

Corporate Parenting Strategy - Our Action Plan 2023-24

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	<p>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.</p> <p>Develop a toolkit to support members to understand their corporate responsibilities as part of member induction/ refresher training.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>Target agreed by CPB was 50% of our Councillors complete Respect Training including Councillors that sit on Corporate Parenting Board</p>	Children's Champion / Head of Service March 2024	
		Provision of bespoke Total Respect Training to support elected members to participate to achieve the desired target			
Safety and Permanency	b. Support and enable more children and young people to remain with their foster carers post 18 years of age.	<p>Review and update the Staying Put financial offer to make staying put arrangements more attractive to foster carers and young people. Ensure that young people and foster carers are aware of the option to stay put and its benefits.</p> <p>Workforce development and guidance for staff around benefits of staying and to embed</p>	<p>New financial offer in place by April 2024 (documentation)</p> <p>A minimum of 40% of care experienced young people stay put.</p> <p>2020-21 - 17/37 (46%)</p> <p>2021-22 -41% staying put</p> <p>2022/23 14/49 (23%)</p>	Head of Service for Children in Care. March 2023	

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		awareness of new financial package.			
	c. Ensure that more children leave care by achieving permanence in line with their care plans	<p>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> <p>Revise permanency tracking and panels and establish an escalation process.</p>	<p>2023-24 Projections are :</p> <p>15 children reunified to parents; 25 secure adoption and 25 secure Special Guardianship</p> <p>Reunification to Parents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 21 (13%) returned home 2020-21 • 11 (11%) returned home in 2021-22 • 36 (21%) returned home 2022-23 <p>Special Guardianship Order</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 37 (23%) SGOs in 2020-21 • 17 (9%) SGOs at 2021-22 • 26 (15%) SGO in 2022-23 <p>Adoption</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 19 (10%) Adoptions in 2020-21 • 29(15%) Adoptions in 2021-22 • 27 (16%) Adoptions in 2022-23 	All Heads of Service for Help and Protection; Children in Care & Family Safeguarding and Localities March 2023	

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	<p>d. Placement Sufficiency Strategy and action plan to be presented to CPB for approval.</p> <p>e. Sufficiency Action Plan to be robustly tracked to deliver the key priorities identified.</p>	<p>Maintain an overview of our sufficiency requirements and responding to demands</p> <p>Action Plan to be monitored against delivery targets put into place setting out key priorities and intentions for our commissioning and development of sufficient provision and the practice that underpins this.</p>	<p>Placement Sufficiency Strategy Action Plan is robustly monitored and is delivering desired outcomes.</p> <p>Report to CPB on the progress of the Action plan (Documentation)</p>	<p>Head of Service Commissioning Manager</p> <p>March 2024</p>	
	<p>f. Increase placement sufficiency by increasing the number of in-house foster placements.</p>	<p>Robust oversight of the recruitment and marketing plan</p> <p>Launch New Horizons Fostering Scheme to help children move from residential care.</p> <p>Maintain fees and allowances in line with DfE recommended rates</p> <p>Deliver on the actions set out in the sufficiency strategy action plan</p>	<p>Measure of success Increase fostering households by 25 new placements in 2023- 24</p> <p>Establish the 6th Mockingbird Hub in 2023-24</p> <p>(Documentation)</p>		

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	g. Increase placement sufficiency by increasing the internal residential homes		2 new children's homes purchased and operational by 2022/23 Home 1 – Ofsted Registration completed in July 2023. Home 2 – operational by October 2023	October 2024	.
Mental and Physical Health and Wellbeing	h. Ensure the health needs of our children in care are met in a timely way.	Ensure that the completion of health assessments, SDQ and dental checks are within statutory timescales. Monitor completion through performance dashboard and monthly meeting with Health Effective and timely liaison with health colleagues to ensure needs of children placed out of Borough are met and a smooth transition of services if children move placements	Measured by quarterly report to Board and performance Annual Assurance Report report from the ICB and Health Trust provided an Annual to the CPB Measure of Success - 2022-24 targets 85% of health assessments are undertaken within the statutory timescales. 90% of children with receive annual Dental Checks 95% of children will have an up-to-date SDQ.	Social Workers, Looked After Children Health Team (Walsall Health Trust), Walsall ICB March 2024	
	i. Enable care experienced young people to understand their health needs and how to access	Ensure all care experienced young people receive their health passport and a copy is kept on their file.	Measure of Success (Performance Indicators) - proposed indicator for 2022-23 Target health passports to be	Looked After Children Health Team (Walsall Health Trust) and Walsall ICB	

