

Corporate Parenting Panel

Monday 10 February 2014

Agenda

A meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel will be held on Monday 10 February 2014 at 10.00 am, 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 September 2013

To approve the enclosed draft minutes

3. Children in Care Council updates

Report enclosed

4. Update from Strategic Lead

5. Performance Update

The Panel will discuss how performance will be reported at future meetings.

6. **Warwickshire County Council: Sufficiency Duty 2013 – 2016 Placement Commissioning Strategy for Looked After Children, Young People and those on the ‘Edge of Care’ and Custody.**
Report Enclosed
7. **Annual Report - The Health of Warwickshire’s Looked After Children and Young People (1st April 2012 - 31st March 2013)**
Report enclosed.
8. **Annual Report of the Head of Virtual School for Looked After Children**
Report enclosed
9. **Virtual School for Children in Care - Exam outcomes summer 2013 for Year 6 and Year 11**
Report enclosed
10. **Fostering Services Annual Report - April 2012 - March 2013**
Report enclosed
11. **Work Programme**
Members of the Panel are asked to agree the work programme and to consider possible themes for future meetings.
12. **Any other Business**

Future meeting dates and agenda items

The following dates have been scheduled:

14 April 2014	10:00 am	CR3, Shire Hall
7 July 2014	14:00 pm	CR3, Shire Hall
8 September 2014	10:00 am	CR3, Shire Hall
27 October 2014	10:00 am	CR3, Shire Hall
9 December 2014	10:00 am	CR3, Shire Hall

Corporate Parenting Panel Membership

Councillors: Yousef Dahmash, Peter Fowler, Bob Hicks, Jenny St John, John Whitehouse and Chris Williams (Chair).

Relevant Portfolio Holder

Councillor Heather Timms – Children and Schools

General enquiries

Please contact:

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Minutes of a meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel held on 11 September 2013

Present:

Members of the Panel

Councillors:

Yousef Dahmash

Bob Hicks

Jenny St John

John Whitehouse

Chris Williams (Chair)

Officers

Shinderpaul Bhangal, Practice Leader, Participation and Service Development

Mary Eccleston, Children's Reviewing Manager

Ann Mawdsley, Senior Democratic Services Officer

Sharon Shaw, Operations Manager - Adoption

Brenda Vincent, Service Manager - South

Children in Care Council (CiCC) Members

Laura Dodds

Daniel Kalcutt-Smith

Chris Ward

1. General

(1) Apologies

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor Peter Fowler.

(2) Disclosures of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

Councillor Chris Williams declared a non-pecuniary interest as a member of the Adoption Panel.

(3) Minutes of the meeting held on 10 July 2013

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 July 2013 were agreed as a correct record with the following correction:

Minute 1.3 - Charter for Care Leavers and related issues

Bullet point 5 – It was confirmed that the Corporate Parenting Panel awareness training for new members had been scheduled for 4 December 2013.

Matters Arising from Previous Meeting(s)

1. Corporate Parenting Panel leaflet

Brenda Vincent tabled the first mock-up of the leaflet, which had been prepared by Mike Jackson (Communications). Members were asked to provide any general comments on the leaflet as well as a photograph and a short biography to Brenda Vincent by 26 September. Brenda noted that the leaflet would be given to children in care to inform them about the work of the Panel, and would be accessible on the Council's website. An updated version of the leaflet would be discussed at the workshop in October.

2. CiCC and Corporate Parenting Workshop - October

The Panel agreed that the workshop needed to be as interactive as possible and Shinderpaul Bhangal agreed to discuss this with the CiCC to agree how this could be done. It was agreed that the workshop would take place in Warwick (venue to be confirmed) with a light lunch at 1:30, and the workshop starting at 2:00.

3. Three and more placement moves

Brenda Vincent made the following points:

- The information provided was collated nationally and covered the period up to 31 March 2013.
- The average for England was about 11% and Warwickshire's averaged between 12 and 12.5%.
- There were a number of differences between local authorities which influenced these figures including children's homes, the LAC population, demographics and individual circumstances.
- The planning and recording of placements also impacted on statistics.
- It was recognised that it was more difficult to find the right placement for teenagers.
- Warwickshire was looking at developing a 'solo placement scheme' as some children did better with a single placement, and it was thought this would lead to more fostering stability.
- The data on independent living differed across the county due to the differences in the range of suitable places for young people to move to from foster care. Laura Dodds referred to the the Foyer option in Coventry, which is a charitable supported housing project providing 63 bedsits for 16 to 24-year-olds who face homelessness where they can live for up to two years. Members of the Panel asked officers to make arrangements for a site visit to the Foyer

and to Newbold Lodge in Warwickshire, to give them an idea of what was available.

- The Panel agreed that the number of foster places needed to increase to meet demand, and there needed to be better choices for young people.

The Panel requested the following reports:

- Six-monthly updates on the 'Three and more placement moves' data, with the first report in February 2014.
- A report to the February meeting on housing-related issues and the work being done with housing authorities on options for independent housing and the support given to young people moving into independent housing.
- A report from CiCC inspectors on the Foyer and Newbold housing options.

4. Legal status of looked after children

Brenda Vincent outlined the legal status of looked after children, including the different types of court orders and the increase in legal action year-on-year that had taken place since the Baby Peter's death in Haringey in 2007 and the subsequent reforms that had taken place. In response to a query on outcomes, Brenda Vincent noted that outcomes were measured through the experiences of individual young people and through Ofsted inspections of services. Safeguarding and Looked After Children Services in Warwickshire had last been inspected by Ofsted in 2011 and were rated as good. Although it was acknowledged that there may be areas within these services that needed to improve on outcomes, Warwickshire was the only authority in the West Midlands to receive a good rating.

Brenda Vincent reported that from 1 November 2013 the Ofsted inspection regime was changing from individual inspections of different services (adoption, fostering, looked after children etc.) to one combined inspection and that the inspections would focus on meeting children and young people and tracking their experiences, so would focus on outcomes rather than data. The new framework had been piloted in Solihull and feedback on this would be sought for the Inspection Preparation Group

The next inspection was due in 2014, but it was anticipated that there may be an inspection of the adoption services carried out before the changes on 1 November 2013.

Members requested a report to a future meeting on the Framework for future Ofsted Inspections.

5. Playing Cards

Members all received a pack of the playing cards which were specifically devised for and would be issued to all looked after children aged 13 and over. Brenda Vincent reported that there had already been a lot of activity with the highest number of hits on '10 ways to look after mental health' (2063 to date) and 'Finding out about benefits' (395). The next highest were 'Child abuse', 'ChildLine' and 'Apprenticeships'.

The cards enabled young people to access relevant and up-to-date information on related national and Warwickshire websites and also gave the service a steer on what young people were looking for. Brenda Vincent added that these cards had been suggested by young people themselves, and that they were still working on improving the links etc.

Shinderpaul Bhangal noted that he had met with the 'Who Cares Trust' who had expressed an interest in the playing cards. He added that the Who Cares Trust had helped set up the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Looked After Children and Care Leavers (APPG) in 1998 and has acted as Secretariat for the group since then.

Members discussed whether the information on the playing cards would not be valuable to young people more generally and asked for this suggestion to be made to Hugh Disley, Head of Service for Early Intervention to consider how this could be done through Targeted Youth Support.

6. Member Induction

It was confirmed that the member induction for new members on Looked After Children was scheduled for 4 December 2013. There was a broad discussion around how what form this should take and how young people could be involved and there was general agreement that the training needed to deliver a clear understanding of the responsibilities of elected members, how these were discharged in Warwickshire and an opportunity for elected members and CiCC members to interact. Brenda Vincent agreed to take this forward.

2. **Young People's Questionnaire**

Shinderpaul Bhangal set out the background to the Young People's Questionnaire, which had been carried out in February 2013, and would be used to capture a measure of what people (both staff and young people aged 16+) perceived.

During the discussion that followed these points were noted:

1. The two main messages to come from the questionnaire from a young people point of view were around listening and consistent contact. Both of these areas impacted directly on the ability to get to know young people and their needs.
2. It was agreed that it would be useful to repeat the exercise in order to be able to identify trends, but that this would be more useful over a longer time period than 12 months, with a shorter, more focussed set of questions around key messages and that should be done to improve services.
3. Brenda Vincent noted that the questionnaire results would be considered by both the 'Leaving Care Strategy Group' and the CiCC, focussing mainly on the results with the biggest differentials between staff and young people and agreeing three main priorities for moving forward. The outcomes of these discussions would be brought back to the Corporate Parenting Panel. Laura Dodd added that when considering the outcomes, key themes needed to be identified and the CiCC needed to be asked what could be done to make improvements.

The Corporate Parenting Panel agreed to receive a further report to their meeting on 10 February 2014 including how the three main priorities had been identified and the Action Plan for taking this forward.

3. Data Set

Brenda Vincent introduced the report which presented data up to the end of July 2013. She made the following points:

- i. The increase in LAC was mainly, but not exclusively, in the north of the county. This had always been the case historically, but the rate of increase was also higher in the north,
- ii. Nuneaton and Bedworth had previously been managed by separate teams, which were now combined, based at the Hilary Road Centre.

During the ensuing discussion the following points were raised:

1. Members agreed that the data as it was presented was difficult to analyse and did not show a clear picture for Members to understand. It was agreed that the figures needed to reflect a longer period (i.e. quarterly rather than monthly) to show progress and trends over a longer period of time.
2. The requested data (quarterly over a two-year period) should only reflect the Warwickshire total with the more detailed breakdowns included in an appendix.

The Panel agreed to receive a further report on data at their meeting in February 2014.

4. Adoption Services – Annual Report

Sharon Shaw introduced the Annual Report, and made the following points:

- i. Adoption services had seen huge growth over the last 12 months in every area.
- ii. There had been an increase in the approval of adopters to 48, which was up from 38 for the previous year.
- iii. Assessments had been reduced to six months in line with Government guidance.
- iv. There had been an increase in the number of adoption orders to 33, including two sibling groups of three children and six sibling groups of two children, which was good news. Sharon Shaw added that the adoptions included a range of ages, with the eldest child 11 years old.
- v. The service continued to work well in a number of areas including surrogacy, birth records, counselling and supporting families, despite being a small team.
- vi. The service had had two additional staff members for a 12 month period through the Government grant, which had been ring-fenced for adoption and which had been used for staff to introduce and process new ways of working in areas such as family finding, life story books and services to birth parents. This had helped to cope with increased pressures, but there was an issue around recruitment in Warwickshire and the budget position from 1 April 2014 onwards was unknown.
- vii. The Adoption Service had 11 returned adopters from the previous year as well as a number of applications from adopters living in other authorities.
- viii. The statistics in the Annual Report were up to 31 March 2013. Sharon Shaw reported that there had been 22 Adoption Orders since that date, which represented a 50% increase over a two-year period. There had also been 24 adopters approved this year already.
- ix. There was an increased in the number of LAC with approved adoption plans

A discussion was held and the following was noted:

1. In response to a comment that Warwickshire was not good at publicising its successes, Sharon Shaw noted that there is a national Adoption Scorecard, which was signposted to through the National Gateway for Adoption, and the information was available on this site. She added that Warwickshire was good at self-promotion and informing people, and that she was very proud of the service
2. Members were reminded that although the Warwickshire Adoption Services were rated the best in the West Midlands, that any reduction in resources would impact on the service particularly in periods of higher numbers of children with adoption plans
3. In response to a question asking who would have sight of the Annual Report, it was noted that the Annual Report would be given to the Portfolio Holder (Councillor Heather Timms) and would be included in the staff core brief.
4. There had only been one adoption that had failed after a three-year period, and while this would legally be considered the same as a LAC,

there may be additional issues around behaviour and sense of identity that would require extra support and training. It was noted that there were a number of recognised key points where support was needed for an adopting family, this was significant in the beginning, and usually again at around the age of eight or nine and again during the teenage years. The ability to continue this level of support would become more and more pressured and the numbers increased.

5. From May 2013, all adopters are entitled to the new 'Adoption passport', which enables them to see exactly what support is available for them and their child from the Local Authority. The Local Authority is legally required to continue the support process for a period of three years and it was noted that there were some inter-area boundary issues in terms of support.
6. It was noted that the areas of fostering and adoption were highly regulated activities and the service was having to respond to a continuous stream of changes coming from Government.
7. The Government had put in place performance timescales to try to speed up the process of adoption. This had had the opposite effect in some areas, where new applications were not being considered. Warwickshire had not done this, but it was thought there would need to be a risk assessment carried out by the end of the year to review the service in light of future funding and whether the ring fenced Adoption Support grant is to be continued.
8. There was a lot of work to be done around the age groups that were considered 'hard to adopt'.
9. Since April 2013 there had been an increase in the number of fostered children that had been adopted. This was encouraged by Government and in Warwickshire, the Council needed to be clear about how this was going to be managed. Work on this had already begun. Members were reminded that the Fostering and Adoption Services in Warwickshire were distinctly different and separate services, with a few cross-overs. It was important that people did not see fostering as a 'backdoor to adoption' and that the focus remained on meeting children's needs for life.
10. Sharon Shaw outlined Warwickshire's comprehensive adoption process.

Members requested a report on the Risk Analysis for Adoption Services to their February 2014 meeting.

