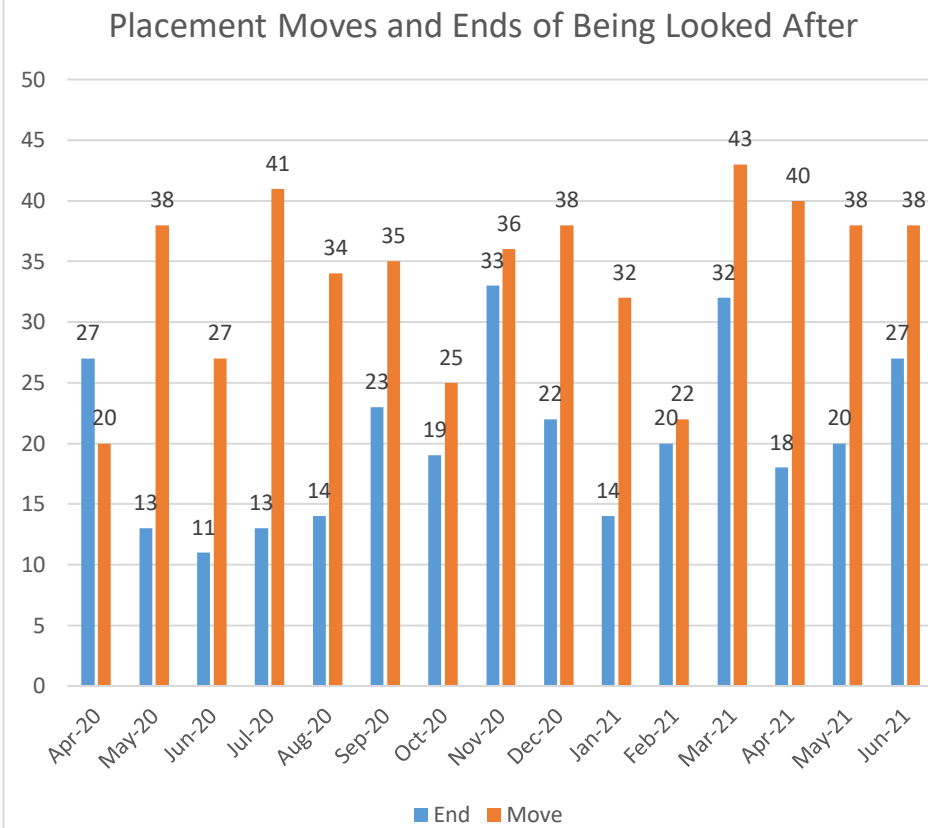
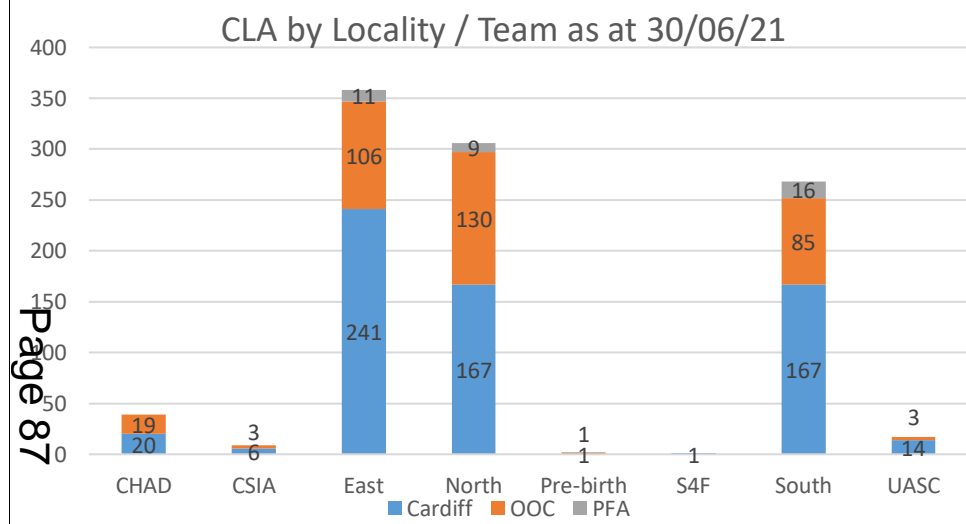
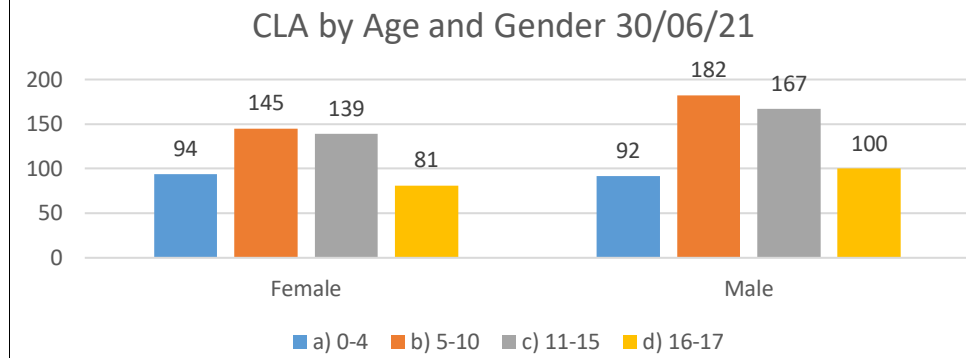
- Promote the participation and engagement of children and young people within their Looked After Reviews and through the implementation of the Mind of My Own platform.
- Review of the staffing, management arrangements and function of the Safeguarding and Reviewing Service, with a view to creating a Reviewing Hub.
- Improve the quality and consistency of Care and Support Plans to reflect outcome based care planning.

