

Title of the Report:

Corporate Parenting Board's Operational Work Streams and Review of our Pledges

Executive Summary

The Corporate Parenting Board is supported by a multi-agency operational steering group which oversees the work of the various work streams. This report provides a summary of the work to date.

Reason for bringing to the Corporate Parenting Board

To update the Board on the operational work streams.

Recommendations

To note the actions identified in respect of relevant work stream.

Background papers

Corporate Parenting Strategy 2017-2020

Resource and Legal considerations

Corporate parenting responsibilities for Children in Care and Care leaver sit with the Local Authority and its partners and are enshrined in legislation. (Section 22 of the Children Act 1989 imposes a duty on local authorities to 'safeguard and promote the welfare of each child they look after'). In 2017 the Children and Social Work Act introduced a set of Corporate Parenting Principles for children in care and care leavers up to the age of 25 years. In order to thrive, children and young people have certain key needs that good parents generally meet.

The seven Corporate Parenting principles set out that local authorities must have regard to when exercising their functions in relation to children and young people in care, as follows:

- Act in the best interests of, and to promote the health and wellbeing of children and young people;
- Encourage children and young people to express their views, wishes and feelings;
- Take account of a child or young person's views, wishes and feelings;
- Help children and young people to gain access to and get the best use of the services provided by the local authority and its relevant partners;

- Promote high aspirations and seek to secure the best outcomes for children and young people;
- Children and young people to be safe and for stability in their home lives, relationships and education or work;
- Prepare children and young people for adulthood and independent living.

Shaped by these principles and our approach, our mission is to give our children in care and care leavers the best start in life through effective safeguarding, high quality health and wellbeing support, and support to aspire and achieve.

Council Corporate Plan Priorities

- Children have the best possible start and are safe from harm, happy, healthy and learning well.
- People have increased independence, improved health, and can positively contribute to their communities.
- Communities are prospering and resilient with all housing needs met in safe and healthy places that build a strong sense of belonging and cohesion.

Citizen impact

Looked after children and care leavers are citizens of Walsall and as Corporate Parents we have a duty to look after them as we would our own children and prepare them for adulthood so they can fulfil their potential and play a full and rewarding part in their communities.

Environmental impact

None

Performance management

Corporate Parenting Board ensures everyone works together to fulfil the corporate parenting role and to hold each other to account for making this happen.

- it acts as the visible organisational champion for looked after children and young people and care leavers, promoting their rights, entitlements and aspirations;
- the mobilisation and optimum use of resources available to get the best chance of success for children in care and to support care leavers to positively transition to adulthood and independence.

It does this by:

- developing, implementing, overseeing and reviewing the Corporate Parenting Strategy and action plans to ensure that the whole Council and partner agencies have a joint commitment to corporate parenting,
- ensuring outcomes fulfil the Council's responsibilities towards children and young people in care and care leavers;
- monitoring the outcomes for looked after children and young people and care leavers in conjunction with the Council's Scrutiny arrangements and other partnerships, to ensure their achievements are celebrated.

Reducing inequalities

The Corporate Parenting Strategy sets out the response to secure improvements in the equality of services, which, when achieved will have a positive impact on our most vulnerable children, young people and families. By being effective Corporate Parents for Looked After Children and Care Leavers, we collectively seek to redress the disadvantage that looked after children and care leavers face.

Consultation

The Corporate Parenting Strategy runs until 2020 and was informed by consultation with children and young people.

The work to refresh the strategy will commence in 2020 and the involvement of the Children in Care Council (Council 4Kids) will be instrumental in setting the priorities going forward.

Contact Officer

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Report

1.0 Background

The Corporate Parenting Strategy covers the period 2017 to 2020 and articulates the aspirations we hold for our looked after children and young people leaving care, our promises to them over the timeframe of the strategy, and describes how we will achieve them. The strategy was developed in 2017, in conjunction with young people, carers and partner agencies. The strategy is underpinned by our Pledges to children in care and young people leaving care.

- 1.1 The work stream groups set up under the current strategy have changed and evolved overtime and some are no longer purposeful or required. Ongoing actions have been carried forward either through task and finish groups or thorough service plans.

The Corporate Parenting Strategy needs to be reviewed and set our objectives for the next three year and this should then inform the basis of future work plan for the Corporate Parenting Board.

There is a need for broader scrutiny by the Corporate Parenting Board of the revised strategy and action plan which is informed by the views of our children and young people.

Corporate Parenting Board would need to have a clear relationship and scrutiny of key strategic groups such as the Health of Looked after Children and the Virtual School Board which focuses on the education and achievement of children looked after, to enhance its strategic oversight of the Corporate Parenting agenda. Other key priorities can be delivered through the revised work streams or task and finish groups which report to the Board.

- 1.2 The current Corporate Parenting Strategy sets out the following priorities and these have informed the work plans for each of the work streams

1. Strengthen the corporate parenting role including support and develop our Council 4Kids and New Belongings group.
2. Make sure all looked after children are listened to so their views can help plan what we do and make it better.
3. Improve the health and wellbeing of children and young people being looked after and care leavers.
4. Ensure looked after children and care leavers are safe in their home and in their community and are cared for close to Walsall, that they have suitable accommodation whilst in our care, and in line with their best interests, move quickly to a permanent home.
5. Improve education and improve access to work, education and training.

1.3 Each of the current work streams each had an action plan to support the delivery of our pledge to children in care and young people who have left care in Walsall. An operational steering group was chaired by the Assistant Director for Children's Social Care to track the progress of the work streams. This Group has not met since June 2019 due to changes in leadership. An update is provided in respect of each of the work streams

- Respect and influence - Jivan Sembi Group Manager.
- Home – a safe place to live - Elizabeth Gosling Group Manager Provider Services
- Education, training and employment - Lorraine Thompson Virtual Head
- Lifestyle and leisure - Paul Wicker Principal Sport and Active Recreation Officer
- Good health and wellbeing - Alison Jones, Designated Nurse for Safeguarding Children and Children Looked After CCG

2.0 **Respect and influence:** Our Pledge to Children and Young People in care or those who have left care is:

- We will make sure you have chances to share your views, wishes and feelings.
- We promise to listen to you and tell you how your views and feelings are taken into account in making plans.
- We will make sure you know what your rights are on a regular basis and information will be shared with you in a child friendly manner.
- We will listen to care leavers and hear what they say.
- We will support the Respect group to make sure that looked after children in Walsall have their voices heard.
- Members of the corporate parenting board will meet with children and young people at least four times a year.

2.1 **Update:** This work stream has delivered on its work plan and the workstream has now dissolved. The rationale for this is that the Children's Champion's work plan is now fully embedded operationally and is delivered through task and finish groups.

Other measures are in place to support the involvement of children and young people to ensure that the Voice of the Child informs service delivery and their individual care planning.