5 Report of the Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) Service

Mary Eccleston introduced the report setting out the Annual Report and responsibilities of the service, noting that all Looked After Children were required to have statutory reviews looking at how plans were progressed for those children, independent from the case management. She added that the new IRO Handbook, which was a requirement for the Annual Report, detailed all the requirements of the IROs and the Local Authority in terms of setting up and supporting the IRO Service.

It was noted that the Annual Report was produced for the lead Member (Councillor Heather Timms), in line with statutory guidance.

The Panel made the following observations:

1. The Annual Report had too much detail and future versions did not need to include all the background information.
2. Members were concerned that the caseload of the Service was double that set out in statutory guidance, which implied this guidance was not being met.
3. There was a 'sunset' clause in the current Act that stated that if there wasn't evidence the Independent Review Service could operate effectively, that the service could be placed outside of the Local Authority.
4. There was currently no benchmarking information available, but Warwickshire was part of a regional group that would feed its performance information into a national group.
5. Members were concerned at the number of references to the Service not meeting nationally recommended levels.

The Panel agreed to ask the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee to ask the Portfolio Holder to investigate the difficulties experienced by the Service around recruitment, which could be related to comparative pay scales for IRO officers.

6 Report of the Complaints Service

The Panel agreed to defer this report to the next meeting.

7 Any Other Business

- (1) The final version of the CiCC leaflet was tabled. It was agreed that a copy of this would be circulated to all Members as well as a copy being put on the Warwickshire Direct website.
- (2) The following meeting dates were agreed:
 - 30 October 2013 – 2:00 pm meeting with CiCC following a light lunch (at 1:30 pm)
 - 9 December 2013 – 1:30 pm
 - 10 February 2014 – 10:00 am
 - 14 April 2014 – 10:00 am.
- (3) Brenda Vincent noted that the National Children's Bureau had put forward funding for CiCC and elected Members to attend training workshops. These places would be taken up by Cllr Heather Timms, 2 CiCC representatives and an officer. The date was not yet known.

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Chair

The meeting closed at 12:35 am

Item 3

Corporate Parenting Panel

10 February 2014

Children in Care Council (CiCC) Meetings

Recommendation(s)

The Panel are asked to agree to setting up a rota for one member of the Panel to attend each CiCC meeting, primarily as an observer, and to report back to the Panel at the next scheduled meeting.

1.0 Dates of Meetings

Set out below is a list of meeting dates that are scheduled for the CiCC meetings, as well as those meetings where members of the Panel have, in some cases, indicated meetings they are able to attend. The Panel are asked to nominate themselves for those meetings that are not yet covered.

Tuesday 13 February 2014	
Tuesday 4 March 2014	Cllr John Whitehouse
Tuesday 1 April 2014	
Tuesday 6 May 2014	Cllr Yousef Dahmash
Tuesday 3 June 2014	Cllr Jenny St.John
Tuesday 1 July 2014	

All CiCC meetings take place at Shire Hall, Warwick from 6.30 – 8.30 pm.

2.0 Reporting Back to the Panel

There will be a standing item on each agenda for verbal updates from CiCC meetings.

Background papers

None

	Name	Contact Information
Report Author	Ann Mawdsley	annmawdsley@warwickshire.gov.uk Tel: 01926 418079
Head of Service	Greta Needham	
Strategic Director	David Carter	
Portfolio Holder	Cllr Heather Timms	

Item 6

**Warwickshire County Council: Sufficiency Duty 2013 – 2016
Placement Commissioning Strategy for Looked After Children,
Young People and those on the ‘Edge of Care’ and Custody.**



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 - (i) Looked After Children
 - (ii) Looked after young people placed outside the county boundary
 - (iii) Emergency Placements
 - (iv) Children in need of Adoption
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 - (vi) Young People in transition 16 +.
 - (vii) Young people with housing needs
6. Placement Activity and Support Services
7. The views of children and young people
8. Summary of key issues arising from the needs analysis and placement and service activity
9. Commissioning – Sufficiency Strategic Plan 2013-2016
10. Appendix A - Progress report on previous commissioning priorities

Executive Summary

This is the second report to provide an overview of the current placement arrangements for looked after children and young people in Warwickshire. It outlines the Commissioning Plan for 2013-2016 on how the Local Authority intends to meet their 'sufficiency duty' as outlined in '**Sufficiency – Statutory Guidance on securing sufficient accommodation for looked after children.**' (2010).

The Guidance has the '*implicit assumption within these duties that the Local Authority must ensure there is sufficient accommodation to meet needs locally ... and to act strategically to address gaps in provision and meet needs through diversity of provision*'. There needs to be a strategic plan around commissioning placements for Warwickshire's looked after population.

The available data and information over the period April 2010 - March 2013 shows the following profiles and trends for looked after children and young people, care leavers and those on the edge of care:

- Population forecasts predict a 3.5 per cent rise in the number of young people (0-19) in Warwickshire over the next five years.
- There has been a 9.7% increase in looked after population in the period 2010-2013
- Young people aged 10-17 years represented the largest group of children in care as at 31 March 2013 (57.6%).
- Legal measures are increasingly used to secure a child's position in care and children aged 4 years or under represent the largest group of children *starting to be looked after* during 2012/13
- Children and young people become looked after due to abuse or neglect, the impact of family stress and dysfunction, absent parenting - neglect, domestic violence and risk of physical injury also feature significantly.
- The number of internal foster home approvals has not mirrored the 9% increase in the looked after children over the 3 year period, despite an average of 45 fostering household being approved each year
- 63% of young people placed out of county are aged 11yrs+, are more likely to experience to have 3+ placement moves and exhibit socially unacceptable behaviour
- The number of young people receiving a leaving care service has increased and over 90% of these young people are reported to be in suitable accommodation
- Against the national indicators Warwickshire continues to be banded highly relation to outcomes for looked after children.

- The majority of children and young people who cease to be looked after return to their families – however there has been a year on year increase in looked after children being adopted or made subject to special guardianship orders
- Warwickshire performance against the adoption score card criteria has shown a year on year improvement
- Many children and families receiving early intervention services present with mental health and domestic violence issues with concerns for the emotional wellbeing of family members'- behavioural issues at home and at school also feature significantly.
- The CAF process continues to support a high number of families and 72% of families who were subject to a Family Group Conference had their child removed from care, care proceedings or a child protection plan.
- Young people in care have identified the following as their priorities – employment, jobs and work, education and qualifications, some to talk to and to listen to you, having a say, life skills.

The Sufficiency Duty Commissioning Plan for the period 2013-2016 places a continued expectation on Warwickshire's fostering and adoption services to recruit more families and approve them within the 6 month timescale. Further consideration needs to be given to the retention of foster carers and enhancing support services, including the provision of a specialist solo placement scheme for young people with the most complex needs.

The strategy and response to young homelessness needs to be improved alongside the development of mediation services and the extension of evidence based interventions to safely reduce the number of looked after children and the need to divert young people from care.

Sub regional developments feature significantly in the provision of fostering adoption arrangements and the commissioning of support services.

Multi-agency decision making processes require review alongside improvements in the completion of Individual Placement Agreements for children and young people placed externally to the Local Authority.

1. Introduction

The 'Sufficiency - Statutory Guidance on securing sufficient accommodation for looked after children,' seeks to improve outcomes for looked after children and young people by providing guidance on the implementation of section 22G of the Children Act 1989. This section requires Local Authorities to take steps to secure, so far as reasonably practicable, sufficient accommodation within the authority's area which meets the needs of children that the Local Authority are looking after.

Whilst the sufficiency duty applies in respect of all looked after children, it recognises the importance of earlier, preventive action to support children and families so that fewer children become looked after – those who are on the 'edge of care.'

It calls for a whole system approach to designing universal, targeted and specialist services to improve outcomes for looked after children and children in need or at risk of care or custody. The Local Authority must also be seen to be developing new provision in response to emerging trends and be able to accommodate emergency placements.

2. Context

Warwickshire lies to the south and east of the West Midlands region and has strong links with Coventry, Solihull and Birmingham. The county is comprised of five districts (North Warwickshire, Nuneaton and Bedworth, Rugby, Stratford-on-Avon and Warwick) and is served by three Clinical Commissioning Groups and the Warwickshire and West Mercia Police Force.

There are approximately 124,300 children and young people aged 0-19 years in Warwickshire, who make up just under a quarter of the total population of the county. Each year approximately 6,000 children are born. Population forecasts predict a 3.5 per cent rise in the number of young people (0-19) in Warwickshire over the next five years. Between 2011 and 2021, numbers of 0 to 9 year olds and 10 to 19 year olds in the County are projected to increase by 8,700 and 1,000 respectively. In 2021, the total Warwickshire population for those up to the age of 19 is projected to be 133,900, an increase of 12,200, or 7.8% on the 2011 population of 124,200. This projected growth has a range of future policy implications in terms of increased demand for those services provided for children and young people.

The majority of the maintained school population in Warwickshire are of White British ethnicity (85%) whilst the largest minority ethnic group is Indian (3%).

At 31 March 2013 there were 550 children subject to a child protection plan in Warwickshire. On this date there were 698 children 'looked after' by the Local Authority. In addition there were approximately a further 2,300 'children in need' known to Children's Social Care Services of which over half are receiving a regular service.

3. Vision, Policies and Commissioning Framework

The Local Authority's approach to its sufficiency duty is underpinned by a range of key policies including the People Group Outcomes Framework, Corporate Parenting Policy and Strategy, the Fostering Statement of Purpose and the Early Intervention Strategy

The People Group Outcomes Framework outlines what services are working to achieve for the people (including children and young people) of Warwickshire, within the context of the vision, priorities, principles and commissioning intentions. The priority outcomes are to ensure

- People are safe
- People are independent
- People are cared for
- People enjoy life
- People are healthy
- People learn
- People contribute
- People are poverty-free

Performance measure will be agreed against these outcomes alongside the development of quality measures which will be used to assess the effectiveness of the services provided or commissioned for users.

The Corporate Parenting Policy approved by the County Council on 12 December 2006 is concerned with:

'Ensuring that children and young people in care are secure and supported to achieve well, that they are encouraged to have full and fulfilled lives that raise their self-esteem and confidence. It is ultimately about preparing them for adulthood and future independence.'

(Corporate Policy, Strategy and Action Plan 2006)

It has been the County Council's policy for approximately 30 years that children and young people in care can benefit most from a family life

experience. This is reflected within the Foster Care Statement of Purpose that aims to:

‘Provide quality and safe care within a family setting for children and young people who are unable to live within their own families.’

(Foster Care Statement of Purpose)

Key objectives for the Fostering Service are to provide:

- A skilled and flexible Fostering Service that is able to meet the wide range of assessed needs of children and their families. This includes short or longer term care, permanent care, parent and baby placements and short stay care specifically for children with disabilities.
- Foster care placements close to the child’s local community, wherever possible, and appropriate for the child/young persons assessed needs.
- A Service that places the child in the centre – that is respectful of, and promotes the child’s heritage, culture and identity through the recognition of their race, culture, religion and language.

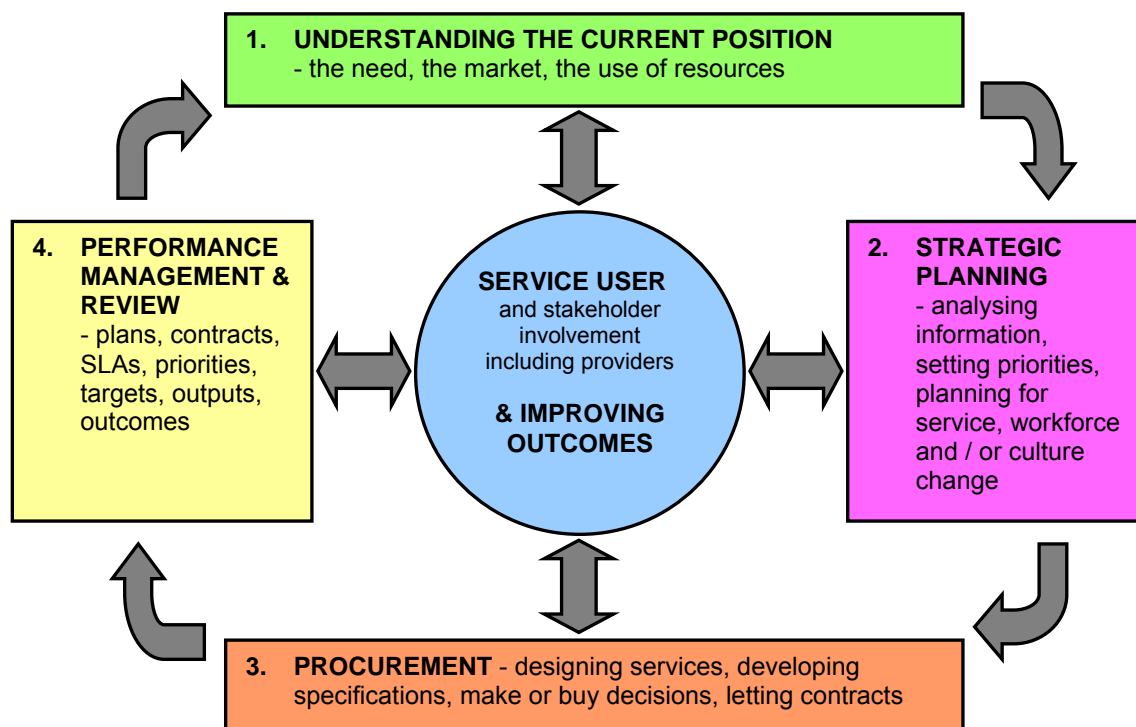
The Warwickshire County Council People’s Group Policy for Early help and Support is concerned with:

‘All agencies that work in the prevention and early intervention arena to work to a set of principles that works for all age ranges so we improve the outcomes for those identified citizens of Warwickshire who need support.’