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	additional support when they need it.	Review the how health passports are informing transition planning for young people.	<p>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 received their health passport.</i></p>	March 2024	
Education and Employment	j. 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>Appoint an Education Employment and Training Officer as part of the 16+ offer.</p> <p>Revise and strengthen the pre-apprenticeship support offer for care experienced young people setting out specific expectations of council based apprenticeships and internships</p> <p>Neet Action Group to develop an action plan setting out the key actions to improve EET outcomes.</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 Walsall Together Endless Possibilities</p> <p>March 2023</p>	

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Transitions and Independence	k. 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>The joint Housing Protocol for Care Experienced young people agreed in 2022-23 is kept under review to address any changes in national policy between Children's Services and Money Home Job and WHG</p> <p>Development of guidance and training for staff across housing and children's services</p>	<p>The revised Housing Protocol is actively used in meeting the accommodation pathways for children leaving care. (documentation)</p> <p>Target 2023-24 90% of care experienced young people age 19 to 21 will be living in suitable accommodation (in line with national performance.)</p>		
		<p>Co-produce care and pathway plans with children and their networks – writing 'to' the child. (audit) – CJA</p> <p>Workforce development training to be delivered to support purposeful planning and writing to child 2023/24</p> <p>Audit to be undertaken in Q3 2023/24</p>	<p>Target 2023-24</p> <p>95% of pathway plans are up to date</p> <p>Audits scrutinise the quality of pathway plans</p>		
		<p>Develop and embed an independence programme for children in care and care experienced young people.</p>	<p>Independence Programme in place and agreed with children and young people. (documentation)</p>		

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		<p>Workforce development to including IROs and embedding the revised toolkit and programme via monthly TLC/CP workshops</p> <p>Review and develop preparation for independence support for care leavers including the use of training flat</p> <p>Undertake a baseline survey to establish how children and young people feel about their transition experience</p>	<p>Revision of toolkit and support offer set up (documentation)</p> <p>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></p>		
	l. Young People with complex disabilities/ needs/risks will have access to timely referrals / assessments to support their transition to adulthood.	<p>The joint Pathway to Adulthood toolkit to be launched to embed the transition processes and pathways between children's services and adult social care services to support young people's transition to adulthood.</p> <p>To establish the joint Future Planning Panel chaired by Adult Social Care Services</p>	<p>Pathways to Adulthood Toolkit in place and embedded. (documentation)</p> <p>Case File Audit 6 months after Toolkit goes live to measure impact.</p>	<p>Adults and Children Social Care Group Managers / Heads of Service</p> <p>March 2024</p>	
	m. Care Experienced young people will have an up to date	Continue to consult with our care experienced young people to	<p>Local Offer is reviewed and updated annually</p> <p>https://go.walsall.gov.uk/children-</p>	Head of Service Corporate Parenting	

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	and accessible local offer which meets their needs.	<p>revise our offer in line with best practice.</p> <p>Co-produce with young people local offer leaflet and video that is accessible to young people.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>and-young-people/children-care-and-care-leavers (website and documentation)</p> <p>Local offer available and accessible to young people (website documentation)</p> <p>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>)</p>	March 2024	
	n. 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>Refresh awareness raising 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 2024</p>	
Influence and Involvement	o. Language that Cares		<p>An agreed language that cares action plan agreed with children in care and care experienced young people is embedded in our practice processes and recording (the words we use). (Documentation)</p>	Heads of Service Practice Quality/ Improvement &	

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	p. Children and young people will be kept up to date with key information including a calendar of events.	Development of calendar of events	Evidence of use of Social media, Website, News Letters and other events.		1.
	q. How well is the current website used by our young people	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)		.
	r. 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 Increase participation of children and care experienced young people engage with CICC and CPB		
		Ensure CICC is enabled to engage fully with the work of the Corporate Parenting Board as agreed. • Young people's priorities for issues to be considered by	Review our approach to so it enables children and care experienced young people engage with CICC and CPB.		

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		<p>the Board will be sought via an engagement sessions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 1 new participation apprenticeship.			