The Children's Champion provides regular reports to the Children's Directorate Management Team and the Corporate Parenting Board on the progress of the work plan.

In addition the Children's Champion, Assistant Director and Head of Service meet regularly to review the work plan.

These measures mean that the need for a work stream are now not required.

2.2 In summary the work stream have been delivered:

- Children in Care Council is now established and working well
- Children and Young People are involved in a range of activities and these are reported at each meeting of the Corporate Parenting Board.
- Children and Young People attend the Corporate Parenting Board regularly and a schedule of meetings is in place.
- The pool of trainers for the Respect training programme has increased and this has increased the availability of training for staff and members.
- Children and Young People are now routinely involved in the recruitment activity across the Directorate.
- The Children in Care Council has an improved footprint on Twitter.
- Children in Care Council have established strong links with regional and national forums, including the National Benchmarking Leaving Care Forum.
- Children in Care Council have been fully involved in the Transformation Delivery Programme, for example, the “Big Conversation” and the development of the Turning Point Service.

2.3 **Actions in progress and are now transferred to the Participation and Engagement Plan :**

1. Children in Care and Care Leavers survey is underway and the outcome of this will report to the Directorate Management Team and Corporate Parenting Board in 2020.
2. The Council's website material has been prepared and is ready to be uploaded and the timescales are now determined by the wider plan for Children's Services.
3. Review our Pledges: A task and finish group is in place to review our Pledges with children and Young People. This will involve young people and will lead to co-production workshop/s with the Children in Care Council, elected members, our carers, staff and colleagues is Health, Housing and Education providers. The co-production workshop/s will be scheduled in February 2020 and will inform the Corporate Parenting Strategy for 2020 – 2023.
4. Implementation of the Restorative approach across Children's Services has appropriately transferred to the Children's Transformation Plan and a Restorative Lead is supporting this implementation across the Directorate.
5. Increasing the involvement of children and young people in their meetings is incorporated in the Children's Service Plan.
6. The pilot to implement of use of Business WhatsApp is now progressing and a task and finish group involving relevant staff across the Council has been established to monitor.
7. Recruitment of Participation Apprentice is in progress and is a service priority

8. Marketing materials for Participation and Involvement are being refreshed and are set out in the Action plan of the Children's Champion

3.0 **Home – a good, safe and stable place to live:** Our Pledge to children, young people and care leavers is:

- Help care leavers find and keep a stable place to live.
- We will do all that we can to make sure you have a home where you feel safe, happy and healthy and where you feel well cared for and supported.
- We will make sure your carers have access to the support they need to make this happen for you.

3.1 **Update:** This work stream group has continued to meet and the actions set out in the work plan has now been delivered. The work plan and the membership of the Group needs to be reviewed.

In summary the following has been delivered

- Mocking Bird is operational and now has three established hubs with a forth scheduled for 2020.
- Workshops with foster carers and residential staff have been delivered and routinely offered to promote preparation for independence and the use of the Catch 22 toolkit.
- The training and development offer for foster carers is published and is was reviewed operationally by the Group Manager.
- Foster Carer Recruitment and Retention Strategy is in place and is kept under review by the Fostering Steering Group.
- Council Tax exemption provided for Care Leavers up to the age of 25 in Walsall
- Joint Housing and Children's Housing Protocol for Care Leavers is in place.
- Staying Put is actively promoted and there are currently 23 children who remain with their foster carers' as they transition into adulthood.
- Children's services have jointly commissioned housing accommodation options with Housing. A Housing Pathway Panel was established in 2019 and works in partnership with Housing, Walsall Housing Group and St Basils to support care leavers to secure suitable accommodation. This has secured a supply of accommodation for care leavers and a housing pathway that meets the needs of young people.
- Increased the number of personal advisors by 2 to ensure young people are supported.
- Turning Point (Specialist Adolescent Support Service) has been developed with children and young people, staff have been appointed and the service will be fully operational.

3.2 **Action in progress and progress against these can be reported to Corporate Parenting Board :**

The Fostering Service Plan for 2020/21 incorporates the following priorities:

- The recruitment and retention strategy for foster carers need to be update for 2020/21, to incorporate the development of specialist recruitment of foster carers for adolescents.
- Training and support offer for foster carers
- Training and support offer for connected persons and special guardians

Task and Finish Group to revise and update the sufficiency strategy 2020-2022 will be in place in January 2019.

Task and Finish Group has been established to review permanence planning and tracking and its first meeting has been set for January 2020.

4.0 Education, training and employment- Our pledge to children, young people and care leavers is:

- We will do everything we can to make sure you have the very best education and training possible.
- You will be supported in taking up opportunities for further education and apprenticeships.
- Help care leavers with their career plans.

4.1 Update: This work stream has merged its work plan with the Management Board of the Virtual School to reduce duplication of meetings. The progress of the work plan is tracked by the Head of the Virtual School and reports to this Board as well as the Directorate Management Team. The Management Board meets termly.

The Head of the Virtual School provides an annual report to the Management Board.

The Head of the Virtual School Manager also reports to the Corporate Parenting Board and last reported on 8 January 2019.

The current work plan concluded in July 2019 and a revised workplan has been developed and is attached to this report.

4.2 The work steam has delivered on the following:

- The new ePEP system implemented and is fully operational
- Improved quality and timeliness of Personal Education Plans with 92% completed within timescales at July 2019, compared with 70% at July 2018.
- There are more Children and Young People aged 16-18 in education and training.
- Attainment in KS1 has improved in reading, writing and maths
- Attainment in KS2 has improved in writing, maths and grammar, punctuation and spelling

- The number of children achieving a good set of GCSEs has increased from 23.5% in 2018 to 27% in 2019
- Apprenticeships: The Council has created 20 opportunities for Care Leavers in a wide range of areas, such as, Resources and Transformation - Money Home Job, Finance, Children's Services, Economy and Environment, Black Country Impact/Walsall Works, Business Support, Clean and Green as well as an external opportunity at Walsall Football Club. There are currently 6 young people on the programme; 3 have completed first level programmes and have progressed. Our first Higher Apprenticeship Care Leaver has been recruited into Money Home Job and this is at Foundation Degree level. The 'distance travelled' has been significant for the young people.
- 18 young people are currently in higher education and at University.
- An Impact worker is attached to the TLC Hub and is available to support young people in securing training and employment
- Rate of young people aged 19-21 who are in education or training has reduced over the last 12 months.
- The young people are reviewed and their progress is tracked by the NEET Action Group, chaired by the Head of the Virtual.

4.3 **Actions in progress :**

- Revised work plan is being developed and will be reviewed half-termly
- Report to Corporate Parenting Board on education of children in care to be scheduled in 2020.
- Apprenticeship opportunities with Tarmac and Health are currently being explored

5.0 **Good health and wellbeing:** Our pledge to children, young people and care leavers is:

- As you grow up you will be asked for your opinion on your health needs and will be involved in decision making about your health.
- We will do everything we can to make sure that your health is regularly checked and your health needs are addressed.
- We will support you to maintain and improve your health and wellbeing.
- We will go to medical appointments with you if you are worried to go alone.

