

Corporate Parenting Panel

Agenda **8 April 2013**

1.30pm, COMMITTEE ROOM 3, SHIRE HALL, WARWICK

1. General

(1) Apologies for Absence

(2) Disclosures of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

Members are required to register their disclosable pecuniary interests within 28 days of their election of appointment to the Council. A member attending a meeting where a matter arises in which s/he has a disclosable pecuniary interest must (unless s/he has a dispensation):

- Declare the interest if s/he has not already registered it
- Not participate in any discussion or vote
- Must leave the meeting room until the matter has been dealt with (Standing Order 42)
- Give written notice of any unregistered interest to the Monitoring Officer within 28 days of the meeting

Non-pecuniary interests must still be declared in accordance with the new Code of Conduct. These should be declared at the commencement of the meeting.

(3) Minutes of the meeting held on 11 February 2013

(4) Chair's Announcements

2. Advocacy Service

Members will receive an introduction to the Advocacy Service

3. Looked After Children Dataset

Members will receive the latest dataset on numbers of Looked After Children in the county

4. Looked After Children Action Plan (March update)

Members will receive an update on the development of the strategy

Corporate Parenting Panel Membership

Councillors: John Appleton, Peter Fowler, Bob Hicks, Clive Rickhards, Carolyn Robbins (Chair), Chris Williams

Relevant Portfolio Holder

Councillor Heather Timms – Children and Schools

General enquiries

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**Minutes of the Corporate Parenting Panel meeting
11 February 2013, 10.00am**

Present:

Members

Cllr Appleton (Chair)
Cllr Fowler
Cllr Hicks
Cllr Rickhards
Cllr Robbins
Cllr Williams

Officers

Shinderpaul Bhangal, Practice Leader - Participation & Service Development
Jenny Butlin-Moran, Service Manager - Safeguarding
Brenda Vincent, Service Manager - Safeguarding
Richard Maybey, Democratic Services Officer

Care Leavers

Sara Donkin
John Lamb

1.1 Apologies for absence

None

1.2 Disclosures of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

None

1.3 Minutes of the meeting held on 4 December 2012

Agreed

Responding to a question from a previous meeting, Brenda Vincent reported that two of Warwickshire's Looked After Children (LAC) are currently attending Grammar schools (one in Kent and one in Buckinghamshire) and two are currently attending Princethorpe College, an independent school.

1.4 Chair's Announcements

None

2 Charter for Care Leavers

2.1 The Chair welcomed Sara Donkin and John Lamb, two young people who had recently left care, who were in attendance to answer questions and provide feedback to members. Shinderpaul Bhangal was also welcomed as their representative from the Local Authority (LA).

2.2 A video was played to the Panel, produced in support of the Charter for Care Leavers, to provide further context around the issues relevant to care leavers. The video is available to view at: www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_detailpage&v=yKaAICqj1I

2.3 A discussion then followed about the Charter. The feeling from care leavers was that, while it contains positive messages that care leavers are in agreement with, there is concern over the effectiveness and timeliness of professionals in delivering the Charter. The response rates from social workers and elected members needs to be faster, so young people have confidence that the Charter is meaningful.

- 2.4 Members felt that it was unclear what support they should be providing to care leavers and how they should be delivering that support. It was felt that more awareness and specific direction was needed. Based on the discussion, a series of actions were agreed, set out below.

Resolved

- a) The Charter should be circulated to all Elected Members, and large laminated copies should be placed in each of the political group rooms
- b) Enquiries should be made for seeking endorsement of the Charter by Full Council
- c) Enquiries should be made as to how Corporate Parenting duties will be communicated to Elected Members, especially new members, after the elections in May
- d) Representatives from the Tiffin Club should be invited to a future Panel meeting to gain a better understanding of its work and to discuss methods of raising awareness
- e) Panel members should make efforts to attend future Children in Care Council meetings and Care Leavers meetings (*dates and venues to be circulated*)
- f) Care leavers should be invited to the Panel meetings on a regular basis (2 or 3 meetings per year)
- g) The Children in Care Council should seek the opinions of care leavers, via its upcoming questionnaire, as to the quality of support provided by the LA
- h) A leaflet outlining the purpose and membership of the Corporate Parenting Panel should be produced for distribution to LAC and care leavers

3 Dartington Project

- 3.1 Jenny Butlin-Moran joined the meeting and delivered a presentation on the LA's work with the Dartington Project, which is a strategy to safely reduce the numbers of Looked After Children in Warwickshire.
- 3.2 Jenny stressed that this was an evidence-based project using random controlled trials, with a focus on understanding the difference in outcomes from different programmes. For example, from a set group of young people deemed on the "edge of care", some will go into foster care as normal, but some will receive an intervention service such as Functional Family Therapy (FFT) or Triple P instead. The outcomes of both destinations will be monitored, providing an evidence base for future decision making.
- 3.3 Other points noted were:
 - a) This is an invest-to-save model. Interventions such as FFT cost much less than foster care, and the savings generated would be re-invested into the service
 - b) The Dartington Project has a 3-year life span and is currently in year 2. An evaluation will take place at the end of year 3
 - c) Progress is being monitored via Children's Panels, both for those in care and those receiving the alternative interventions
 - d) Independent Reviewing Officers can escalate any issues of concern to senior officers and Cafcass (if necessary), although these issues are usually resolved via social workers and/or practice leaders

- e) The project is at an early stage, and the main challenge to date has been about changing the culture of working arrangements

Resolved

The Panel requested that the annual report of the Independent Reviewing Officers be added to their work programme as a future agenda item

4 Safeguarding Budget

The Panel gave consideration to the issue (deferred to them by the Finance and Performance Working Group via the Children and Young People Overview & Scrutiny Committee) and concluded that there was a lack of clarity around the request and no further action was necessary.

