

Corporate Parenting Strategy 2022-2025

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Foreword:

In Walsall we want all children to live happy, healthy lives and achieve the best possible outcomes they can. Whilst most children and young people are able to do this, we know that at times families require support to overcome difficulties and challenging circumstances.

Our priority will always be the safeguarding of our children and young people, ensuring that they are happy, safe and well-prepared for adult life. If ever we suspect harm or potential danger, we take full responsibility for their protection. This sometimes means finding them another home where their security and sense of belonging can be assured.

We know that there is no greater responsibility than as a corporate parent to our looked after children and care leavers.

When a child comes into care, the council becomes their corporate parent and in Walsall we expect everyone, in every agency, our partners and across every service, to go the extra mile to safeguard our looked after children and young people. This means ensuring that they are at the centre of our work and have all the support they need.

Looking after and protecting children and young people is one of the most important jobs we do, if it is not safe for a child to stay at home the local authority will step in to give them the care, support and stability that they deserve .

Our commitment is to deliver well-rounded support services that respond to the changing needs of our children and allow them to achieve their full potential. We believe in an empathetic relational model and design our services around the needs of children. We also recognise that each young person has a unique identity that requires tailored support. This means listening, learning and constantly challenging ourselves to improve as corporate parents.

Where possible, we do everything we can to help young people stay safe and at home with their families. We're fully committed to building resilience in families and shaping our services to provide better methods of early intervention. We will always support parents to keep their children safe and ensure they have the best chance in life when this happens we work with families, offering targeted interventions to support them to stay together.

The Children and Social Work Act 2017 defines in law our responsibility as corporate parents to secure nurturing and positive experiences for the children we look after, whilst extending the support we offer to our care leavers. As corporate parents, we take our duties toward Looked after Children and care leavers very seriously and are committed to providing the best possible support to meet their individual needs.

We understand that each child in our care is an individual and our approach reflects this. To do this, we listen to the voice of the child. We track and support a child's progress through school, look after their health and wellbeing and strive to make sure they have the same opportunities as their friends and peers. We are ambitious for every child in our care and will encourage them to achieve their full potential, by overcoming challenges to progress well in education, learning and training. We want children and young people to establish trust based relationships with their social workers and personal advisers.

We continue to be aspirational as a corporate parent, encouraging our children and young people to achieve the best they can and continually celebrate their achievements. This strategy is not just about informing Looked after Children and Care Leavers on how we will support them, but also informs our partners on our ambitions for the children and young people in Walsall.

Councillor Wilson Chair of Corporate Parenting Board & Sally Rowe, Executive Director Children's Services

Introduction

Walsall's Corporate Parenting Board brings together all these people and provides a welcoming forum for our children and care leavers to discuss and influence the full range of services available to them.

Alongside our corporate parenting principles, there are a number of priorities that underpin this strategy and the services that both ourselves and our partners provide and offer to the children and young people in our care. This strategy outlines our priorities for supporting looked after children and sets a framework for the council and partners to be held accountable on their promises. Delivery against our commitments will be monitored diligently by the Corporate Parenting Board.

We know all children are unique and have individual needs and circumstances. We work closely with children in our care to understand individual needs and ensure that their 'Voice' is truly heard. Members will listen to young people and check that they are happy and healthy, receiving a quality education and have access to training and employment opportunities, as well as their own home to go to when the time comes to live independently.

Our relational approach means we engage directly and routinely with our children, their carers and care leavers as well as our staff who support them, encouraging them to share experiences so that we can better understand the issues they face and adapt services to meet their needs. Children's experiences will always form the centre of our approach in Walsall.

This means it is our responsibility as Corporate Parents to

- Keep our cared for children safe and secure, we stick with them and go the extra mile for them
- Create a culture where we know and believe in all our children and young people. We help them to achieve their goals and ambitions - by recognising their needs, talents and aspirations
- Listen and make our children and young people's ideas happen, ensure their lived experiences improve practice and make sure they know and understand their story and their plans
- Believe in our children and young people and help them to be the best they can be both now and, in the future
- Embrace and celebrate the individuality of our children and young people
- We want our children and young people to be healthy and happy
- We will listen to our children and young people's worries and work with them to find solutions
- We want our care leavers to become confident and resilient adults living within their own community with support from trusted adults

To be effective corporate parents, we need a collective commitment from the whole Council, all elected members, council employees, as well as our partners, i.e. Health, Police, other councils and the voluntary sector, all acting as good parents, committing resources and working together to improve the lives of all children and young people in our care and care leavers.