- Closely review the plans for children placed at home under PWP to consider support or progress plans to discharge Care Order
- Eclipse Project – this is provisionally scheduled to become operational in April 2022. IRO's have played a key part in developing new processes, forms and systems based on best practice.
- Work with other directorates to implement SAFE model.
- Work with the reunification project to identify and closely monitor those children where reunification is possible.
- Work with Residential Pilots to monitor and offer additional scrutinise
- Review and update IRO escalation procedures, so that where there are issues of concern or drift they are consistently raised in a timely way. Also so that issues can be more closely tracked and monitored.
- Review of virtual and face to face reviews/visits, to develop a hybrid blended model for reviewing.
- Transitional Services – Reorganisation of IRO/CLA Reviews for Care Leavers with enhanced emphasis on future planning for young people

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CPAC Dashboard Quarter 1 2021-22

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

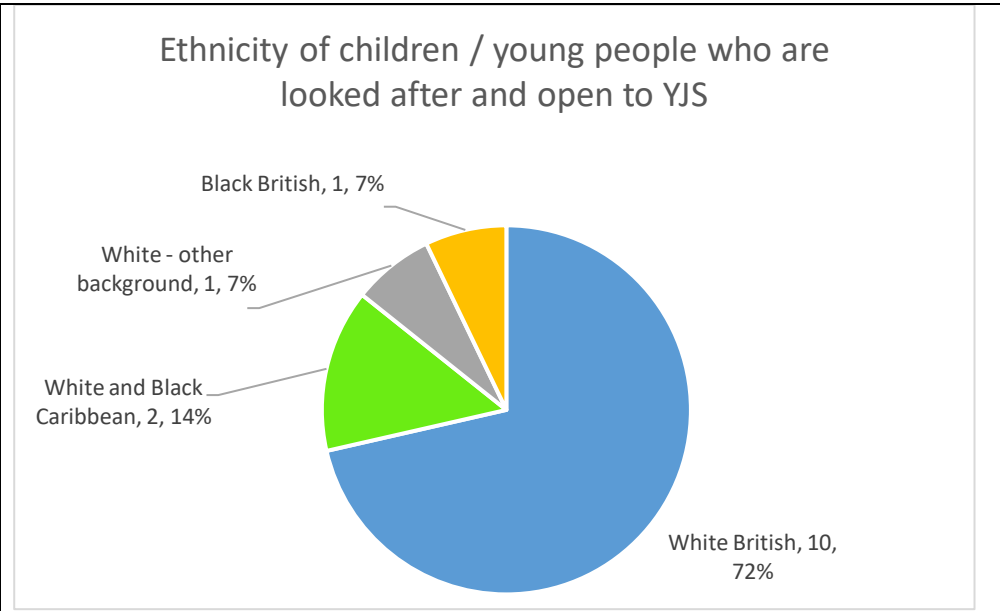
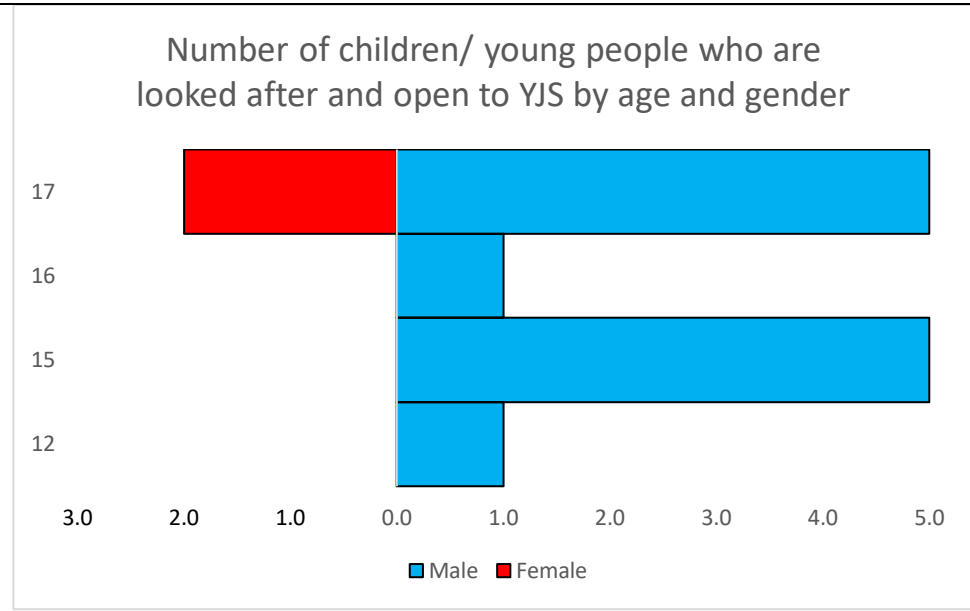
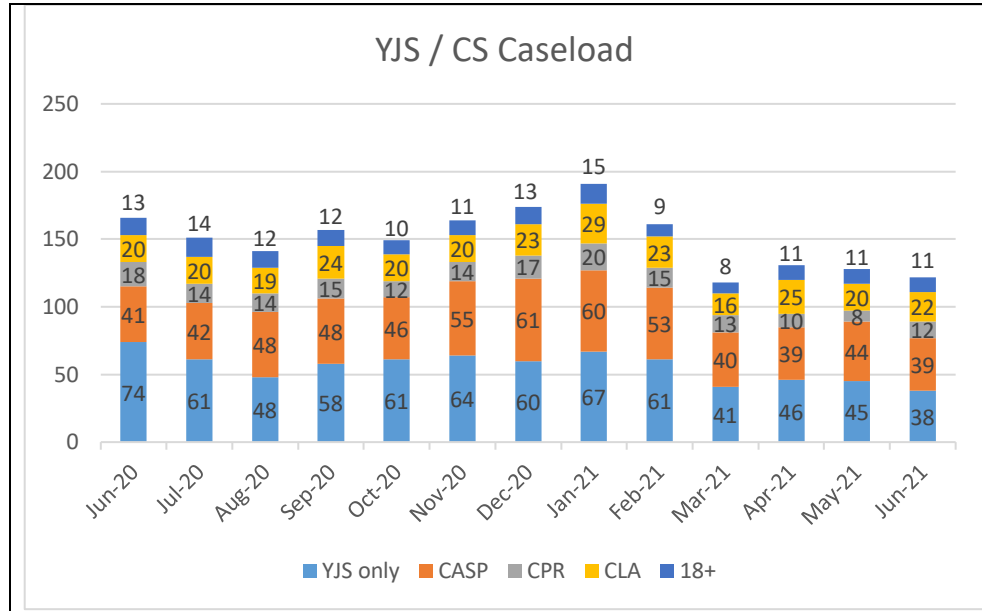