5 Safeguarding Improvement Task & Finish Group – Final Report

The Panel noted the report, which had received endorsement by the Children and Young People Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 30 January 2013

6 Other Business

6.1 Brenda Vincent circulated the latest dataset for Warwickshire's Looked After Children population, noting:

- a) The number of LAC increased by 6 in December, predominantly from the Nuneaton & Bedworth area
- b) The number of external agency placements has reduced
- c) There are currently 19 young people in "Staying Put" placements
- d) Asylum seekers in care are removed from the looked after number when they turn 18, but continue to be entitled to Get Ready for Adult Life Services and support

Resolved

The Panel agreed to look at the figures in more depth and respond with any questions, and to consider if they would like a representative from the Asylum Seeker service to be invited to a future meeting

6.2 The date of the next meeting was agreed as Monday 8th April at 1.30pm in Committee Room 3, Shire Hall, Warwick. Agenda items to include:

- Advocacy Service – introductory report
- Complaints Service – introductory report
- Looked After Children dataset
- Charter for Care Leavers – verbal progress report on agreed actions

Agenda items for the subsequent meeting in June to include:

- Fostering Service annual report
- Fostering and adoption datasets
- Discussion with care leavers

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Chair

The meeting closed at 12.30pm

Title of paper:	Report on Barnardo's Coventry and Warwickshire Children's Rights Service – incorporating Advocacy and Independent Visitors	
Districts/ Areas covered	All Warwickshire districts and Coventry	Wards affected: ALL
Author	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sue Berry, Development Children's Services Manager - Barnardo's 	
Other managers who have provided input into this report:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sarah Wager and Louise Cunningham – Project Co-ordinators for Barnardo's 	
Summary of issues		
<p>This report summarises the service provided to Warwickshire looked after children and children in need through the Advocacy and Independent Visitor Service provided by Barnardo's from April 2012 until the end of February 2013. The new contract began as of 1st July 2012.</p>		
Recommendation(s):		
1	The Panel to continue to acknowledge the importance of Advocacy and Independent Visitor Service in safeguarding supporting vulnerable children, many of whom are looked after.	
2	Both Barnardo's and Warwickshire Local Authority will continue to promote the service to all looked after children and young people to ensure that everyone has equal knowledge and access to the service	
3	Barnardo's to work with the Commissioners to continue to evaluate the most effective way of delivering advocacy to children and young people in Warwickshire	

1. Background

1.1 Barnardo's secured the contract to run the advocacy services for Warwickshire and Coventry in February 2012 with the new contract running from 1st July 2012. In order to meet the contract within the agreed budget Barnardo's undertook a staffing review. The current staffing position is as follows:

- Advocacy co-ordinator (24 hours) – Sarah Wager
- Advocacy Co-ordinator (24 hours) – Louise Cunningham
- Independent Visitor co-ordinator (21 hours) – Gail Pajak
- IV project worker 1 (37 hours) – Brett Lees-Smith
- IV project worker 2 (18.5 hours) – Julie Faulkener
- Advocate (37 hours) – Michael Spillane
- Advocate (18.5 hours) – Claire Reeves
- Advocate (18.5 hours) – Rosemary Brownhill
- Advocate (18.5 hours) – Ann Thompson

We have one advocate who is on maternity leave and currently have this post advertised. We have had a number of staffing changes over the year but have managed to recruit experienced and skilled advocates quickly which has meant that we have consistently met the demands for the service with no real waiting list for advocacy. The service is currently managed by Sue Berry – Development Children's Services Manager for the East Midlands who is overseeing both Coventry and Warwickshire Children's Rights Service and Get Ready Personal Advisors Team.

1.2 The contract is to supply issue based advocacy, residential visiting advocacy (for Coventry only), and independent visitor service to Warwickshire Children and young people. The aim of the service is to support children and young people who are in contact with social care to get their points of view heard by people who make decisions about them, and through the independent Visitor Service offering long-term positive adult role models for looked after children. The commissioners have agreed that the priority for advocacy services are looked after children but we have seen in the year a large increase in referrals for advocacy in child protection conferences.

2. Development of Quality Assurance measures

2.1 Barnardo's uses a variety of quality assurance tools to ensure that the service is delivered to a high quality to children and young people. Firstly Barnardo's works to the National Advocacy Standards as outlined below:-

Standard 1

Advocacy is led by the views and wishes of children and young people

Standard 2

Advocacy champions the rights and needs of children and young people

Standard 3

All advocacy services have clear policies to promote equalities issues and monitor services to ensure that no young person is discriminated against due to age, gender, race, culture, religion, language, disability or sexual orientation

Standard 4

Advocacy is well-publicised, accessible and easy to use

Standard 5

Advocacy provides help and advice quickly when it is requested

Standard 6

Advocacy works exclusively for children and young people

Standard 7

The advocacy service operates a high level of confidentiality and ensures that children, young people and other agencies are aware of its confidentiality policies

Standard 8

Advocacy listens to the views and ideas of children and young people in order to improve the service provided