5.1 **Update:** This work stream continues to meet and is jointly chaired by the Designated Nurse for Looked After Children and the Designated Doctor for Looked After Children.

Its work plan is currently under review and will be presented to the Board in 2020.

- The Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) has successfully recruited a Designated Nurse for Looked after Children to support the CCG in fulfilling their responsibilities as commissioner of services to improve the health of looked after children.
- The Designated Nurse is a statutory role and this has started to make an impact on improving relationships and practice.
- Appointment of Health Nurse to increase capacity in the Looked After Children Health Team.
- The Transition and Leaving Care Nurse offers weekly drop in and health appointments at the TLC Hub.
- The FLASH service offers a fortnightly drop in at the TLC Hub
- Over a hundred Primary Care staff, including ninety-three General Practitioners, have received training around their responsibilities for looked after children.
- Data and performance is shared across the LA, the Trust and CCG and performance of health assessments is improving.
- Workshop with Children's Services Staff and Health Staff have been held to improve health assessment processes completed.

5.2 Ongoing development

- The Designated Nurse for Looked After Children is revising the work plan in conjunction with colleagues in Health and Local Authority.
- The review of the post-16 Review Health Assessment (RHA) Personal Health Plan and Summary report is in progress.
- Continued monitoring of health assessments and health passports for care leavers is monitored monthly by the CCG and LA.
- Review of the FLASH service is in progress.

5.3 **Action:** The Designated Nurse for Children Looked After to provide a report on the revised work plan to Corporate Parenting Board in January 2020.

6.0 **Lifestyle and Leisure:** Our pledge to children, young people and care leavers is :

- We will make sure you have the opportunity to take part in sporting activities, youth clubs and other social activities without facing barriers or obstacles.
- Your passport application will be treated as a priority for children in a long term placement.
- We will make sure you have your leisure card.
- Contact with people who are important to you will be actively promoted and arrangements will clearly take into account your wishes and feelings.

6.1 **Update:**

- Leisure cards are available via the TLC Hub or via MyPlace to enable children and young people and their carers to secure access to leisure facilities in the Walsall area easily.

- Passport applications are funded by Children's Services and social workers are supported to ensure that applications are progressed with good administrative and tracking support.
- The new Family Time Service is fully operational and has now moved to Fallings Heath which provides an improved family friendly environment for children and families. The contact policy is operational.
- Catch 22 preparation for independence toolkit is used and is promoted in the training offer for carers and staff.
- Children in Care Council have worked with the managers of the Independent Reviewing Service to develop reports that are more accessible for children and young people.

6.2 **Actions in progress:**

The Interim Assistant Director has reviewed the use of WhatsApp as a means to communication between staff and children and young people. This has finally moved to a point where it can be piloted and this commences in January 2020.

- 7.0 In summary, There are some actions still in progress and these have been identified in the report. A wider review of the work programme of the Corporate Parenting Board is required.

The Corporate Parenting Strategy needs to be reviewed and updated by April 2020. The work plan for the Corporate Parenting Board will be informed by the review.

The timescales for the completion of this review is April 2020.

- 7.1 The work stream plans for following work streams are attached to the report.
- Respect and Influence
 - Home – Safe place to live
 - Virtual School Service Plan
 - Leisure

**Walsall Corporate Parenting Board
Respect and Influence Work stream Action Plan**

Respect and Influence

Everyone involved with our children and young people will treat them with respect, listening to their views and explaining clearly why some things cannot happen if that is the case. Children and young people are involved in and understand the decisions that are made about their lives. They know how to get information, support and advice they need when they need it and they know how to complain.

Our pledge to Children, Young People and Care Leavers says:

- We will make sure you have chances to share your views, wishes and feelings. We promise to listen to you and tell you how your views and feelings are taken into account in making plans.
- We will make sure you know what your rights are on a regular basis and information will be shared with you in a child friendly manner.
- Listen to care leavers and hear what they say
- We will support the Respect group to make sure that looked after children in Walsall have their voices heard. Members of the corporate parenting board will meet with children and young people at least four times a year.

Membership	Name	Representing
Chair / Champion:	Jivan Sembi	Group Manager, Corporate Parenting
Council 4 Kids/New Belongings advocate:	Michelle Cummings	Young People Children's Champion
Others:	Sarah Niles	Youth Worker
	Fiona Wilson	Youth Worker
	Rani / Bev	Transition and Leaving care
	Mike Morris or Debbie Silvester	Independent Reviewing Officer
	Vacant	Foster Care
	Lois Stevens	Residential
	Raji Bains	Workforce Development



Main issues to be addressed

1. We will ensure young people are aware of alternative mechanisms for complaints. Young people feel confident to raise concerns etc. to an independent person
2. We will continue to deliver 'Total Respect' Training
3. Restorative Approach to be used within Child protection Conferences. Young People to feel included within conference
4. Engagement of young people in C4K - New Belongings/Respect – to include joint working between the groups

RAG Status – Red, Amber, Green

□	Completed
□	In progress and on target
□	Not on target and requires intervention

[illegible]



Task ID	Task	Start Date	End Date	Allocated To	Update/How are we doing	RAG Status
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve the use of restorative approach in practice to enable children and young people's involvement and participation. For Young People to be fully aware of the Restorative Approach applied in child protection conference. Ensure young people have an advocate/independent visitor when required. 	June 2018	March 2019	IRO Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Restorative approach in Child Protection Conferences is fully embedded. Targeted work has been undertaken with the staff and IROs to enable children and young people to attend their reviews and this has shown an improvement in children attending their reviews. Between June and August 2018 there have been restorative practice sessions across the children looked after services to improve the involvement of children and young people in their planning and reviews. Social Workers and IROs ensure that the young people are provided with an Advocate or Independent Visitor when required. The take up of services from Barnardo's is monitored by the Safeguarding and Reviewing Group Manager. 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase the attendance of children and young people in their reviews 				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The involvement and attendance of children and young people in their reviews remains a continued focus of practice. This is monitored by Managers and IROs and reported to Children's Social Care Performance Board. 	
Priority 4: We will ensure the engagement of young people in Council 4 Kids.						
4a	Develop an effective CICC with agreed governance, a chair and members.	June 2018	October 2018	Children's Champion	Children's Champion has met with <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children and young people on an individual basis to identify children 	