Children and Social Work Act 2017 – Corporate Parenting Principles Act

When a child becomes looked after, Walsall Borough Council becomes the 'Corporate Parent'. The Children and Social Work Act 2017 sets out 7 Corporate Parenting Principles to achieve the best possible outcomes for Looked after Children and Care Leavers.

When our children move to adulthood, we follow the principles to ensure we provide our care leavers with the support and stability that any child would expect as they prepare to leave the family home.

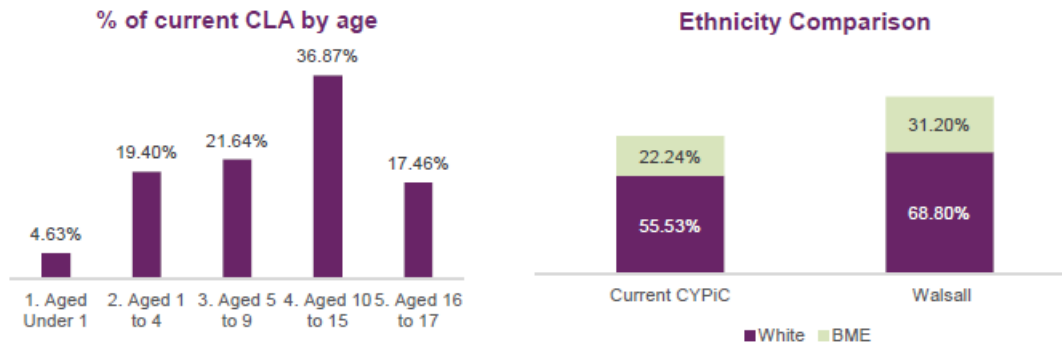
Draft Strategy to be approved by Corporate Parenting Board – November 2021

- To act in the best interests, and promote the physical and mental health and wellbeing, of those children and young people.
- To encourage those children and young people to express their views, wishes and feelings.
- To take into account the views, wishes and feelings of those children and young people.
- To help those children and young people gain access to, and make best use of, services provided by the local authority and its relevant partners.
- To promote high aspirations, and seek to secure the best outcomes, for those children and young people.
- For those children and young people to be safe, and for stability in their home lives, relationships and education or work.
- To prepare children and young people for adulthood and independent living.

As an authority and corporate parent, we realise we cannot secure the best for Looked after Children and care leavers alone. In order to secure the best possible outcomes for our young people we need the support of other agencies. This includes working in partnership with colleagues from the National Health Service, Police, Probation, Housing Providers, Schools and Colleges and Voluntary sector.

Walsall’s Looked After Children - high level data at 31.03.2021 Helena to add

- As at 31st March 2021 there were 671 (97.3 per 10,000 population aged 0-17) children in care and 160 Care Leavers (aged 19-21)



- Throughout 2020-21 163 (23.6 per 10,000 population aged 0-17) children entered care, a 31% decrease on the previous year.
- 159 (23.1 per 10,000 population aged 0-17) children ceased to be looked after
- 75% of children in care were placed with foster parents and 8% were placed at home with their parents.
- 51.3% of Care Leavers (aged 19-21) were in education, employment or training
- 89% of Care Leavers (aged 19-21) were in suitable accommodation.