Early Help and Support is about how, through our prevention and early intervention strategies, we create positive, sustainable, resilient outcomes for Warwickshire citizens of whatever age or circumstance, when they need us most.

Commissioning is about designing services and devising a system which will have the greatest impact on the lives of looked after children within the envelope of available resources. It is the responsibility of anyone who works within looked after children services to contribute to the commissioning process building upon a high quality assessment of the needs, care planning and placement decisions.

The commissioning model follows the four phases of the cycle outlined below



4. What sufficiency would look like – The success measures

The Statutory Guidance (2.7) suggests that good practice in meeting the sufficiency duty can be met through a step change in commissioning practice in which Local Authorities are active in managing their market to:

- Support and maintain diversity of services to better meet the needs of looked after children including through the provision of preventive and early intervention services to reduce the need for care proceedings;
- Place children within their Local Authority where this is reasonably practicable and where it is consistent with a child's needs and welfare;
- Support the market to deliver more appropriate placements and other services locally;
- Provide mechanisms for commissioning high quality placements and services outside of the local area

This requires a whole system approach to early intervention and prevention alongside services for looked after children and those young people leaving care. This is broader than having sufficient beds in certain locations it should remain focused on securing the best possible outcomes for looked after children and young people based upon a comprehensive assessment of their needs.

Placement provision must be supported by a range of social work and other specialist services targeted at meeting the specific health, educational and personal development needs of looked after children and young people.

Since the initial Sufficiency Duty Sufficiency Strategy, Warwickshire County Council has worked in close partnership with the Social Care Research Unit at Dartington and has gained a better understanding of the needs of its looked after population and the reasons why they enter care. Progress is being made in putting into place outcome focused processes and evidence based interventions to meet these needs, and to support the early return of children and young people to their family networks where this is appropriate.

Sufficiency duty commissioning priorities

Commissioning Priority 1

To continue to grow and develop the internal provision to meet need - to have sufficient Warwickshire approved family placements within 20 miles of the Local Authority boundary

Objectives

We will

- Ensure that the annual fostering and adoption recruitment strategies are based upon an assessment of actual and projected placement needs and requirements
- Ensure that the recruitment, assessment and support to placements conforms with regulatory requirements and timescales and to the highest standards of professional practice
- Ensure that all placements and interventions promote the overall safety, care and development of the children and young people in placement.

Outcomes

We expect to see

- Looked after children and young people (who require a family placement) to be placed with Warwickshire approved carers/adopters;
- Levels of placement stability to be in line with the national average
- High level of satisfaction with placement arrangements reported by carers and young people.

Success Criteria

- 85% of children and young people (who require a family placement) are placed with Warwickshire approved carers
- Less than 10% of young people experience three or more placement moves;
- 90% of fostering and adoption assessments are completed within 6 months timescale from application to approval.

Commissioning Priority 2

To have effective arrangements through commissioning processes and partnership arrangements to secure specialist placements including placements for young people aged 18+ years

Objectives

We will

- Be active partners in regional and sub-regional commissioning framework agreement arrangements to ensure the greatest range of placement choice (fostering and adoption) for Warwickshire young people
- Work proactively with housing and other accommodation providers to ensure a suitable range of supported and housing options for care leavers.
- To ensure that the pathway planning for young people living outside the authority boundary engages with all relevant authorities and maximises continuity of arrangements.

Outcomes

We expect to see

- Greater placement choice and a reduction in placement moves for looked after children and young people;
- Young people reporting their successful transition into independent living and having placement and housing choice
- Children and young people placed externally to have outcomes and opportunities equal to those placed with Warwickshire approved carers.

Success Criteria

- That the majority of children and young people whose needs cannot be met within a Warwickshire placement are successfully placed with carers within the sub regional Fostering Framework Agreement
- That all care leavers have fair access to a range of supported housing options across the county.

Commissioning Priority 3

To ensure that targeted and specialist services are available to support the placements of children and young people in care and which prevent placement disruption.

Objectives

We will

- Ensure that children and young people in care receive additional support and services to promote their learning and achievement, health and emotional wellbeing
- Establish clear pathways and protocols for children and young people who have been in care/custody and for their parents and families to receive on-going services and support.

Outcomes

We expect to see

- Improved permanency outcome for children and young people in care and improved levels of placement stability
- Underpinned by Children in Need plans, children and young people are supported within their family networks.

Success Criteria

- Children and young people in care have appropriate assessments and receive support from the Virtual School, designated health and emotional health and well-being services
- Long term placement stability for children and young people in care is better than the national average performance
- Fewer children re-enter care

* Note – The DOE report that only 17% of LAC aged 5yrs-18yrs remain in the same foster home for 5 years or more

Commissioning Priority 4

To have in place a range of services that will meet the needs of children, young people and their families on the 'edge of care' and those who have been discharged from care

Objectives

We will

- Develop an Early Intervention Strategy targeted at the most vulnerable children and young people and those on the 'edge of care';
- Prioritise evidence based interventions for children and families with the greatest needs on the edge of care
- Prioritise services that will enable young people to safely 'step down' from care to be supported within the family networks.

Outcomes

We expect to see

- Children, young people and families offered a range of family intervention services that will prevent the need for accommodation
- Children and families readily accessing services that meet their assessed needs
- Children and young people experience shorter periods in care and are rehabilitated into their family networks in a timely fashion.

Success criteria

- Reduction in the number of children and young people entering care
- Increase use of CAF and other evidenced based interventions as part of the 'step down' provision of services to children and young people who no longer meet social care thresholds.
- High levels of satisfaction reported by children, young people and families who access the early intervention services.

5. Understanding the Current Position – Needs Analysis

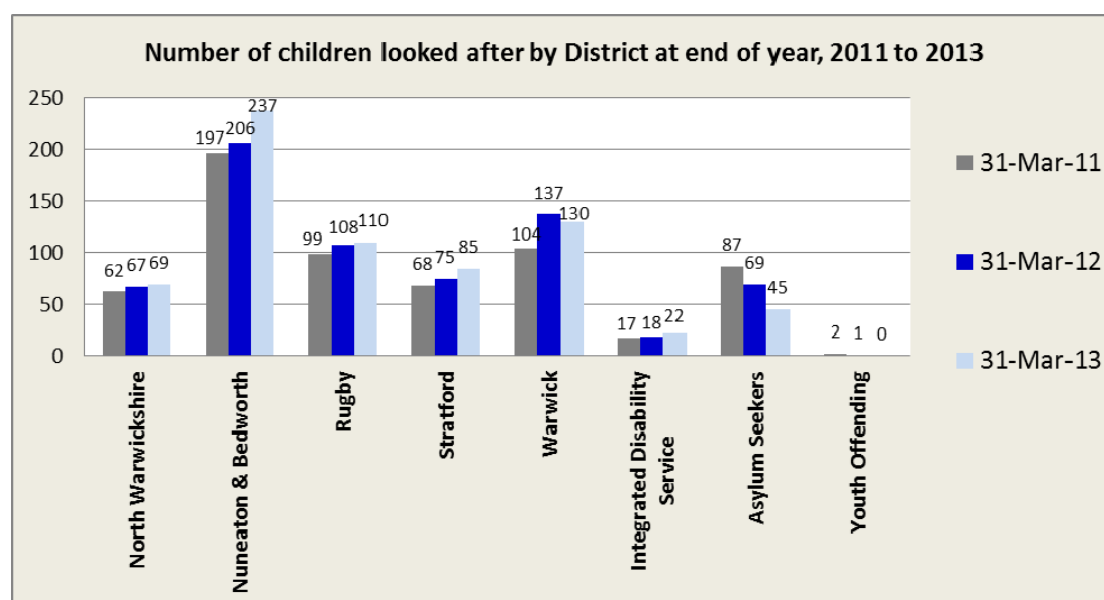
(i) Looked After Children

Business Intelligence (Children) is responsible for collating, verifying and analysing information and data about looked after children and young people.

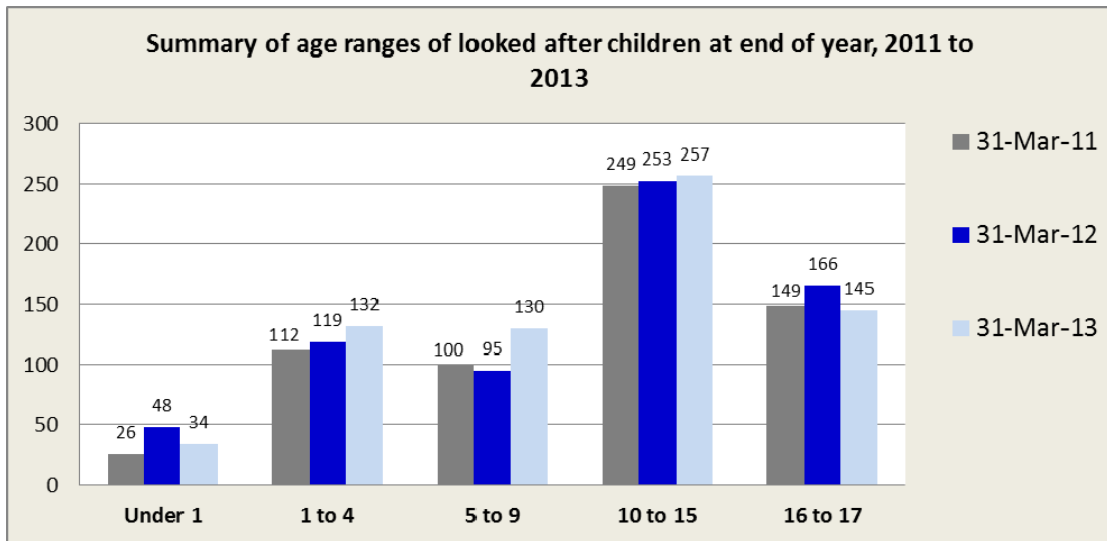
For the purposes of the needs assessment for the Sufficiency Duty – Commissioning Strategy, a 3 year perspective has been used analysing data from the period 1 April 2010 – 31 March 2013. This has considered data about the looked after population by district, gender, age, legal status, new entrants to the care system and primary ‘child in need’ characteristics.

In the 3 year period 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2013 there has been an overall **9.7%** increase in the number of children and young people looked after from 636 on 31 March 2010 to 698 on 31 March 2013.

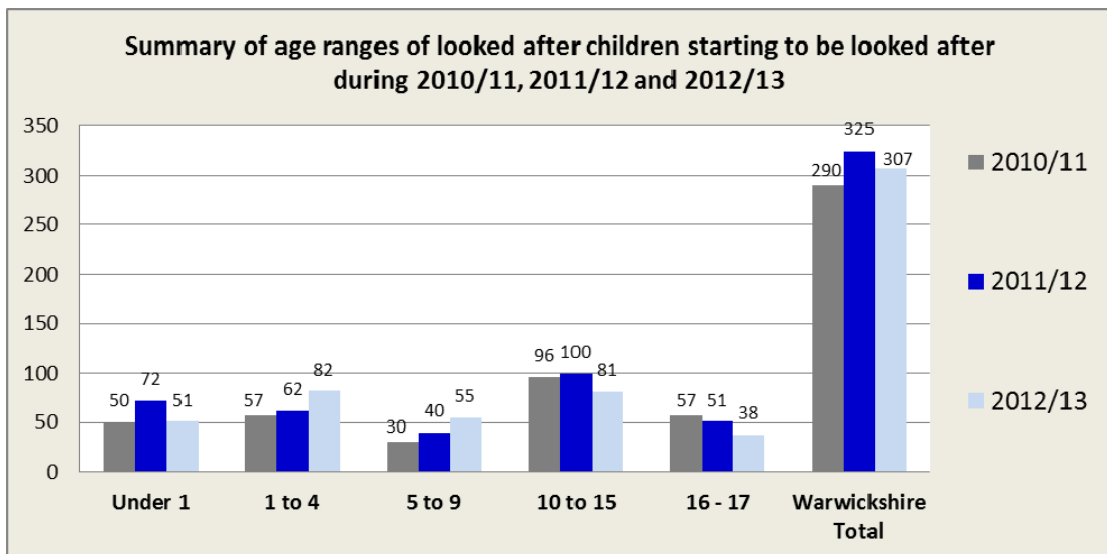
The chart below shows increase by district with the most significant increase being in Nuneaton and Bedworth district, followed by North Warwickshire, Rugby and Stratford. There has been a significant reduction in the number of unaccompanied asylum seekers who are looked after. Warwick District has seen a rise since 31 March 2011 but actually saw a reduction between 31 March 2012 and 31 March 2013.



Males are still more prevalent within the looked after population, with a slight decrease in prevalence from 60.1% at 31 March 2011 to 57.2% at 31 March 2013.