After a decrease in the number of children looked after in the early days of lockdown, a subsequent increase in new admissions led to a gradual increase from 939 at 27th April 2020 to 1,000 at 30th June 2021. The number of children looked after has been relatively stable since October 2020, but is being closely monitored. 28 of the 72 children (39%) who started being looked after during Quarter 1 2021/22 were placed with parents on a Care Order, with family / friends or in parent and baby placements.

The graph above shows the percentage of looked after children who have had 3 or more placements during the year = 7.9% (79 / 1000.) This is a rolling result for quarter 1, based on the children who were looked after as at 30th June 2021 and the number of placements they had during the preceding year. 79 of our children looked after as at the 30th June had 3 or more placements during the year. This is in comparison to 6% (60 / 992) for the 2020/21 result as at 31st March 2021.

The pie charts show the shift in the balance of care we have achieved in recent years. The percentage of children being looked after and placed with parents on a Care Order or in kinship arrangements with family members has increased from 17% (112 / 644) to 36.4% (364 / 1,000), while the percentage of children looked after in regulated placements minus kinship placements has reduced from 71% (458 / 644) to 54.1% (541 / 1,000.)

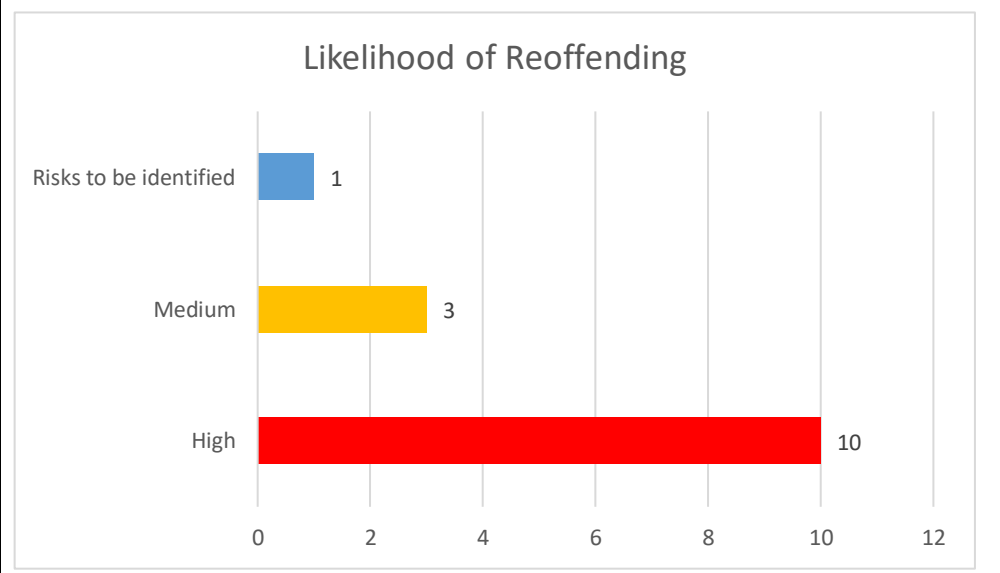
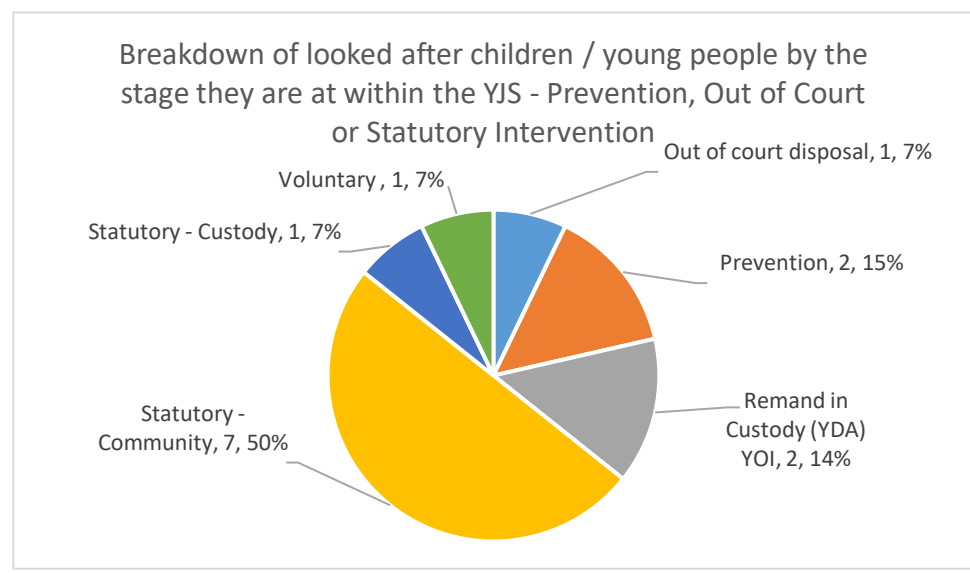
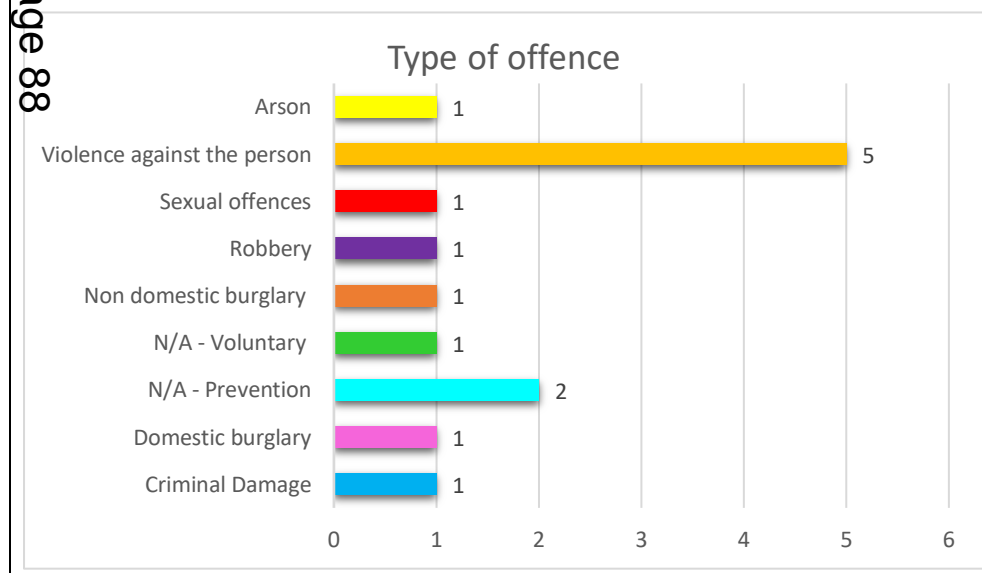
CPAC Dashboard Quarter 1 2021-22



The chart above shows the current open YJS caseloads which identifies all young people open to CS. There has been a decrease in caseload numbers recently due to more prompt case closures, however, CLA population averages around 20 young people.

