



County Hall  
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## AGENDA

**Committee** CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**Date and Time of Meeting** MONDAY, 9 JANUARY 2023, 2.00 PM

**Venue** CR 4, COUNTY HALL - MULTI LOCATION MEETING

**Membership** Councillor Merry (Chair)  
Councillors Ash-Edwards, Kaaba, Lay, Lewis, Lister, Littlechild, Molik, Naughton, James and Whittle

*Time  
approx*

### 1 **Appointment of Chair and Committee**

2.00  
pm

To note that Council, at its Annual Meeting on 26 May 2022 appointed Councillor Sarah Merry as the Chairperson and the following Members to the Committee for the municipal year 2022/2023:

Councillors Ferguson-Thorne, Kaaba, Lay, Littlechild, Lister, Molik, Naughton and Proctor.

Councillor Margaret Lewis was appointed by Council at its meeting on 30 June 2022 to replace Councillor Proctor.

### 2 **Terms of Reference**

To note that Council, at its Annual Meeting on 26 May 2022 agreed the following Terms of Reference for the Committee:

- 1 The Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee is responsible for advising the Council and for advocating on the collective behalf of all are leavers and children looked after by Cardiff Council, to ensure that they receive the best possible care and support.
- 2 To achieve the best outcomes for children looked after and care leavers the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee will:

Actively Promote

- a and operate collective responsibility between the Council, Social Services, Health, Education and other statutory agencies to achieve good parenting for all children in the care of Cardiff Council and to ensure that they are appropriately safeguarded to achieve the best possible chances in life.
- b real and sustained improvements by ensuring that mechanisms in place take full account of:
  - . the importance of promoting and respecting the child or young person's dignity.
  - . the characteristics, culture and beliefs of the child or young person.
  - . the importance of promoting the upbringing of the child by the child's family, in so far as doing so is consistent with promoting the child's well-being.
  - . where the child is under the age of 16, the views, wishes and feelings of those with parental responsibility for the child, in so far as doing so is consistent with well-being of the child and is reasonably practicable.

Identify key priorities by:

- c engaging with relevant children looked after forums, as determined by the young people, to drive the committee's priorities.
- d ensuring that the committee agenda focuses on what children looked after identify as relevant for their growth and development.

Co-ordinate and collaborate to:

- e seek to ensure that coordinated services are delivered across all statutory and voluntary sector organisations.
- f engage and develop a shared dialogue with the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee to avoid agenda duplication, whilst working together to exploit detailed analysis of key performance data.
- g engage with, and embrace future Welsh Government plans and expectations to extend corporate parenting responsibilities across Public Services.

Monitor outcomes and performance to:

- h ensure that performance monitoring systems are in place, and to regularly review performance data to ensure that good outcomes for children looked after and care leavers are being delivered consistently.

i review the quality and effectiveness of:

- . Children Looked After Services
- . Education Services
- . Health Services

3 To provide an Annual Report to the Council's Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee, Cabinet, and full Council.

4 To ensure the corporate parenting strategy is implemented effectively, reviewed and revised as necessary, to meet the needs of children looked after and care leavers.

5 To recommend the appointment of co-opted members to the Committee for approval by Council.

6 To make recommendations to Cabinet and Council in respect of any matters within the remit of the Committee.

7 Each member of the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee will undertake relevant training, to enable them to properly discharge their duties.

### **3 Apologies for Absence**

To receive apologies for absence.

### **4 Declarations of Interest**

To be made at the start of the agenda item in question, in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct.

### **5 Minutes (Pages 5 - 8)**

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the previous meeting.

### **6 Elected Members Engagement Session (Pages 9 - 18)**

2.10  
pm

### **7 CASCADE - Good Practice Charter for Supporting Parents in and Leaving Care (Pages 19 - 32)**

2.30  
pm

### **8 Virtual School and Virtual School Head Teacher Update (Pages 33 - 40)**

2.50  
pm

### **9 Members Visit Programme (Pages 41 - 44)**

3.10  
pm

### **10 Performance Monitoring (Pages 45 - 56)**

3.30  
pm

### **11 Forward Work Programme (Pages 57 - 64)**

3.40  
pm

### **12 Urgent Items (if any)**

**13 Date of next meeting**

The date of the next meeting of the Committee is on Monday 27 March 2023 at 2.00 pm. It will be a multi-location meeting.

**Davina Fiore**

**Director Governance & Legal Services**

Date: Tuesday, 3 January 2023

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

CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

15 MARCH 2022

Present: Councillor Merry(Chairperson)  
Councillors Ford, Hinchey, Jones-Pritchard, Lent and Naughton

Advisors

Present: Gillian James and Rose Whittle

202 : APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Jenkins and Lister.

203 : DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

A personal declaration of interest was received from Councillor Sarah Merry in respect of item 5 as the Assessment Centre referred to is in her Ward.

204 : MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on the 18 January were approved as a correct record of the meeting.

205 : NYAS CYMRU ADVOCACY SERVICE UPDATE

The Chair welcomed Candice Lloyd (Service Manager and Committee Advisor) and Sylvia Lucano (NYAS Advocacy Officer) to the meeting to provide Members with an update on the work undertaken by NYAS between the 1 April and 31 December 2021.

Sylvia Lucano provided Members with a presentation which had been circulated previously. The presentation outlined the types of issues addressed by NYAS, referral figures, engagement with children and young people during Covid, a case study, feedback from young people, parents, carers and other professionals on the service.

Members RESOLVED to note the report.

206 : COLUM ROAD ASSESSMENT CENTRE UPDATE

The Chair welcomed Betsan Evans, Principal Social Worker, Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children's Team and Rosanna Taylor, Supporting People and Commissioning Manager, who manages the support grant, to the meeting.

Betsan Evans provided Members with an update in relation to the newly refurbished Colum Road Centre which was due to open in March 2022 for unaccompanied asylum seeking children aged 16 and over who have arrived via the Home Office' mandatory transfer scheme. It is hoped that the opening will not be delayed for much longer, and is likely to take place in the next couple of weeks.

The accommodation would be provided for an initial period to enable a wellbeing and age assessment to be undertaken which will in term enable a more longer term appropriate placement be found in line with their identified support needs.

Members were provided with information in relation to the range of needs which will be met by the Centre, including emergency accommodation, health, educational, linguistic and cultural needs, legal advice, independent living skills, activities and community integration and advocacy support.

Members were advised that there is a video of the premises, although at present it cannot be provided to Members.

Members wished to express their thanks to the teams involved in the setting up of the centre.

The Committee RESOLVED to note the report.

## 207 : VOICES FROM CARE CYMRU UPDATE

The Chair welcomed Emma Phipps-McGill, Operational Director, Voices from Care to the meeting to provide members with an update and overview of their work over the last 6 months and work planned with Cardiff as the Local Authority.

Members were advised that the Corporate Parenting charter is now in draft format and will be shared with stakeholders at a series of national conversation events taking place in the forthcoming months.

Welsh Government have committed to the delivery of a Basic Income Pilot for care leavers turning 18th on or after the 1st of July 2022. It is proposed this will support care leavers in Wales to thrive, be financially independent and overall raise life aspirations.

Influencing work has continued over the last 6 months with young people driving forward the need to remove the stigma related to the care experience community, challenge the language used and call for ministers to listen to 1000 voices of the care experienced community. Our young people have met with ministers to discuss the changes needed, launched our care community "kindred knot" pin badge and are currently working on a time capsule to measure and make accountable Welsh Government in the progress of their promises.

Emma outlined the information contained in the presentation which had been circulated to Members.

The Chair invited questions from Members:

Members sought confirmation as to when the 3 year funding period ends and were advised that the funding was specifically for the national wellbeing and mental health project and actually ends in 2024; however, it is hoped that it can be maintained bearing in mind the numbers of young people who have linked with that project.

The Committee RESOLVED to note the report.

## 208 : CPAC DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT

Members had been provided with a copy of the draft report which outlined the Committees activities from November 2020 to January 2022. It was noted that the report would not go to Full Council until after the Local Elections in May.

Members were advised that feedback has been received and incorporated into the report.

The Chair invited questions from Members:

Members sought confirmation as to whether the Corporate Parenting Protocol is to become part of the Undertaking which is signed by Members and whether it will be included in the Induction for new members after the Local Elections. Members were advised that it would certainly form part of the training however further information would be obtained as to whether it is to form part of the Undertaking.

Members asked that further information be obtained from NYAS in relation to Democracy Week and would be added to the report.

### RESOLVED:

- 1) To note the draft report;
- 2) To delegate authority to the Director of Children's Services in consultation with the Chair, to finalise the Annual Report, having regard to comments provided by Members of the Committee and Members of the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee; and
- 3) The Chair to present the Annual Report to full Council in June 2022.

## 209 : CORPORATE PARENTING - LOOK TO THE YEAR AHEAD

Leigh Vella, provided a presentation outlining the development of the refreshed Corporate Parenting Strategy 2021- 2024, the progress made in its implementation and future plans.

The Chair was pleased to see that Cardiff University were more involved in supporting young people across Wales; and asked whether consideration would be given to ensuring that any bags supplied to children and young people when moving into a home be different for each child or young person.

The Committee RESOLVED to note there report.

## 210 : PERFORMANCE DASHBOARD QUARTER 3

Members were provided with Quarter 3 2021-22 Dashboard which provided the performance information.

## 211 : COMPLAINTS & COMPLIMENTS REPORT QUARTER 3

The Committee were provided with details of the complaints and compliments concerning children looked for the Quarter 3 period, 1 October 2021 – 31 December 2021.

212 : URGENT ITEMS (IF ANY)

There were no urgent items.

213 : DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting is to be confirmed. The Chair confirmed that it was the last meeting of the administration and wished to extend her thanks to all those involved in the Committee over the last 5 years.

The meeting terminated at 3.30 pm

**CARDIFF COUNCIL  
CYNGOR CAERDYDD****CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE****9 JANUARY 2023**

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**ELECTED MEMBERS ENGAGEMENT SESSION**

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**Reasons for the Report**

1. This report has been prepared to provide an overview to the Committee of an engagement session that took place with some members of the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee and Bright Sparks group in September 2022. The report outlines the activities that were undertaken in the session and the key themes identified by our care experienced young people.

**Background**

2. The Bright Sparks group is the primary participation mechanism for Cardiff Children Looked After and Care Leavers. The National Youth Advocacy Service (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.