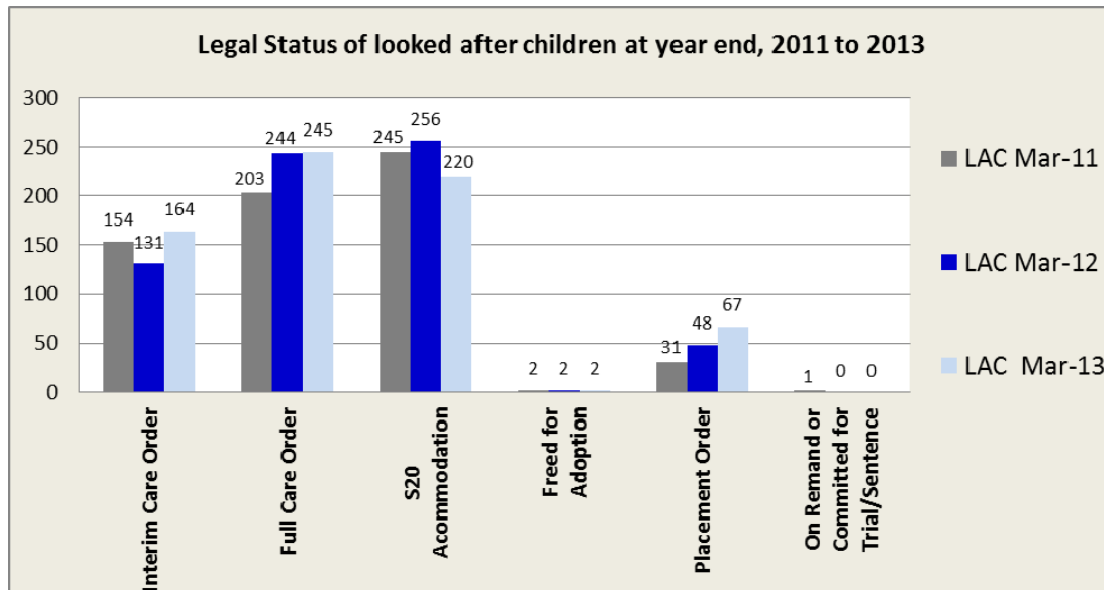
The following diagram shows the ages at which children and young people start to be looked after over the last 3 years.



The largest number of looked after children are within the age range of 10 yrs. -15yrs although proportionately this has seen a decrease over the past three years. Whilst children aged 10yrs -17yrs are the largest group of children in care proportionately this has decreased from 62.6% as at 31 March 2011 to 57.6% as at 31 March 2013.

During this period however there is an increase in the number of children who are looked after at ages 1year to 4 years and aged 5 yrs. - 9 yrs. rising from 16.8% (107) to 19.7% (134) and more recently to 19.1% (133) of the total cohort.

There has been a steady decrease in the number of young people aged 16 yrs. - 17yrs starting to be looked after, reducing from 9.0% in 2010/11 to 5.4% of all children starting to be looked after during 2012/13.



This chart above shows that there has been an increase in legal measures to secure children in care. Most noticeably in the use of Interim and Full Care Orders, which accounted for 54% of the looked after population at 31 March 2010, and 57.7% as at 31 March 2013. There has also been a gradual increase in the number of Placements Orders, accounting for 5.4% of the looked after population at 31 March 2010 and 9.8% of the cohort as at 31 March 2013.



The population characteristic of looked after children shows

- A 9.7% increase in looked after population over a three year period
- Males represent 57.2% of the cohort
- An increase in legal measures to secure children in care;
- Children aged 4 years or under represented the largest group of children starting to be looked after during 2012/13
- However, young people aged 10 yrs. -17 yrs. represented the largest group of children at 31 March 2013 (57.6%).

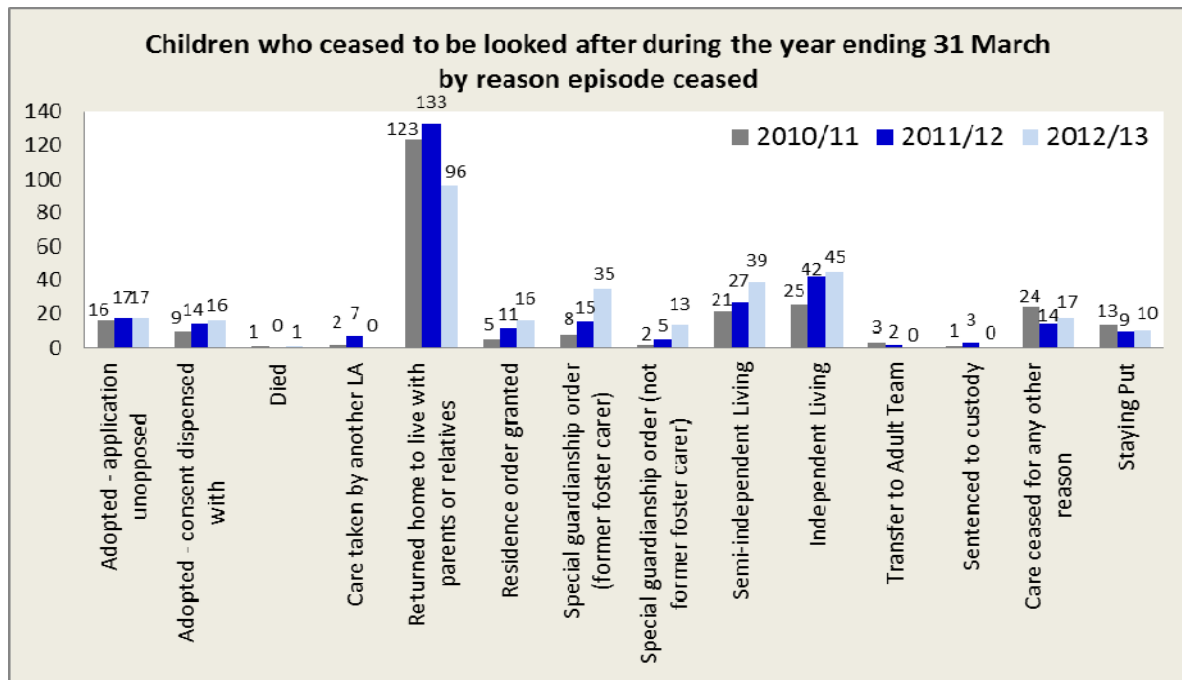
The large majority of looked after children have a main need category of 'abuse and neglect', and this has seen little change over the past 3 years, although proportionately it has increased, up from 54% at 31 March 2011 to 57.7% at 31 March 2013. It is worth noting that the number of children with a main need of 'absent parenting' has decreased in line with the overall decrease in the number of unaccompanied asylum seeking children being worked with.

The data shows overwhelmingly that children and young people become looked after due to abuse or neglect or the impact of family stress and dysfunction or absent parenting. Neglect, domestic violence and risk of physical injury also feature significantly as secondary needs factors. The 'matching needs and services' exercise completed as part of the Dartington project confirmed this.

Based on a sample of 100 children and young people who became looked after during 2010 it found

- The largest group were families in crisis due to a breakdown in parent-child relationships and significant child behaviour problems (E.g. 80% aged 12yrs+, 1:4 had been looked after previously or subject to a child protection plan, school problems featured as did emotional, conduct or behavioural problems)
- The second group; showed risks related to parent's lifestyles, maturity and mental health which creates doubts about their ability to meet the basic needs of their children (E.g. 2/3rds girls, with 3/4 being new born or under 5yrs, half were subject to legal process, also evidence of developmental delay, neglect or ill treatment)
- The final group showed multiple complex needs relating to the parents' violent relationships and neglectful parenting (E.g. 2/3rds new born or under 5 yrs., previously looked after and/or subject to child protection plans, high incidence of domestic violence and aggression within the community with adults reported to be isolated, stressed or depressed)

The chart below shows the children who ceased to be looked after over the past 3 years by the reasons that they ceased.



The majority of children and young people ceasing to be looked after over the last three years have returned to live with their families. The second largest proportion of children was discharged to semi-independence including those young people who remained with carers under Warwickshire's Staying Put Scheme.

Children who ceased to be looked after due to court orders such as adoption orders, special guardianship orders or residence orders have continued to see an increase over the last three years, accounting 31.8% of all ceases during 2012/13 compared to just 15.8% of all ceases during 2010/11. Special guardianship orders tend to be made in favour of extended family members in respect of young children with the following trend:

2010/11 – 10 orders
 2011/12 – 20 orders
 2012/13 – 47 orders

The increase in special guardianship orders will have implications in terms ongoing financial support to these households and the provision of specific support services.

(ii) Looked after young people placed outside the county boundary

As at 31 March 2013, 238 children (34.1%) of the total looked after population were placed out of county. 90 of these children were placed 20 miles or more from where they used to live.

An analysis of the 103 children and young people placed out of county in residential or independent fostering provision as on the 31 March 2013 shows the following:

- 23 placed in residential care of which 9 (43%) are jointly commissioned with the Assessment Statementing and Review Service (ASRS) and/or health
- 45 children are placed with Independent Fostering providers
- 28 children are placed with providers as part of the sub regional Fostering Framework Agreement.

The age profile of children and young people placed shows that 14 (15%) are aged 5 yrs. -10 yrs. and this includes 2 children in residential care, 42 (45%) are aged 11yrs -15yrs with 18 (19%) of these young people being with independent fostering providers. The remaining 24 are evenly split between residential provision and framework fostering placements. A similar pattern emerges for young people aged 16+ with 20 (21%) with independent fostering providers but a lower number within this age range, 7 (7.5%) of young people in residential provision.

Warwickshire does not place exclusively with particular fostering or residential providers. There are 5 fostering agencies providing 37 placements and a further 9 agencies providing 24 placements between them. From these placements 18 out of 73 (25%) children and young people remain placed within the county boundary. The situation with residential provision is that 11 organisations are providing 1 placement each with 3 residential homes offering 2 placements and 1 unit providing 4 placements

This shows that Warwickshire County Council continues to make low use of residential provision for looked after young people. This reflects the policy commitment that looked after children should be placed within family care wherever possible and appropriate based upon the child/young person's assessed needs.

Finally the increase in unaccompanied asylum seeking young people is having an impact on the availability of teenage placements within Warwickshire and a higher percentage of these young people are more likely to be placed externally.

Young people within independent sector provision are mainly male aged 13+, with significant needs. They are more likely to be exhibiting socially unacceptable and risky behaviours. Experience shows that they tend to succeed better in single placement arrangements where respite is guaranteed for the carers.

(iii) Emergency Placements

The Warwickshire Emergency Duty Team (EDT) has access to 4 foster carers who are specifically approved to meet the emergency placements needs for children and young people 'out of hours'. Workings on a rota basis two households are available to accept placements for up to 48 hours. On occasions this dedicated provision can also support the main fostering provision and vice versa.

Over the past 3 years EDT placement usage has been as follows

	Placement nights	% usage
2010/11	97	12%
2011/12	112	15%
2012/13	96	13%

The EDT has sufficient carers to meet the placement needs 'out of hours.'

(iv) Children in need of Adoption

The Adoption Services Annual Report 2012-2013 shows over the preceding 3 years, on average 54 children have an approved adoption plan each year. However in response to the Government's adoption initiatives this is expected to rise as the upward trend shows. (2010/11 - 36 children, 2011/12 - 62 children and 2012/13 - 64 children) The profile shows that the majority will be single children with an increasing number of siblings groups of 2 or 3 children. More recently there have been more male to female children with an adoption decision with 17% of children during 2012/13 being mixed race.

Since the first Sufficiency Duty Commissioning Report 2011-2013 the Government has introduced the Adoption Score Card. This has shown a progressive improvement in the timeliness of adoption decision making for looked after children and the subsequent adoption placement process. The England averages are presented in brackets.

Average timescales (in days) for:-	2009 - 2012	2010-2013
Time between a child entering care and moving to its adoptive family	562 (636)	535 (647)
Time between a local authority receiving court authority to place a child and the local authority deciding the match with the adoptive family	117 (195)	87 (210)

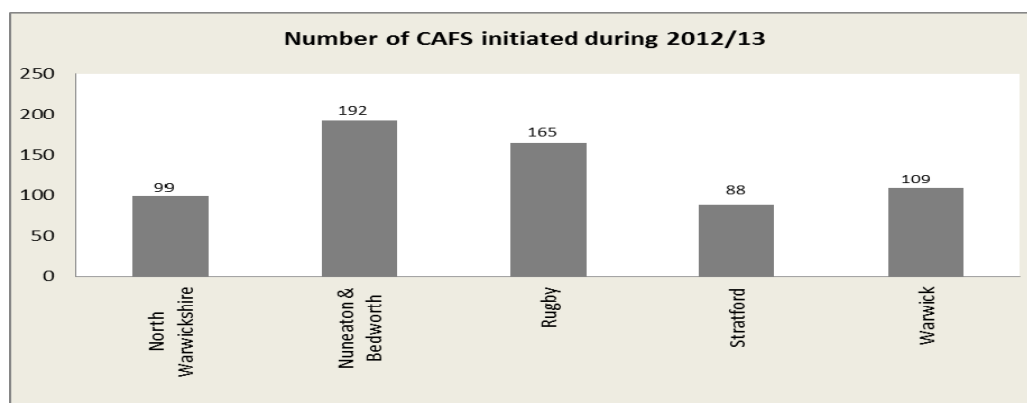
Adoptions from care	85 -11%	90 -11%
Adoption of children from ethnic minority backgrounds	Not recorded	5 - 3%
Adoptions of children aged 5 yrs. or over	25 – 5%	20 -3%
Number of children awaiting adoption as on 31 March	30	40

This data suggests that within the context of an increasing looked after population, adoption remains the preferred permanency placement choice for a number of children and that this outcome is being secured for them in a timely fashion within Warwickshire, against national indicators and comparisons.