Task ID	Task	Start Date	End Date	Allocated To	Update/How are we doing	RAG Status
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish relationships between the CICC and senior leaders and members of Corporate Parent Board Develop a Constitution/ Mission statement children and young people attend other events and CICC's so they can develop a vision of what good CICC looks like Build good positive working relationships with SW/PA's, Foster Carers/ FCA, Residential Homes / Supported Accommodation Providers School Safeguarding Leads to promote the C4K. Joint visits with PA and SW to meet and identify children and young people to participate either as an active or virtual member. Identify young people who are able to refresh and revive the CICC forward. Agree a budget to support effective participation event 			n / Finance	<p>with their PA and SW to identified potential.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All Residential Homes in Walsall to promote CICC. A schedule of events has been included in reports to the Corporate Parenting Board The Children's Champion meets with the Foster Care Association to maintain links and promote that CICC as well as Respect and New Belongings Calendar of meetings and events is in place and is reviewed quarterly with the CICC. CICC now established with terms of reference and action plan. Council4Kids launched in October 2018 during Care Leavers Week 2018 CICC have been developed good partnership working with Youth of Walsall. Corporate Parenting Board and the Council4Kids have met in November 2019 with a QandA session, CICC regularly attend the Corporate Parenting Board and schedule for further meetings is in place. Care Leavers Week 2019 celebrated with a range of events. 	



Task ID	Task	Start Date	End Date	Allocated To	Update/How are we doing	RAG Status
4b	<p>Develop strong links with other regional and national Participation Teams.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Children's Champion and Walsall young people will attend regional, national forums and events for children in care and care leavers. Work with other agencies and partners. A diverse range of children in care and care experienced young people who are involved either actively or virtually. Young People with care experience from neighbouring Local Authorities CICC to act as peer mentors Creative ideas that are acted upon to keep momentum of group and involvement of YP. Collaborative working WSCB and other Professionals Young People are involved in the co delivery of training staff and other professionals e.g. Respect Training. 	June 2018	June 2019	Children's Champion/ Leads for New Belongings and Respect Groups/ Virtual Head	<p>Children's Champion is engaged in the regional and national participation groups and is able to apply learning to Walsall.</p> <p>Children's Champion, staff and young people have attended Sandwell's and Wolverhampton's annual events for children in care and care leavers in 2018 and 2019.</p> <p>Young people and staff have engaged with several National Leaving Care Benchmarking Forum conferences in 2018 and 2019 which have established links with other LA (NLCBF)</p> <p>The Children's Champion has attended Wolverhampton Dudley and Sandwell Regional Corporate Parenting Board Meetings to adopt best practice in Walsall.</p> <p>The Children's Champion has worked with the WSCB to establish Young Peoples Safeguarding Partnership and this is now in place.</p> <p>The Children's Champion provides a regular report to the Corporate Parenting Board which sets out the detail of the activities and events.</p>	



Task ID	Task	Start Date	End Date	Allocated To	Update/How are we doing	RAG Status
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider other electronic application such as MOMO or similar. 				<p>Staff and young people attend MOMO awareness training with Sandwell Children's Trust in September 2018 and the cost was prohibitive.</p> <p>As an alternative a business case for the use of WhatsApp was made and this was agreed in November 2019. A pilot for the use of the Business WhatsApp application has been agreed.</p>	
4c	<p>Create and co-design marketing and promotional materials with children and young people for the CICC.</p> <p>Welcome Packs created young people for young people</p>	August 2018	October 2018	Children's Champion	<p>Promotional leaflets drawn up and utilised in 2018/19.</p> <p>The promotional material is currently under review to ensure that this compliant with WR4C.</p>	
4d	Recruit Apprentice (Care Leaver) x 2 Part Time to further promote involvement of children in care and care leavers in Council4Kids.			Helena Baxter/ Children's Champion / GM	Apprenticeship vacancy in August 2019 and though the post was recruited post holder was unable to start. The post will now be re-advertised in 2020.	
4e	Partnership working with other organisations working with Children and Young People in care or care experienced to learn from best practice.		March 2019	Children's Champion /NLCBF – Catch 22	<p>June 2018 - Consulted with New Belongings ideas to support Care Leavers transition to independence, in conjunction KIC FM Spectra with CATCH 22's surplus money competition.</p> <p>July 2018 - Attended Care leavers Covenant in Coventry hosted by Spectra (Mentoring organisation that works with care leavers)</p>	

Task ID	Task	Start Date	End Date	Allocated To	Update/How are we doing	RAG Status
					<p>Identify Care Leavers to work with Spectra to be part of a local advisory panel to help inform the Care Leaver Covenant by Oct 2018.</p> <p>The idea submitted and will be developed further in October 2018. Walsall and another LA chosen out of 7 for first stage of competition.</p> <p>Nov 2018 - CICC attended Walsall's Youth in Unity promoting participation of young people and networking, forging further links.</p> <p>Idea - Similar Story Similar Voices. Series of workshops delivered at YPBMF Care Leavers Celebrations by Apprentice and Care Leaver. YPBMF voted Walsall best project idea. An action plan was submitted, project is paused until the recruitment of an apprentice,</p>	

How we will know we have succeeded:

- The number of children and young people who contribute to their review will increase.
- There will be clear evidence of how children's views have shaped decision making in their own lives as well as in service development.
- New appointees will meet children as part of the recruitment and selection process
- Children and young people will tell us they are clear about why they came into care, their rights and entitlements.
- Increase in children and young people who have been offered, and taken up advocacy support.
- Increase in active members of Respect Group and New Belongings.

Date Modified: November 2019

Walsall Corporate Parenting Board Home Work Stream Action Plan

Children, young people and care leavers live in good, safe homes where they feel cared for, safe and supported and can stay for as long as they need to. They receive information about their placement in advance and will be able to visit and be given a choice prior to moving in where possible. They are listened to if they have concerns about their placement at any time. Children and young people will live as near to family, friends and their school as possible and their placement will feel like home. We will support care leavers to 'stay put' if that is what they and their foster carer want and we will provide 'staying close' opportunities for those children living in children's homes.

Our Pledge to children, young people and care leavers says;

- Help care leavers find and keep a stable place to live
- We will do all that we can to make sure you have a home where you feel safe, happy and healthy and where you feel well cared for and supported.
- We will make sure your carers have access to the support they need to make this happen for you




Membership	Name	Representing
Chair / Champion:	Elizabeth Gosling	Walsall Council – Group Manager Provider Service
Others:	Sue Blick	Walsall Council Children's Commissioner
	Beverley Fearn / Rani Mann	Walsall Council Transitional Leaving Care
	Vacant	Walsall Council Team Manager – CP
	Sandra Allayne	Walsall Council Team Manager Fostering Service
	Laura Wood	Walsall Council Commissioning
	Mike Morris/Debbie Silvester	Walsall Council Safeguarding and Review (IRO)
	Patrick Morrison / Elise Hopkins	Walsall Council Money Home Job
	Jason Grainger	Residential Manager
	Julie Daley	Group Manager – Safeguarding and Family Support
	Michelle Cunning (Behalf of C4K)	Participation Officer

What do we need to do next:

- Develop 'staying close' arrangements between partners and in consultation with young people.
- Increase the range and quality of 'local' placement options of all kinds for looked after children and care leavers including those with more complex needs.
- Develop the skills of all carers so they can provide a home where children and young people feel safe, happy and 'loved' and where they do not have to move unless it is an agreed part of their plan.
- Help all looked after children to achieve a permanent home in a timely way.