4. In September an engagement session was held to provide an opportunity for members of Committee to hear the views and direct experiences of the members of the Bright Sparks group. It also provided an opportunity for the young people of the group to find out more about the role of the Committee members.
5. At the beginning of the session members of the Committee were shown a video that was developed by the Bright Sparks group. The video showed key messages from the young people of what support they would like to see from professionals and Elected Members.
6. To help build confidence some of the young people were supported by staff at NYAS Cymru to facilitate a series of ice breaker activities, also providing an opportunity to build rapport with members of the Committee.
7. Following on from the ice breaker activities, an open discussion took place to provide an opportunity for the young people of the Bright Sparks group to share their direct experiences with members of the Committee.
8. The discussions were based around the following themes:
  - Mental Health & Well being support Services
  - Accommodation
  - Profit from Care
9. Several questions were asked by the young people to Committee members in relation to the themes, for those young people who were unable to attend the session the participation worker from NYAS relayed messages and questions on their behalf
10. Further detail of the themes, issues and experiences of young people of the group and next steps is provided in the presentation in Appendix B
11. Feedback from the session was that members of the Committee would like to engage with care experienced children and young people in the future.

## **Next Steps**

12. The issues and themes raised at the session will be raised with appropriate partner agencies and be incorporated into the Corporate Parenting Strategy action plan. Updates will be provided to our young people on the progress of implementation of the issues discussed.
  
13. The themes identified at the session will also help to shape the Forward work programme for the Committee for the upcoming year.

## **Financial Implications**

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

## **Legal Implications**

15. There are no legal imps arising from this report

## **RECOMMENDATION**

16. The Committee are recommended to note the engagement session update with children and young people and make any observations or comments.
  
17. The Committee are recommended to identify how they would like to engage with care experienced children and young people in the future.

**DEBORAH DRIFFIELD**  
**DIRECTOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES**  
**29 DECEMBER 2022**

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# Key Themes from Engagement session

Page 13

January 2023



# Improvement to well being

## *What our young people told us:*

They would like to see provisions that are based around their interests and although there are things that are taking place in the community it is not of particular interest to them

Page 14

***What we are going to do :*** Work with the youth service and young people to develop provisions across the city that is of particular interest to our young people



# Improvement to well being

## *What our young people told us*

Youth clubs and services are often too generic and not always geared up for Care Experienced young people. Can more support and provision be made available for care experienced young people

Page 15

## *What we are going to do*

Work with partners to provide a specific provision for care experienced young people



# Accommodation

***What our young people told us*** : Young People in Care who experience housing issues more likely to not engage with other services.

Page 16

More support for independent living/support when leaving care

***What we are going to do*** : Work with officers in housing to map these gaps and promote opportunities



# Profit from Care

## ***What our young people told us:***

It is very upsetting when money or payment for services, such as how much a foster carer gets paid to look after us, is talked about in front of us.

“Felt like I was there to make money”

***What we are going to do :*** We are working closely with Welsh Government and other Local Authorities to look at a range of local provisions and options.

A pledge that finance issues such as these are never discussed in front of children/young people



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**CARDIFF COUNCIL  
CYNGOR CAERDYDD**

**CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**9 JANUARY 2023**

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**CASCADE: A GOOD PRACTICE CHARTER FOR SUPPORTING  
PARENTS IN AND LEAVING CARE**

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**Reasons for the Report**

1. To provide information to members of the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee on the development and of a good practice charter designed to strengthen support for parents in and leaving care.
2. The charter was developed by care-experienced parents and researchers at CASCADE, Cardiff University, in partnership with Voices from Care Cymru, NYAS Cymru and TGP Cymru.

**Background to the charter**

3. The need for strengthened policy and practice in relation to parents in and leaving care is supported by research.
4. A five-year study was conducted by Dr Louise Roberts (CASCADE, Cardiff University) and included:
  - a. Interviews with parents (retrospective and prospective)
  - b. Interviews with professionals from each of the 22 Local Authorities in Wales
  - c. LA survey data in respect of parents and their children

- d. Secondary analysis of existing national data sets in Wales, Wales Adoption Study and the School Health Research Network Survey.

5. The study found evidence of:

- a. Widespread stigma (e.g. parents' capacity to be parents is questioned because of their past experiences)
- b. Discriminatory practices (e.g. routine referral for pre-birth assessment)
- c. Underdeveloped and inconsistent support
- d. Concerning rates of separation between parents and children (e.g. the survey found 1 in 4 children were separated from both birth parents)

6. These research findings are not unique to Wales and similar evidence has been noted from international studies and reviews.

**Development of the charter:**

7. Following completion of the Welsh study, Dr Louise Roberts, Ms. Rachael Vaughan and Dr Dawn Mannay applied for funding to work with parents and supporting organisations with the aim of encouraging policy and practice change. Some positive developments were noted from the third sector such as the availability of peer support groups and NYAS' Project Unity service. However, the group believed there was opportunity to strengthen support from Corporate Parents.

8. The good practice charter was created over a series of sessions, facilitated with the support of Voices from Care Cymru and NYAS Cymru. The development of the charter was also supported by consultations with professionals from statutory and third sector agencies.

9. The charter considers the support that should be available from Corporate Parents:

- a. before young people become parents
- b. when they are expecting a child or parenting
- c. in the event concerns are raised about parenting

d. if parents and children are separated.

10. In addition, the charter makes an explicit commitment to challenge stigma and discrimination.

#### **Further details and progress so far:**

11. The charter and a range of supporting resources can be accessed via:

<https://www.exchangewales.org/supporting-parents-in-and-leaving-care-messages-to-corporate-parents/>

<https://www.exchangewales.org/cy/cefnogi-rhieni-mewn-gofal-ac-wrth-ei-adael-negeseuonirienicorfforaethol/>

12. The charter has been positively received in Wales. Supporting letters were received from the Welsh Government and the Children's Commissioner for Wales. To date, 21 of the 22 LAs in Wales have signed up to the charter or are actively engaged with the CASCADE team (this includes Cardiff).

13. The charter has also attracted attention from outside of Wales, including Australia, Italy, Scotland, Northern Ireland and England. Harrow Council were the first to sign up and stated they would end the routine pre-birth assessment of parents: <https://www.harrow.gov.uk/news/article/11002/leading-the-commitment-to-care-experienced-parents>

14. The progress of implementation of the charter and the changes made to services as a result will be updated to members of the Committee.

#### **Financial Implications**

15. There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations in this report. There are likely to be financial implications arising if the Charter is adopted and the financial requirements (and their respective funding sources) would need to be considered and identified in the event of any further consideration of the Charter.

## **Legal Implications**

16. There are no legal implications arising from this report

## **RECOMMENDATION**

17. The Committee are recommended to note the development of the Good Practice Charter for Supporting Parents in and Leaving Care and suggest how they can promote this in their role as elected members.

**DEBORAH DRIFFIELD  
DIRECTOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES  
29 DECEMBER 2023**



# CASCADE

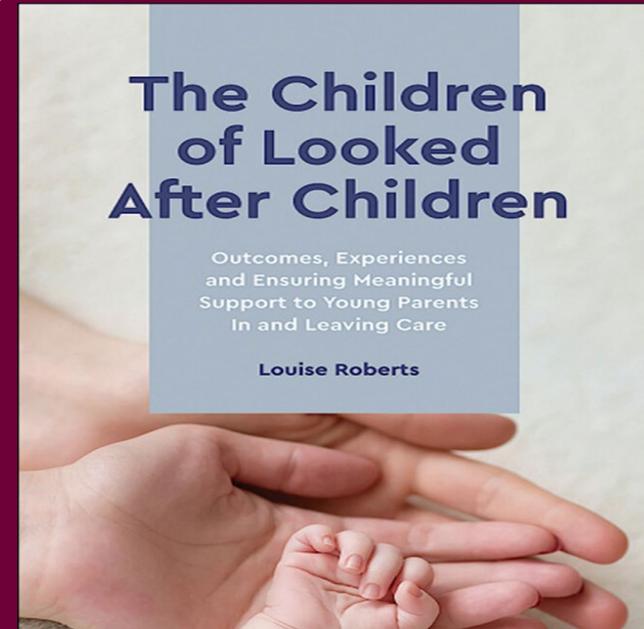
**Supporting young people in and leaving care  
who are parents:  
Research findings and a charter for change**

**Dr Louise Roberts and  
Rachael Vaughan**



# Introduction & Background

- 5-year study undertaken 2014 - 2019
- Idea came from Voices from Care Cymru
- Study included:
  - Interviews with parents
  - Interviews with professionals
  - Snapshot of parents
  - Secondary analysis
- Book: The Children of Looked after Children
  - Ends with letter from a parent
  - Free to download



# Outcomes from the Voices Study

## Wales Adoption Study (Roberts et al. 2017)

- 374 CARA forms for children placed for adoption between July 2014-July 2015
- 27% of birth mothers, 19% birth fathers were care leavers
- Adoption was more likely to be in respect of first child
- **Data from 20 / 22 LAs in Wales (Roberts et al. 2019)**
- 258 parents (aged 16-21) identified by leaving care teams
- 238 children and 44 on-going pregnancies
- 74% of children were living with at least one biological parent
- 26% of children were separated from parents

(Mendes 2009, Svoboda et al 2012, Connolly et al 2012; Fallon and Broadhurst 2015; Winter et al. 2016; Eastman et al. 2019; Gill et al 2020, Purtell et al. 2020)

*1 in 4 children  
were separated  
from both birth  
parents.*



**CASCAD**

# Making sense of the findings

Data from parents and professionals:

- **Stigmatised views of parents**
  - Influence of past experiences on parenting capacity
- **Systemic disadvantage**
  - Increased likelihood of assessment and scrutiny
  - Historical records
  - Dual responsibilities of professionals
- **Disadvantaged access to support**
  - Availability of informal support - 'having someone by your side'
  - Availability and adequacy of formal support
  - Corporate parenting support 'poor substitute'
- **Parents' relationships with social workers**
  - Pervasive and enduring fear



# Research Video

OTHERS WERE  
ON THEIR OWN  
AND RELIANT ON  
THEIR CORPORATE  
PARENTS





**CASCAD**

**Supporting Parents in and Leaving Care  
#MessagesToCorporateParents ESRC IAA project  
Jan 2021- Jan 2023**

# #MessagesToCorporateParents?

- Opportunity to strengthen Corporate Parenting
- Involving both care-experienced parents and professionals, to ensure the generation of meaningful and achievable commitments for the good practice charter.

