

Corporate Parenting Strategy - Our Action Plan 2022-23

Our priorities	What will we do	How will we do it	Measures of Success (performance indicators)	Who will do it /when	Progress Update
Leadership	a. Ensure that elected members are aware of and understand their corporate parenting responsibilities	Deliver updated training to members about what Corporate Parenting is and the function and responsibility of the Corporate Parenting Board and wider Children's Services in being effective corporate parents.	All new and existing Corporate Parenting Board members to participate in Respect training to support their understanding of their roles and responsibilities as Corporate Parenting. 50% of our Councillors complete Respect Training between 2022/23, including Councillors that sit on Corporate Parenting Board	Children's Champion / Head of Service March 2023	The Director or Social Work, all Heads of Service and 4 elected members of the Corporate Parenting Board have completed Total Respect Training in 2022/2023. An offer of bespoke Total Respect Training is in place. We have promoted Total Respect Training for all our Councillors and we have yet to achieve the desired target. We are now proposing to review with Elected members the best way to move this forward.
		Revise and offer Respect Training in conjunction with Children in Care Council	6 courses of Respect Training to be made available during 2022/23. Increased our pool of trainers and train a further 4 young people support the delivery of Respect training.		In 2022/23 a total 10 courses were delivered in conjunction with young people to meet our demand. We have increased our pool of trainers with 4 young people supporting the delivery of Total Respect training.
Safety and Permanency	b. Support and enable more children and young people to remain with their	Review and update the Staying Put Policy to make staying put arrangements more attractive to foster	New Policy in place (documentation)	Head of Service for Children in Care. March 2023	The Staying Put Policy was revised in 2021 however a review of the financial support package was paused pending the outcome of

Our priorities	What will we do	How will we do it	Measures of Success (performance indicators)	Who will do it /when	Progress Update
	foster carers post 18 years of age.	carers and young people. Ensure that young people and foster carers are aware of the option to stay put and it's benefits?	<p>Care experienced young people age 19 and 20 staying put</p> <p>Target – minimum of 40% of care experienced young people stay put.</p> <p>2019-20 - 12/40 (30%)</p> <p>2020-21 - 17/37 (46%)</p> <p>2021-22 -41% staying put</p> <p>14/49 (23%) staying put 2022-23</p>		<p>the National Care Review which recommends that Staying Put arrangement should be extended to age 23.</p> <p>Although there is reduction to 23% children staying put. The number of children living with their foster families and remaining staying put was proportionally higher. 14 of the 18 remained in staying put arrangements(49 in total left care)</p> <p>Further work is underway to scope and agree a revised financial support offer to encourage more young people to remain with their foster carers. The revised financial offer will be implemented in April 2024</p>
	c. Ensure that more children leave care by achieving permanence in line with their care plans	Continued permanence tracking and care planning which focuses on permanency planning to ensure children do not remain in care longer than is in their best interests	<p>2022-23 Targets</p> <p>Up to 20 children to be reunified with parents with care orders revoked</p> <p>Up to 20 children leaving care via SGO</p> <p>Up to -20 children leaving care via Adoption</p>	All Heads of Service for Help and Protection; Children in Care & Family Safeguarding and Localities March 2023	<p>All children in our care are regularly reviewed via Permanence Panels and tracked jointly by the Permanence Coordinator and relevant Group Managers.</p> <p>We have exceeded the targets agreed in 2022/23 to ensure that children leave care by achieving permanence, specifically via</p>