How we will know we have succeeded:

- There will be a clear 'staying close' offer for all young people living within a children's home.
- Fewer children and young people live more than 20 miles from their home address.
- More children and young people will remain living with the same carers until they reach adulthood.
- There will be an increase in good quality local accommodation options for care leavers.
- Children and young people will tell us that they feel safe, happy cared for and loved.
- More children cease to be looked after due to positive outcomes

RAG Status – Red, Amber, Green	
	Completed
	In progress and on target
	Not on target and requires intervention

Task ID	Task	Start Date	End Date	Allocated To	Update / How are we doing	RAG Status
Priority 1: Develop 'staying close' arrangements between partners and in consultation with young people.						
1.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To work with Children and young People to define what Staying Close for Walsall and take a view how to implementation. Develop clear range of staying close options for internal residential external children and supported accommodation. 		Dec 2018	Jason Grainger Laura Wood Patrick Morrison Beverley Fearn / Rani Mann	Task and Finish group established in September 2017 with representatives from C4Kids (the Children in Care Council the Leaving Care Service and Residential Services. Staying Close position statement and policy has been drafted. Requires review by Children & Care Council and then DMT sign off. Copy will be made available at corporate Parenting Board	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review commissioning arrangements in relation in external residential and supported accommodation. 		April 2019	David Demay	Children's Services and Housing have commissioned 16 Units from Walsall Housing Group in 2019 and this has enabled young people to move into their accommodation with tailored support in Walsall. Walsall Council will review the commissioning of external residential and supported accommodation as part of the West Midlands Regional Commissioning Framework.	

Task ID	Task	Start Date	End Date	Allocated To	Update / How are we doing	RAG Status
1.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure embed issues of Staying Close / Put to care planning procedures. 		Dec 2018	Team Manager Fostering Jason Grainger Team Manager LAC IRO	<p>Walsall continues to offer Staying Put and there are 28 young people in Staying Put arrangements (November 2019). The Group Manager for Provider Services has met with staff in Corporate Parenting Service and IROs to ensure that staff understand the importance of early planning for the preparation with young people in respect of Staying Put.</p> <p>The Group Manager for Corporate Parenting tracks such arrangements as part of the transition planning for young people leaving care.</p>	
					<p>There are a small number of staying put arrangements with Independent Fostering Agencies and support for the carers is agreed based on the needs of the young person as part their Pathway Plan</p>	
					<p>Staying Close arrangements have successfully been implemented based on the individual needs of the young person in conjunction with Housing Providers and the Residential Home. Over the last 12 months this has involved 2 young people.</p> <p>This remains an area of further development and will be integrated into the Children's Services Plan for 2020-21.</p>	

Task ID	Task	Start Date	End Date	Allocated To	Update / How are we doing	RAG Status
	Priority 2: Increase the range and quality of 'local' placement options of all kinds for looked after children and care leavers including those with more complex needs.					
2.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To review and revise the sufficiency strategy 		March 2019	David De May Jivan Sembi Helena K	Commissioning led review of Sufficiency Strategy commenced and this will now be carried forward to 2020-21	
2.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To Review of supported accommodation to Care Leavers. 		Jan 2019	David De May	Commission led review completed with establishment of Young Person's Housing Scheme with Walsall Housing Group completed.	
2.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To review and update the Joint Housing Protocol for Care Leavers 		Sep 2018	Elise Hopkins/ Jivan Sembi	Joint protocol updated and signed off	
2.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To review and revise permanency policy and vision. 		April 2019	Elizabeth Gosling	<p>Permanency Statement developed and agreed.</p> <p>Long term permanence in fostering tracker in place to ensure that children requiring long term Foster Care as a plan are provided with family finding, provided with a detailed matching process and provided with panel oversight.</p> <p>A further review undertaken in October 2019 and target dates have been agreed with social workers to ensure plans are agreed at Permanence Panel.</p>	
2.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revise strategy for Recruitment of Foster carers. (Revise fees and allowance/ training offer and Mocking 		Sept 2019	Elizabeth Gosling	The current strategy covers the period up to Dec 2019.	

Task ID	Task	Start Date	End Date	Allocated To	Update / How are we doing	RAG Status
	Bird Model)				<p>Revised fee and allowance structure implemented in 2019.</p> <p>Mocking Bird Model implemented with 3 Hubs in place with plan to expand to 4 by March 2020.</p> <p>Training and development offer was revised for 2019/20.</p> <p>Digital recruitment consultant secured which includes a Customer Relation Management system to assist in ensuring potential applicants are identified and kept in contact.</p> <p>This work has now concluded and learning will be incorporated into the revised recruitment strategy for 2020-21. This task will be integrated into the Fostering Service work plan.</p> <p>The Marketing Officer left the authority in November 2019 and the post will be advertised in January 2020.</p>	

Task ID	Task	Start Date	End Date	Allocated To	Update / How are we doing	RAG Status
2.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none">To develop a specialist adolescents scheme for children in residential care to step into foster homes.		Mar 2020	Elizabeth Gosling David DeMay	Commissioning Group Manager chairs the Foster Carer recruitment and retention Group established in November 2018.	
					Stepdown from residential care to fostering placements have been achieved for 4 adolescents through independent fostering agencies.	
					Develop bespoke adolescent scheme in partnership with independent agencies or internal fostering.	Not achieved
Priority 3: Develop the skills of all carers so they can provide a home where children and young people feel safe, happy and 'loved' and where they do not have to move unless it is an agreed part of their plan.						
3.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Review carers training / development and to receive feedback from Carers regarding the training they have received.		Mar 2019	Elizabeth Gosling	Feedback from the FCA membership and from the Consultation event has been sought and analysed by Training and Development lead. Calendar has been revised with the plan to include further training in attachment and loss, joint training with CSWs and specialist training for carers working with disabled children.	