Lots of support and positive feedback

- Local authority sign ups - Map showing progress
- Different approaches



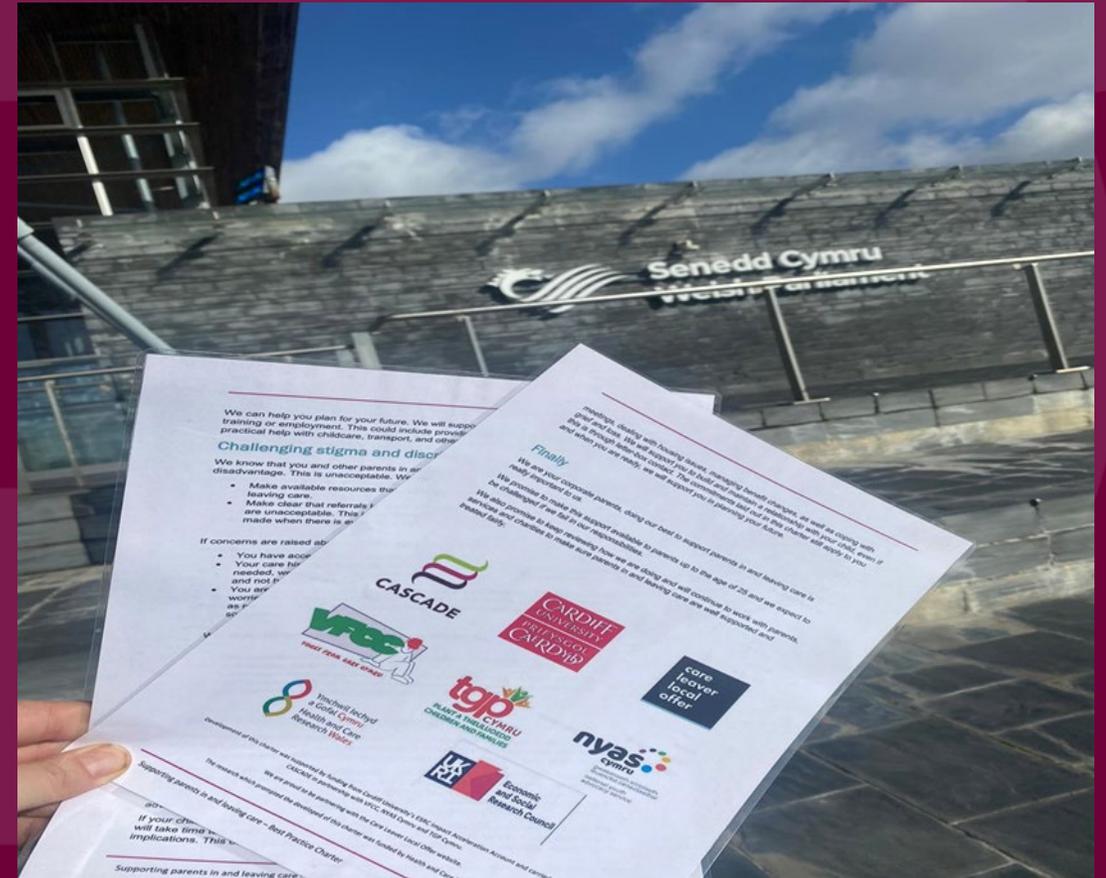
# Good Practice Charter and Supporting Resources

Charter, book, short films, blog, podcast,  
webinar ...

Page 30

<https://www.exchangewales.org/supporting-parents-in-and-leaving-care-messages-to-corporate-parents/>

<https://www.exchangewales.org/cy/cefnogi-rhieni-mewn-gofal-ac-wrth-ei-adael-negeseuonirienicorfforaethol/>



# The Charter





# CASCADE

Contact details:

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Rachael Vaughan: [VaughanR5@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:VaughanR5@cardiff.ac.uk)

**CARDIFF COUNCIL  
CYNGOR CAERDYDD**

**CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**29 DECEMBER 2022**

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**VIRTUAL SCHOOL AND VIRTUAL SCHOOL HEAD TEACHER, CARDIFF**

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**Reasons for the Report**

1. This report has been prepared to provide the Committee with an update in relation to the Virtual School and Virtual School Headteacher in Cardiff. The Virtual School (VS) and Virtual School Headteacher (VSH) Cardiff will be a pilot plan before future evaluations are submitted to Welsh Government leading to establishing both in the VS and VSH in Cardiff to further improve the educational outcomes of all children and young people who are looked after, and care experienced.
2. The report aims to inform the Committee on the purpose and structure of the Virtual School and the role of the Virtual School Headteacher.

**Background**

3. In December 2019 Welsh Government asked Sir Alasdair Macdonald to carry out a scoping exercise focused on developing an integrated approach to improving educational outcomes for Looked after Children.

**‘An integrated approach to improving educational outcomes for looked after children in Wales’** by Sir Alasdair Macdonald

4. He was asked in particular to look at integrated local authority approaches in Wales and Virtual School Headteachers (VSH), which are statutory in England and currently being developed in some parts of Scotland.
5. The context of the review was as part of the Welsh Government's continuing commitment to the vision that every child in Wales – including those who are looked after – has the right to expect an excellent education regardless of their circumstances.
6. The Programme for Government, Taking Wales Forward, commits to “examine ways of ensuring looked after children enjoy the same life chances as other children and if necessary, reform the way they are looked after”.
7. This is reinforced by the national strategy Prosperity for All, with social care as one of the five priority areas, and actions to:
  - Raise the educational attainment and improve the life chances of children in care, adopting a child centred approach, through the collaboration of education, social services and others.
  - Strengthen edge of care services to provide families with timely support to reduce the numbers needing care provision and provide assistance in the key transitional phase post 16 to access further education, jobs and housing for all those leaving care.
  - Education in Wales: Our national mission, commits to “delivering a new, transformational curriculum supported by strong and inclusive schools committed to excellence, equity and well-being. “This plan pledges to strengthen collaborative working to deliver better outcomes for LAC”.
8. The plan also states that it is essential to look holistically at the support provided for Looked After Children. Their educational needs cannot be considered in isolation and have to be addressed along with wider issues such as their well-being, health and placement stability.

9. This is a key theme in raising the ambitions and educational attainment of children who are looked after which reaffirms the intrinsic relationship between the social context of the child and their educational attainment.
10. 'All parts of the system must act in a coordinated and coherent fashion to ensure significant changes in the life of the child are minimised and managed sensitively, always with the child at the centre of decision-making'.
11. This is further supported by Article 39 of the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child which states that "children who have experienced trauma should receive additional support to promote physical and psychological recovery and social integration".
12. The final report published in May 2020 set out 5 Recommendations:
  - The development of a Welsh Virtual School model
  - The level of resourcing required to enable an integrated approach that improves outcomes
  - The importance of high-quality data
  - The implications for training
  - The need to broaden measures of what constitutes educational outcomes for CLA
13. Welsh Government followed this report with research carried out by IFF and was published in September 2021. One of the outcomes was for the VS and VSH to be a pilot for two years before the consideration of a national model. This recognises the different profiles and needs of the local authorities across Wales.
14. January 2022 Welsh Government invited all local authorities in Wales to complete an application to access funding for the VS and VSH. In July 2022 Cardiff were successful in the application process.

### **VS and VSH Role and Responsibilities**

15. Local Authorities have a statutory responsibility to secure improvement in the quality of school education. Directors of Education must ensure that they promote

the educational achievement of the children they look after, regardless of where they are placed.

16. The Virtual School Head Teacher role is one of the ways in which Cardiff will discharge that legal obligation as part of a pilot from April 2023 to August 2024.
17. The core purpose of the role of the Virtual School Head Teacher is to be relentless in driving up improvements in the educational progress and attainment/achievement of all children looked after by their authority, including those that have been placed in schools in other authorities. Putting the looked after children and young people at the heart of all they do
18. The VSH will have an important role in working in partnership with other authorities to support the educational progress of children in their schools but looked after by other authorities.
19. The VS is not a physical building where the children who are looked after attend. The children and young people will continue to attend the schools they are registered at. Children who are looked after are being educated across a large number of schools, the Virtual School Head Teacher has a powerful role in tracking their progress as if they were in a single school.
20. The VSH must have the ability to develop strong professional relationships. This will be a city-wide remit and will require close collaboration and joint planning between the VSH, teams within the Education department, teams in Children's Services as well as recognising the importance of establishing strong relationships with Headteachers and others across education who share responsibility for individual children and young people.
21. The VSH and VS team will work closely with the Designated Teachers in all schools developing strong and effective relationships to improve communication and to support the plans agreed with the pupils and other agencies.
22. This is a new role and will be at the centre of the core purpose of the VS Cardiff. As a new role and way of working, the VSH will be responsible for reviewing,

measuring impact, making changes where required and reporting back to the Local Authority, Children's Services and to Welsh Government.

23. As the VS develops across Wales it will be important to continue to be aware of further research carried out by the VSs in England and Scotland. It is hoped that a national association of VS and VSH will be developed in Wales as National Association of Virtual School Heads NAVSH (England) and Centre for Excellence for Children's Care and Protection (Scotland). The VSH will be expected to be part of any future plans to influence policy and practice.

### **Key responsibilities of Virtual School Head Teacher**

24. The Virtual School Head Teacher role should be undertaken by a person with substantial, current or previous senior level experience of supporting vulnerable children in educational settings, preferably including experience of school senior leadership.

25. The post holder will report to a Manager (Assistant Director of Education) but will routinely link with both the Director of Education and Director of Children's Services to ensure that the work to support those who are looked after and care experienced is given the highest profile.

26. The Virtual School Headteacher will be required to ensure that all aspects of the role are undertaken effectively. A vital aspect of the role is to ensure that positive relationships are maintained with those in their care.

27. The Virtual School Headteacher must enable all young persons to be fully involved in their own future planning and represent their views accurately. We want all looked after children and young people to fully participate in decisions about their lives and futures.