The ratio of male to female young people 12-2 (86%) that are CLA is consistent when compared to the ratio of all young people currently engaged with the YJS 132-19 (87%) (this is based on the latest caseload information @ beginning of October).

The latest published information from the Youth Justice Board (mid 2011) shows 80% of the 10-17 year old population were white and 5% were mixed. The chart shows only 72% are white and the remaining 28% being black, Asian, and minority ethnic. This is also reflected in the general offending population during Apr – Jun 2021 shows that 73% (8/11) of young people offending in Cardiff were white which highlights the disparity.



36% (5/14) of young people have been convicted/remanded into custody for violent offences, this is commensurate with the national picture of offending by young people. 2 of the 5 young people charged with violent offences have been remanded into custody due to the seriousness of the offences committed which, as mentioned previously, means they automatically become CLA. 45% (5/11) of main offences had a seriousness of +5 (scale from 1-8). 3 young people have not been charged or convicted of any offences as they are engaged either on Prevention or voluntarily.

YJS engages young people across a wide range of interventions from Prevention prior to offending to those in Custody and on licence in the community. Those young people remanded into custody automatically have CLA status. The chart shows the highest percentage of CLA were engaged on Referral Orders. This is the lowest level community order available to the courts, where successful completion results in the conviction being 'spent'.

It is also noticeable that the majority were in the high risk of reoffending bracket the detail behind which will be investigated further but could be due to a number of external or internal factors.

CPAC Dashboard Quarter 1 2021-22

EDUCATION

| | As at March 2021 |
|---|------------------|
| 1 The number of looked after children: | 686 |
| In a Cardiff school or setting | 424 |
| In an out of county school or setting | 222 |
| EOTAS (not on roll at a school) | 37 |
| Not in provision | 3 |

| | As at March 2021 |
|---|------------------|
| The number and percentage of looked after children with SEN / ALN: | 686 |
| School Action | 95 |
| % | 14% |
| School Action Plus | 91 |
| % | 13% |
| Statement | 132 |
| % | 19% |
| With Individual Development Plans (once IDPs are statutory for all looked after children) | N/A |
| % | 95 |

Exclusions:

| | September 2020 - August 2021 |
|---|------------------------------|
| 2 Schools Exclusions: Cardiff schools only | |
| Number of LACE with one or more fixed term exclusion (Sept to date) | 27 |
| % | 3% |
| Number of LACE permanently excluded this year (Sept to date) | 0 |
| % | 0% |

Attendance:

| | September 2020 - August 2021 |
|---|------------------------------|
| 3 Attendance: Cardiff schools only | |
| Attendance cannot be reported as data would be skewed and not an accurate representation because of the isolating of year groups/classes. There wasn't a code for 'not required to attend' before November so all children were marked as absent. | |

Education figures will be almost the same as figures shared at the last meeting as we have come to the end of the academic year that we are currently reporting on.

There are gaps in data as official figures are not available until later for example, official NEET and academic results. We will have these before March 2022 when this report will be completed by.

This data reports on the last academic year 2020-21 and will be completed by March 2022 by which point we will know the next reporting cohort and can start giving figures on the 2021-22 academic year.

Please note there is no attainment data currently available as Exams were cancelled 2020 & 2021. New measures will be established as part of curriculum reform.

CPAC Dashboard Quarter 1 2021-22

LACE Not in Provision (NIP):

| | | September 2020 – August 2021 |
|----------|---|------------------------------|
| 4 | Time spent Not in Provision (NIP) academic year to date: | |
| | Number of LACE NIP this academic year living in Cardiff | 2 |
| | Av Weeks NIP (Cardiff) | 7.4 |
| | Number of LACE NIP this academic year living in OOC | 7 |
| | Av Weeks NIP (OOO) | 20.39 |

Personal Education Plans:

| | | September 2020 – August 2021 |
|----------|--|------------------------------|
| 5 | Personal Education Plans: | |
| | Total number of LACE with a PEP this academic year | 667 |
| | % | 97% |
| | Total number of LACE with a PEP this academic year (Cardiff Schools) | 416 |
| | % | 98% |
| | Total number of LACE with a PEP this academic year (OOO Schools) | 217 |
| | % | 98% |
| | Total number of LACE with a PEP this academic year (EOTAS / No School) | 34 |
| | % | 85% |