The Walsall Promise to Children in Care and Care leavers

Our Promise is a list of commitments developed by young people and children’s services decision makers to ensure that all our children in care and care leavers get the right services and support. By listening to our care experienced young people, we have developed a list of ‘Promises’ that form our Pledge to you as children in our care and care leavers. A pledge is an important part of running a service for Looked After Children and Care Leavers. It tells Children and Young People what we promise to do for them as their Corporate Parents

Young people and care leavers aged 16 to 25 years	Children aged 11 to 15 years	Children up to the ages of 10 years
<p>Education, Training and Employment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We promise to help you with your education and with finding the right employment and training opportunities. We promise to encourage and support you into college or university and give you clear information about the support you can expect. We promise to ensure that you have opportunities for work experience and employment such as apprenticeships and traineeships. We promise to support you to have different experiences and access to activities that may interest you <p>Keeping you safe</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We promise to help you to decide where you want to live and will help to keep you safe and comfortable We promise to help you to stay with your foster carers if this is possible. 	<p>Education and Training</p> <p>We promise to make sure that you have the best education possible and help you to plan for your future</p> <p>We promise to help you to enjoy new experiences and develop your own interests and hobbies</p> <p>We promise to celebrate your achievements and tell you how proud we are of you</p> <p>We promise to try and make sure that you don’t have to change school</p> <p>We promise to make sure that you get all the help and support you need to learn, achieve and succeed</p> <p>Keeping you safe</p> <p>We promise to provide you with a safe and comfortable place to live</p> <p>We promise to listen to you and involve you in decisions that affect your life.</p> <p>We promise to help you feel safe, both in and out of your home.</p> <p>We promise to encourage and support you to express your views</p>	<p>Education</p> <p>We promise to help you to play and learn at a school that is right for you</p> <p>We will help you join clubs and after school activities near to where you live</p> <p>We will help you to make friends</p> <p>We will tell you how well you are doing and let you know how proud we are of you</p> <p>Keeping you safe</p> <p>We promise to make sure you live somewhere safe where there will always be someone to take care of you</p> <p>We will make sure you can keep things that are important to you like your favourite toys.</p> <p>We will make sure you always have someone that you can talk to when you are feeling sad</p> <p>We will listen to what you like and don’t like</p> <p>Keeping you healthy</p> <p>We will make sure you stay well and can see a Doctor when you are poorly</p>

Young people and care leavers aged 16 to 25 years	Children aged 11 to 15 years	Children up to the ages of 10 years
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We promise to help you to manage your money and ensure you have financial stability ready for your future • We promise to help you to get important documents like passports and driving licence • We promise to pay for your council tax, even if you live outside of Walsall Council • We promise to provide you with opportunities to build your confidence so that you are able to make your own decisions about your safety <p>Keeping you healthy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We promise to help you to access health services and have access to your health passport • We promise to go with you to health appointments and support you if you need it • We promise to help you to access local leisure facilities to help you keep fit and well. • We promise to make sure you have someone to talk to or can access support with your mental wellbeing <p>Keeping in touch</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We promise to help you to keep in contact with people that are important to you • We promise to celebrate your achievements with you • We promise to respect you as individuals and have high aspirations for your future • We promise that you will always have someone to contact 	<p>We promise to provide you with a trusted adult that can help you if you are feeling worried</p> <p>We promise not to do anything that will make you stand out as a child in care</p> <p>Keeping you healthy</p> <p>We promise to support and encourage you to have a healthy lifestyle</p> <p>We promise to make sure you are cared for by people who can keep you safe and healthy and will teach you how to learn to look after yourself as you get older.</p> <p>We promise to help you to access a range of leisure activities</p> <p>We promise to listen to any health issues you may have and will help you to get the support you need</p> <p>Keeping in touch</p> <p>We promise to help you to understand the reason why you are in care</p> <p>We promise to help you keep in touch with your family and friends, if it is safe to do so.</p> <p>We promise to respect you as individuals and listen to what you want</p> <p>We promise to help you keep a record of important events, achievements and people in your life that are important to you</p> <p>We promise to help you take part in things you want to do such as school trips and fun activities</p>	<p>We will help you to eat healthy food and drinks that will make you grow big and strong</p> <p>We will help you to be happy and feel good about yourself</p> <p>We will help you to play safely outside and enjoy exercise</p> <p>Keeping in touch</p> <p>We promise to help you to understand the reason why you are in care and will keep a story of your life for you to look at</p> <p>We promise to help you keep in touch with your family and friends, if it is safe to do so.</p> <p>We will help you stay in touch with Foster Carers and friends if you want to and will tell you if this can't happen</p> <p>We will make sure that you have a social worker that you can talk to</p>

Our priorities

Our priorities respond directly to Our Promises, a list of commitments to children and care leavers, developed and agreed by the young people themselves and endorsed by the Corporate Parenting Board.