28. The key areas of responsibility of a Virtual School Head Teacher for which they are accountable for:

- To make sure that there is a system to rigorously track and monitor the attainment of children who are looked after
- To ensure that all children who are looked after have a robust and effective plan that supports access to appropriate and timely support
- To champion the educational needs of looked after children across the Local Authority and those placed outside of the Local Authority
- To lead and manage a team of Education Support Officers within the VS Team supporting Children and Young People who are Looked After. Currently the Looked After Children Education (LACE) Team.
- To provide support and advice to schools and to other agencies

29. The long-term goal is to extend the role of the VS and establish the VS Cardiff as a centre of excellence for training accessed by schools, carers and others

### **Financial Implications**

30. The funding for the VS and VSH for the period of the pilot have been part met by Welsh Government funding. Cardiff Education were successful with the application submitted to Welsh Government in July 2022. As part of the 2022/23 budget process, an additional £50,000 was allocated to Education Directorate recognising the need to ensure a level of financial sustainability in providing support to Looked After Children.

31. The full narrative justification for the £50,000 budget was to Support looked after children in Cardiff, placed in or out of county, to achieve the best possible outcomes in terms of their education and ensure they progress into Education, Employment or training post 16, further enhancing current practice. The funding was also to be used to provide an effective bridge between Education and Children's Services to ensure the best outcomes for our looked after children

### **Legal Implications**

32. There are no legal implications arising from this report

## **RECOMMENDATION**

33. The Committee is recommended to note the pilot of the Virtual School and Virtual School Headteacher Cardiff and to make any observations or comments.

**DEBORAH DRIFFIELD  
DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES  
29 DECEMBER 2022**

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**CARDIFF COUNCIL  
CYNGOR CAERDYDD****CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE****9 JANUARY 2023**

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**MEMBER VISITS PROGRAMME**

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**Reasons for the Report**

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

**Background**

3. To ensure members of the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee gain an wider understanding of the services and organisations the proposed Members visits focuses on those services that help young people in Education and Employment, create a safe and stable home and support with mental health and well-being – in line with the priorities in the Corporate Parenting Strategy.

**Issues**

4. The members visits will provide an opportunity for members of the Committee to meet the staff and teams that support young people. Some of the visits will also provide an opportunity to hear directly from the children and young people. It is proposed that the members who undertake the visits will then provide an update to the rest of the Committee.

5. To ensure that an open discussion can take place it is proposed that two members of the Committee attend per member visit. The visits will be organised and facilitated by the Corporate Parenting Officer.
6. Appendix A sets out a proposed date, time and venue for the members visit with a short description of the services. These proposed times have been agreed by the organisation and service area but can be amended to work around the commitments of members of the Committee.
7. When developing the programme, several visits have purposely been left blank for members of the Committee to identify other services and organisations they would like to find out more about. The work programme will then be amended to reflect this change.

### **Financial Implications**

8. Any costs associated with the visits should be managed within existing budgetary allocations for Member expenses.

### **Legal Implications**

9. There are no legal implications arising from this report

### **RECOMMENDATION**

10. The Committee are recommended to agree the Members Visit programme outlined in Appendix A
11. The Committee are recommended to identify any other visits they would like to undertake to be included in the Member Visit programme

**DEBORAH DRIFFIELD  
DIRECTOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES  
29 DECEMBER 2022**

Appendix A – Draft Member Visits programme

## Appendix C –Draft Members Visits Programme

<b>Service area</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Proposed Date and Venue</b>
Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children Looked After Services	The visit will provide an opportunity to find out about the team and services that support Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children in Cardiff.	Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> February 2023- 12pm – 2pm County Hall
ENFYS	Enfys, is an NHS-based service within Child Psychology. The visit will be an opportunity to meet the team of clinical psychologists, graduate mental health workers, trainee clinical psychologists, an occupational therapist to find out about the therapeutic support available to children, young people, and families.	Tuesday May 9 <sup>th</sup> - 09:00am – 11am. Woodland House, Maes-Y-Coed Road.
Looked After in Education Youth Mentors	Youth Mentors within the Education and youth service provide support to Care experienced Child and young people at Key stage 4 in all Cardiff schools. The visit will be an opportunity to find out about the role of the youth mentors in more detail	Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> June 10am – 12 Venue TBC

	and hear from some young people who have been supported.	
Homes for our Children – Crosslands	Crosslands is one of our Homes for our children in the city. The visit will be an opportunity to meet staff at the home.	Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> September 2023- Crosslands – 11am – 1pm
To be identified by members of the Committee		
To be identified by members of the Committee		

DRAFT

**CARDIFF COUNCIL  
CYNGOR CAERDYDD****CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE****9 JANUARY 2022**

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**PERFORMANCE MONITORING PROPOSAL**

---

**Reasons for the Report**

1. This report seeks approval from the committee on the proposal for a draft Key Performance Indicator Dashboard (as provided in Appendix A) and Case studies (as provided in Appendix B) to be a standing agenda item at future committee meetings.

**Background**

2. It is proposed that the Key Performance Indicator Dashboard will show a range of key data from internal departments and outside agencies that have an impact on the lives of Children Looked After and Care Leavers. This will help members of the Committee understand the services and organisations that support care experienced young people in Cardiff.
3. From engagement with partners, it is proposed a number of key performance indicators will be obtained from:
  - Cardiff and Vale Health Board
  - Children Services
  - Bright Futures
  - Housing Directorate
  - Education Directorate
  - Criminal Justice System

- Adolescent/ leaving care services
4. In order to provide context and to understand how services are impacting the lives of Children Looked After and Care Leavers a narrative and an anonymised case study relevant to the service area of organisation will also be provided as illustrated as an example in Appendix B.
  5. Where Key Performance Indicators for Children Looked After and Care Leavers have not been developed Children Services will work with the relevant organisation to increase the monitoring of Children Looked After and Care Leaver outcomes.
  6. In line with the Committees Terms of Reference an Education Performance of Children Looked After Information report will be submitted annually. This report will provide further Key Performance Indicators including the number and percentage of Children Looked After with Additional Learning Needs, annual attainment data and Education Otherwise than at School information.

### **Financial Implications**

7. This report outlines the proposal for a KPI dashboard to be collated utilising existing information and resources. Therefore, there are no financial implications arising.

### **Legal Implications**

8. There are no legal implications arising from the report

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

9. The Committee is recommended to make any observations and comments and note how they would like information provided to the Committee in the future.

10. The Committee is recommended to note any other services, departments, or organisations they would like to be included in dashboard

**DEBORAH DRIFFIELD**  
**DIRECTOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES**  
**29 DECEMBER 2022**

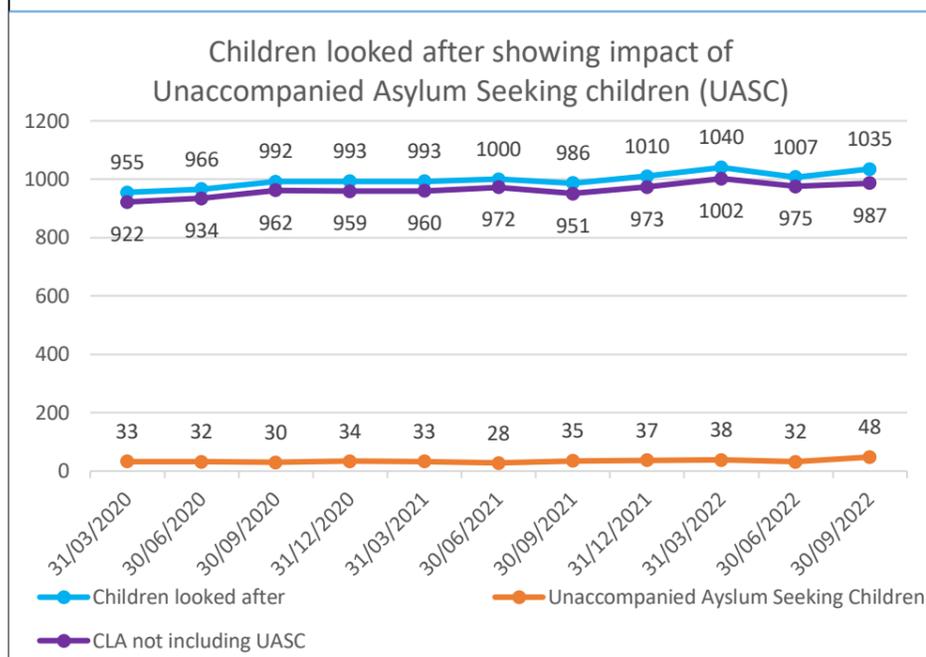
List of Appendices:

Appendix A – Key Performance Indicator Dashboard

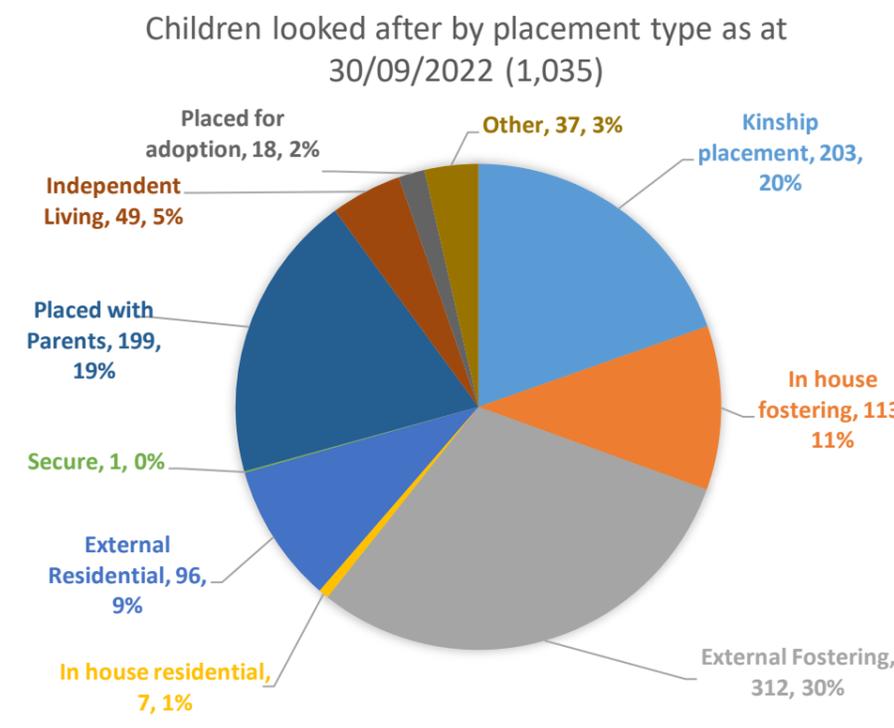
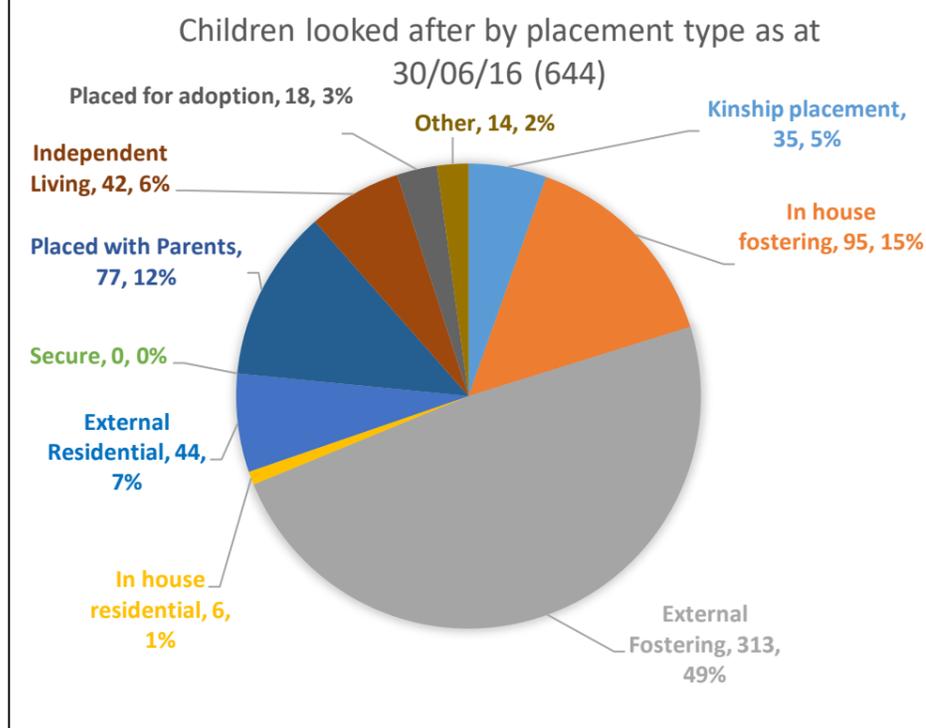
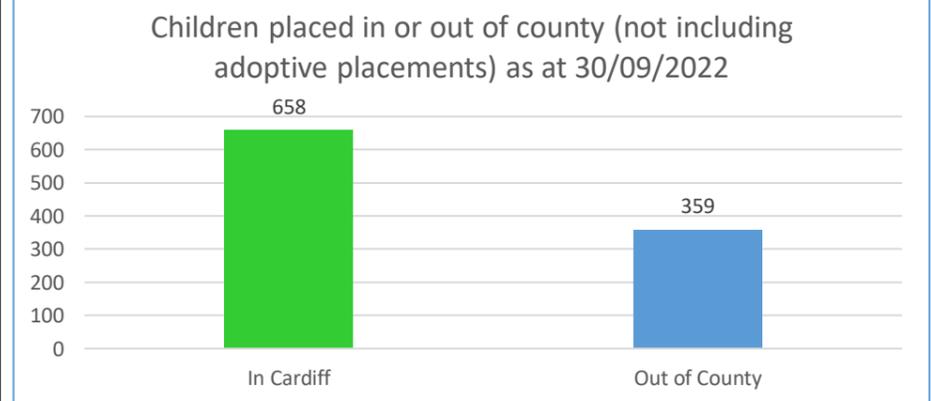
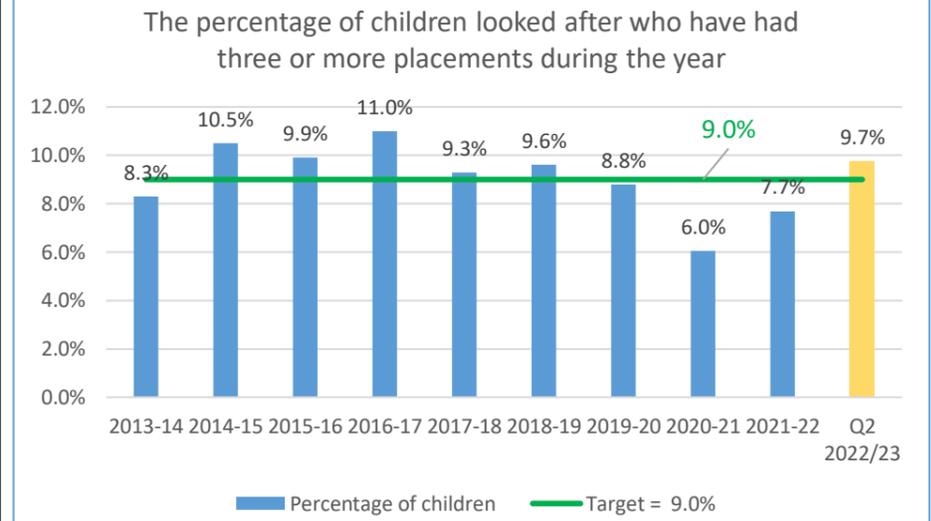
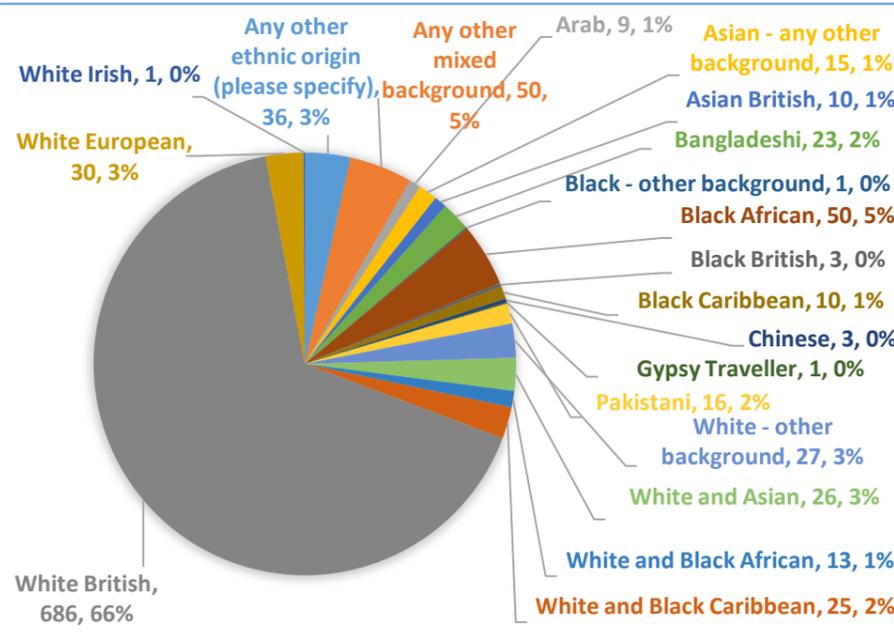
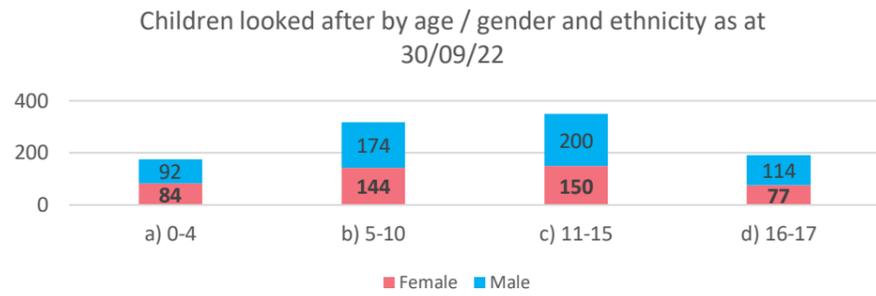
Appendix B – Case Study

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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 27<sup>th</sup> April 2020 peaking at 1,040 at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022. Since then, during Quarter 1 the number of looked after decreased to 1007 before steadily increasing through quarter 2 to 1,035 as at the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022. 27 of the 80 children (33.8%) who started being looked after during Quarter 2 2022/23 were placed with parents on a Care Order, with family / friends or in parent and baby placements. 48 of the 1,035 were unaccompanied asylum seeking children as at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022.