Standard 9

The advocacy service has an effective and easy to use complaints procedure

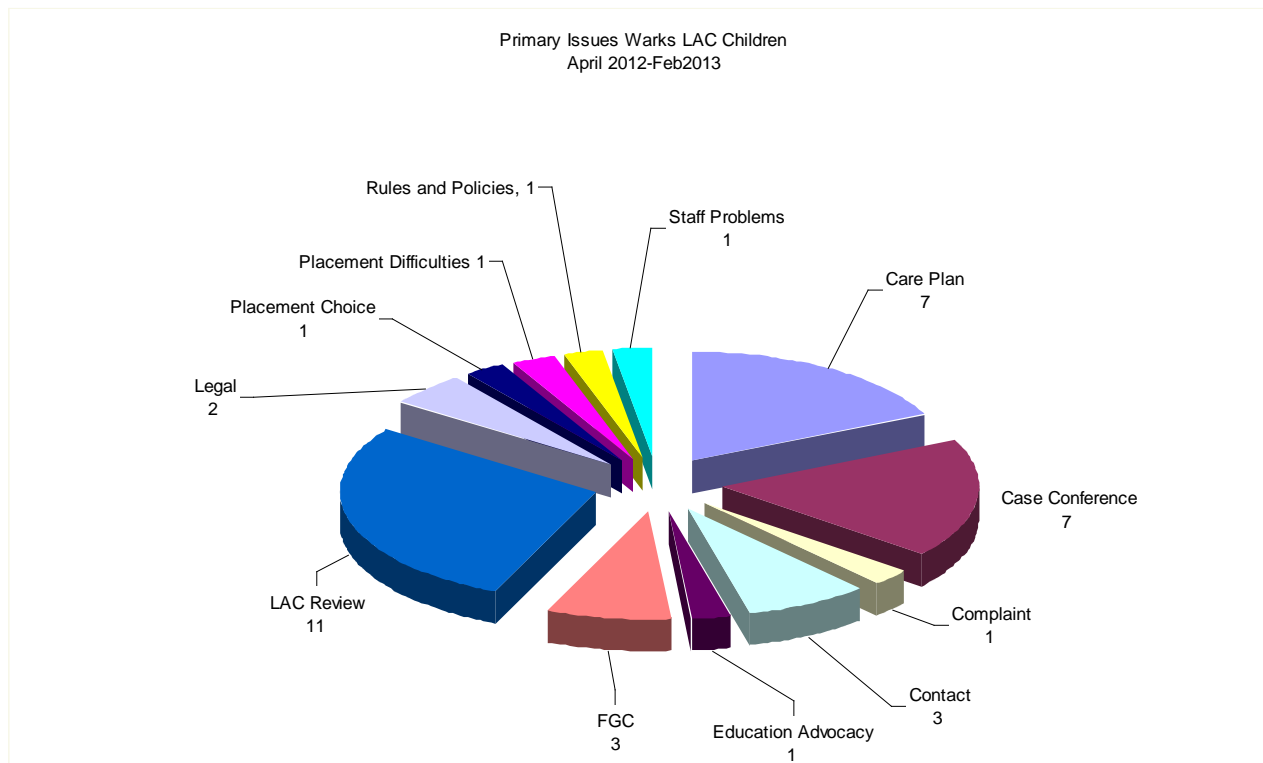
Standard 10

Advocacy is well-managed and gives value for money

- 2.2 All staff have a full induction programme into Barnardo's which covers training on safeguarding, information sharing, health and safety, equalities and diversity, and data protection. A full on-line programme of induction is complemented by further activity in service, including shadowing of staff until people are ready to take on cases on their own with supervision. This year the staff team at CWCRS have undertaken a day's training on child sexual exploitation which was delivered by our specialist CSE service that is based in Birmingham. We have also done a day's training on recording and equalities. Each advocate/staff member has an individual learning plan that is reviewed annually and will access appropriate training either through Barnardo's or other local training providers where possible.
- 2.3 All new staff and volunteers are subject to the full range of pre-employment checks, including CRB and reference check, using Barnardo's rigorous recruitment processes before taking up employment.
- 2.4 All staff receive monthly supervision to reflect on practice and be accountable for what they are delivering. In addition to this managers are available to offer guidance and support to staff as/when issues arise with a case. Managers use Barnardo's quality assurance tools to ensure that the service is adhering to standards. These include file sampling of records, quarterly performance reports to an ADCS.
- 2.5 We have just revised and improved our lone working procedures to enable our advocates to work safely out in the community.

3. Themes and Issues for Warwickshire Advocacy

3.1 Thirty seven out of the 132 children referred to the service by Warwickshire are looked after. The themes raised by looked after children have remained similar to those that are national issues for children in care. See chart below which identifies the issues which young people looked after by Warwickshire have raised with us.



Issues include:

- Contact with birth family – siblings and parents – with children frequently requesting greater contact.
- We have seen an increase in children raising issues with us about wishing to stay in placements longer when funding is becoming an issue e.g. out of county agency fostering where children have settled.
- Financial entitlements of children and young people in agency placements
- We have also raised a number of safeguarding issues with Warwickshire that young people tell us as advocates – we are very clear that we always pass these on to the social worker and have a close working relationship whilst remaining independent. One example of this was recently a child disclosed to her advocate that her foster carer had allegedly smacked a younger child in placement – this was immediately reported to the social worker and our advocate attended a strategy meeting to report what she had been told by the child. It subsequently proved to be unfounded.

3.2 We have seen an increase over the year in the number of referrals for advocacy at child protection conferences and have worked with both Warwickshire and Coventry to improve notifications for both review and initial conferences to enable us to undertake meaningful work to ascertain the wishes and feelings of children and young people concerned. We have seen a decrease in the number of referrals

from asylum seeking children which has meant we have spent less resource on interpreters but do still offer this where it is needed.

- 3.3 Most referrals for advocacy initially come from social workers but many re-referrals are from children and young people themselves – see statistics later in this report for more details on this.

4. Publicity and Promotion

- 4.1 After moving premises earlier in the year we have had a revised leaflet printed with our new contact details. This will be sent out to all teams and is distributed to looked after children. We have also offered to visit most teams in the year.

5. Participation of Young People in the Service

- 5.1 The views and wishes of young people are paramount in an advocacy and Independent Visitor service. The main aim of the advocacy service is to enable the wishes and views of the young people to be heard at a time when they are vulnerable. We use a variety of tools to do this depending on the young persons' ability, interests and needs. Barnardo's staff over the year have liaised with the Children in Care Councils of both Warwickshire and Coventry but it is acknowledged that there is further work that we could undertake here. We aim to get young people involved in service delivery decisions where possible. We recently recruited one young Warwickshire young person to sit on our Independent Visitors Panel where decisions are made about potential new volunteers. . We also aim to introduce a young persons panel for future recruitment to the service.
- 5.2 We offer non-instructive advocacy for children who are unable to communicate directly but we do make every attempt to communicate in a variety of ways first and have a number of tools that we use to do this as well as staff who are trained in Makaton and other communication techniques.