- Safety and Permanency
- Mental and Physical Health and Wellbeing
- Education and Employment
- Transitions and Independence
- Influence and Involvement

Safety and Permanency

All of our children and young people will be safe from harm, with stability provided through secure homes and excellent carers.

Walsall works hard to ensure the right support is provided at the right time so that children can remain with their families. We always celebrate our family successes and we will support children to remain at home if it is safe to do so. However, if concerns about safety or wellbeing persist, swift action is taken to ensure the child has a safe and secure place to live, even if this means having to go into the care of the Local Authority.

We have a duty to ensure to ensure our young people have a safe place to stay. As corporate parents, we listen to and train our carers to have all the tools they need to be the best carers to our young people. We also understand the importance of support networks and make sure our young people have adults that they can rely on and provide as much stability as possible.

We know that uprooting children from their homes or having to change placements can be tough, so we work hard to find long and suitable families and homes for our young people that will allow them to flourish and make a success of their lives.

We commit to:

- Provide young people with a safe home to live with carer who are suitable and well trained. Young people will be happy and taken care of, and only moved again if absolutely necessary.
- Our Turning Point service will continue to make a direct contribution to helping children to remain with their families
- We will ensure that social work plans are child focused, culturally informed and consider the perspectives of partners in health and education.
- We will continue to help our children find stability, build trust with professionals and identify risks early to avoid young people entering the criminal justice system.
- We will give our young people all the information we can about their new family, home and where they will be living. They will be given information about the support available from youth services, including on education, training and careers.
- Ensure continuity of care for our young people so that they maintain a sense of stability and do not experience too many different professionals.
- We'll draw on the rich experience of our foster carers and enable them to provide best possible care for looked after children and young people.
- We will continue to challenge ourselves to offer the best services and develop our approaches.
- Continuing to explore family and friends in order for children to return to family and not remain in care for longer than necessary if appropriate.

- Promote and champion the specific needs of unaccompanied and separated young people including support with acquiring citizenship.

Physical and Mental Health and Wellbeing

We will educate our young people to encourage a happy and healthy lifestyle, making sure that professionals work together to ensure that all their health needs are met.

Often our children have had tough starts in life and many children and young people experience the trauma of being separated from their families and communities. Being happy and confident in identity is a key factor in looking after our mental wellbeing, particularly when it comes to race, sexuality, disability and gender. It's therefore crucial that we encourage our young people to be comfortable in who they are and demonstrate sensitivity and inclusivity of difference for our young people to thrive.

We are committed to:

- Care planning will consider the physical and mental health and wellbeing of our children and care leavers
- We will support our children and young people to understand the importance of their health assessments and ensure that no one misses out on healthcare, with regular assessments to help identify need.
- We'll encourage all young people to attend their assessments by offering flexible arrangements both face to face and virtual appointments. Medical appointments will be kept even if the young people live outside of Walsall.
- Provide a holistic health assessment within four weeks of a child entering care, and annually thereafter (or six-monthly for Under 5's). Our health team will listen to their problems and understand their needs, reviewing their physical health, growth and development.
- We will ensure and promote access to mental health services. For those with specific needs will be offered support from the FLASH Team for those who live within Walsall or within 20 miles. We will work with Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) or other providers to secure support.
- We will educate our young people and encourage a happy, healthy and active lifestyle, providing free access to leisure facilities. Maintaining an open dialogue about all aspects of their health; from healthy eating, exercising and staying safe, to sexual health, smoking, alcohol and substance misuse.
- We will support young people with substance misuse issues and intervene early to provide all the support they need.
- We will ensure that our children and young people know how to access their health records.
- We will ensure that the information about their health is kept confidential and only shared with people who need to know.

Education and Employment

We will champion our young people and help them succeed in education and training, supporting lifelong learning and the pursuit of their interests.