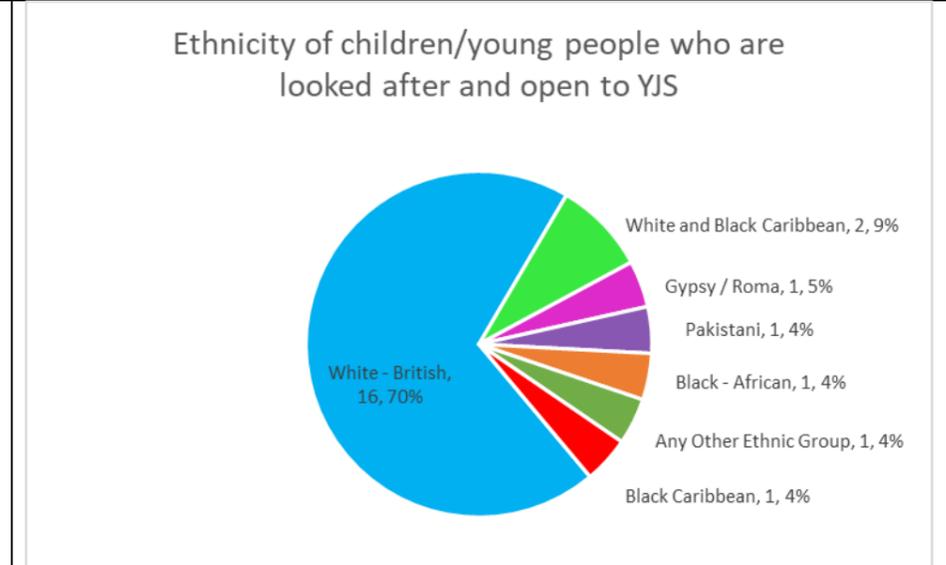
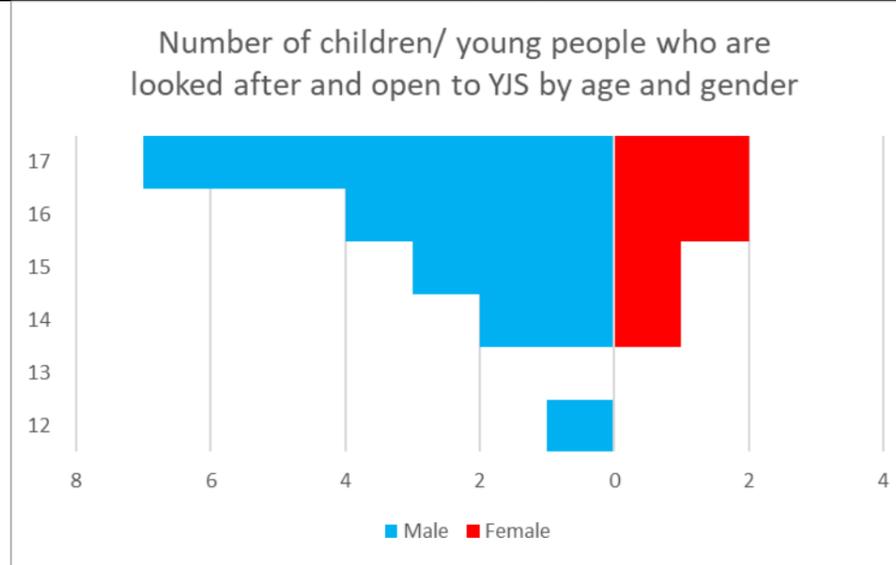
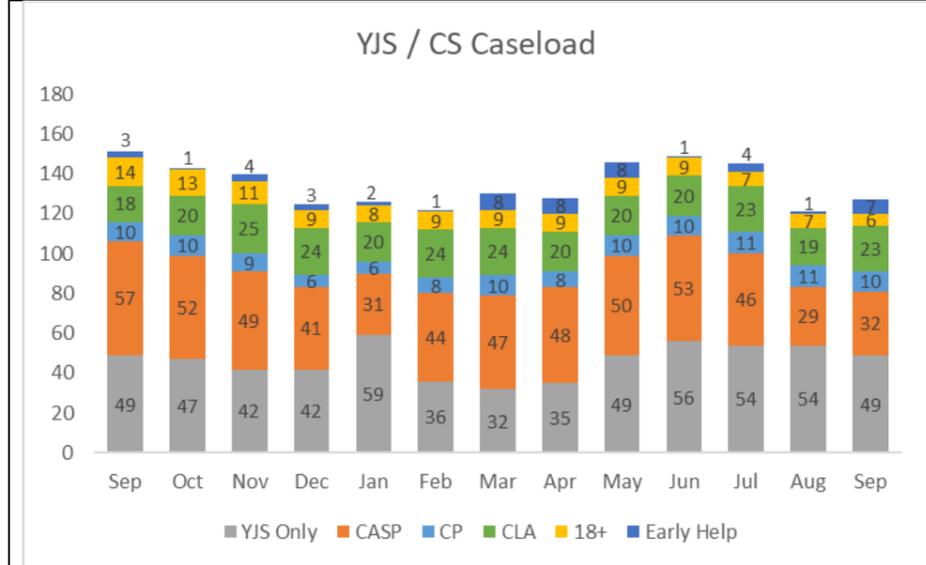
The graph above shows the percentage of children looked after who have had 3 or more placements during the year = 9.7% (101 / 1,037). This is a rolling result for quarter 2, based on the children who were looked after as at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022 and the number of placements they had during the preceding year. 101 of our 1,037 children looked after as at the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022 had 3 or more placements during the year. This is in comparison to 7.7% (80 / 1,040) for the 2021/22 result as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022. 21 more children had 3 or more placements during the year ending the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022 than during 2021/22. A third (33%) of those with 3 or more placements were 16 and 17 year olds, where changes are more likely to be based on transitions to independent living arrangements.

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 38.8% (402 / 1,035), while the percentage of children looked after in regulated placements minus kinship placements has reduced from 71% (458 / 644) to 51.6% (534 / 1,035).

# CPAC Dashboard Quarter 2 2022-23

## Youth Justice Service

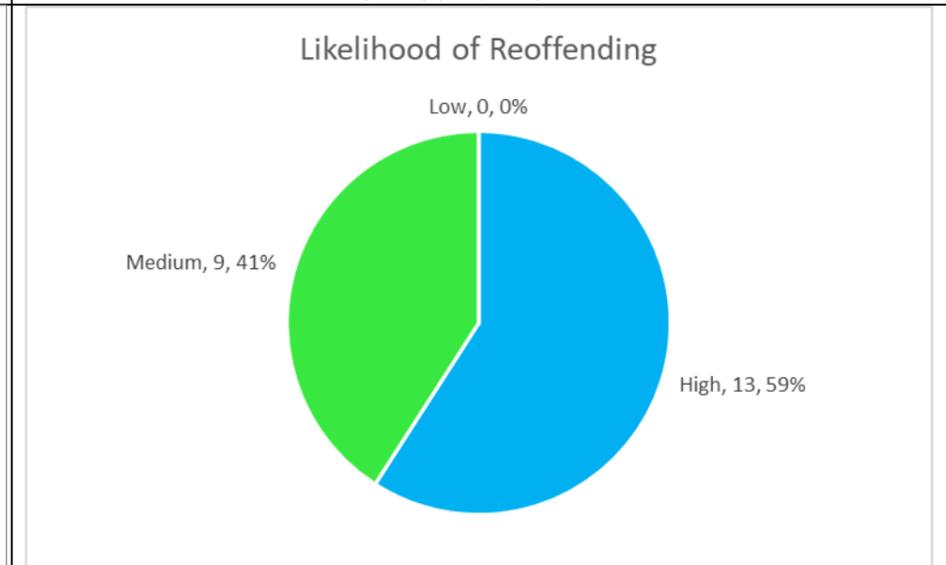
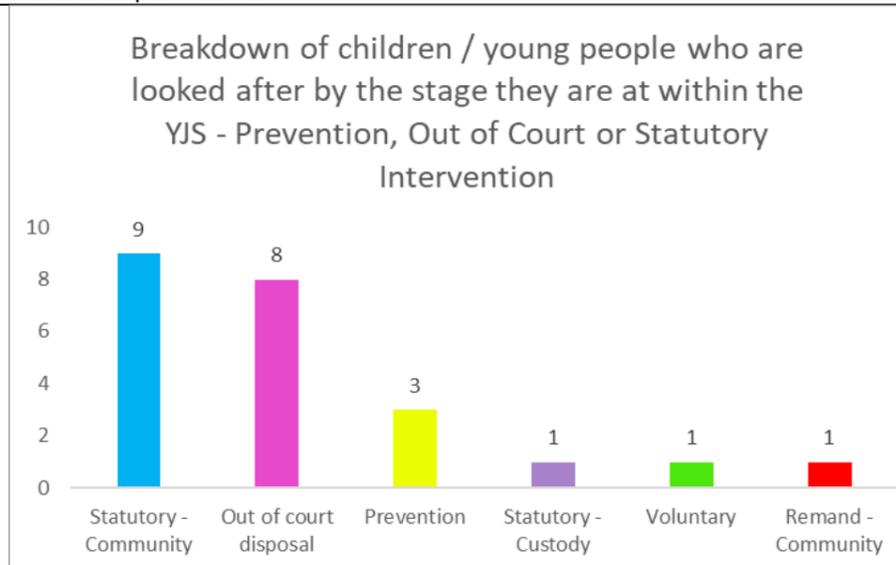
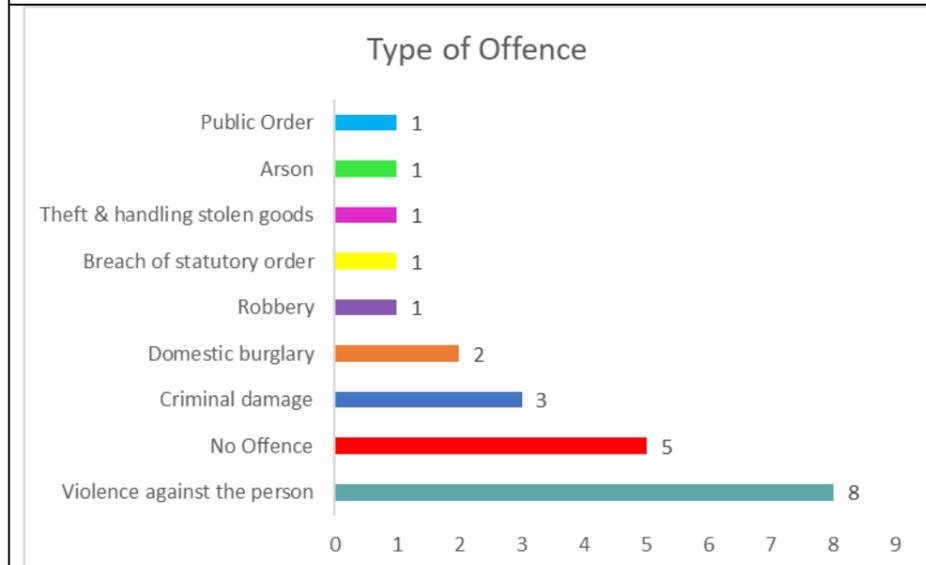
The information contained in this dashboard relates specifically to young people who are looked after by Cardiff Council's Children's Services Dept. and have been referred to the Youth Justice Service for either a Preventative intervention or by the police or courts after being charged for an offence.



The chart above shows the open YJS caseload as at the end of each month which identifies all young people open to Children's Services. There has been an overall decrease in caseload numbers since the same period last year. The children looked after population has seen small fluctuations during quarters 1 and 2, however when comparing September 2021 and 2022 there has been a 28% increase from 18 to 23 and accounted for 19% of YJS caseload in September 2022.

- 17 of 23 young people are male and 6 are female. Females that are children looked after continue to represent a disproportionate percentage of 26% with the overall percentage of females on the September caseload being 15% (20/128).
- 39% (9 / 23) of CLA young people are above statutory school age which is significantly higher than the overall 23% (29 / 128) of young people open at the end of September 2022.

The latest published ethnicity information from the Youth Justice Board (mid 2011) shows 80% of the 10–17-year-old population in Cardiff were white. The chart shows 74% (17 / 23) of young people engaging with the YJS that are CLA are White (including White minorities i.e. Gypsy / Roma), the remaining 26% are other ethnic minorities. There has been a decrease of white young people from 88% when compared to the previous report. The September 2022 caseload showed 81% (104 / 128) of all young people open to YJS were white.