6. Partnership Working

- 6.1 We have been attending the Virtual School partnership in Warwickshire throughout the year to feedback issues that looked after children raise with us about their education.
- 6.2 Although the 'Right to be Cared For' pilot in Warwickshire has come to a close we have continued to get a list of these young people aged fifteen and a half plus who were entitled to this service and have targeted them with a letter offering advocacy.
- 6.3 We have offered visits to all social work teams in Warwickshire to explain the service.
- 6.4 We are included as part of social workers induction in Warwickshire – offering visits to explain our service to them.

- 6.5 Since moving to our new premises earlier this year in Albion Court, Nuneaton we have developed closer working relationships with our sister projects in the locality – both the Barnardos Fostering Service and Barnardo’s Get Ready Personal Advisor Team. We have joint team meetings, a shared management structure, sharing social work students and learning from the other services operating in Warwickshire.
- 6.6 To support Warwickshire LAC who are living out of county we have developed closer working relationships with other Barnardo’s advocacy services around the country – for example when one Warwickshire young man moved to London we got our London advocacy service to see him and liaise back with our advocate here.

7. Plans for Continual Development of the Service

- 7.1 We have been exploring with Warwickshire police how we develop advocacy for children at risk of child sexual exploitation – which includes looked after children – we will be writing this into our business plan for 213/2014.

8. Statistics for 2012/13

The statistics below show the number of **new** referrals to each section of the service from 1st April 2012 to 28th February 2013. These show a comparison with Coventry who jointly commission the service. We evaluate their satisfaction with the service and at the end of quarter two 74% of children were satisfied with the service and 67% felt that our advocacy service had improved some aspect of their lives.

Files moved to Open status 01-Apr-2012 to 28th Feb -2013		Childrens Rights Files		Volunteer Independent Visitor Matched (CHILD) Files		Volunteer Independent Visitor Unmatched (CHILD) Files	
Total Referrals		Cov	War	Cov	War	Cov	War
		128	132	4	6	5	10
Source of referral		Cov	War	Cov	War	Cov	War
Education		1	2				
Health		1					
Local Authority-Social Care		121	118	4	6	5	10
Other Statutory Agency		3	7				
Self		2	2				
Family member			2				
Unknown			1				
Reason for Referral		Cov	War	Cov	War	Cov	War
Looked After		31	37	4	6	3	8
Vulnerable person needing support		96	95			2	2
Young Carer		1					
Age of Referral		Cov	War	Cov	War	Cov	War
under 1		1	2				
4		1	1				
5		1	3				
6		3	5				
7		3	2				
8		12	4				
9		7	8				
10		13	11		1		1
11		15	12	1			
12		10	12		1	1	1
13		10	18				
14		16	9				3
15		14	17		1		1
16		9	14	2	3	3	4
17		6	4	1		1	
18		3	5				
19		3	1				
20		1	2				
21			2				
Ethnicity		Cov	War	Cov	War	Cov	War
Asian/British - Bangladeshi		3					
Asian/British - Indian		8	3				
Asian/British - Other Background		6	2				
Asian/British - Pakistani		2					
Black/British - African		6	1				
Black/British - Other Background			1				
Mixed - Other Background			1				
Mixed - White/Asian		4	2				
Mixed - White/Black African		3	3				
Mixed - White/Black Caribbean		5					
Other Ethnic Groups		2					
White - British		87	112	4	6	5	10
White - Other Background		2	7				
Disability		Cov	War	Cov	War	Cov	War
Autistic Spectrum Disorder		8	1	1			
Behaviourally based disability		2	5				
Communication Impairment							
Complex needs excluding invasive care		2	2				
Complex needs including invasive care			2				
Learning Disability		7	9	1	2	3	4
Physical Impairment		2					
CP Plan		Cov	War	Cov	War	Cov	War
Current		66	64			2	3
Historical		5	11				

Files moved to Open status 01-Apr-2012 to 28th Feb -2013	Volunteer Independent Visitor (CHILD)Files (Closed)	
Total Referrals	Cov	War
	5	9

Source of referral	Cov	War
Education		
Health		
Local Authority-Social Care	5	9
Other Statutory Agency		
Self		
Family member		
Unknown		

Reason for Referral	Cov	War
Looked After	5	7
Vulnerable person needing support		2
Young Carer		

Age of Referral	Cov	War
under 1		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		1
10		
11		1
12		
13		
14		
15	2	2
16		4
17		
18		
19	3	
20		1
21		

Ethnicity	Cov	War
Asian/British - Bangladeshi		
Asian/British - Indian		
Asian/British - Other Background		
Asian/British - Pakistani		
Black/British - African		
Black/British - Other Background		
Mixed - Other Background		
Mixed - White/Asian		
Mixed - White/Black African		
Mixed - White/Black Caribbean		1
Other Ethnic Groups		
White - British	5	8
White - Other Background		

Disability	Cov	War
Autistic Spectrum Disorder	1	1
Behaviourally based disability		3
Communication Impairment		1
Complex needs excluding invasive care		
Complex needs including invasive care		
Learning Disability		2
Physical Impairment		

CP Plan	Cov	War
Current		1
Historical		

8.1 The actual open cases reflects some longer standing cases than just new referrals - Currently we have 188 advocacy cases open and 45 matched IV's – and 7 children waiting to be matched – many of these matches will be occurring in the next few weeks. There is no active waiting list for advocacy.

8.2 **Independent Visitor Service**

We have held three new Independent Visitor (IV) training courses in the year for new volunteers. One of our volunteers this year won the Marsh Trust Volunteer of the Year for the Barnardo's Midlands. We have received a number of referrals from Warwickshire this year to match young people with IV's out of county – we are in the process of matching one young person from Dorset and another from Gloucestershire but this inevitably takes us longer than matching in county. We complete evaluations with all young people on the IV service and have just completed this with all children.

9. **Financial Implications (including Value for Money)**

9.1 The service is jointly commissioned by Warwickshire County Council and Coventry City Council for a total amount of £269,000 per year. This amount is not set to rise throughout the durations of the contract so Barnardo's will agree with commissioners about how to prioritise the service in future years as inflation impacts upon the total budget available.