Ensuring that our children in care and care leavers are in good education, employment, apprenticeships and training will always be a priority for us as we know they offer the greatest opportunities for our young people to build a successful career.

All our young people are unique and have different interests and hobbies which provide opportunities to improve confidence, mental wellbeing and feel connected to something they love. In Walsall we maintain high aspirations for our young people and help them to make the most of their talents.

Walsall's Virtual School has high expectations and helps the children in our care and leaving our care to achieve the very best. Although the pupils attend many different schools and settings, we operate as if they all attend one school. We have high aspirations for their education, employment and training and we expect schools and settings to provide a quality learning environment which meets their needs and encourages and develops their ambition.

Virtual School monitors, supports and challenges academic achievements and attainment in partnership with schools, carers, social workers and personal advisers. We hold schools to account for the impact of the provision on pupil's progress through the education system using Personal Education Plans and monitoring the use of Pupil Premium plus .

The Virtual School is committed to ensuring that the Voice of the child will be reflected in our planning to effectively support all pupils and their views are sought at every Personal Education Plan meeting.

Virtual School deliver a variety of out of school activities throughout the year for children and young people of all ages. Some examples of the positive activities provided through the School are Summit2success Programme, Aspire to University and our Year 6 residential. We use pupil premium to fund sport, art and music activities and provide 1:1 tuition and other bespoke educational packages when needed. We celebrate the success of our children and young people through annual celebration events.

We have a Governing body, like any school, we provide reports on the work of the school and the progress and achievements of the children.

We commit to:

- Social workers and personal advisors working with our Virtual School, which ensures monitoring, support and advice for young people throughout the year.
- We'll help to ensure all children and young people achieve their full potential through education, training and good quality employment, making the most of their talents.
- We will identify any Special Education Needs (SEN) and meet these needs through an Education Health Care Plan or other SEN support, helping our young people overcome barriers to education attainment.
- Making sure they have a place at a good school or college and attend regularly.
- We will guarantee that every young person has access to digital devices, study resources, tuition and a high quality Personal Education Plan. They will also have excellent support from a Designated Teacher at their school.
- Ensuring our care leavers have a Pathway Plan that has clear information about what support is available once they leave care, go to university or undertake vocational training and apprenticeships. Also connecting them into training, coaching and other opportunities through *Endless Possibilities* and *Walsall Works*.

Transitions and Independence

Our young people will be prepared for the world of work and supported to become active citizens when they leave care. They will be prepared for independence in the best way possible.

Leaving care, like leaving home, is a critical transition for our young people and supporting them through this transition into adulthood is a major responsibility for us as corporate parents. This is not simply a matter of helping young people acquire a checklist of life and independent living skills – although it is those things – but also helping young people develop resilience, have a comfortable sense of self and have options for their futures. We recognise that young people mature at different paces and that some young people will struggle to gain independence and struggle in independence.

Working with our partners in health, education and CAMHS and Walsall Housing Group we are developing services so that young people remain living in the borough where they grew up with access to wrap around support while developing their independent living skills.

In Walsall we listen carefully to our care leavers and assess their needs to make sure they have all the services required for a successful transition into adult life. This includes making sure they have suitable accommodation while preparing for independence.

We commit to:

- Ensure that all young people in our care over the age of 16 years have a pathway plan specific to their needs and aspirations.
- We will make every effort to help young people remain living with their foster carer after 18 and up to the age of 21 if they wish (Staying Put)
- Once a young person leaves school, we will help them to make the most of their opportunities in training, further education and employment.
- From the age of 18, they will have a personal advisor to help them to become independent. Care leavers can continue with this support up until the age of 25 if they wish to do so.
- Care leavers will have the best housing and support offer we can give them as their corporate parent. We want all our young people to live in our borough and have access to our communities
- We will ensure our care leavers are given as much help as possible to find suitable housing, supported to move and settle into their new home, with provisions made to ensure they're happy, safe and are able to sustain the tenancy.
- We will help our care leavers learn the practical skills needed to live independently, such as managing budgets and applying for jobs.
- We will ensure that individual needs are taken into account and the needs of young parents are supported through their transition.
- We will ensure that young people know what their entitlements are and provide leaving care financial support, grants (eg setting up home) and other forms of financial relief (eg from council tax) to care leavers in line with our financial assistance policies.
- We will ensure that all young people understand and have access to our local offer
- Young people will continue to receive advice as they gain independence; developing personal resilience as they journey into adulthood.
- Fully support any young person who wishes to pursue higher education to obtain places and apply for student loans. We will fund vacation accommodation for young people as necessary.
- Continue our work with further education colleges, employment training providers, Walsall Works and Endless Possibilities to help young people access high quality training and apprenticeships.
- Challenge ourselves and our partners to provide specific internship, apprenticeship and employment opportunities for our looked after young people and care leavers.