There were 23 young people open to YJS at the end of Quarter 2 who are also looked after. 5 of the 23 young people were engaged on an intervention that was not linked to an offence. 18 of the 23 young people had committed offences with the most prevalent main offence type being violence against the person 8 / 18 (44%). 5/8 (63%) of these offences involved offensive weapons. When compared to the whole YJS caseload 15 / 38 (39%) of violence against the person and robbery offences involved an offensive weapon.

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 39% (9 / 23) were statutory community interventions being either a Youth Rehabilitation or Referral Order. 35% (8 / 23) were engaged on Out of Court Disposals. This is a pre-court outcome, 5 / 8 were of a diversionary nature.

Of the 23 looked after young people 22 have recently been assessed, 59% (13 / 22) were assessed as high risk of reoffending. Of the 13 young people at high risk of reoffending 62% (8 / 13) were being reviewed at either risk management or high risk panels.

CPAC Dashboard Quarter 2 2022-23

Education

1 The number and percentage of Cardiff children looked after:		
In a Cardiff school or setting	<b>451</b>	
	%	61%
In an out of county school or setting	<b>219</b>	
	%	30%
EOTAS (not on roll at a school)	<b>53</b>	
	%	7%
Not in provision	<b>12</b>	
	%	2%

This data shows the total number and percentage of Cardiff children looked after as of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 and where they were educated.

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

2 The number and percentage of children looked after with SEN / ALN:		
School Action	<b>52</b>	
	%	7%
School Action Plus	<b>44</b>	
	%	6%
Statement & Under Assessment	<b>153</b>	
	%	21%
With Individual Development Plans	<b>31</b>	
	%	4%

This data shows the number and percentage of Cardiff children looked after have Special Educational Needs (SEN) and Additional Learning Needs (ALN) as of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022.

Exclusions:

3 Schools Exclusions: Cardiff schools only		
Number of LACE with one or more fixed term exclusion (September 2021 to August 2022)	<b>49</b>	
	%	11%
Number of LACE permanently excluded this year (September 2021 to August 2022)	<b>1</b>	
	%	0.02%

1. This data shows the number and percentage of Cardiff children looked after who received permanent or fixed term exclusions during the academic year of 2021-2022, based on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 cohort.

Attendance:

4 Average percentage of attendance:		
Percentage of attendance (Cardiff schools)		<b>87%</b>
Percentage of attendance (EOTAS)		<b>48%</b>

This data shows the average attendance of Cardiff children looked after in Cardiff and EOTAS schools / provisions during the academic year of 2021-2022, based on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 cohort

GCSE Results:

5 The number and percentage of children looked after who achieved GCSEs:		
5 or more GCSEs at A*-C, including Maths and English	<b>9</b>	
	%	12%
5 or more GCSEs at A*-C	<b>4</b>	
	%	5%
5 or more GCSEs at A*-G	<b>28</b>	
	%	38%
Less than 5 GCSEs at grade A*-G	<b>24</b>	
	%	32%

This data shows the number and percentage of Cardiff children looked after who achieved GCSEs on 25<sup>th</sup> August 2022, based on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 cohort.

Personal Education Plans:

6 Personal Education Plans:		
Total number of LACE with a PEP this academic year	<b>648</b>	
	%	88%
Total number of LACE with a PEP this academic year (Cardiff Schools)	<b>414</b>	
	%	87%
Total number of LACE with a PEP this academic year (OOC Schools)	<b>209</b>	
	%	94%
Total number of LACE with a PEP this academic year (EOTAS / No School)	<b>37</b>	
	%	70%

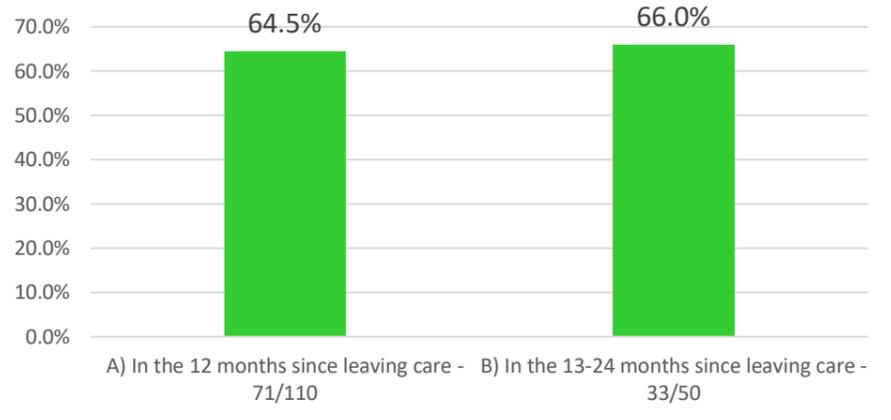
This data shows the number and percentage of Cardiff children looked after who had updated Personal Education Plans (PEPs) during the academic year of 2021-2022, based on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 cohort.

Successful transition:

7 Successful Transition to Employment, Education or Training:		
Total number of LACE in EET on October 31st	<b>64</b>	
	%	86%
Total number of LACE in EET on October 31st (Cardiff)	<b>34</b>	
	%	92%
Total number of LACE in EET on October 31st (OOC)	<b>20</b>	
	%	87%
Total number of LACE in EET on October 31st (EOTAS)	<b>10</b>	
	%	71%

This data shows the number and percentage of Cardiff children looked after who successfully transitioned into Education, Employment or Training as of 31<sup>st</sup> October 2022, based on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 cohort.

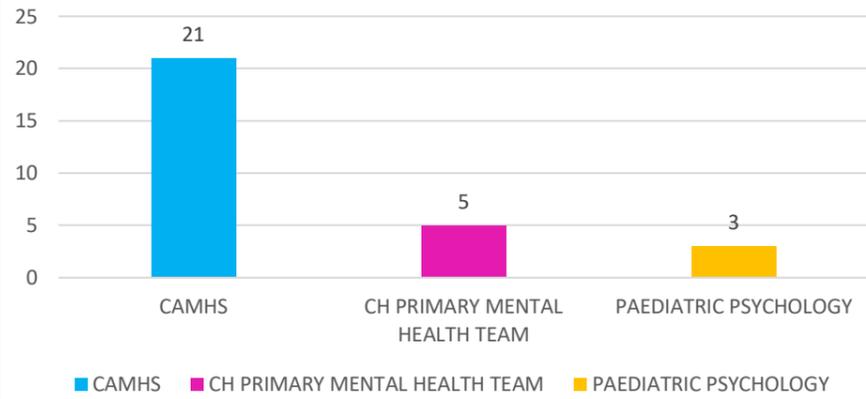
## CPAC Dashboard Quarter 2 2022-23

Adolescents																
<p><b>Into Work Service</b></p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;"><b>MONTHLY CASELOAD – (November 2022)</b></td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 2px;">94</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;"><b>TRAINING OUTCOMES (Project Cumulative)</b></td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 2px;">112</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;"><b>WORK EXPERIENCE/ VOLUNTEERING/BRIGHT START PLACEMENT (Project Cumulative)</b></td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 2px;">45</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;"><b>FULL TIME EDUCATION (Project Cumulative)</b></td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 2px;">75</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;"><b>JOB OUTCOME (Cumulative)</b></td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 2px;">133</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;"><b>JOB OUTCOME (April - Sept)</b></td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 2px;">37</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;"><b>EARLY LEAVER (April - Sept)</b></td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 2px;">8</td> </tr> </table>	<b>MONTHLY CASELOAD – (November 2022)</b>	94	<b>TRAINING OUTCOMES (Project Cumulative)</b>	112	<b>WORK EXPERIENCE/ VOLUNTEERING/BRIGHT START PLACEMENT (Project Cumulative)</b>	45	<b>FULL TIME EDUCATION (Project Cumulative)</b>	75	<b>JOB OUTCOME (Cumulative)</b>	133	<b>JOB OUTCOME (April - Sept)</b>	37	<b>EARLY LEAVER (April - Sept)</b>	8	<p style="text-align: center;">During Quarter 1 &amp; 2 of 2022-23, the percentage of care leavers in categories 2,3 and 4 who have completed at least 3 consecutive months of employment, education or training in:</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">A) In the 12 months since leaving care - 71/110      B) In the 13-24 months since leaving care - 33/50</p> <p style="font-size: small;">Source: CareFirst – Quarter 1 &amp; 2 result for 2022-23</p>	<p><b>Housing / Young Person Gateway</b></p> <p>Data for quarter 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>100%</b> of care leavers prevented from becoming homeless (target is 90%).</li> <li>- <b>2</b> care leavers housed in supported accommodation in the Young Person’s Accommodation &amp; Support Gateway.</li> <li>- <b>4</b> care leavers housed permanently in social housing through the Training Tenancy scheme.</li> <li>- <b>119 (99%)</b> care leavers successfully maintaining their social housing tenancy through the Training Tenancy scheme (target 95%).</li> </ul>
<b>MONTHLY CASELOAD – (November 2022)</b>	94															
<b>TRAINING OUTCOMES (Project Cumulative)</b>	112															
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<b>EARLY LEAVER (April - Sept)</b>	8															
<p><b>Bright Futures</b></p> <p>Bright Futures provides bespoke employment and training support for care experienced young people in Cardiff. Bright Start Scheme also falls under this project umbrella.</p> <p><b>Bright Start</b></p> <p>This summer saw Bright Start launch their School Leaver Summer Placement programme. Young people referred by the pre-16 LACE team identified as likely to be NEET took part. 5 young people started 6-8 week placements in White Water Rafting Centre, Parks, Sound Progression and Ely Library. The programme was a good learning experience for the team, with improvements noted for next year.</p> <p>Another 5 young people started new placements as part of the July 2022 group. These placements are in Wales Millennium Centre, Ely &amp; Caerau Children Centre, &amp; Rent Smart Wales.</p>	<p>During quarter 1 &amp; 2: 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 = 64.5% just below the target of 68%.</p> <p>The percentage of care leavers in categories 2,3 and 4 who have completed at least 3 consecutive months of employment, education or training in: B) the 13-24 months since leaving care = 66.0% which is below the target of 57%.</p>	<p>The above Care Leavers data is in relation to over 18s.</p> <p>We have recently tendered for a further contract to sit under Young Person Gateway (YPG) which would allow an additional 24 units of accommodation. This accommodation is funded by Children’s Services and will allow young people placed in high cost residential placements to step down (where suitable) into alternative accommodation. For some context we currently have 24 young people noted on our Waiting List to enter YPG as currently being in a Residential Placement.</p>														

# CPAC Dashboard Quarter 2 2022-23

## Health

Children looked after open to Emotional Wellbeing Services during Quarter 1 & 2 2022-23



Source: Health

EWS - Emotional Wellbeing Services

Note on this report: Children may have concurrent referral episodes with both CAMHS and Paediatric Psychology, or Primary Mental Health and Paediatric Psychology. Thus, totals provided are a distinct count of the number of children with referrals to these services during the reporting period.