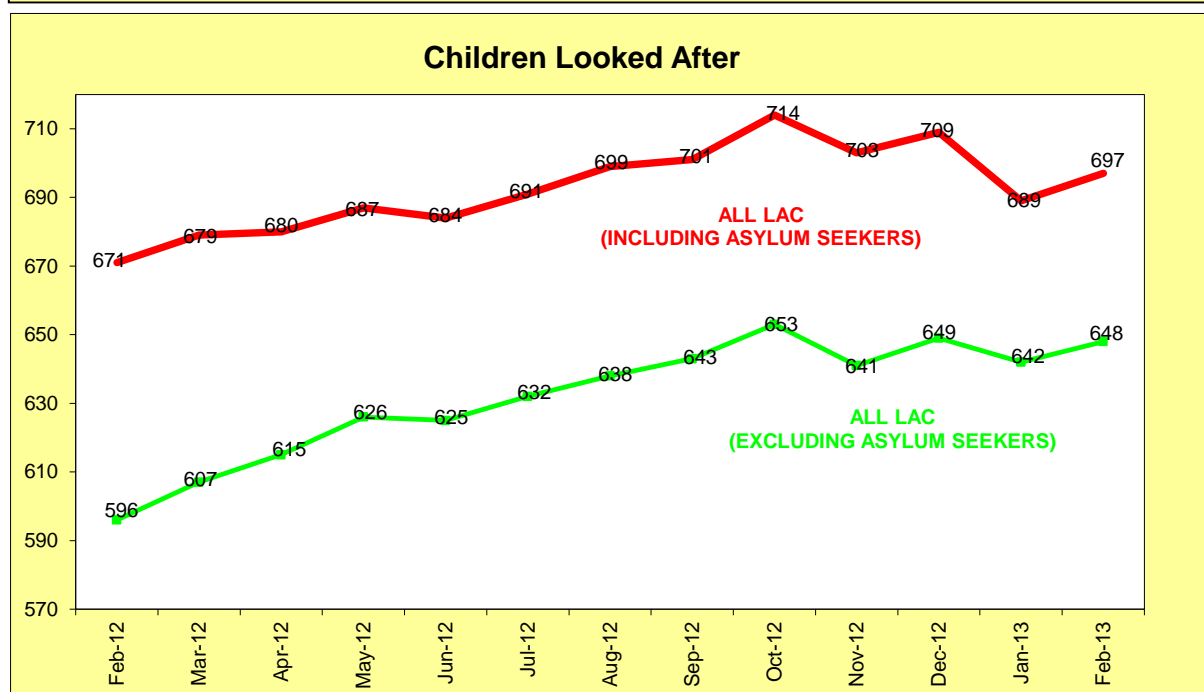
9.2 In addition to this Barnardo's have agreed to contribute an additional £70,000 per year for the service. This year we are targeting this additional money at children who have been/or are at risk of sexual exploitation. This is a known risk factor for many looked after children and young people as highlighted by recent nationally publicised cases

10. **Risk Management Issues (Including Legal Implications, and Equality and Diversity Implications).**

10.1 The Advocacy and IV service minimises risk to both Warwickshire Social Care Department and to young people who are looked after. It does this through offering a professional advocacy service to ensure that the voices and concerns of children are heard by other professionals. The IV service minimises risk to isolated looked after children through offering an appropriately matched befriender/mentor.

Sue Berry
March 2013

CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER



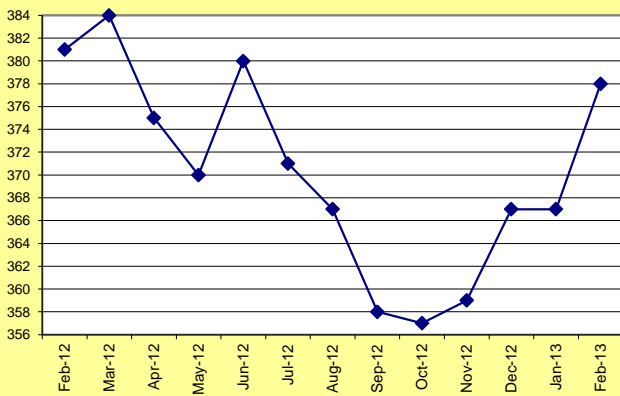
At 28 February 2013, Warwickshire's looked after population increased by 8 to 697 whilst the number of looked after children excluding asylum seekers increased by 6 to 648.

Number of Looked After cases allocated by team

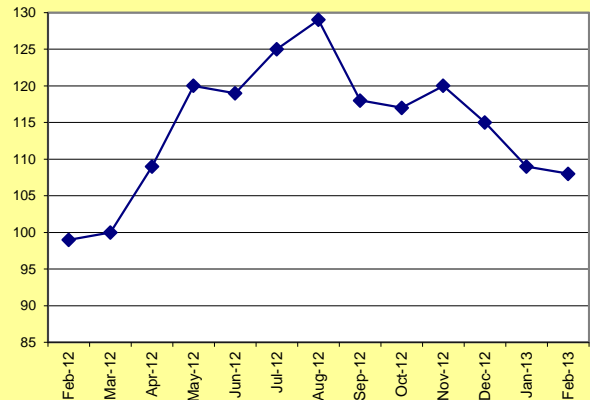
	Sep-12	Oct-12	Nov-12	Dec-12	Jan-13	Feb-13
N. Warks Ch&F Team	64	65	65	68	69	69
North Warwickshire (ALL)	64	65	65	68	69	69
Bedworth Children's Team	157	160	161	165	164	162
Nuneaton Children's Team	70	73	77	79	71	75
Nuneaton & Bedworth (ALL)	227	233	238	244	235	237
Rugby Childrens Services Team	111	114	110	111	109	111
Rugby (ALL)	111	114	110	111	109	111
Stratford District Children's Team	80	78	77	77	78	77
Stratford (ALL)	80	78	77	77	78	77
Warwick District CAT	6	6	4	1	3	5
Kenilworth/Warwick	69	69	58	58	57	58
Leamington Ch&F Team	65	66	66	68	69	67
Warwick (ALL)	140	141	128	127	129	130
N/W, Nun & Bed Integrated Disability	6	6	6	6	6	7
Rugby Integrated Disability	0	0	1	1	1	1
Stratford Integrated Disability	2	2	2	2	2	2
Wark & Lm Integrated Disability	8	9	9	8	8	8
IDS Autism Team	4	4	4	4	4	5
Integrated Disability Service (ALL)	20	21	22	21	21	23
Asylum Seekers	58	61	62	60	47	49
Other Countywide Services	1	1	1	1	1	1
Warwickshire (TOTAL)	701	714	703	709	689	697