Our priorities	What will we do	How will we do it	Measures of Success (performance indicators)	Who will do it /when	Progress Update
			<p>Previous years</p> <p>Reunification to Parents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 27 (14%) returned home 2019-20 • 21 (13%) returned home 2020-21 • 11 (11%) returned home in 2021-22 <p>Special Guardianship Order</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 28 (15%) SGOs in 2019-20 • 37 (23%) SGOs in 2020-21 • 17 (9%) SGOs at 2021-22 <p>Adoption</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 16 (9%) Adoptions in 2019-20 • 19 (10%) Adoptions in 2020-21 • 29(15%) Adoptions in 2021-22 		<p>reunification to their parents, adoption and special guardianship.</p> <p>36 (21%) returned home 2022-23</p> <p>26 (15%) SGO in 2022-23</p> <p>27 (16%) Adoptions in 2022-23</p> <p>Our Projection for 2023/24 are:</p> <p>15 children reunified to parents</p> <p>25 Adoptions</p> <p>25 Special Guardianship</p>
	d. Placement Sufficiency Strategy – Review and analysis of data so that there is clarity on number and type of placements required	Exploring what sufficiency of provision, we have available in Walsall, from both a fostering and residential perspective and elsewhere to meet these needs, the quality of that	Review of Placement Sufficiency undertaken and action plan in place. (Documentation)	Head of Service Children in Care and Commissioning Manager March 2023	<p>The Placement Sufficiency Strategy has been completed and is supported by an Action Plan.</p> <p>The Children’s Regulated Services Board will monitor the progress of the Action Plan. The Strategy will be present to the CPB in 2023 for</p>

Our priorities	What will we do	How will we do it	Measures of Success (performance indicators)	Who will do it /when	Progress Update
		<p>provision and how much it costs.</p> <p>Action Plan to be put into place setting out key priorities and intentions for our commissioning and development of sufficient provision and the practice that underpins this.</p>			approval and progress of the Action Plan.
	e. Increase placement sufficiency by increasing the number of in-house foster placements.	<p>Review branding and recruitment plan</p> <p>Review and consult with foster carers on our revised financial offer to foster carers.</p> <p>Scope and develop fostering scheme to support children from children's residential care</p>	<p>Measure of success</p> <p>Increase fostering households by 20 new placements in 2022/2023</p> <p>Establish a further 2 Mockingbird Hubs in 2022/23</p>		<p>We have increased fostering households by creating 18 additional places in 2021 -22 and a further 11 in 2022-23.</p> <p>This is an area significant concern for us within the context of nation and regional challenges.</p> <p>Fees and Allowances have been revised based on DfE rates and the improved offer was implemented in April 2023.</p> <p>Considerable work has been undertaken to improve our branding, marketing and strengthened our financial support. A detailed report has been presented which sets out the detail.</p>

Our priorities	What will we do	How will we do it	Measures of Success (performance indicators)	Who will do it /when	Progress Update
					We have established 5 Mockingbird Hubs to date, The 6 th Mockingbird Hub carer is appointed and constellation carers are being identified.
	f. Increase placement sufficiency by increasing the internal residential homes		2 new children's homes purchased and operational by 2022/23	July and October 2023	<p>Properties for both Homes have been purchased. Staffing for both homes is in place.</p> <p>Home 1 – Ofsted Registration completed in July 2023.</p> <p>Home 2 – Planning Permission granted in July and Ofsted registration application has been submitted. Building works are underway. Home Manager has been appointed. We expect to be operational in the Autumn 2023.</p>
Mental and Physical Health and Wellbeing	g. Ensure the health needs of our children in care are met in a timely way.	<p>Ensure that the completion of health assessments and dental checks are within statutory timescales</p> <p>Effective and timely liaison with health colleagues to ensure needs of children placed out of Borough are met and a smooth</p>	Measured by report to Board and performance	Social Workers, Looked After Children Health Team (Walsall Health Trust), Walsall ICB March 2023	<p>The CCG and Health Trust provided an Annual Assurance Report to the CPB in January 2023.</p> <p>Quarterly performance reports presented to the CPB in July 2022' November 2022 and April 2023 which have provided further scrutiny of health outcomes for the children in care.</p>

Our priorities	What will we do	How will we do it	Measures of Success (performance indicators)	Who will do it /when	Progress Update
		transition of services if children move placements .			Regular monitoring meetings between health and children's services remain in place. An escalation process in place to ensure assessments are timely .A weekly health performance dashboard is shared with Children in Care health Teat at Walsall Health Trust and the Designated Nurse for CiC.
			Measure of Success Health Assessments – 2022/23 target = 85% agreed by Black Country ICB for the 4 LAs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 91% in 2021/22 85% in 2020/21 Dental Checks - 2022/23 Target 90% children will have an annual dental check <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 88% in 2021/22 43% in 2020/21 Strengths & Difficulties Questionnaire. 2022-23 - Target = 95% of children		88% of children received timely health assessments, similar to WM but Lower than SN and Eng. 88% of children received the annual dental check, lower than our target but higher than WM, Lower than Eng & SN In 2022/23 a revised Dental Pathway has been established to improve access to dental care. The reduction in review health assessments and dental assessments is due to an increase of children living at a distance and access to 94% in of children have received an SDQ which supports us to meet