26 children and young people who were looked after were open to Emotional Wellbeing Services during Quarter 1 & 2 2022/23. 21 children / young people were open to CAMHS, 5 of these were receiving urgent intervention. 14 were open to the Generic Team 1 was receiving support from the Community Intensive Treatment Team, who operate frequent home visits for psychological interventions to provide support and aid recovery by seeing the child in their home / family environment. This in turn reduces / actively prevents hospital admissions and allays further issues that could worsen mental health that could otherwise occur if the child were hospitalised, such as missing out seeing friends and family, disruption to family life and missing school. 5 were referred for a Forensic CAMHS Consultation, this is a specialist community consultation service providing consultation to professional networks (including Children's Services and the Youth Justice Service) regarding young people that cause them great concern, specifically in relation to risk and extreme and/or criminal behaviour, with the aim of risk reduction (including reducing the risk of re-offending) and managing their safety and wellbeing in the community.

Five were open to the Primary Mental Health Team, where service delivery involves a consultation to complete an assessment before commencing a care and treatment plan which could include referral into CAMHS or the provision of other support services either via the NHS, Local Authority, 3<sup>rd</sup> Sector or via Digital Platforms.

2 of those open to Paediatric Psychology were receiving consultations to assess the impact of becoming looked after on their behaviour, outlook and mental health.

Please note children and young people can be open to more than one team at once, these 26 are identified by Health as looked after, work is ongoing with Health to ensure the true number of children who are looked after is recorded and therefore reported by Health.

## Views

### Mind of My Own

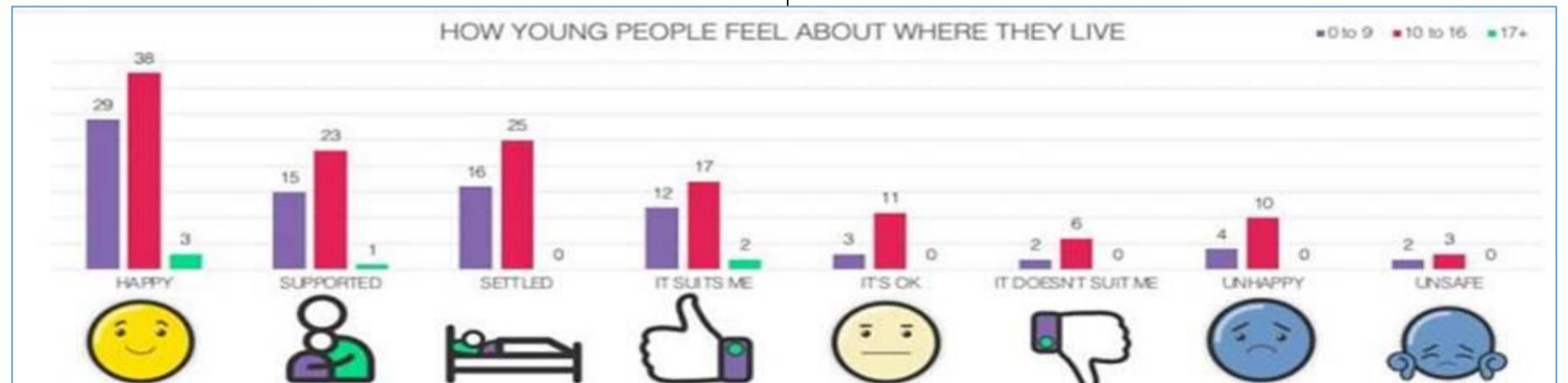
During the period of July – September 2022 we received a total of 95 One app statements. This is up by 72 statements in comparison with the same time period in 2021 where we received 23 One app statements, resulting in usage increase of 313%.

- 46 children and young people signed up to Mind of My Own during this time making a total of 220 children and young people accounts overall.
- 9 worker accounts were created resulting in a total of 266 worker accounts created in total
- 95 statements sent to us in total in this time frame
- 87 were One app statements and 8 were express statements
- 82 One app statements were made by children and young people
- 5 One app statements were made by workers

Mind of My Own is a set of accessible apps that allow our children and young people to express and share their views in a way that suits them. Young people can use the app alone or with their worker to say how they are feeling, what support they need and tell their worker about things that are important to them. We are encouraging staff in Children's Services to sign up for a worker account and when the stats below were published 239 members of staff had an account.

The data below "How young people feel about where they live" shows responses from July – October 2022.

We have been working with the IRO's as part of a project to promote and embed the use of the Mind of My Own App. Together we explored ways to increase participation of children and young people looked after in their reviews by encouraging them to submit a Mind of My Own statement in preparation for their looked after review. Each IRO completed a Microsoft form detailing the young person's name, date of review, whether the young person had a Mind of My Own account and the contact details of an individual who would be assisting the young person in submitting a statement. Over the next three months, we will be using the same approach to encourage those young people with a Child Protection Conference scheduled to submit a Mind of My Own statement.



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## **Appendix B – Case Study**

**Bright Futures is the Into Work Advice Service’s project aimed specifically at supporting 16–24-year-old Care Experienced young people. A team of 4 youth mentors aim to remove barriers to education, employment, and training. The Bright Start Traineeship Scheme sits within the Bright Futures project and allows young people to complete supported work placements within a particular field of interest, gaining employability skills, valuable work experience and confidence.**

X was extremely unsure and indecisive about what she wanted to do in the future.

X was care experienced and had been in and out of various hostel accommodations for years. She struggled with budgeting, practical day to day tasks and organising her time. X had extremely low self-esteem and self-belief and struggled with anxiety and confidence issues. These issues were a barrier to employment for X. To overcome this, X took her first steps forward by contacting the Bright Futures team.

Bright Futures Project offers bespoke tailored support for all 16–24-year-old care experienced young people from Cardiff. X had lots of ideas about what she wanted to do and was provided numerous 1:1 and group-based sessions to help with her wellbeing and confidence. Bright Futures Project initially supported X to gain her CSCS Card and Banksman qualification, which led to her securing agency labouring work. This role ended due to Covid-19 but X also felt the work wasn’t her true passion.

To fill time and keep developing her skills, X signed up to our Bright Start Traineeship Scheme. This is a work placement programme exclusively available to care experienced young people from Cardiff. X successfully gained a placement in the sport and leisure industry. This is where X truly started to find her passion and see the skills, she could offer others. From the moment X began placement there were clear signs that confidence and self-belief levels were improving daily. The team at the placement provided X with lots of training, support and care that saw her take on new challenges, have ownership over tasks and grow as a person. This opportunity helped X to realise that she wanted a career within sport and fitness.

Following on from the Bright Start Work Placement, X and her Youth Mentor updated her CV and applied for a position within the sport and leisure industry. The Bright Futures Project provided financial assistance to X for new interview clothes and transport to get to her interview for this role. X newly found confidence and experience worked wonders as she was offered the apprenticeship! X is now working towards her qualifications and enjoying her role.

**CARDIFF COUNCIL  
CYNGOR CAERDYDD****CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE****9 January 2023**

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**FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME**

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**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. Following a recent engagement session with children and young people looked after, several themes have been identified 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.

The themes to be reflected in the Committees FWP are as follows:

1. Improving emotional well-being and physical health
  2. Having a safe and stable home in and after care
  3. Education, employment, and training
5. 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.
6. Other items will be added to the Committee Forward Work Programme to ensure that is required under the terms of reference

#### Committee Engagement with Young People

7. Several 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. Continuous engagement of children and young people will help to form the future work of the Committee.
8. Participation Partnership working will be a priority for the upcoming year for the service area. Regular updates will be provided to the Committee on the key progress in this area which will include work undertaken on the development of a Participation Strategy

#### Performance Monitoring

7. 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.

#### The Member Development

8. 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**

9. 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**

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

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

11. 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  
29 DECEMBER 2022**

List of Appendices:

Appendix A – Draft Forward Work Programme

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**APPENDIX A - WORK PROGRAMME CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE 2023 -2024- v.1**

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

Topic type	Agenda Item	Agenda topic	Description	Responsible Service Area and Additional Invitees
<b>Committee Date: TBC</b>				
Emotional Health & Wellbeing	1.	Participation Charter	To receive an update a participation charter that has been developed by Children and young people setting out how Children Services will engage children, young people and families in service design and development and to make any observations or comments	Children Services
	2.	Members Visit- ENFYs	Members to provide an update to the Committee on members visit to ENFYs service.	Housing Directorate
	3.	To be identified by members of the Committee		
	4.	To be identified by members of the Committee		
Performance management	5.	IRO service update	To receive an update on the Independent Review Officer Service and to make any observations or comments	Children's Services
	6.	Ty Storrie and Crosslands Annual report	To receive a update on the Ty storrie and Crosslands	Children's Services

Topic type	Agenda Item	Agenda topic	Description	Responsible Service Area and Additional Invitees
<b>Committee Date: TBC</b>				
Educational Achievement, Employment & Training	1.	Cardiff Commitment	To receive an update on the joint work undertaken with the Cardiff Commitment team and Children Services to provide specific employment support and opportunities	Cardiff Commitment / Children Services
	2.	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.	Participation Strategy	For Members of the Committee to receive an update on the developments of a participation strategy which provides and outline on how to improve participation	Children's Services
	4.	Care Leavers report	To receive an update on the Care Leavers service including NEET and Care Leavers as Parents, Care Leavers going to university and entering employment	Children's Services
	5.	To be identified by the Committee		
Celebrating the Success of our Children Looked After	6.	Children's Services	For Members of the Committee to receive an update on the successes of our children and have an opportunity to consider how we can recognise these for our Looked After Children	Children's Services
	7.	Education	To receive an update on the educational achievements of our Looked After Children and consider how these can be best recognised.	Education Directorate
Performance Management	8.	Education – Performance of CLA children 2022- 2023	To receive the Education – report for looked after children and to comment, seek clarification or raise questions on the information received.	Education Directorate

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