Task ID	Task	Start Date	End Date	Allocated To	Update / How are we doing	RAG Status
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review support package given to foster carers. 				<p>Review of support underway and has identified initial priorities as allegation management, arrangements for addressing standards of care, working arrangements with children's social workers and adoption of a Team around the Child approach, timeliness of fostering household reviews and skill progression.</p> <p>Action plan to address these issues agreed and will need to be taken forward as part of Fostering Service Plan in 2020/21.</p>	
3.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of Mocking Bird Model. 		July 2018	Elizabeth Gosling	Mockingbird launched in July 2018 – second. First fidelity check passed. At this time plans for further 2 hubs to be established by Autumn.	
3.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To Review and enhance staying put arrangements 		Jan 2019	Elizabeth Gosling Mike Morris	<p>Outcome data from Staying Put cohort analysed and this notes that take up of staying put remains high.</p> <p>Further work is required to get the view of young people. This action is outstanding and will be incorporated in Corporate Parenting Service Plan 2020-21</p>	
3.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement and support carers / key worker to prepare Young People to adulthood. 		Dec 2018 – Sept 19	Elizabeth Gosling Jivan Sembi	Pilot training on independence tool completed and embedded in practice, it is now part of the training offer for foster carers. The programme has been delivered to Children Social Workers, Residential Workers and Supervising Social Workers.	

Task ID	Task	Start Date	End Date	Allocated To	Update / How are we doing	RAG Status
Priority 4: Help all looked after children to achieve a permanent home in a timely way.						
4.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To review the court (PLO) process to ensure improved early permanency policy and vision 		Mar 2018	Julie Daley	Completed	
4.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review case progression process and establish permanency tracking panel 		Jun 2018	Julie Daley	Completed.	
4.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review permanency panel. To ensure that options for long term foster care are appropriately planned. 		Sept 2018 - March 2019	Jivan Sembi , Liz Gosling	Permanency Panel remains in place and will consider matching for children in foster care. Briefings undertaken for Panel chair and members in March 2019.	
4.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To review SGO Process 		Jul 2018	Elizabeth Gosling	SGO flowchart revised and agreed, financial authorisation streamlined and adoption of SGO / Connected Person assessment tool.	
4.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To review the connected person assessment and support and transition to SGO. 		March 2019	Elizabeth Gosling	Proposed regional event around kinship support facilitated by Grandparent Plus in January 2019. Additional support for connected carers to be developed.	
4.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop foster to adopt as part of RAA 		March 2019	Elizabeth Gosling	<p>Regional challenge event completed in November 2018. Establishment of Adoption@Heart, foster to adopt options are now more likely and have been achieved for 1 child since April 2019.</p> <p>Foster to Adopt placements are now delivered through the regional adoption agency and there is evidence of more such options being available for children. This is</p>	

Task ID	Task	Start Date	End Date	Allocated To	Update / How are we doing	RAG Status
					now monitored by the Adoption Management Board.	
4.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish mid-way checks by IROs to ensure plans progression. 		June 2018	Debbie Silvester	Completed	
4.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To deliver care planning training. 		Dec. 2018	Jivan Sembi	Core care planning training delivered in 2019 across Children's Services.	
4.9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore commissioning of support to support kinship carers. 		March 19	Elizabeth Gosling	Regional event held in Jan 2019 and has informed the need to develop kinship support. A report was taken to Directorate Management Group and funding was secured. The commissioning of this is now in progress.	
4.10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To strengthen long term family finding. 		Oct 2018 – Feb 2019	Elizabeth Gosling	<p>Family finder for Permanence Fostering post advertised and appointed</p> <p>Targeted family finding for permanence in Fostering is undertaken jointly with the Placements and Fostering Teams and has achieved the identification of foster families for a number of children.</p>	

Version Control

Version 5

Date Edited: November 2019



Virtual school for looked after Children

Priority 1	To improve the educational outcomes for our looked after children at all key stages									
Required Outcome	Actions	Lead	Date	Evidence Impact	A1	A2	SP1	SP2	SU1	SU2
More looked after children will reach a GLD at the end of EYFS, narrowing the attainment gap between Walsall looked after children and their peers in Early years. GLD-47%	Track and monitor the attainment and progress of all children in reception and hold monthly pupil progress meetings to ensure children are on track to achieve a GLD and pupil premium is being used effectively to raise attainment	RF	July 2020	Performance in early years is in line with national and statistical neighbours' performance						
	Deep dive into children who do not achieve to ascertain area of difficulty	RF	Dec 2019							
	Early year's tuition service to provide bespoke packages of support to children at risk of not achieving a GLD at the end of reception.	RF	Mar 2020							
	Work with early years partners to develop projects/programmes for children in early years	LT	Mar 2020							
	All children in early years to have a speech & language assessment	LT/LB	July 2020							

<p>More children will reach the expected standard in reading, writing and maths at the end of Key Stage 1 & 2</p> <p>KS1 R-63% W-59% M-59% KS2 R-36% W-57% M-54% RWM- 25%</p>	Track and monitor the attainment and progress of all children in year 2 and 6 and hold monthly progress meetings to ensure children are on track to achieve the expected standards in reading, writing and maths.	RF/ST	July 2020	<p>A narrowing of the achievement gap between Walsall looked after children and their peers in KS1 & 2</p> <p>Performance at the end of KS1 and KS2 is in line with national and statistical neighbours' performance</p> <p>KS4 date for children in our care is in line with that of all looked after children and the gap between children in care and their peers is closing</p>						
	Tutors to provide individualised support to children at risk of not achieving the expected standards at the end of KS1 and KS2	RF/ST	Dec 2019							
	Challenge schools to ensure appropriately challenging attainment targets are set in the PEP and pupil premium is being used effectively to raise attainment	RF/ST	Dec 2019							
	Work with identified schools and professionals to develop and implement KS1 and 2 literacy and numeracy projects/programmes for children in years 2 and 6	LT	July 2020							
<p>More children will achieve a good set of GCSEs including English and Maths</p> <p>4-9 26.9% 5-9 15.4% Attainment 8-29.4 Progress 8 -0.00</p>	Track and monitor the attainment and progress of all children in KS4 and hold monthly pupil progress meetings to ensure children are on track to achieve their predicted GCSE grades	LH	July 2020							
	Tutors to provide individualised support to children at risk of not achieving a good set of GCSEs	LH	Dec 2019							
	Challenge schools to ensure appropriately challenging attainment targets are set in the PEP and pupil premium is being used	LH	Dec 2019							

Priority 2	Improve attendance and reduce fixed term exclusions of all our care experienced children and young people									
Required Outcome	Actions	Lead	Date	Evidence Impact	A1	A2	SP1	SP2	SU1	SU2
Reduced number of looked after children classed as persistent absentees PA-8.3%	Daily monitoring of looked after call system to identify any young person who has below 90% attendance.	RP	July 2020	The number of children and young people with less than 90% attendance reduces Fewer children and young people have a fixed term exclusion						
	All young people with below 90% attendance have a robust attendance action plan in place and are discussed at weekly complex case meetings	ET	Dec 2019							
Reduced number of looked after children with unauthorised absences UA-0.5%	Daily monitoring of looked after call system to identify any young person who has below 90% attendance.	RP	July 2020							
	Monthly reports provided to Group manager for family placements and residential to inform them of children with recorded unauthorised absences		Dec 2019							
Reduced number of looked after children taking holidays during term time 23 children	Monthly reports provided to Group manager for family placements and residential to inform them of children taking holidays during term time	LT	July 2020							
Reduced number of looked after children receiving a fixed term exclusion 10%	Further develop the Walsall Attachment Aware Schools Project	LT	July 2020							
	Work closely with those schools who regularly exclude looked after children to identify alternatives	LT	July 2020							