Our priorities	What will we do	How will we do it	Measures of Success (performance indicators)	Who will do it /when	Progress Update
			<p>will have an up to date SDQ.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 95% in 2021/22 99% in 2020/21 		their emotional and wellbeing needs.
	h. Enable care experienced young people to understand their health needs and how to access additional support when they need it.	<p>Ensure all care experienced young people receive their health passport and a copy is kept on their file</p> <p>Review and reset regular drop-in</p> <p>advice service for children in care aged 16+ and care leavers</p>	<p>Measure of Success (Performance Indicators) - proposed indicator for 2022-23 Target health passports to be agreed with CCG and Health Trust</p> <p>100% of care experienced young people are offered their health passport</p> <p><i>90% of young people receive their health passport.</i></p>	<p>Looked After Children Health Team (Walsall Health Trust) and Walsall ICB</p> <p>March 2023</p>	<p>The Children in Care Health Team now offer a weekly clinic at the TLC Hub and specifically for our 16/17 year olds.</p> <p>All 51 young people leaving care were offered a Health Passport as they are leaving care. 86% (45) young people received their health passport.</p> <p>2 young people declined/ whereabouts unknown and 4 young people in custody and will be provided their health passport when they are released.</p> <p>The Designated Nurse for Children in Care are reviewing an App for young people and when this is fully operational it will provide young people with access to their information and other health services more easily. From April 2023 all care experienced young</p>

Our priorities	What will we do	How will we do it	Measures of Success (performance indicators)	Who will do it /when	Progress Update
					people have access to free prescription up to the age of 25.
Education and Employment	i. Ensure that children in care and care experienced young people can access education, employment or training	<p>Ensure care experienced young people are supported to access supported internships and traineeships as opportunities develop</p> <p>Embed the pre-apprenticeship support offer for care leavers</p>	<p>Measure of Success (Performance Indicators)</p> <p>2022-23 Target</p> <p>At least 60% of care experienced young people age 19 to 21 will be in Education, Employment or Training (in line with national performance.)</p> <p>At least 65% of 16/17 year olds will be in education, employment or training</p>	<p>Head of Service working with Virtual School ; Impact. Walsall Together Endless Possibilities March 2023</p>	<p>In April 2022 – the Corporate Parenting Board received a report in relation to young people not in education, employment and training. Securing work and learning opportunities for care experienced young people has been a challenge in 2022/23.</p> <p>In 2022/23 - 54% of our young people aged 19-21 were in work or learning and this has remained inline with our performance in 2021-22 and the West Midlands average (54%); higher than our statistical neighbours (50) but slightly lower than England average (55).</p> <p>At 31 March 2023 78% (79 of 102 children) children in care age 16 or 17 were in education, training or employment and this exceeds the target of 65%</p>

Our priorities	What will we do	How will we do it	Measures of Success (performance indicators)	Who will do it /when	Progress Update
		.All young people who are available for work are reviewed each month.			The NEET Action Group continues to meet with a focus ensuring that more young people are in work and learning. The Group reviews progress of young people supported by real time performance dashboard. This ensures that managers review the interventions required to support and prepare young people to engage in work or learning.
Transitions and Independence	j. Children in care and care experienced young people will receive high quality and consistent support to transition to adulthood and develop their independent living skills	<p>To jointly review housing pathways and simplify the nomination and referral documentation for care leavers, ensuring that the language used is more reflective of the needs of care leavers</p> <p>Review joint Housing Protocol for Care Experienced young people between Children's Services and Money Home Job and WHG</p>	<p>Revised Housing Protocol is in place (documentation)</p> <p>Target 2022-23 90% of care experienced young people age 19 to 21 will be living in suitable accommodation (in line with national performance.)</p>		<p>Revised Housing Protocol has been agreed by the Directors of Social work and Customer Engagement. We have involved young people in the development of the protocol and their feedback is incorporated. The protocol was reviewed by the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities during the focus visit in March 2023.</p> <p>96% care experienced young people age 19 to 21 were living in suitable accommodation. The majority of those not in suitable accommodation were in custody.</p>