Influence and Involvement

Children and young people are at the heart of service design, delivery and evaluation

Children and young people's Voices must be at the centre of our approach to corporate parenting. We want mutually respectful and collaborative relationships with our children and young people. This means embedding a culture of fully involving young people in all matters affecting them, welcoming and encouraging their participation, actively listening to and genuinely taking account of their views.

The Children in Care Council (CICC) is a voice group for children in care and care leavers in Walsall. They meet every month to discuss what improvements need to be made to the support young people receive, particularly those in care or care leavers. The CiCC meets and invites the Director of Children's Services, senior managers and Councillors to let them know what they are doing and ensure that young people are consulted on matters which affect their lives. The CiCC is regularly involved in decision making at various levels and hold decision makers to account. With the direct purpose of representing Walsall's children in care and care leavers the CiCC has had a clear and effective impact on the support that our children receive.

As Corporate Parents, we know that we cannot make effective decisions for young people and provide the support they need without their help, thoughts and views.

We commit to:

- An active Children in Care Council ensuring that the voices of children and young people is central to our work
- Appoint Care Ambassadors to strengthen the voices of children and young people
- We will ensure that children in care and care leavers participate in their planning and reviews
- We will ensure we learn from complaints received from young people
- We will ensure care leavers are engaged in their pathway planning and reviews
- Our independent reviewing officers will meet our children and young people
- We will enable access to advocacy

Leadership

Our Corporate Parenting Board will take lead responsibility for the delivery of the Corporate Parenting Strategy and action plan in each of the five key priorities.

The Board will:

- Be a forum for regular, planned and detailed discussion of thematic presentations
- Be a positive link with cared for children and care leaver forums
- Be a mechanism to listen to our cared for children and care leavers; to promote their voice and have influence in decision making
- Receive regular progress reports and performance reporting aligned to the corporate parenting plan and service plans for cared for children and care leavers
- Consider areas of good practice and areas for development and make recommendations to support continued improvement and development
- Provide a governance structure for corporate parenting
- Provide challenge and scrutiny

Measures of success

The Board will seek to ensure that current and future priorities and decisions and deployment of resources will reflect the needs of cared for children and care leavers. The first question the Board will ask of themselves, is, “would this be good enough for my child?”

The Corporate Parenting Strategy will be monitored and evaluated by the successful delivery of the corporate parenting plan through:

- Performance data will be provided to support and evidence progress on the five priorities
- Children and young people feel valued and able to shape and influence services
- Our audits telling us about the lived experience of children and young people
- Assurance reports for:
 - Annual Independent Reviewing Officer Report
 - Annual Fostering Report and Statement of Purpose
 - Annual Adoption Report
 - Annual Report of the Virtual School
- Annual health of Looked After Children Report
- Improved placement stability and reduction in unplanned endings
- Foster carer recruitment and retention
- Increased number of care leavers entering education, training or employment
- Review and revise our Local Offer for Care Leavers

Our Action Plan

Our priorities	What will we do	How will we do it	How will we measure success	Who will do it	Timescales
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>Revise and offer Respect Training in conjunction with Children in Care Council</p>	<p>Measure of Success (Performance Indicators)</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>6 courses of Respect Training to be made available during 2022/23</p> <p>4 young people are trained to support the delivery of Respect training.</p> <p>X number of Councillors complete Respect Training between 2022/23, including Councillors that sit on Corporate Parenting Board</p>	<p>Children’s Champion / Group Manager Corporate Parenting</p>	<p>May 2022</p> <p>March 2022</p> <p>June 2022</p> <p>March 2023</p>
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 Policy to make staying put arrangements more attractive to foster carers and young people.</p> <p>Ensure that young people and foster carers are aware of the</p>	<p>New Policy in place (documentation)</p> <p>Measure of Success (Performance Indicators)</p>	<p>Head of Service for Children in Care</p>	<p>January 2022</p>