Children Looked After by Placement Type

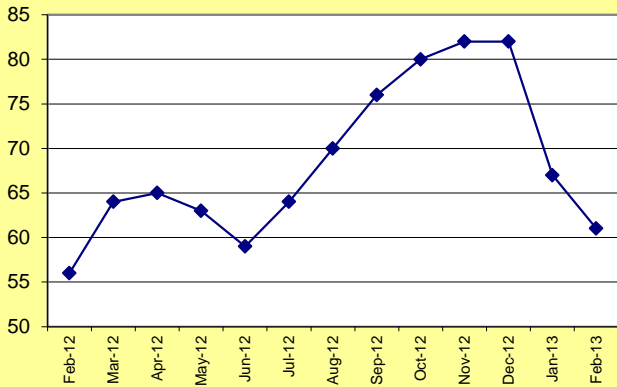
Children Looked After in WCC Foster Care



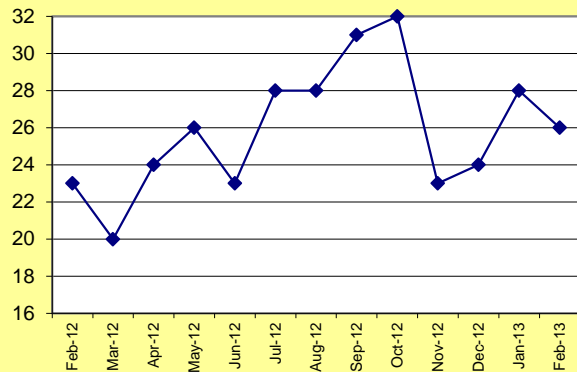
Children Looked After in Agency/OLA Foster Care



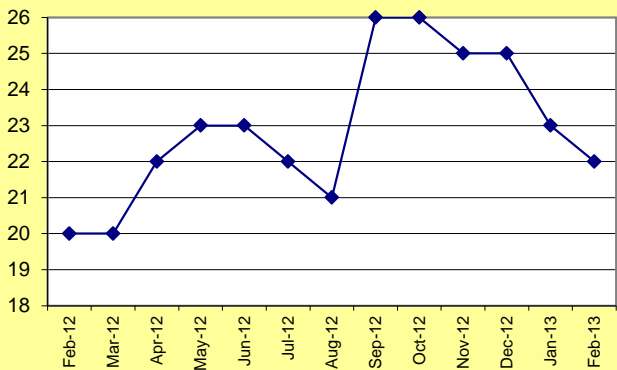
Relative/Friend Foster Care



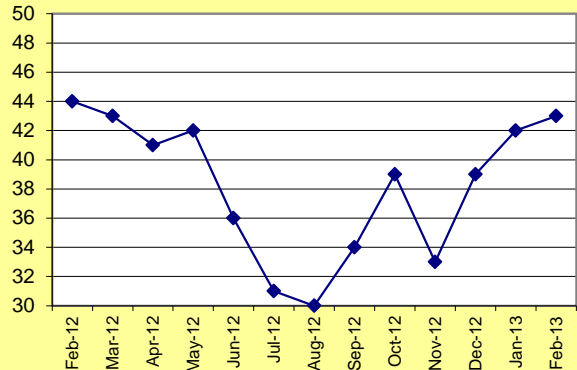
Placed for Adoption



Residential Home/School



Placed with Parents or Person with P.R.



At 28 February 2013, an increase was seen in children placed in other placements (up 6 to 59), children placed in WCC foster care (up 11 to 378) and children placed with parents or person with P.R. (up 1 to 43).

Decreases were seen in children placed with Agency/OLA foster care (down 1 to 108), children placed with relative/friend foster care (down 6 to 61), children placed for adoption (down 2 to 26) and children placed in a residential home/school (down 1 to 22).

Looked After Children by Placement Type by Team at 28 February 2013

	WCC Foster Care	Placed for Adoption	Residential Home/School	Agency/O LA Foster Care	Relative/Friend Foster Care	Placed with Parents/Person with PR	Other Placement <small>e.g. Independent Living, Mother & Baby Unit</small>
N. Warks Ch&F Team	45	5	1	9	2	3	4
Bedworth Children's Team	79	2	8	37	18	9	9
Nuneaton Children's Team	55	3	0	8	5	3	1
Rugby Children's Team	67	3	0	16	11	11	3
Stratford Children's Team	35	5	3	15	10	5	4
Warwick District CAT	3	0	0	1	0	0	1
Kenilworth/Warwick	28	1	1	3	9	5	11
Leamington Ch&F Team	36	7	2	9	5	7	1
N/W, Nun & Bed Int Disab	1	0	1	4	1	0	0
Rugby Integrated Disability	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Stratford Integrated Disab	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
Wark & Lm Integrated Disab	7	0	0	1	0	0	0
IDS Autism Team	1	0	4	0	0	0	0
Asylum Seekers	20	0	0	5	0	0	24
Other Countywide Services	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Warwickshire (TOTAL)	378	26	22	108	61	43	59