(v) Children and young people on the ‘edge of care’

To meet the requirements of the Children Act 1989, section 17, Warwickshire has in place a range of early intervention and family support services provided to children and young people ‘in need’. The Common Assessment Framework (CAF) is seen as a key process for accessing these services and can be used for all children from pre-birth to 19 years of age.

In the period April 2012 – March 2013, 653 CAF’s were initiated across the county in the following areas.



The CAF dataset shows that the majority reasons for initiating a CAF are

- (i) Behavioural issues within the home
- (ii) Behavioural issues within school
- (iii) Mental health concerns for the young person
- (iv) Parenting concerns
- (v) Domestic violence and emotional well-being issues.

The main areas where families are seeking improvements are in

- (i) Mental and emotional health
- (ii) Nurturing family relationships

- (iii) Managing child behaviours
- (iv) School attendance and enjoyment
- (vi) Raising the parent's self-esteem.

The CAF Family Support Team worked with 139 families during 2012/13. RELATE also provided a mediation service for separated families (STORMS) receiving a total of 39 referrals from various services

These services are augmented by a county wide Family Group Conferencing Service (FGC Service). In the period 2012/2013 of the 53 families who received a service the following outcomes were reported:



72% of families the child/young person was no longer in care, subject to Care Proceedings or a Child Protection Plan
57% of families reporting seeing a positive status change
46% of cases the 'risk of' care has been avoided
76% households reported overall positive outcomes for children %
51% of parents/carers reported overall positive outcomes

Targeted youth services also provide direct intervention to young people who are subject of a CAF process, who are looked after or where there have been safeguarding concerns.

(vi) Young People in Transition 16 +

On 31 March 2013 there were 485 young people receiving a service for the Leaving Care (Get Ready for Adult Life) Teams across Warwickshire. From this cohort, 135 (28%) were in care. A significant number of those receiving a leaving care service are unaccompanied asylum seeking young people, accounting for 29.7% of all care leavers.

The Get Ready for Adult Life workers become involved just before the young person becomes 16 so that a robust pathway planning process can commence with appropriately experienced workers.

The aim is to support young people to remain within a foster care placement until they are 18 years of age. Training is provided to foster carers on they can support young people in developing independence skills. Where young people choose to leave their foster placement early review is held to plan for the

transition into independent accommodation and where required, to assess the suitability of the unregulated accommodation.

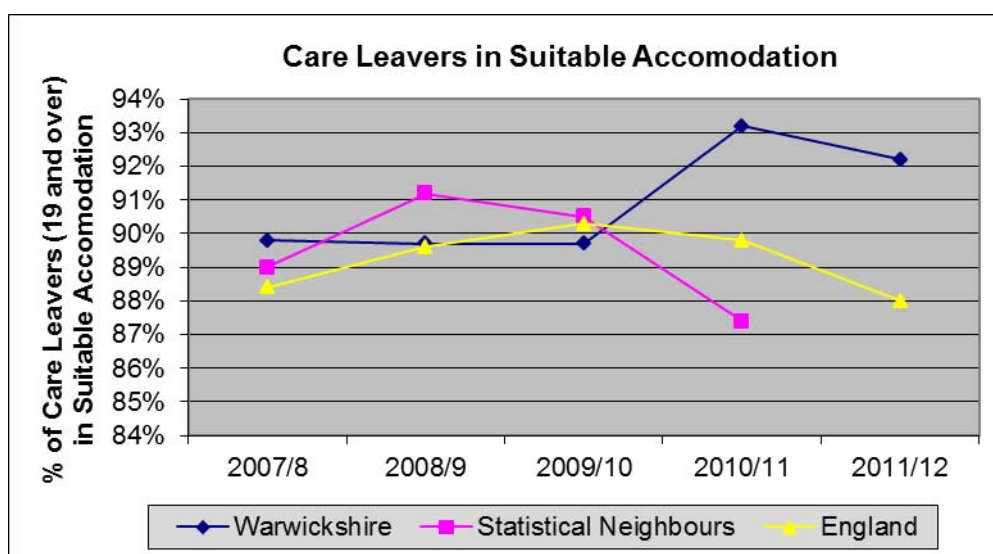
The Staying Put Scheme allows young people who are established in a foster carer's family to remain there until they are 19.5 years or 21 if in Higher Education. At any one time approximately 14 young people are in a Staying Put arrangement.

A Supported Lodgings Scheme also provides safe and secure accommodation within a family setting. Since 2011, 19 providers have been approved of these 8 were previous foster carer, 7 are connected people (e.g. close relative, partners/friends family, advocate) and 3 young people went to live within families previously unknown to them. The average duration of these placements is 15 weeks. This provides the opportunity for a planned transition to more independent accommodation options.

Properties are also rented in the Coventry area for unaccompanied asylum seekers for when they are ready to live independently. These are based in localities that are able to meet their cultural and linguistic needs.

Further the service engages with a wide range of external accommodation providers in order to meet the sufficiency duty requirements. Warwickshire County Council (Supporting People) also commission accommodation provision and floating support through a range of providers.

The chart below represents the suitability of accommodation for looked after young people – the majority of care leavers are reported to be in suitable accommodation arrangements to meet their needs



	2007/8	2008/9	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
Warwickshire	89.8%	89.7%	89.7%	93.2%	92.2%
Statistical Neighbours	89.0%	91.2%	90.5%	87.4%	86.0%
England	88.4%	89.6%	90.3%	89.8%	88.0%

(vii) Young people with housing needs

There have been significant policy developments across the UK to clarify where responsibility lies to help deal with the issue of youth homelessness. The most important of these was the Southwark Ruling in 2009. This had major implications for Children's Services and Housing Authorities with regards to the provision of homelessness services for 16 and 17 year olds. Before the ruling, 16 and 17 year olds who presented as homeless would primarily fall under the care of the Housing Authority however the Southwark Ruling sought to clarify the lines of responsibility and made it clear that 16 and 17 year olds who were faced with the threat of homelessness were 'Children in Need' (as per section 17 of the Children Act 1989) and therefore Children's Services had responsibilities towards them.

A joint protocol between Children's Services and the local district Housing Authorities has been in place since February 2011. Since June 2013 it has been evaluated so that greater consistency in its application can be achieved across the 5 districts.

Further a working group of representatives from Children's Services, Community Services, Supporting People and District Council Housing are currently reviewing provision. This includes exploring provision in other local authorities and developing a single process for young homeless people across the county. This model is aiming to implement homeless prevention strategies and improving mediation services prior to statutory intervention. The range of accommodation provision and floating support across the county is also subject to review.

6. Placement and Service Activity

This section examines the resources that are available to meet the identified needs of children and young people in care and those on the edge of care or custody. These are considered under the four commissioning priorities.

To continue to grow and develop the internal provision to meet need - to have sufficient Warwickshire approved family placements within 20 miles of the Local Authority boundary

(i) Fostering

The Marketing and Recruitment Strategy for foster care has a high profile in the public domain which has been established through an effective branding process. This has been supported by the introduction of shorter but achievable assessment timescales. The Fostering Service has also reviewed how carers can be supported in extending their fostering approval range.

The Service has started to use different marketing techniques during this period and have focused on the development of social media opportunities such as the internet, whilst continuing to use radio advertising to good effect and more traditional recruitment methods such as local newspapers and other publications.

Period	No. of approved carers on 31 March	No. of mainstream carers approvals	Number of family and friends approval	Total	Retirements resignations or de-registrations	Overall Trend
31.3.2011	334	28	20	48	30	▲
31.3.2012	352	27	13	40	34	▲
31.3.2013	339	24	25	49	44	▲

Since April 2011 the number of mainstream fostering assessments completed within the 6 month timescale has improved year on year from 16 (59%) to 19 (79%). Timescale for family and friends carers are often court directed.

Information from Foster Carer Exit interviews over the past 2 years shows that the majority of carers who resign have been fostering for less than 5 years (40/89) with 15 households

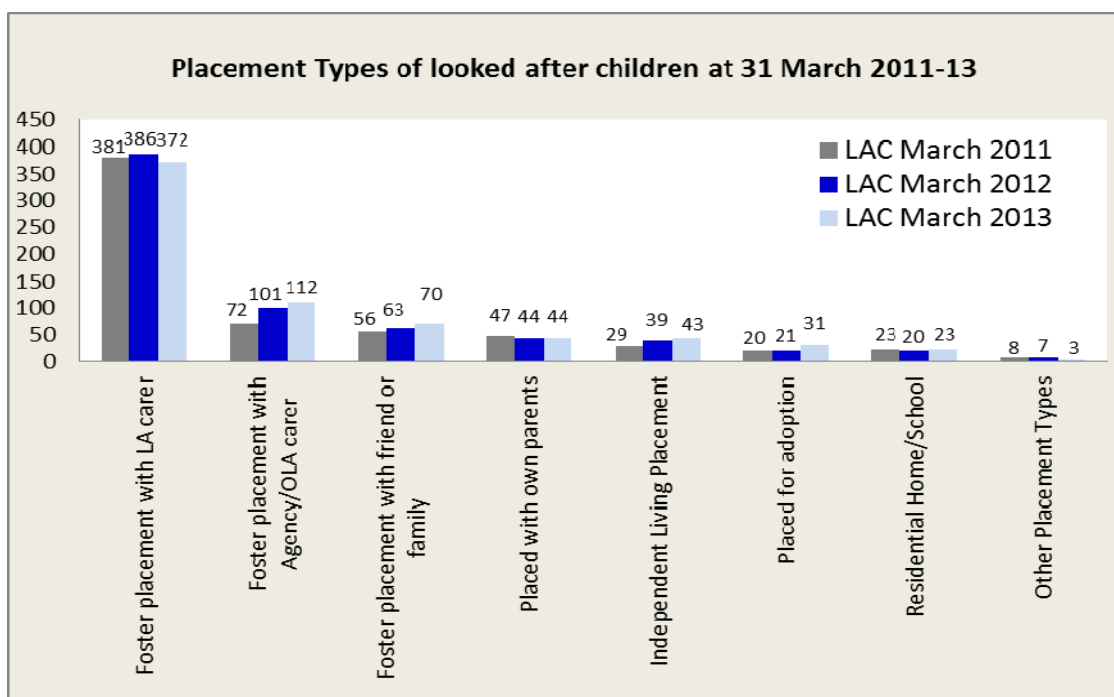
The recruitment priorities over the next 3 years needs to continue to target the recruitment of carers for teenagers, for parent and child placements and placements for sibling groups under 5 years and solo placements for young people with complex needs

fostering for less than 12 months.

Following the internal review the Fostering Service revised managerial arrangements were put into place from 1 October 2011 which included the establishment of a Kinship Care Practice from January 2012. Since this time the number of approved 'family and friends' foster carers has increased from 56 to 70 households, representing a 20 % increase. The Practice has also undertaken 95 Special Guardianship Order assessments between 1.1.2012 – 31.3.2013

As shown below over the past 3 years the number of looked after children placed with Warwickshire approved foster carers have remained steady.

However, there have been increases in children placed with family/friends foster carers approved by Warwickshire and children placed for adoption and made the subject of special guardianship orders to extended family members.



The most recent Annual Performance Support data available for the period 2012/13 shows that against key national indicators Warwickshire is banded highly in relation to outcomes for looked after children, however the increase in placement pressures on the Fostering Service are beginning to impact on the performance measures as follows:

- (i) Placement Stability - Warwickshire reported an improved position at 12.5% of children experiencing 3 or more placement moves, however this is slightly higher than the national average of 11.0%.

- (ii) Family Placements for LAC - This measures deterioration from the previous year from 94.4% to 91.8%.
- (iii) Long Term Placement Stability - This relates to children under 16 yrs. who have been looked after continuously for 2.5 years but who were in same placement for 2 yrs., this decreased to 63.8% in 2013 from 69.5% the previous year. It is worth noting that the 3 year average for 2010, 11 and 12 was 69% compared to the England 3 year average of 68%.

(ii) Adoption

The Adoption Recruitment Strategy has prioritised the following categories for adopter recruitment over the past 3 years:

- Adopters who live within Warwickshire;
- Placements for BME and mixed heritage children;
- Adopters for children with disabilities;
- Adopters for sibling groups;
- Adopters for older children aged 5+ years.

Approved adopters during this period shows that prospective adopters are increasing willing to consider older children and larger sibling groups, consistent with the placement needs and requirements of children waiting for placement. The following chart shows that year on year there has been at least a 25% increase in the number of households approved to adopt.

Period	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Number of approved adoptive households	28	35 (+2 overseas)	48 (+1 overseas)

To have effective arrangements through our commissioning processes and partnership arrangements to secure a range of specialist placements including placements for young people aged 18+ years

Since October 2009 Warwickshire with Coventry City Council and Solihull Metropolitan Council entered a Fostering Framework Agreement with 10 independent fostering providers, assessed on both cost and quality.