Priority 3	Improve the quality and timeliness of Personal Education Plans									
Required Outcome	Actions	Lead	Date	Evidence Impact	A1	A2	SP1	SP2	SU1	SU2
We have high quality PEPs that are completed within timescales, facilitate ongoing support and challenge, enable easier monitoring and tracking of progress and capture the voice of the child. 92 % completed PEPs	Identify any school where PEPs are continuously poor and provide appropriate training to the designated teacher	RP	July 2020	100% of PEPS are RAG rated as good 100% of PEPs are completed within timescales						
	Ensure we are listening to the voice of children in our care by encouraging participate in their PEP meeting by either attending in person or completing the child’s views section	LT/RP	Dec 2019							
	The voice of the child section in ePEP to identify any areas of support needed for children and young people	LT/RP	March 2020							
	All new designated teachers receive face to face PEP training	LT	Dec 2019							
	Best practice PEP document produced to share with schools	LT	Dec 2019							

Priority 4	Pupil premium funding is well targeted, monitored and tracked to improve educational attainment and progress									
Required Outcome	Actions	Lead	Date	Evidence Impact	A1	A2	SP1	SP2	SU1	SU2
There is targeted and appropriate use of the pupil premium and evidence of impact and educational progress and outcomes	Through the tracking of data ensure all pupil premium funding is targeted to support those who are at risk of underachievement	LT	March 2020	The gaps in educational attainment between the least and most deprived communities will be narrowed for all under achieving groups						
	Monitor and challenge schools to use pupil premium effectively by carrying out pupil premium reviews	LT	March 2020							
	Share good practice between schools by providing case studies and evidence of impact of the use of pupil premium	LT	March 2020							
	Evaluate the use of pupil premium for specific interventions such as 1:1 tuition, mentoring and group work	LT	March 2020							

Priority 5	Increase the number of care experienced young people 16-18 in education employment and training										
Required Outcome	Actions	Lead	Date	Evidence Impact	A1	A2	SP1	SP2	SU1	SU2	
Increased opportunities for access to information, advice and guidance about post 16 pathways to education, employment and training	Ensure all year 11 PEPs clearly identify post 16 provision and any transition support needed	HY	Dec 2019	The number of young people who are not education, employment and training (NEET) is reducing							
	Ensure that all risk of NEET indicators in the year 9 PEPs are completed by Virtual school Key worker to identify young people at risk of becoming NEET at the earliest opportunity	LH/RP	Dec 2019								
	Ensure that all UASC students are engaged in appropriate educational provision and have adequate support needed for them to access the curriculum	HY	Dec 2019								
	Virtual school member of staff to attend all year 11 annual reviews for pupils with SEND transitioning to post 16 provision to ensure appropriate post 16 destinations are identified	HY	Dec 2019								
	Hold regular careers events/activities for pupils in KS3 and	HY	March 2020								

Priority 6	Upskill our designated teachers, social workers and carers to ensure they have a clear understanding of the importance of improving educational outcomes for care experienced children										
Required Outcome	Actions	Lead	Date	Evidence Impact	A1	A2	SP1	SP2	SU1	SU2	
Our social workers, foster carers and residential staff will have a good understanding of education to support learning	Devise and publish an annual training programme for all professionals focusing upon: Early Years, SEND, Admissions, Curriculum changes, PEPs and the role of the Virtual School.	JC	July 2020	Our social workers, foster carers and residential staff have increased knowledge and understanding of education Designated teachers have access to a range of online training courses							
	Provide a package of online training for designated teachers	LT	Dec 2020								
	Implement termly designated teacher network meetings to ensure a more consistent approach to supporting care experienced children	LT	March 2020								
	Develop a Walsall Virtual school handbook for all professionals	LT	March 2020								

Priority 7	Raise aspirations of our care experienced children and young people and celebrate their success									
Required Outcome	Actions	Lead	Date	Evidence Impact	A1	A2	SP1	SP2	SU1	SU2
Our children in care are confident and have high aspirations to achieve both academically and socially	Devise and publish an annual educational/enrichment programme for children and young with termly events	LT	Dec 2019	Children and young people feel valued and listened to All children receive recognition for their academic and social achievements						
	Further develop the Aspire to University (A2U) project by identifying at least 10 students to join each year.	LT	Dec 2019							
	Further develop our corporate mentoring scheme for care experienced children	LH	Mar 2020							
	Recognise achievements recorded in the child's PEP by sending our termly reward post cards	All	Dec 2019							
	Develop our primary and secondary celebration events	LT	July 2020							

Priority	Redesign the virtual school to ensure that the right children receive the right support for the right amount of time									
Required Outcome	Actions	Lead	Date	Evidence Impact	A1	A2	SP1	SP2	SU1	SU2
We have a highly skilled and stable workforce who are confident and able to provide high challenge and high support to schools, social care and other professionals to ensure all children in our care achieve the best possible outcomes	Redesign the Virtual School ensuring we have a cost effective model that meets our strategic and operational aims	LT	Feb 2020	We have a cost effective robust Virtual school in place with the right people in the right posts						
	Visit a number of virtual schools to look at how different models work	LT	Nov 2019	A virtual school with core and support staff funding directly form pupil premium plus						

**Walsall Corporate Parenting Board
Lifestyle and Leisure Work stream Action Plan**

Lifestyle and leisure: Children, young people and care leavers are supported and encouraged to enjoy a wide range of leisure, cultural, sporting and social activities, including taking an annual holiday, which will enable them to fulfil their potential and make new friends. As is in their best interests they will be supported to keep in contact with family members. Children and young people will be protected from harmful and risky situations such as child sexual exploitation, going missing, and offending.