Successful transition:

| | | September 2020 – August 2021 | |
|----------|---|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 6 | Successful Transition to Employment Education or Training: | # Y11 | Y11s with intended EET destination* |
| | Total number of LACE in EET on October 31st | 78 | 65 |
| | % | | 83.3% |
| | Total number of LACE in EET on October 31st (Cardiff) | 47 | 39 |
| | % | | 82.9% |
| | Total number of LACE in EET on October 31st (OOO) | 18 | 16 |
| | % | | 88.8% |
| | Total number of LACE in EET on October 31st (EOTAS) | 13 | 10 |
| | % | | 76.9% |

As previously noted, weeks 'Not in Provision' is significantly longer for children placed out of Cardiff. This confirms the need to improve joint planning for education when planning placement moves. Some children with additional educational needs / requirements are placed in Local Authorities with insufficient specialist provision and as a result are spending too long not in provision. As a team we are working with Children's Services to improve this joint planning.

The figure for PEPs is exceptional. Particularly in comparison to historic lows of 20%

31st October is the date that is used to measure number of young people that are NEET. The figures included gives an indication of those who we expect to be in education, employment and training on this date, based on the information we have about their plans and their current enrolment. We should have the official figures around December or January.

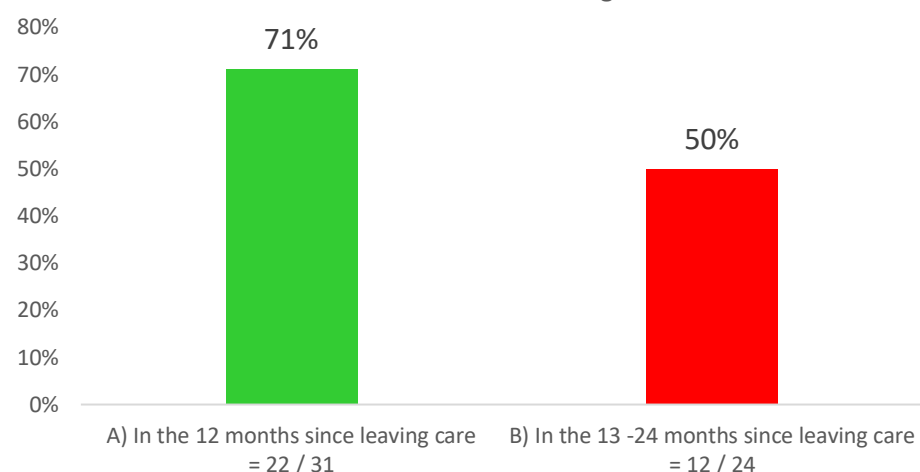
CPAC Dashboard Quarter 1 2021-22

ADOLESCENTS

Into Work Service

| | |
|---|----|
| MONTHLY CASELOAD – August 2021 | 75 |
| TRAINING OUTCOMES (Project Cumulative) | 84 |
| WORK EXPERIENCE/ VOLUNTEERING (Project Cumulative) | 31 |
| FULL TIME EDUCATION (Project Cumulative) | 50 |
| JOB OUTCOME (Cumulative) | 79 |
| JOB OUTCOME (July - August) | 6 |
| EARLY LEAVER (July - August) | 3 |

The percentage of care leavers in categories 2,3 and 4 who have completed at least 3 consecutive months of employment, education or training in:



Source: Children's services – Quarter 1 result for 2021-22

Housing / Young person Gateway

KPIs for the period 1st July – 31st August 2021:

- **100%** of care leavers prevented from becoming homeless (target is 90%)
- **3** care leavers housed in supported accommodation in the Young Person's Accommodation & Support Gateway
- **5** care leavers housed permanently in social housing through the Training Tenancy scheme
- **108 (99%)** care leavers successfully maintaining their social housing tenancy through the Training Tenancy scheme (target 95%)
- **8** additional units of supported accommodation in the Young Person's Accommodation & Support Gateway (target is 16 units by Autumn 2021)

The Bright Futures team have been busy this summer with supporting their young people to apply and get ready for college and apprenticeships. Young people are starting a wide variety of courses: Hairdressing, Spa and Beauty, ESOL, Work skills & Vocational Access, Veterinarian apprenticeship among others. They will continue to be supported by their mentor for up to 6 months in college and on their apprenticeships if needed, to ensure that they have settled well and are able to continue independently.

The 5 young people started their Bright Start placements in July with a week of pre-placement training with Adult Community Learning, celebrating their successful completion with well-deserved ice creams in the city centre. They continue to do well on their placements, supported by their Bright Start support worker and have been receiving good feedback from placement staff. The trainees had their first week off at the end of August, where they spent time team building by playing laser-tag with their support worker and mentors – who were soundly beaten!