The use of independent sector placements has seen an increase over the 3 year period, as at 31 March 2011 these placements accounted for 14.9% of placements compared to 19.3% as at 31 March 2013. There has also been a

continued increase in the number of looked after young people in independent living arrangements.

The Local Authority has representatives on West Midlands Regional Family Placement Consortium and West Midlands Children's Commissioning Partnership. More locally the sub-regional Fostering and Adoption partnership is exploring more effective and efficient joint working opportunities and scope to jointly access and develop services to meet need.

To ensure that targeted and specialist services are available to support the placements of children and young people in care and which prevent placement disruption

The following services are available for looked after children and young people

(i)Health

There is a designated Doctor and nurse who have key roles in ensuring that the statutory responsibilities in terms of health assessments are met. These roles extend beyond this remit and are also concerned with health promotion and training of foster carers and social care staff.

The Service Objectives are:

- To promote the emotional well-being of children who are looked after or adopted by providing a menu of interventions directly to these children, designed to restore and promote their mental health and emotional wellbeing;
- To provide support and interventions to all carers of LAC children to therapeutically parent, so as to address the mental health and emotional needs of these children;
- To enhance multi agency professionals' competence and confidence in supporting and addressing the emotional and mental health needs of LAC;
- To promote the service to allied professionals, referrers and service users so that they are clear about the services offered and how to access them;
- To work in partnership and to fully engage in multi-agency and multi-disciplinary work where it will improve the emotional wellbeing and living environment for Looked After Children;
- To provide a competent, highly skilled, multi-disciplinary team who have sufficient knowledge, training and support to promote the

psychological wellbeing of looked after children, young people and their carers.

The most recent report from the service found that overall, 76.3% of Health Assessments were completed in the period April 2011 – March 2012. Due to the increase the number of adoptions and shorten timescales within the adoption process, adoption medicals in the six months from June to December 2012 showed a 280% increase compared with the preceding 3 months and a 30.1% increase overall for that year, compared with the preceding 12 months.

The Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaires (SDQs) are carried out at the same time as health assessments for all of Warwickshire's Looked After Children aged 4 yrs. -16 yrs. The average score in 2011-2012 was just over 14. Nearly 100% of Looked After Children living in Warwickshire in 2012-2013 have had an SDQ at the time of their health assessment.

The overall score for 2011/12 indicates that the emotional and behavioural health of the looked after population is 'borderline', with the average score being 14.1. The score for 2011/12 is slightly above the national average but below that of the statistical neighbour average. It is also slightly above the 2010-2011 average score of 12.9

Performance against National Trends

	2008/9	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
Warwickshire	12.8	13.9	12.3	14.1
Statistical Neighbours	15.7	14.8	14.9	14.3
England	13.9	14.2	13.9	13.8

Through a targeted Emotional Health and Wellbeing Service for Looked After Children called '**Journeys**', an enhanced service is targeted at this group in addition to the mainstream CAMHS provision. The service outcome is for Looked After children to have improved mental health, as measured by their Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ) score.

(ii) Education

The Virtual School for Children in Care is a dedicated school that promotes and secures improved educational attainment levels and outcomes for children and young people through the flexible deployment of teaching and educational support resources and effective partnership working. The aim is that the educational attainment and outcomes for children and young people

in care are comparable with that of other Warwickshire children and young people.

The Virtual School for Children in Care has a direct impact on the life experience of children and young people in care through working directly with children/young people, schools, social care staff, foster carers and the full range of support services, acting as their 'champion' in facilitating the best educational opportunities possible.

The school is also responsible for ensuring that appropriate educational arrangements are in place for children and young people placed outside of the county boundary. The school has a key role in monitoring. Educational advice can also be available for those young people placed for adoption or adopted, and special guardianship placements secured through Warwickshire County Council.

As at 31 March 2013, 276 (61.2%) of Warwickshire children who had been looked after for a year or more were of statutory school age. Of those 90 (32.6%) had a full statement of Special Educational Need, compared with 3% of all Warwickshire children. This highlights the gap in learning potential between looked after children and all children of school age. The difference in outcomes between these two groups remains a matter of national concern.

Warwickshire's looked after children performed well above national averages at KS2 during the 2012/13 academic year from a cohort of 35, 53% attained at least level 4 in reading, writing, spelling, punctuation and grammar and maths, of those who had been in care for 12 months the proportion was 50%. Within the statistical group 3 children had statement of special educational needs and a further 5 are on school action plus.

At Key Stage 4, from the cohort of 69 young people the following chart shows continued improvement even though 22 young people had statements for special educational needs and a further 19 were on the special needs register within their schools. 55 students had been continuously looked after for 12 months or more.

	5 A*-C incl. EM	5A*-C	5A*-G	1 A*-C	1 A*-G	Any qual.
WCC students in Warwickshire Schools	9	10	24	10	29	32
WCC students Out of Area (OOA)	5	6	14	9	17	19
Total	14	16	38	19	46	51
%	20	23	55	28	67	74

(iii) Foster Carer Support and Training

The Warwickshire Foster Carer Training Programme offers development opportunities to all foster carers. Foster carers have a key role in the life of children and young people and the aim is to provide them with professional training and development opportunities to support them with the children and young people they look after. A range of core and continuing professional development courses has been devised to cover all aspects of the tasks involved in fostering. Each course has an underpinning knowledge or evidence base for the CWDC Training, Support and Development Standards and for the QCF scheme. All the training meets the requirements of the Fostering Services, National Minimum Standards, Standard 20 – Learning and Development of Foster Carers.

The Qualification Credit Framework (QCF) Diploma for the Children and Young Peoples Workforce is aimed at those people already working in the Children and Young People sector. This promotes better outcomes for looked after children as it offers a professional qualification and further learning opportunities for foster carers that in turn raises their self-esteem and confidence and gives recognition to their skills and abilities.



The Fostering Service provides a clear career structure for foster carers and supports the requirement to have a professionally qualified workforce. It further supports foster carers in having raised educational aspirations for the children and young people in their care.

(iv) Adoption Support

The Adoption Services Team provides services to prospective adopters and those who have children placed and adopted. Services are provided in conjunction with Children's Teams and with partner agencies and other services. These include:

- Adoption Duty Service;
- Allocated adoption social worker for 12 months following the granting of the adoption order;
- Newsletter;
- Training
- Advice from targeted LAC service e.g. Virtual School, Journeys
- Adopter Mentoring Scheme and Support Groups.

In any given year the trend has been for the service to receive approximately 40 new requests from adoptive parents for adoption support services. This is supported by almost 500 letterbox exchanges facilitated by the Letterbox Coordinator.

To have in place a range of services that will meet the needs of children, young people and their families on the 'edge of care' and those who have been discharged from care

Since August 2011 Warwickshire County Council has worked in partnership with the Social Research Unit at Dartington to develop a project to improve outcomes for children. This by safely reducing the number of looked after children through the commissioning of evidence based interventions to be delivered at the point when the child/young person is at the 'edge of care'.

Following the 'matching needs and services' exercise that Department was better able to understand the profile and needs of it's looked after population. The majority group of looked after children were aged 11 years plus and the intervention strategy agreed has been to provide Triple P (teen) and in the longer term Functional Family Therapy. In the interim the Family Matters service has been delivered by RELATE aimed at improving the relationships and communications within families where a young person is looked after. This service can continue post discharge from care.

Aligned with this strategy has been development of the 'edge of care' meetings, involving colleagues from early intervention and targeted youth services. Similarly the well established Children's Panels now provide a greater focus on newly accommodated children and care plans have been changed to focus on required outcomes with reference to the 'going home toolkit' that outlines the pre requirements for successful rehabilitation.

During this period the County Council has progressed the Government's Priority Families agenda providing high intensity family support services to those families that meet the national and local criteria. The Common Assessment Framework is well established across the county and working relationships and practices between the Children's Social Care teams and early intervention services have increasingly highlighted the interdependencies between the services and the need to target services at those families with highest needs and where children and young people are most vulnerable.

7. The views of children and young people



Warwickshire looked after children and young people identified the following issues as being important to them

- Employment, Jobs, Work
- Education, Qualifications
- Someone to talk to / listen to you
- Having a say
- Life skills

The active involvement and participation of children and young people looked after and leaving care is underpinned by the Warwickshire County Council Corporate Parenting Strategy, Warwickshire Children and Young People's Plan, The Children Act 1989 and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, in particular Article 12 that states:

"Every Child or young person has the right to express his or her views on all matters that affect them and their views should be given due weight in accordance to their age and maturity."

The UK has ratified the UN Convention, and as a Council we are required by law to take seriously the wishes, views and feelings of children and young people.

One young person's feeling:

"My behaviour is my way of being heard. Listen to me".

Participation is the process of involving children and young people in decision making. Participation can happen in lots of different ways, for example, individual conversations, group discussions, questionnaires, art based projects and many more. All participation must influence what we do and how we do it as a local authority.

As a County Council, children and young people are listened to about their experiences of the services they receive and the issues that are important to them. The Council is committed to working creatively with children and young people to deliver improvements that reflect their experiences and views. This is underpinned by a constantly evolving Participation Strategy.

One young person's view:

"Social workers don't always pay attention to what young people have to say".

To encourage involvement by children and young people all participation activities encompass a range of capacity-building opportunities including formal accreditation, training, confidence-building, work experience and/or development of new skills.

Children in Care Council

In 2009 the Government issued guidance for Children in Care Councils (CiCC). This guidance meant that the CiCC would meet directly with senior managers, elected members and other key decision makers, and, that all Local Authorities have to listen to the views of young people in their care.

Warwickshire have been supporting their CiCC since 2008. The CiCC is now an elected group of 12 young people, voted in by children and young people in the care of Warwickshire. The CiCC meet monthly to discuss important issues about their experiences of being in care. The members suggest ways in which services could be improved for young people and how young people could also become involved in shaping services.

The CiCC also checks to see if Warwickshire are delivering on their promises to young people by monitoring progress against the **"Pledge"** and the **"Care Leavers Charter"**. Members of the CiCC are involved in the **Corporate Parenting Panel** where they meet with elected members and senior managers to input their own ideas and the views of other children and young people in care.

8. Summary of key issues arising from the needs analysis and placement and service activity

The key findings drawn from this needs assessment are

- Population forecasts predict a 3.5 per cent rise in the number of young people (0-19) in Warwickshire over the next five years.
- There has been a 9.7% increase in looked after population in the period 2010-2013
- Young people aged 10-17 years represented the largest group of children in care as at 31 March 2013 (57.6%).
- Legal measures are increasingly used to secure a child's position in care and children aged 4 years or under represent the largest group of children *starting to be looked after* during 2012/13
- Children and young people become looked after due to abuse or neglect, the impact of family stress and dysfunction, absent parenting - neglect, domestic violence and risk of physical injury also feature significantly.
- The number of internal foster home approvals has not mirrored the 9% increase in the looked after children over the 3 year period, despite an average of 45 fostering household being approved each year
- 63% of young people placed out of county are aged 11yrs+, are more likely to experience to have 3+ placement moves and exhibit socially unacceptable behaviour
- The number of young people receiving a leaving care service has increased and over 90% of these young people are reported to be in suitable accommodation
- Against the national indicators Warwickshire continues to be banded highly relation to outcomes for looked after children.
- The majority of children and young people who cease to be looked after return to their families – however there has been a year on year increase in looked after children being adopted or made subject to special guardianship orders
- Warwickshire performance against the adoption score card criteria has shown a year on year improvement
- Many children and families receiving early intervention services present with mental health and domestic violence issues with concerns for the emotional wellbeing of family members' - behavioural issues at home and at school also feature significantly.
- The CAF process continues to support a high number of families and 72% of families who were subject to a Family Group Conference had their child removed from care, care proceedings or a child protection plan.

- Young people in care have identified the following as their priorities – employment, jobs and work, education and qualifications, some to talk to and to listen to you, having a say, life skills.

This evidence shows that in many areas the Local Authority is currently meeting its sufficiency requirements, that it performs well comparatively through its investment in the internal fostering and adoption provision and already has extended its placement choice through sub regional framework arrangements and agreements and other partnerships. However internal services continue to be challenged by the increase in the looked after population and the heightened demand for adoption placements.

Targeted services are already well established for looked after children, but there is a need to develop specialist fostering provision for young people with complex needs who are more likely to experience greater levels of placement disruption and be placed outside the local authority area.

Finally the Local Authority needs to continue its commitment to the Dartington project where early intervention and safeguarding services are effectively working together to divert young people from care. This work needs to continue with the investment in a greater range of evidence based services to support vulnerable children and families.

9. Commissioning - Sufficiency Strategic Plan 2013-2016

Priority 1

To continue to grow and develop the internal provision to meet need – to have sufficient Warwickshire approved family placements within 20 miles of the Local Authority boundary.

Actions

- To approve 50 fostering households a year, in line with standards of best practice, and improve the efficiency of foster carer recruitment through the use of on line information and self-screening processes
- To recruit 50 adoptive households a year
- To support foster care retention through enhanced levels of support for carers with less than 5 years' experience
- To develop and implement a 'fostering to adopt' scheme
- To complete 90% of fostering and adoption assessments within 6 months from application

Priority 2

To have effective arrangements through commissioning processes and partnership arrangements to secure specialist services and placements for young people – including those aged 18+yrs.