FOSTERING

Approval Categories of Foster Carers at 28 February 2013 by District

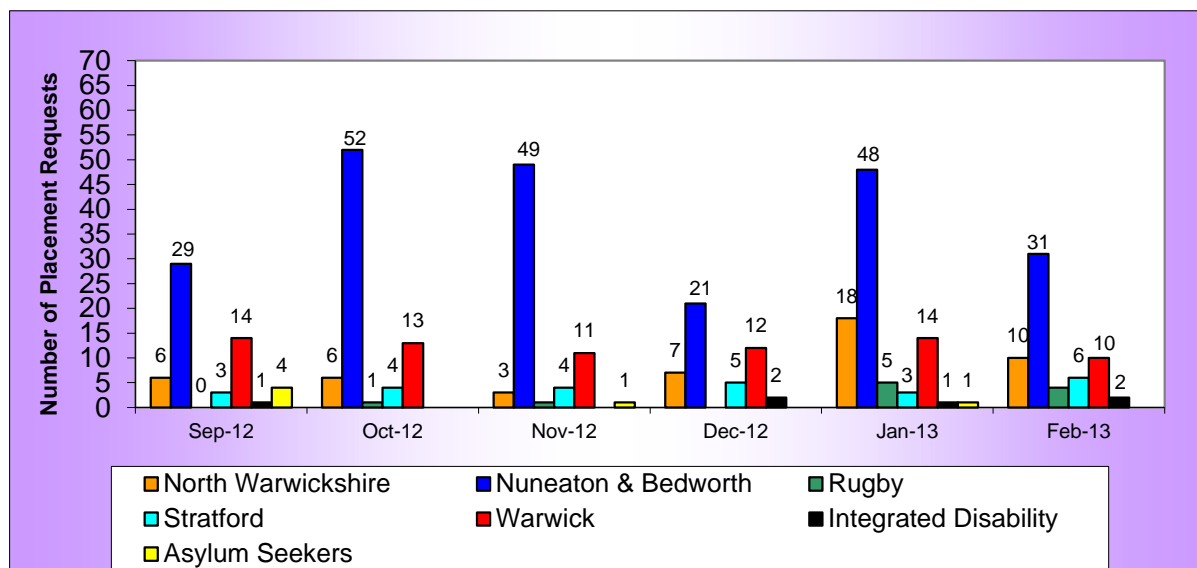
	Family & Friends	Family Link	General/ Mainstream	Contract Fostering	Staying Put
Stratford	0	0	1	0	0
EDT	0	0	4	0	0
North Fostering	0	0	133	0	8
South Fostering	0	0	107	0	7
Fostering Kinship	62	0	1	0	2
Short Break Care Service	0	22	0	4	0
Total	62	22	246	4	17

As at 28 February 2013 there were **334** foster care households in Warwickshire recorded on Carefirst.

Please note that the fostering teams are going from being district based to three separate teams, one for the north, one for the south and one specifically for kinship care. There is still one foster carer still to be transferred over to the new team codes (see above).

There are currently **17** carers who are approved to provide 'staying put' placements for young people aged 18+. Of these **17**, **8** are approved solely for 'staying put' placements whilst the other **9** are also approved for foster care.

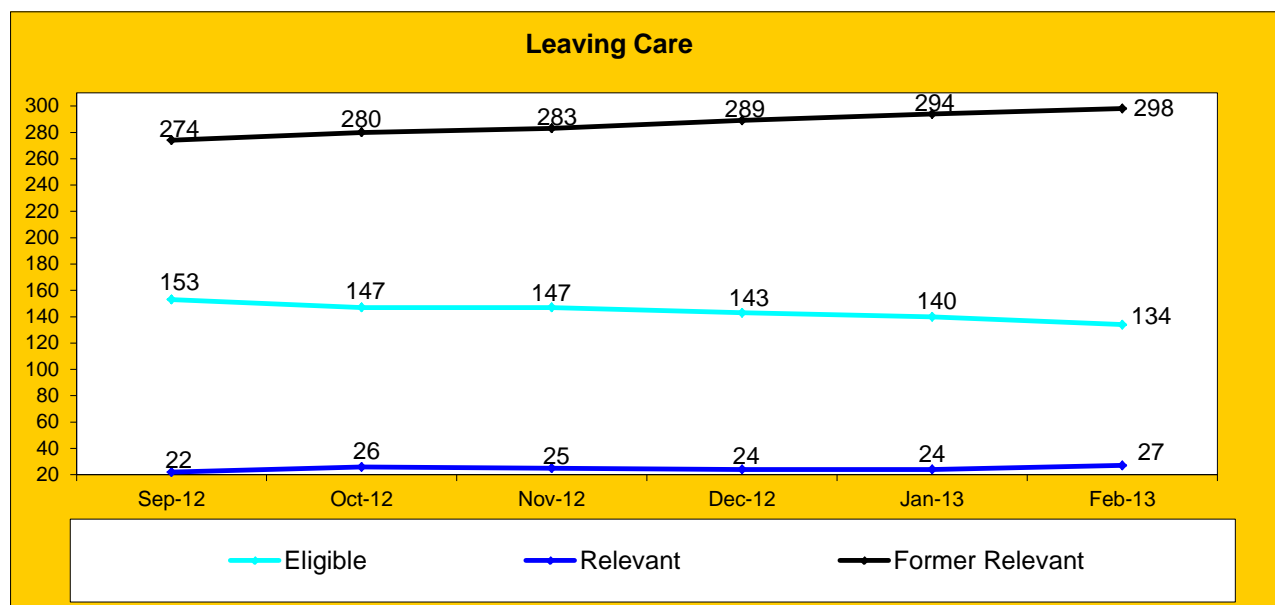
Foster Care Placement Requests during the month by District



Please note that this report pulls through where a 'placement request part 1' form has been completed by a children's team on Carefirst 6.

During January 2013 there were 90 placement requests recorded compared to 47 placement requests in the previous month.

LEAVING CARE



At 28 February 2013, Warwickshire's leaving care population increased by 1 to 459. Of these, 134 were eligible and still in the care system while a further 325 were either relevant or former relevant. All of these children have been looked after for 13 weeks or more since the age of 14 and were looked after at some point of their 16th year.