Our priorities	What will we do	How will we do it	Measures of Success (performance indicators)	Who will do it /when	Progress Update
		Co-produce care and pathway plans with children and their networks – writing ‘to’ the child. (audit) -	Target 2022-23 95% of pathway plans are up to date Audits scrutinize the quality of pathway plans		There has been considerable focus on the quality of care and pathway plans. Our Audits have identified that most of our plans are co-produced with children and young people and the majority of plans and recording are written to the child. 89% of Pathway plan for young people aged 19 to 21 were up to date at March 2023. This below the target due to staff turnover in 2022.
		Develop and embed an independence programme for children in care and care experienced young people. Review and develop preparation for independence support for care leavers Undertake a baseline survey to establish how children and young people feel about their transition experience	Independence Programme in place and agreed with children and young people. (documentation) Revision of toolkit and support offer set up (documentation) Increase the proportion of children and young people who say their transition experience was positive <i>(target to be established after baseline survey completed)</i>		We are revising the program of independence preparation and toolkit in line with the development of the Training Flat and scoping the House Project. A survey will be undertaken in 2023/24 to seek the views of care experienced young people

Our priorities	What will we do	How will we do it	Measures of Success (performance indicators)	Who will do it /when	Progress Update
	k. Young People with complex disabilities/ needs/risks will have access to timely referrals / assessments to support their transition to adulthood.	To develop an All Age model setting out Pathways to Adulthood which will review transition processes and pathways between children's services and adult social care services to support young people's transition to adulthood.	Pathways to Adulthood Toolkit in place and embedded. (documentation) Case File Audit 6 months after Toolkit goes live to measure impact.	Adults and Children Social Care Group Managers Head of Service March 2023	A Joint Pathway to Adulthood Toolkit has been agreed with Adults Social Care and Health and is yet to be fully operational. As part of the toolkit Future Planning Panel have been established to embed the transitions pathway and will commence meeting in 2023. A joint audit will be undertaken in 2024 to measure the effectiveness of the transitioning planning.
	l. Care Experienced young people will have an up to date and accessible local offer which meets their needs.	Consult with our care experienced young people to revise our offer in line with best practice. Develop a local offer leaflet that is accessible to young people. Undertake a baseline survey to identify what proportion of care experienced young people know what the local offer is and how they can access information and repeat the survey annually.	Local Offer is reviewed and updated annually (website and documentation) Local offer available and accessible to young people (website documentation) Increase the proportion of care experienced young people who understand what the local offer is and how to access it <i>(target to be set following baseline survey)</i>	Head of Service Corporate Parenting March 2023	The website is updated routinely to ensure that this reflects up to date information about the Children in Care Council , Local Offer and other services https://go.walsall.gov.uk/children-and-young-people/children-care-and-care-leavers We have involved our young people in the regional developments in relation to developing our local offer, this has included development of community facilities, health nurse consultation, their health passport,

Our priorities	What will we do	How will we do it	Measures of Success (performance indicators)	Who will do it /when	Progress Update
					<p>free prescriptions offer and a training flat.</p> <p>A booklet has been developed based on the revised offer which will be available for young people by September 2023.</p>
	m. Maximise the benefits of the Care Experienced young people Covenant Regionally.	<p>Engage with Care Experienced young people Covenant to continue to strengthen our offer to Care Leavers.</p> <p>Raise awareness of the Covenant with Members.</p>	<p>Learning from the Care Experienced young people Covenant is shared with Corporate Parenting Board (documentation)</p> <p>Learning is used to raise aspiration for Care experienced young people in Walsall through improved service delivery (case studies)</p>	<p>Head of Service Corporate Parenting and Practice Quality and Improvement</p> <p>March 2023</p>	<p>The Care Leavers Covenant is actively promoted with young people and new offers are developed these are shared with our young people. E.g career opportunities, apprentices and MyBank.</p> <p>Learning from our care experienced young people is shared with the Corporate Parenting Board via Young People's Engagement Reports at each meeting of the Board.</p>
Influence and Involvement	n. Language that Cares		An agreed language with children in care and care experienced young people (the words we use).	Heads of Service Practice Quality and Improvement	A language the cares steering group is in place and is progressing the Language that Cares Action Plan. It has reported progress to the Corporate Parenting Board. Language that Cares is a Practice Priority for 2023/24. Our Children in Care Council are fully involved .