Actions:

- To commission services with a 'one access' system for homelessness prevention for young people and supported accommodation services.
- To improve emergency accommodation provision for young people across the county.
- To develop a consistent approach to responding to the needs of young people aged 16yrs -7 yrs. presenting themselves as homeless across the county.
- To improve opportunities through sub regional arrangements to extend placement choice and provide placement support services for looked after children and young people and those with an adoption plan
- To develop processes to ensure the quality of Individual Placement Plans for children and young people placed externally.
- To review multiagency decision making and placement arrangements for young people requiring residential care , to include effective discharge plans
- For Strategic Commissioning to develop their relationships and strengthen their robustness in brokering external placements with various placement providers

Priority 3

To ensure that targeted and specialist services are available to support the placements of children and young people in care and which prevent placement disruption

Actions

- To complete an options appraisal as to the most appropriate arrangement for developing and delivering a solo placement scheme
- To increase placement stability by reviewing and ensuring that targeted emotional health and wellbeing services are in place for looked after children and young people, those adopted and subjected to special guardianship orders.
- To develop a strategy that narrows the educational and employment outcomes for looked after children and care leavers including work experience, apprenticeship and employment opportunities.

Priority 4

To have in place a range of services that will meet the needs of children, young people and their families on the 'edge of care' and those who have been discharged from care.

Actions

- To extend the range of evidence based interventions available to divert young people from care
- To divert the need for long term care and family breakdown through the provision of mediation services, emergency short term accommodation or support care provision
- To review the arrangements for supporting the increasing number of special guardianship order placements in line with statutory requirements
- To explore the full potential for extended family arrangements for vulnerable children and young people through the extension of the Family Group Conferencing Service

**Brenda Vincent
Assistant head of Children Services
Strategic Lead – Looked After Children
November 2013**

Appendix A

<p>Priority 1 - To undertake a 'Matching Needs and Services' audit</p>	
<p>As part of our overall strategy to improve outcomes for children and young people and provide effective interventions as an alternative to care, we will be undertaking an in-depth needs analysis to fully understand the current profile of all children becoming looked after. This will guide our plans for determining which children will be offered community-based alternatives to care and which children can return home safely. In order to do this, we will be able to benefit from the tools of Dartington Research Unit "Matching Needs and Services" and "Aggregating Data" to plan services for looked after children. This method involves analysing data re the needs, services and outcomes of a sample of looked after children to identify needs and services required in order to plan services</p>	<p>COMPLETED The Children's Safeguarding Division and Family and Parenting Support Services have worked with Dartington Social Care Research Unit and have completed the matching needs and services exercise. Arising from this it was agreed that evidenced based interventions would be commissioned that will enable the Division to safely divert young people from care in the 12+ age group. This work has led to the use of the 'going home toolkit' and revisions to the membership, role and function of district based Children's Panels. Further the Care Plan has been revised, to be introduced in July 2013 following training, which will ensure that the purpose of the care episode remains outcome focused</p>
<p>Priority 2 - To reduce the number looked after children and young people</p>	
<p>To develop and focus an Early Intervention Strategy that is targeted on children, young people and families, those at most risk of care or custody. To be supported by the introduction of multi-disciplinary teams and services working to agreed business processes and referral thresholds.</p>	<p>COMPLETED Through the Parenting and Family Support Service a number of staff within Children's Safeguarding have been trained in Triple P (teen) an evidence based intervention. Operations Managers from P&FSS are represented on Children's Panels and attend all Edge of Care meetings. Whilst this falls short of the establishment of multi-agency teams there is better and more effective working between the services</p>
<p>To adopt a strategy that involves taking a series of steps to reduce the overall numbers of looked after children service and to re-direct the</p>	<p>ONGOING As above this strategy is developing. Triple P (teen) is available and Functional Family Therapy is being</p>

priority towards a range of early intervention and evidence-based programmes for specific children who would otherwise become looked after.	commissioned. In the interim rehabilitation has been facilitated through a service from RELATE to parents and young people in care
To specifically develop Multi Systemic Treatment or Functional Family Therapy as evidence based interventions for young people with the appropriate risk profile who have reached our threshold for accommodation or are involved with the Youth Justice Service and are at risk of custody.	ONGOING The decision was made based on the matching need and services exercise that Functional Family Therapy would be a more appropriate intervention. Further young people and families who meet social care thresholds are able to access services through the Priority Families initiative
Priority 3 - Foster Care Recruitment	
To recruit 30 fostering households over each 12 month period and complete 90% of the assessments within 6 months of application.	COMPLETED 2011/12 34 households approved 2012/13 49 households approved. This includes family and friends foster carers. The Fostering Service has been reorganisation during this period - approx. 79% of assessments have been completed within the 6 month timescale during 2012/13
To streamline the approval categories of foster carers so that placement needs can be more easily matched against approval categories.	COMPLETED It is established practice for the majority of foster carers to now be approved for a child/ren within birth – 18 yrs. age range
To develop proposals for a Single Placement Scheme for children and young people with complex needs and who are at risk of external placement and as a consequence disruption to their learning and support.	OUTSTANDING Proposals for a solo placement scheme have been considered and an application for funding to the DOE to support this initiative with an IFA was unsuccessful. An options appraisal is outstanding to inform the future direction for this proposal
To continue to recruit foster carers who can provide permanency and placements for teenagers	COMPLETED Permanency and teenage placements continue to be prioritised. The internal procedures relating to permanency foster care have been reviewed and it is intended that the responsibility for permanency foster care will rest with the Central Fostering Services from 1 June 2013
To consider opportunities within	OUTSTANDING

existing arrangements to increase access to emergency and STEPs placements.	An analysis of placements to EDT carers showed that a high percentage were of a very short term nature and that a support care initiative should be explored
Priority 4 - To reduce the number the number of placement moves	
To ensure the timely referral to the Fostering Framework Agreement for permanency placements and those young people at risk of 2 or more placement moves	COMPLETED This practice was agreed by SLT and arrangements with Commissioning have been strengthened with regard to securing the terms for external placements
To review our current Kinship Strategy and support services, in line with new regulations and best practice, to ensure a greater use of kinship arrangements where this is in the child or young person's interest and provides a safe and viable alternative to care proceedings in appropriate cases.	COMPLETED A dedicated Kinship Care Practice was set up in January 2012
To develop specific services that will support the preparation of and transition of children successfully into adoptive and other permanency placements thereby reducing the risk of placement disruption through the provision of support and interventions to the carers/adopters and as appropriate the children concerned.	ONGOING Specific therapeutic support is available for adoptive parents during the early placement stages. This will be formally evaluated during 2013 to inform future commissioning intensions
Priority 5 - To recruit 25 adoption households	
To focus adopter recruitment on meeting the needs of children with developmental delay or challenging behaviours and sibling group placements.	COMPLETED 2011/12 38 households approved 2012/13 49 households approved Recruitment and family finding activity prioritises these groups of children
To explore opportunities with Coventry City Council to make the optimum of use of resources in recruiting, supporting and training adopters.	COMPLETED & ONGOING A sub regional adoption forum is in place. This is building on existing joint training events and now includes the sharing of adopter and child profiles leading to timely placement

	exchanges
Priority 6 - Residential provision and external placements	
To explore the feasibility of having a Framework Agreement for residential care and educational placements required	COMPLETED
To develop a protocol with health for accessing CAMHS services for children and young people placed out of county.	OUTSTANDING A protocol was developed for commissioning CAMHS assessments for out of authority placements. However this will need to be reviewed in light of health services changes from 1.4.2013
Priority 7 - Housing Needs	
To develop further supported hostel accommodation for care leavers as placement within any extended family arrangement appears unlikely for a significant number of young people known to Children's Services.	ONGOING In partnership with district and borough councils work is continuing to explore the bringing together of social care and supporting people resources in order to commission housing based options and preventative measures designed to improve the experience and effectiveness of housing related services for young people. It is anticipated that provision will be developed over the next 2 years
To develop and implement a strategy with housing providers and Supporting People to provide an equitable range of housing options for vulnerable young people	ONGOING As above
To develop and implement supported lodgings arrangements for care leavers.	COMPLETED A supported lodgings scheme has been agreed where the young person is known the provider – this is being augmented with specific recruitment activity in some districts according to need

Item 7

The report is submitted to South Warwickshire Foundation Trust in July 2013 and produced for Warwickshire County Council – Safeguarding Business Unit that provides an overview of the health of Looked After Children in the care of Warwickshire County Council.

- There has been an overall increase in the number of Looked After Children in Warwickshire rising by 2.9 % from March 2012 to March 2013 with the largest numbers of looked after children being accommodated by Nuneaton and Bedworth children's teams and the smallest by Stratford. There has been a 7.2% rise in the number of unaccompanied asylum seeking young people. The largest numbers of children now coming into care are aged between 10 and 15 years. Nationally, there was an overall rise of 3% of Looked After Children year ending 31st March 2012 compared with the previous year and a 21% rise from 2008.
- The majority of Looked After Children are placed in foster care as follows:
 - 54% (378 of 699 in March 2013) of Warwickshire children are placed with Warwickshire County Council foster carers at any one time,
 - 69.5% (486 of 699 March 2013) are placed with Warwickshire or Warwickshire Agency approved foster carers
 - 78.4% (548 Of 699 March 2013) are placed with foster carers, including friends or family, who have been approved as foster carers by Warwickshire Local Authority..
- About one third of children are placed outside the county boundary in neighbouring areas. This figure is similar to the national profile.
- Overall, 76.3% of Health Assessments were completed in the period April 2011 – March 2012. Performance is best for children in North Warwickshire with an uptake of 90.5% of children and young people having their health assessments and is lowest for the Asylum Seeking Team with 65.3% of these young people having their annual health assessment. This may be due to the fact that these young people are generally older than the average age of children across the other teams. Thus greater numbers are living independently and are therefore more likely to make autonomous decisions.
- Due to a government drive to increase the number of adoptions and shorten the length of time for the adoption process, Adoption Medicals in the six months from June to December 2012 showed a 280% increase compared with the preceding 3 months. Although the rate of increase has since reduced, the number of children going through the adoption process continues to rise.
- Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaires (SDQs) are carried out at the same time as health assessments for all of Warwickshire's Looked After Children aged 4 yrs -16 yrs. The average score in 2011-2012 was just over 14. Nearly 100% of Looked After Children living in Warwickshire in 2012-2013 have had an SDQ at the time of their health assessment but national data is not yet available for this time period.

- Following a risk assessment, business plan and governance report submitted by the Designated Nurse in 2012, an additional 0.5 whole time equivalent Named Nurse 18 month seconded post and an additional 7.5 hours per week of substantive administrative time have recently been allocated to the Looked After Children's Health Team.

2. National drivers

The Care Quality Commission requires that all Healthcare organisations protect children following National Child Protection Guidance and local procedures.

Following the death of Baby Peter in 2008, all Provider Trusts have to place a Safeguarding Declaration of Compliance on their public website.

HM Government have reviewed and published a revised 'Working Together to Safeguard Children, A guide to interagency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children' March 2013.

The coalition Government commissioned and Professor Eileen Munro has completed a review of child protection

Dartington Project – Warwickshire is a pilot site to develop a strategy to reduce the number of Looked After Children through the commissioning of evidence based interventions.

Children and Young Person's Act 2008 and Children Act 2004

NICE (National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence) Looked after Children and Young People 2013

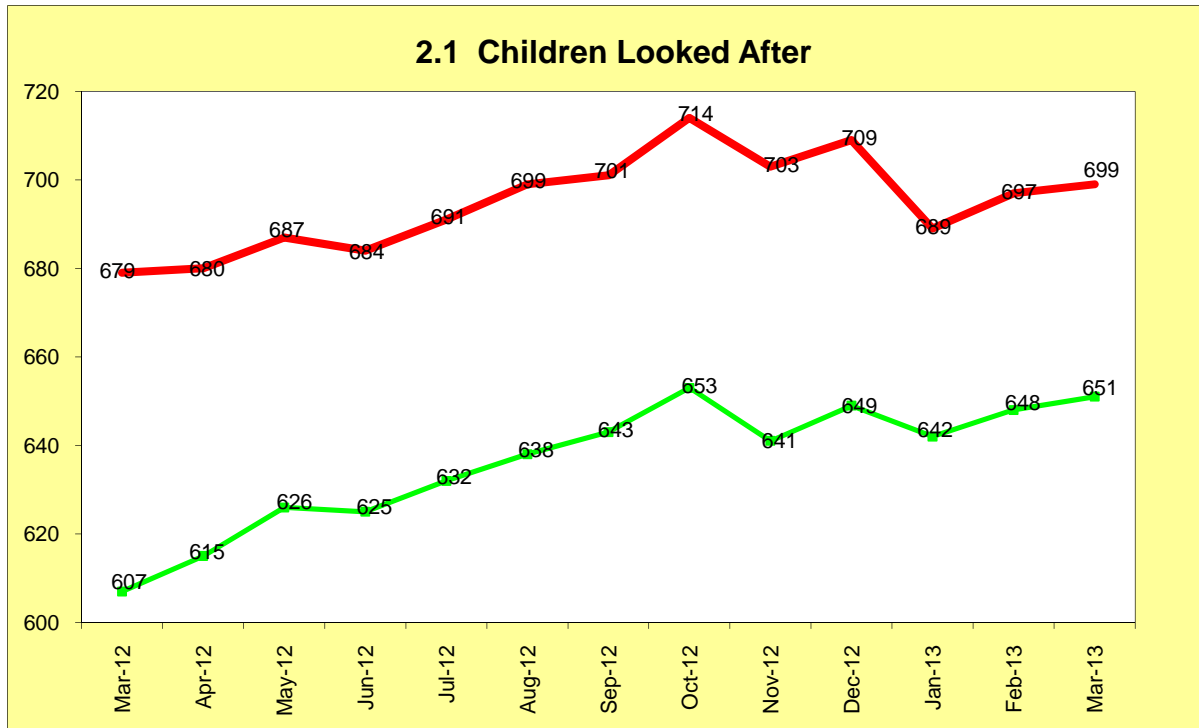
NICE (National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence) Quality Standard - Promoting the quality of life for Looked after Children and Young People 2013

Care Planning Regulations and associated Guidance 2011

Statutory Guidance on Promoting the Health and Wellbeing of Looked After Children 2011

3. LAC data and trends

The following diagram shows the increasing rise in the number of Looked After Children and young people in Warwickshire showing an overall increase of 2.9% of Looked After Children placed by Warwickshire in the year March 2012 to March 2013 and a 7.2% rise in the number of unaccompanied asylum seeking young people.