A group of care experienced young people living in supported accommodation have started attending the Down to Earth project for 6 weeks with the support of Bright Start. The young people will be helping to create an outdoor healthcare and rehabilitation facility in 14 acres of woodlands and meadow next to Llandough hospital. The young people showed great enthusiasm on their first day, with the facilitator stating: 'I was super impressed by (their) maturity and willingness to get involved.' We are hoping this will continue to be a positive and growing partnership over the coming months.

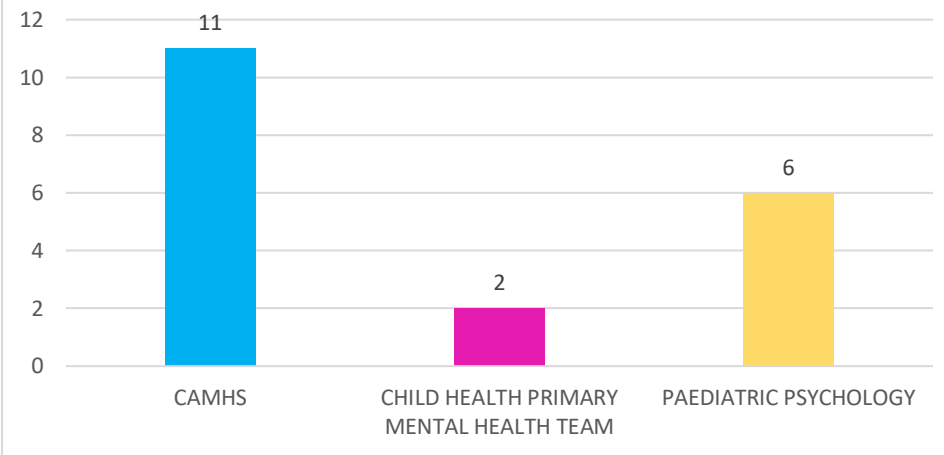
The percentage of care leavers in categories 2,3 and 4 who have completed at least 3 consecutive months of employment, education or training in: A) the 12 months since leaving care = 71% which is above target of 65%.

The percentage of care leavers in categories 2,3 and 4 who have completed at least 3 consecutive months of employment, education or training in: B) the 13-24 months since leaving care = 50% which is below the target of 57%.

CPAC Dashboard Quarter 1 2021-22

HEALTH

Children looked after open to Emotional Wellbeing Services during Quarter 1 2021-22



Of the children and young people who were looked after and open to Emotional Wellbeing Services during quarter 1, 5 of the 11 children / young people open to CAMHS were receiving urgent intervention. 6 were open to the Generic Team whilst one was receiving support from Hafal whilst on the CAMHS waiting list. 5 of those open to Paediatric Psychology were receiving consultations to assess the impact of becoming looked after on their behaviour, outlook and mental health. The other children and young people open to Emotional Wellbeing Services during quarter 1 were under assessment.

Source: Health

Health Visiting 'Step up to the cup' [Oral Health] programme figures for children aged 6 months and 15 months residing in Cardiff who are recorded as looked after during Quarter 1 2021-22.

There were no Assessments carried out during the period for children recorded as looked after by Health.

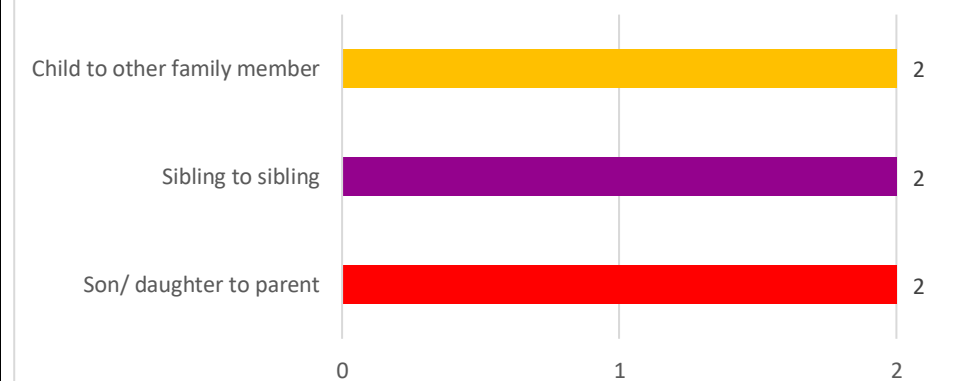
All Health data is in Development.

Please note data provided is in relation to those identified as looked after on Cardiff and the Vale Health's database. Children's Services are working with Cardiff and the Vale Health board to help improve data integrity and capture further data in relation specifically to Children Looked After.

OTHER

Mind of my own/ participation data- in development

Reported incidents of abuse / violence involving children in Cardiff who are looked after between 01/07/2021 and 30/09/2021



Source: Police

**CARDIFF COUNCIL
CYNGOR CAERDYDD**

CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

19 OCTOBER 2021

FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

Reasons for the Report

1. This report seeks approval of the committee's Forward Work Programme (FWP) 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.