Our priorities	What will we do	How will we do it	Measures of Success (performance indicators)	Who will do it /when	Progress Update
	<p>o. Children and young people will be kept up to date with key information including a calendar of events.</p>	<p>Options paper to be developed and shared with young people</p> <p>Work to be undertaken to identify a suitable platform to display and make information accessible to children and young people.</p> <p>Work is undertaken on information to be shared on platform and that it is child appropriate.</p>	<p>Revised platform is in place (documentation)</p>	<p>Heads of Service Practice Quality and Improvement. Head of Performance.</p>	<p>In February 2022 an options paper was considered by the Board. Consultation with Children in Care Council. Between February and March 2022 there was further consultation with our young people. In addition, a range of apps available were explored and considered with Children in Care Council.</p> <p>There was very little interest from our care experienced young people in an App. Their suggestions were that we strengthen the use of other social media platforms such as:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Website 2. WhatsApp /Snapchat 3. Use of QR codes to signpost to our Local Offer, Surveys via WhatsApp/OR codes 4. Written information is provided via quarterly Newsletters which include OR codes and other information

Our priorities	What will we do	How will we do it	Measures of Success (performance indicators)	Who will do it /when	Progress Update
					<p>5. Contact with their personal advisors</p> <p>In the main our young people told us that they preferred an interactive dialogue via WhatsApp / Snapchat and this is enhanced with better access to written information via website, newsletters and through their personal advisors.</p> <p>“We do like to be informed and like to access information but having this on an app would make us feel more excluded as opposed to included”</p> <p>Our young people want us to ensure that our Local Offer and service information is current and relevant on the website. We continue to maintain this.</p>
	p. Review of current website	Undertake a baseline survey to identify what proportion Children and young people know where to go to access information.	Increase the proportion of children and young people who tell us that they know where to go to access information and that the information available is helpful (target to be set following baseline survey)	Head of Service Corporate Parenting	In 2023/24 further work is underway to enhance the look and feel of the website so it’s more accessible for young people.

Our priorities	What will we do	How will we do it	Measures of Success (performance indicators)	Who will do it /when	Progress Update
	q. Children in Care Council (CICC) so that it is able to represent the voice of all children in care and is able to hold the Corporate Parenting Board to account	Increase numbers and range of children and young people involved in the CICC.	Children and young people consistently involved in staff interview panels		Young people are routinely involved in recruitment of a range of staff and managers across children's services. The expectation that our young people are involved in staff recruitment is embedded in practice.
			Increase participation of children and care experienced young people engage with CICC and CPB		Young People Engagement' reports to every Corporate Parenting Board meeting. The reports highlight activity at CICC, key updates, partnership working as well as celebrations and achievements of young people. The reports evidenced that we are involving broader involvement of children and young people.
		Ensure CICC is enabled to engage fully with the work of the Corporate Parenting Board	Review our approach to so it enables children and care experienced young people engage with CICC and CPB		The Board has considered feedback from how young people viewed their involvement with the Board. There were 2 sessions held in October 2022 and February 2023 the TLC hub. These were positive sessions, which generated feedback from young people on how support to them could be improved. An Action Plan was developed in repose to the issues identified and

Our priorities	What will we do	How will we do it	Measures of Success (performance indicators)	Who will do it /when	Progress Update
					<p>as a result of the feedback we have refreshed our approach. The Children in Care Council and the Board have agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people's priorities for issues to be considered by the Board will be sought via an engagement sessions. • Corporate Parenting Board reports are shared with the appropriate children's participation forum in a child friendly way, incorporating any feedback for our children and young people • A schedule of informal meetings would be held with the Corporate Parenting Board being "called in" by Children in Care Council, Care Leavers forum and the Childrens home forums.
		Develop, recruit and appoint 2 posts for Care Ambassadors Apprenticeships	2 Care Ambassadors will be appointed (case studies)	Children's Champion, Children in Care Council and CPB	Care Ambassadors are appointed as apprentices and one young person has since secured permanent employment in March 2023. Further apprentices will be appointed in 2023/24