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Our priorities	What will we do	How will we do it	How will we measure success	Who will do it	Timescales
			<p>Adoption</p> <p>16 (9%) Adoptions in 2019-20 17 (10%) Adoptions in 2020-21 18 (18%) Adoptions at end of Q2</p> <p>Projection of 20 adoptions in 2022/23.</p>		
	d. Increase placement sufficiency by increasing the number of in-house foster placements and internal residential homes.	<p>Review of Placement Sufficiency – Review and analysis of data so that there is clarity on number and type of placements required.</p> <p>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 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>	<p>Review of Placement Sufficiency undertaken and action plan in place. (Documentation)</p> <p>Measure of Success (Performance Indicators)</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>2 new children’s homes purchased and operational by 2022/23</p>	Group Manager Provider Services / Head of Service Children in Care/ Commissioning Manager	<p>March 2022</p> <p>March 2023</p> <p>2022</p>
Mental and Physical Health and Wellbeing	e. Ensure the health needs of our children in care are met in a timely way.	Ensure that the completion of health assessments and dental checks are within statutory timescales	Measure of Success (Performance Indicators) - <i>proposed indicators for health</i>	Social Workers, Looked After Children Health	March 2023 Quarterly reports to CPB

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Our priorities	What will we do	How will we do it	How will we measure success	Who will do it	Timescales
		<p>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</p> <p>Implement a dedicated support and stability team that provide therapeutic, trauma informed support and interventions for carers and children in conjunction with the FLASH service.</p>	<p>assessments to be agreed with CCG and Health Trust</p> <p>90% of children will have up to date review health assessment <i>(Target to be agreed with CCG and Health Trust)</i></p> <p>90% of children will have up to date immunisations</p> <p>95% of children will have an up to date SDQ.</p> <p>90% children will have an annual dental check</p>	Team (Walsall Health Trust), Walsall CCG	
	f. Enable care leavers to understand their health needs and how to access additional support when they need it.	<p>Ensure all care leavers receive their health passport and a copy is kept on their file</p> <p>Review and reset regular drop-in advice service for children in care aged 16+ and care leavers</p>	<p>Measure of Success (Performance Indicators) - proposed indicators for health passports to be agreed with CCG and Health Trust</p> <p>100% of care leavers are offered their health passport</p> <p><i>90% of young people receive their health passport</i></p>	Looked After Children Health Team (Walsall Health Trust) and Walsall CCG	March 2023 Quarterly reports to CPB
Education and Employment	g. Ensure that children in care and care leavers can access education, employment or training	Ensure care leavers are supported to access supported internships and traineeships as opportunities develop as appropriate	<p>Measure of Success (Performance Indicators)</p> <p>At least 52% of care leavers age 19 to 21 will be in Education,</p>	Transition and Leaving Care Service; Impact. Walsall Together	March 2023 Quarterly Performance to CPB