Issues

4. The structure the Corporate Parenting Strategy is divided into a number of themes and these will be mirrored in the FWP 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 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. 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.

Performance Monitoring

8. The 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 Corporate Parenting Strategy and the delivery of the services to our children looked after and young people.

Annual Report

9. It is suggested that the Children and Young person's Scrutiny Committee, the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee and Cabinet receive the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee Annual Report in March 2022. The Annual report will then be presented to Council in June 2022. The Annual report 2021 - 2022 will cover the activity of the Committee period from November 2020 – March 2022.

Member Development

10. The 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.

Financial Implications

11. 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

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

RECOMMENDATIONS

13. The Committee is recommended to
- a. consider the FWP including the identification of member development topics for inclusion in the Member Development Programme.
 - b. approve the committee's Forward Work Programme (FWP) as at **Appendix A**

DEBORAH DRIFFIELD
Director, Children's Services
28 September 2021

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WORK PROGRAMME CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE 2021 -2022 Appendix A

| 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. | Health and Social care partnership board update | To receive an update on Health and Social Care Partnership | NHS/ Children's Services |
| 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 |
| Performance Management | 6. | Performance Monitoring – Proposed Key | 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 |

| Topic type | Agenda Item | Agenda topic | Description | Responsible Service Area and Additional Invitees |
|------------|-------------|--|---|--|
| | | Performance Indicators (KPIs) | | |
| | 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 | | | | |
| Corporate Parenting Strategy Priority 2: | 1. | Enfys service update | To receive an update on the child psychology NHS service and to make any observations or comments. | Cardiff and the Vale Health Board |
| Better Connections, Improved relationships | 2. | Welsh Government Review of Corporate Parenting – Voices from Care Cymru | To receive an update on work of Voices from Care Cymru work programme and to make any observations or comments | Voices from Care Cymru |
| | 3. | Mind of My Own Project update | To receive an update on the Mind of my own app and to make any observations or comments | Children's Services/ Mind of My Own team |

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|-------------------------------|----|---|--|-----------------------------------|
| | 4. | 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 |
| | 5. | Child Friendly Recovery plan | To receive an update on Children Services and Education Recovery plan and to make any observations and comments | Education/ Children's Services |
| Performance management | 6. | Vale, Valleys and Cardiff Adoption Collaborative - Performance Report 2020-21 | To receive an update on the VVC adoption service and to make any observations or comments | Children's Services |
| | 7. | Ty Storrie & Crosslands Quality of Care Report | To receive Ty Storrie & Crosslands Quality of Care 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: 19th October 2021 | | | | |
| (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. | 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 |

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|-------------------------------|----|--|--|--|
| | 3. | National Transfer Scheme | To receive an update the National Transfer scheme | Policy, Partnership and Community engagement |
| | 4. | Foster Wales | To receive an update on the launch of the new Foster Wales programme and to make any observations or comments. | Children's Services |
| | 5. | IRO service update | To receive an update on the Independent Review Officer Service and to make any observations or comments | Children's Services |
| Performance management | 6. | Corporate Parenting Strategy progress report | To receive an update on the progress of the Corporate Parenting Strategy | Children's Services |

| Topic type | Agenda Item | Agenda topic | Description | Responsible Service Area and Additional Invitees |
|--|-------------|--|--|--|
| Committee Date: 18th January 2022 | | | | |
| (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. | Children Looked After detained | To receive an update on children looked after detained | South Wales Police / Children's Services |
| | 4. | Care Leavers report | To receive an update on the Care Leavers service including NEET and Care Leavers as | Children's Services |

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| | | | Parents, Care Leavers going to university and entering employment | |
| | 5. | Fostering Annual report | To receive the Fostering Annual Quality of Care Report and to make any observations or comments. | Children's Services |
| Performance Management | 6. | 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 |
| | 7. | Case Studies | To receive anonymised case studies of our young people to show work undertaken by a range of Directorates and outcomes achieved | Children's Services, Housing, Education, into work |

| Topic type | Agenda Item | Agenda topic | Description | Responsible Service Area and Additional Invitees |
|--|--------------------|-----------------------------------|--|---|
| Committee Date: 15th March 2022 | | | | |
| (Draft) Corporate Parenting Strategy Priority 5: Celebrating our Children and Young People | 1. | CPAC – Annual Report | To receive the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee Annual Report | Children's Services |
| | 2. | Advocacy and Participation Update | To receive an update on Advocacy and Participation work undertaken throughout the year. | NYAS |
| | 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 |

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| | 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. | ICSR Findings | To receive findings from Independent enquiry into sexual abuse | Children's Services |
| | 7. | NRM- National Referral Mechanism | To receive and update on National Referral Mechanism scheme | Policy, Partnership and engagement |