Our pledge to Children, Young People and Care Leavers says:

- We will make sure you have the opportunity to take part in sporting activities, youth clubs and other social activities without facing barriers or obstacles.
- Your passport application will be treated as a priority for children in a long term placements
- We will make sure you have your leisure card
- Contact with people who are important to you will be actively promoted and arrangements will clearly take into account your wishes and feelings

Membership	Name	Representing
Chair / Champion: Others:	Paul Wicker	Principal Sport and Active Recreation Officer, Leisure Services. Care leaver
	Julie Daley	Children Services (Contact lead)
	Michelle Cummings	Children Services (Children's Champion)
	Fiona Wilson	Children Services (Youth Services)
	Pal Kaur	Children Services (Care Leavers)
	Michaela Adamson	Children Services (Residential + Fostering)
	Mike Morris	Children Services (IRO)
	Lorraine Thompson	Virtual School

Main issues to be addressed (and how this links to the Corporate Parenting Strategy)

1. Ensure that leisure services can easily send out annual leisure passes to looked after children by embedding the system.
2. Understand what leisure opportunities children and young people are accessing, what they want and how we could support these to happen.
3. Fully Implement the contact policy and toolkit.
4. Further explore how safe and innovative use of ICT could help children stay in contact with friends and family.
5. Explore how supporting young people to learn to drive could be incorporated into the life skills offer.
6. Build resilience of children and young people through working with them, their parents/carers and people working with them, to be able to identify and manage difficult situations to keep themselves safe

How we will know we have succeeded:

- More children and young people will tell us they are happy with the arrangements for staying in contact with friends and family.
- More children and young people will access local leisure facilities.
- Children and young people will routinely have at least one holiday with their carers per year.
- Individual lifestyle and leisure preferences of children and young people will be known and there will be increasing evidence that they are supported where they are in keeping with overall positive development.
- Fewer looked after children and care leavers go missing, are at risk of CSE or offend.

RAG Status – Red, Amber, Green	
😊	Completed
😐	In progress and on target
😞	Not on target and requires intervention



Task ID	Task / Action	Start Date	End Date	Allocated To	Update/How are we doing	RAG Status
Priority 1: Ensure that leisure services can easily send out annual leisure passes to looked after children by embedding the system.						
1.1	<p>To ensure that leisure services can easily send out annual leisure passes to Looked After Children and Care Leavers by embedding the system.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sport and leisure develop a registration database, and provide cards for children services to directly allocate, and list card number and details on the database. Email updated database straight through to sport and leisure to update XN system with persons details and allocate appropriate membership category. 	June 2017	August 2017	Pal Kaur/ Fiona Wilson/ Paul Wicker	<p>System implemented in June 2017 Leisure Cards held by Children's Services at My Place & TLC Hub. They issue the leisure cards on behalf of Leisure Services & then inform Leisure Services of date of issue.</p> <p>System on whole working well. Those who want are receiving the card, and are being updated on system within 1 working day.</p> <p>Strengthen system by ensuring IRO's routinely ask about Leisure Card when child's circumstances make it appropriate to do so</p>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure feedback from children & young people regarding the leisure offer is captured and used to develop next steps, building on previous consultation events 	Sept 2018	Dec 2018	Michelle Cummings	Feedback was secured and reported to the group. No further action was identified at that point.	
1.2	<p>To ensure that passport applications are prioritised for children/young people in long term placements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ JS to provide overview on passport process and expectations including timescales. 	<p>Sept 2017</p> <p>Sept 2017</p>	<p>Oct 2017</p> <p>Oct 2017</p>	Jivan Sembi	<p>There is a clear tracking process in place and this is supported by the central admin team. TM and Group Managers are responsible for ensuring that these are completed in a timely manner.</p> <p>The criteria is that</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Children's passports must be considered when care proceedings are initiated and applied for or secured from their parents. 	

[illegible]



Task ID	Task / Action	Start Date	End Date	Allocated To	Update/How are we doing	RAG Status
3.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Fully Implement the contact policy and toolkit	Oct 2017	Oct 2018	JD	New service went live in July 2018. Capital bid accepted to move service base to new premises. The service is fully operational and is now located at Fallings Heath.	
3.2					Managers were briefed on the practice guidance and toolkit via Practice Improvement Forum in 2018. Practice is continuing to embed the toolkit.	
Priority 4: Further explore how safe and innovative use of ICT could help children stay in contact with friends and family.						
4.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Review the website and social media to enable Children and Young People have access to information	June 2018	Dec 2018	Jivan Sembi	Content has been reviewed and updated. Work with ICT to ensure platforms are fit for purpose completed and the website will updated in line with the Children's Service.	
4.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Consider other electronic application such as MOMO or similarExplore development of Business WhatsApp for care leavers.Consider development of a social media page for children in care council e.g. Facebook, twitter.	June 2018	Dec 2018	Jivan Sembi Maxine Taylor	Corporate Parenting reps to Attend MOMO awareness training with Sandwell Children's Trust in September 2018 and this was feedback. The cost implementing MOMO was prohibitive. Business case has been developed and proof of concept agreed with Information Governance and ICT and this has taken some time to ensure compliance with GDPR. This will now be piloted from Jan 2020. Children in care council have a presence on Twitter and this is operating well.	



Task ID	Task / Action	Start Date	End Date	Allocated To	Update/How are we doing	RAG Status
Priority 5: Explore how supporting young people to learn to drive could be incorporated into the life skills offer.						
5.1	Explore how the revised life skills offer can be expanded to provide additional opportunities including learning to drive	Feb 2018	Feb 2019	Pal Kaur	<p>Driving lessons are funded based on a needs assessment where it is an essential requirement to enable a young person to access employment or education. A universal offer for driving lessons is currently not affordable.</p> <p>Other avenues are also considered such as the Rees Foundation is a charity that supports care leavers also offer financial support to enable care leavers to learn to drive.</p>	
Priority 6: Build resilience of children and young people through working with them, their parents/carers and people working with them, to be able to identify and manage difficult situations to keep themselves safe						
6.1	Embed restorative approach and relational work across Children's Services	April 2018	March 2019	Lisa Harris	Work in relation to a restorative approach is well developed since 2017. Our Restorative Summer in 2018 has enabled us to further embed this approach. In 2019 a restorative practice lead was appointed. This action is now integrated into Children's Services Transformation Plan.	
	Deliver and embed the Catch 22 Preparation for Independence programme to social workers, foster carers, residential workers and TLC		July 2019	Liz Gosling / Beverley Fearn	Catch 22 preparation for independence toolkit is now embedded across Corporate Parenting and TLC, Children's Residential Homes and in Walsall Council Housing provision. In addition training has been offered to foster carers. This action is now completed	
	Further develop and embed safety planning with		July	Sue	CSE Change Champions programme was set	



Task ID	Task / Action	Start Date	End Date	Allocated To	Update/How are we doing	RAG Status
	children and young people who are at risk of exploitation		2019	Whitmore	up in April 2018 as part of practice uplift across children's services. Practice workshops were delivered with managers in 2018/19. The Champions Group ceased to operate in July 2019.	

How we will know we have succeeded:

- More children and young people will tell us they are happy with the arrangements for staying in contact with friends and family.
- More children and young people will access local leisure facilities.
- Children and young people will routinely have at least one holiday with their carers per year.
- Individual lifestyle and leisure preferences of children and young people will be known and there will be increasing evidence that they are supported where they are in keeping with overall positive development.
- Fewer looked after children and care leavers go missing, are at risk of CSE or offend.

Version Control Version 2

Date Edited	August 2018
By Whom	Paul Wicker