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Our priorities	What will we do	How will we do it	How will we measure success	Who will do it	Timescales
		<p>Embed the pre-apprenticeship support offer for care leavers.</p> <p>All young people who are available for work are reviewed each month.</p>	<p>Employment or Training (in line with national performance.)</p> <p>At least 65% of children in care age 16 or 17 will be in Education, Employment or Training (in line with national performance.)</p>	<p>Endless Possibilities Virtual School</p>	
<p>Transitions and Independence</p>	<p>h. Children in care and care leavers will receive high quality and consistent support to transition to adulthood and develop their independent living skills</p>	<p>To jointly review housing pathways and simplify the nomination and referral documentation for care leavers, ensuring that that the language used is more reflective of the needs of care leavers Review joint Housing Protocol for Care Leavers between Children’s Services and Money Home Job and WHG</p> <p>Develop and embed an independence programme for children in care</p> <p>Review and develop preparation for independence support for care leavers.</p> <p>Undertake a baseline survey to establish how children and young people feel about their transition experience</p>	<p>Co-produce care and pathway plans with children and their networks – writing ‘to’ the child. (audit)</p> <p>An agreed language with children in care and care leavers (the words we use). (documentation)</p> <p>Revised Housing Protocol is in place (documentation)</p> <p>Independence Programme in place and agreed with children and young people. (documentation)</p> <p>Revision of toolkit and support offer set up (documentation)</p> <p>Measure of Success (Performance Indicators)</p> <p>95% of pathway plans are up to date</p>	<p>Head of Service for Children in Care and Money Home Jobs</p> <p>Children’s Champion</p> <p>Head of Service and Group Manager Corporate Parenting</p>	<p>March 2022</p> <p>June 2022</p> <p>March 2022</p> <p>March 2022</p>

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Our priorities	What will we do	How will we do it	How will we measure success	Who will do it	Timescales
			<p>At least 88% of care leavers age 19 to 21 will be living in suitable accommodation (in line with national performance.)</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>		
	<p>i. Young People with complex disabilities/ needs/risks will have access to timely referrals / assessments to support their transition to adulthood.</p>	<p>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.</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>Group Manager, Resource Adults Social Care and Group Managers Head of Service</p>	<p>March 2022</p>
	<p>j. Care Leavers will have an up to date and accessible local offer which meets their needs.</p>	<p>Consult with our care leavers to revise our offer in line with best practice.</p> <p>Develop a local offer leaflet that is accessible to young people.</p> <p>Undertake a baseline survey to identify what proportion of care leavers know what the local offer is and how they can access information and repeat the survey annually.</p>	<p>Local Offer is reviewed and updated annually (documentation)</p> <p>Local offer available and accessible to young people (documentation)</p> <p>Measure of Success (Performance Indicators)</p> <p>Increase the proportion of care leavers who understand what the local offer is and how to access it</p>	<p>Group Manager Corporate Parenting</p>	<p>March 2022 March 2023 March 2024</p> <p>March 2022</p>

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Our priorities	What will we do	How will we do it	How will we measure success	Who will do it	Timescales
			<i>(target to be set following baseline survey)</i>		
	k. Maximise the benefits of the Care Leavers Covenant Regionally.	Engage with Care Leavers Covenant to continue to strengthen our offer to Care Leavers. Raise awareness of the Covenant with Members.	Learning from the Care Leavers Covenant is shared with Corporate Parenting Board (documentation) Learning is used to raise aspiration for Care leavers in Walsall through improved service delivery (case studies)	Group Manager Corporate Parenting Children's Champion	Ongoing
Influence and Involvement	l. Children and young people will be kept up to date with key information including a calendar of events.	Review of current website Options paper to be developed and shared with young people Work to be undertaken to identify a suitable platform to display and make information accessible to children and young people. Work is undertaken on information to be shared on platform and that it is child appropriate. Undertake a baseline survey to identify what proportion Children and young people know where to go to access information.	Revised platform is in place (documentation) Measure of Success (Performance Indicators) 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 <i>(target to be set following baseline survey)</i>	Head of Service and Group Manager Corporate Parenting Head of Performance.	June 2022
Influence and Involvement	m. Children in Care Council (CICC) so that it is able to represent the voice of all children in care and is able to	Increase numbers and range of children and young people involved in the CICC.	Children and young people consistently involved in staff interview panels (documentation and case studies)	Children's Champion,	Ongoing

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Our priorities	What will we do	How will we do it	How will we measure success	Who will do it	Timescales
	hold the Corporate Parenting Board to account	<p>Ensure CICC is enabled to engage fully with the work of the Corporate Parenting Board</p> <p>Develop, recruit and appoint 2 posts for Care Ambassadors Apprenticeships</p>	<p>2 Care Ambassadors will be appointed (case studies)</p> <p>Increase participation of children and care leavers engage with CICC and CPB</p> <p>Measure of Success (Performance Indicators)</p>	Children in Care Council, Corporate Parenting Board	June 2022