Number of Leaving Care Cases by District as at 28 February 2013

	Eligible (16/17 yrs but still Looked After)	Relevant (16/17 yrs previously looked after)	Former Relevant (18-21 who were either previously Eligible or Relevant)	District Total
North Warwickshire (ALL)	7	3	16	26
Nuneaton & Bedworth (ALL)	24	4	45	73
Rugby (ALL)	15	10	42	67
Stratford (ALL)	15	0	21	36
Warwick (ALL)	33	3	44	80
Asylum Seekers	33	4	108	145
Integrated Disability	6	0	1	7
Youth Offending	1	1	1	3
No Allocated Team	0	2	15	17
Allocated to Adult Services	0	0	5	5
Warwickshire (TOTAL)	134	27	298	459

Number of Young People aged 18+ in a Staying Put Placement as at 28 February 2013

	Staying Put with Former Foster Carer	Staying Put but not Former Foster Carer
North Warwickshire (ALL)	0	0
Nuneaton & Bedworth (ALL)	5	0
Rugby (ALL)	11	0
Stratford (ALL)	4	0
Warwick (ALL)	0	0
Integrated Disability Service (ALL)	0	0
Asylum Seekers	0	0
No allocated team	0	0
Allocated to Adult Services	0	0
Warwickshire (TOTAL)	20	0

Action Plans relating Looked After, Fostering and Adoption Services – Updated March 2013

Plan	Action	Activities/Outcomes	Timescale	Comments
Safeguarding business Unit Plan 2012-2014	Safely Reduce the number of LAC	Evidenced based programmes commissioned Revision of the role of Children's Panels Use of Going Home toolkit	April 2014	Ongoing Referred to as the 'Dartington' Project.
Adoption Services Action Plan 20-12-2013	To continue to recruit adopters for those children deemed harder to place i.e. older children, sibling groups and children with disabilities.	Increase in the number of adoption placements made in timely manner	March 2013	Completed Also in the Placement Commissioning Strategy for LAC 2011-2013 (Sufficiency Duty)
	To continue to facilitate and increase the amount of workshops/training available for approved adopters.	Adopters Training programme in place	March 2013	Completed
	To review the Preparation Groups in line with the Guidance issued by the Department of Education, to ensure that adopters are fully prepared for adoption.	Practice complies with revised national Guidance	March 2013	Completed
	To respond to and implement changes required arising the Adoption Action Plan.	Service complies with national regulatory requirements	Ongoing	Completed
	To develop a support groups for adopters in the 'north' of the County.	All adopters have access to support group	March 2013	Completed
	To work with Fostering Services in the development on concurrent planning scheme, whereby young babies are placed with foster carers who are then in a position to adopt them should this be the plan.	Reduce placement delays and improve adoption performance timescale	September 2013	Ongoing Training event held – decision made to develop 'fostering to adoption' scheme.

Fostering Services Action Plan 2012-2013	To Increase the number of foster placements available by (i) streamlining the front end of the fostering recruitment processes (ii) increasing the numbers of preparation groups, (including weekend groups) (iii) directly booking in home visits to potential carers if the initial telephone contact is positive thereby reducing delay	Improve fostering preparation and assessment performance Reduce reliance on IFA placements	October 2012	Completed
	Reviewing and updating the fostering recruitment material and expanding recruitment opportunities via websites, blogs, Google etc.	Increase the number of fostering enquiries using new technologies		Completed
	Increasing the number of assessments completed within 6 months to 90% of assessments. (Current N.M.S. is 8 months).	Improve the number and range of internal fostering placements	April 2014	Ongoing Significant improvement noted
	The Framework Agreement ends in 2013. The Service with M.A.C. needs to review and secure a position within the Consortium which provides local placements at a competitive price.	To reduce the unit cost of external fostering provision – to ensure that such arrangements do not adversely impact upon the internal provision	October 2013	Ongoing
	To review and improve processes to provide more permanent foster placements	To improve placement stability for looked after children and young people	September 2013	Ongoing Also in the Placement Commissioning Strategy for LAC 2011-2013 (Sufficiency Duty)
	To complete the review of foster	To ensure that the scheme	November 2012	Completed

	carer Payments for Skills scheme to include the criteria for Skills Levels 1 and 2, consider payment arrangements for solo placements and to address the issue of long term savings.	complies with new QFC requirements Increase placement options for young people with complex needs Streamline arrangements and ensure consistency regarding long term savings	March 2013 January 2013	Also in the Placement Commissioning Strategy for LAC 2011-2013 (Sufficiency Duty)
	To decrease the number of children who experience 3 or more placement moves.	To enhance placement stability for LAC and bring performance in line with national average	March 2014	Ongoing
	To recruit 30 fostering households over each 12 month period and complete 90% of the assessments within 6 months of application.	Increase placement choice, placement stability and reduce costs	March 2013	
Placement Commissioning Strategy for LAC 2011-2013 (Sufficiency Duty)	To review our current Kinship Strategy and support services, in line with new regulations and best practice.	Dedicated Kinship Care service established Increase in kinship placements	January 2012	Kinship Service set up
	To explore opportunities with Coventry City Council to make the optimum of use of resources in recruiting, supporting and training adopters	To increase efficiency Increase placement choice	Ongoing	
	To develop a protocol with health for accessing CAMHS services for children and young people placed out of county.	To increase placement stability and outcomes for LAC	January 2013	Completed Subject to review
	To explore the feasibility of having a Framework Agreement for residential care and educational placements required	To ensure quality and best value in negotiating placements	July 2012	Completed

	To develop further supported hostel accommodation for care leavers as placements within any extended family arrangement appears unlikely for a significant number of young people known to Children's Services.	To ensure living arrangements meet with statutory requirements Increase placement choice Enhance support and improve outcomes for care leavers	April 2014	Ongoing
	To develop and implement a strategy with housing providers and Supporting People to provide an equitable range of housing options for vulnerable young people.	To ensure living arrangements meet with statutory requirements Increase placement choice Enhance support and improve outcomes for care leavers	April 2014	Ongoing
	To develop and implement supported lodgings arrangements for care leavers.	To increase supported placement options	July 2012	Completed