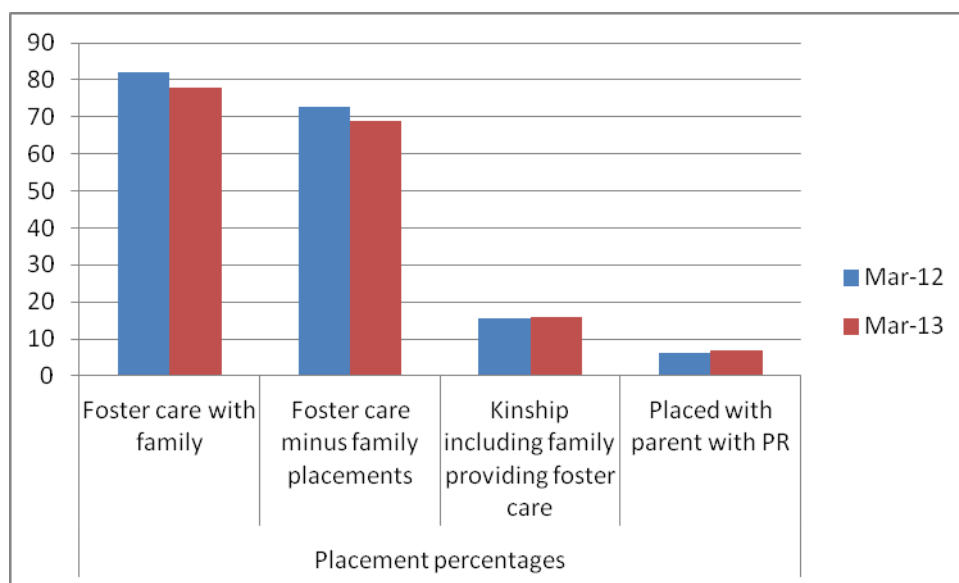
(a) Reasons for an increase in Looked After Children placed by Warwickshire:

- Young people who find themselves homeless at 16 yrs - 17 yrs are now assessed and regarded as vulnerable requiring care by the Local Authority following the Southwark Judgement (House of Lords ruling).
- High profile cases in the media have triggered greater numbers of referrals to Children’s Safeguarding Services and there has been a corresponding increase in care proceedings.
- There has been a small overall rise in the number of unaccompanied asylum seeking young people. Whilst there can be some monthly fluctuation, overall there has been an increase.

(b) Strategy to address the needs of the increasing numbers

Warwickshire has volunteered as a pilot site with the Dartington Social Research Unit. This project involves agencies working together with the aim of reducing the numbers of children and young people coming into care using evidence based programmes as an alternative. These programmes are targeted towards older children and young people on the edge of care, specifically teenagers exhibiting more challenging behaviours. High fidelity of these programmes is essential in order to maximize effectiveness with the target to maintain young people within their families wherever possible and ensure they are safe if this is the agreed plan.

4. Placements

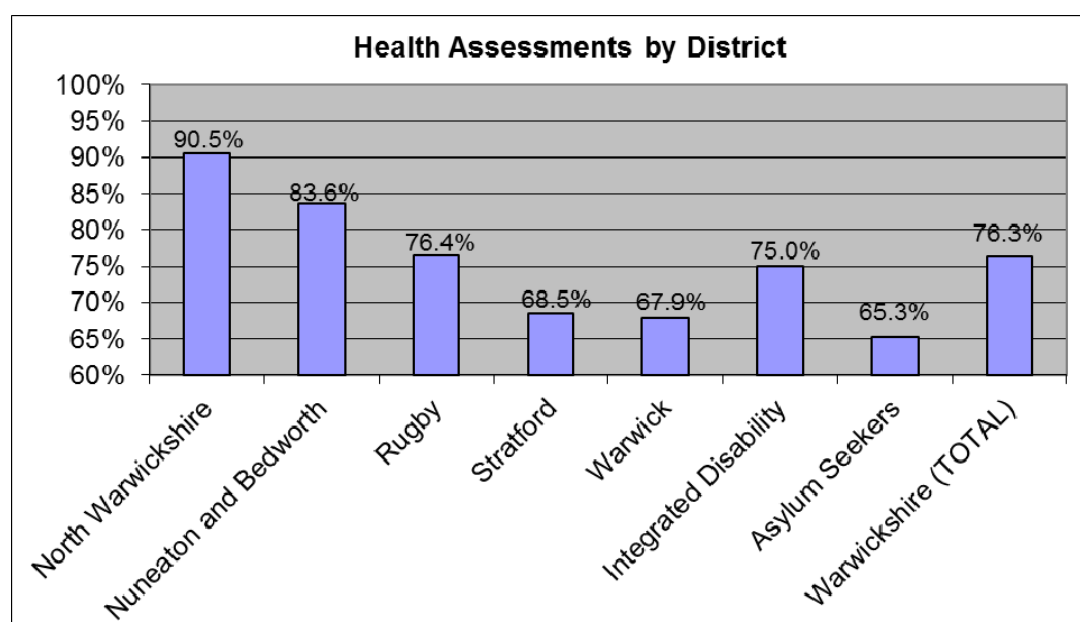


The above table demonstrates the reasonably steady rate of foster and kinship placements of children placed by Warwickshire from April 2012 until end March 2013 compared with the previous twelve months.

5. Adoptions

- A Government drive to both increase the number of children being adopted and reduce the time taken for the adoption process to be completed, has substantially increased the workload within the Looked after Children's Health Team. Nationally, there was a rise of 12% in 2012 compared with 2011.
- Numbers of Warwickshire children having Adoption Medicals were monitored from June 2012 and reveal the following increase:
- There were 10 Adoption Medicals in the four months June –September 2012 across county
- There were 38 Adoption Medicals in the three months October – December 2012 across county showing a 280% increase between these two time frames.
- A process has recently been agreed between the Looked After Children's Health Team and Children's Social Care. This is to ensure that time scales for Adoption Medicals to be completed can be met with sufficient opportunity for the reports to then be sanctioned by the Adoption Medical Advisor, forwarded to the Adoption Lead within the Local Authority and then to reach the Agency Decision Maker by the predetermined date. This has significantly improved interagency working and the ability to meet timescales.
- Using Warwickshire Local Authority data, there has been a 30.1% increase in the number of children placed for adoption from April 2012 until end March 2013 compared with the preceding twelve months.

6. Health assessments

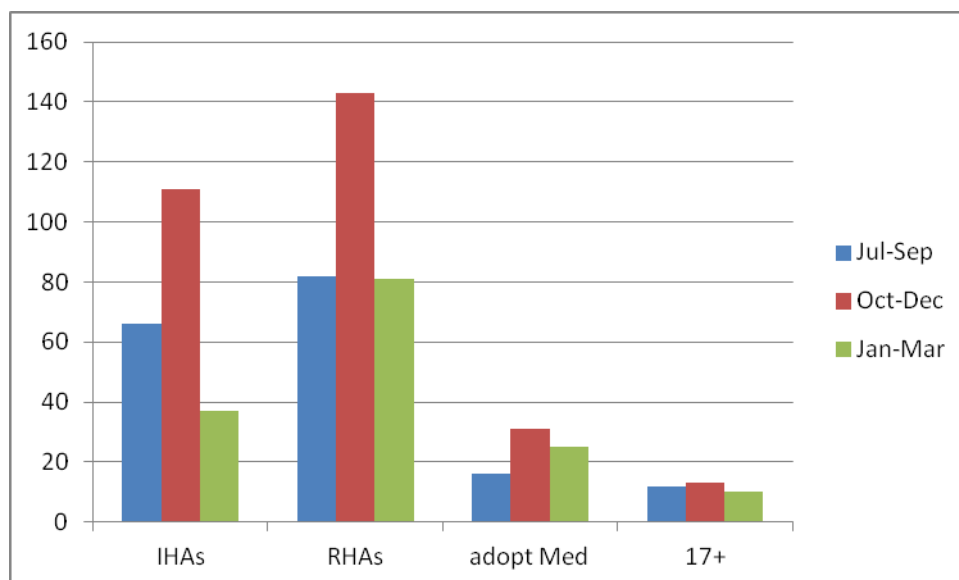


Team trends for health assessment uptake

	2010/11	2011/12
N. Warwickshire CT	40/41=97.6%	38/42=90.5%
N. Warwickshire District TOTAL	40/41=97.6%	38/42=90.5%
Bedworth CT	34/37=91.9%	77/87=88.5%
Nuneaton CT	83/98=84.7%	33/40=82.5%
Nuneaton District CT	n/a	7/13=53.8%
Nuneaton District TOTAL	117/135=86.7%	117/140=83.6%
Rugby Children's Services Team	52/57=91.2%	55/72=76.4%
Rugby District TOTAL	52/57=91.2%	55/72=76.4%
Stratford CT	26/36=72.2%	29/38=76.3%
Southam CT	11/16=68.8%	8/16=50%
Stratford District TOTAL	37/52=71.2%	37/54=68.5%
Warwick District CAT	n/a	n/a
Kenilworth/Warwick CT	28/30=93.3%	26/40=65%
Leamington CT	36/45=80.0%	27/38=71.1%
Warwick District TOTAL	64/75=85.3%	53/78=67.9%
N/W, Nun & Bed IDS	4/4=100%	4/5=80%
Rugby IDS	n/a	n/a
Stratford IDS	n/a	n/a
Warwick & Leam IDS	4/8=50.0%	6/8=75.0%
Autism IDS	2/2=100%	2/3=66.7%
IDS TOTAL	10/14=71.4%	12/16=75.0%
Asylum Seekers	24/55=43.6%	32/49=65.3%

Youth Offending Teams	n/a	n/a
WARWICKSHIRE TOTAL	344/429=80.2%	344/451=76.3%

Number of health assessment referrals from 1st July 2012 to 31st March 2013



Prior to July 2013, there was no effective means of monitoring the number of referrals received for Health Assessments. This changed from July 2013 with the employment of an administrator to the Looked After Children's Health Team who is line managed by the Designated Nurse.

7. Mental and Emotional Health

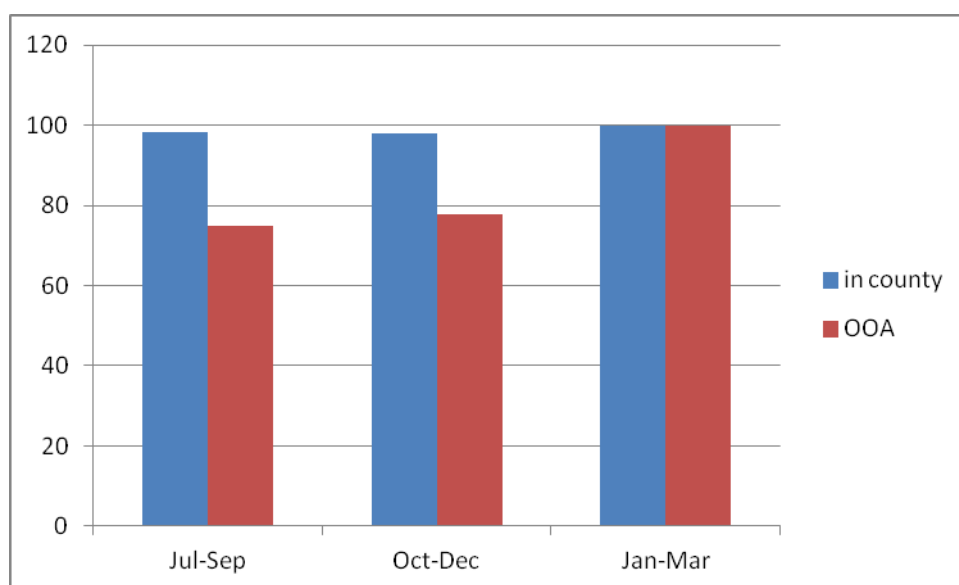
Nationally 45% of Looked After Children were assessed as having a mental health disorder (Department of Health, Statutory Guidance 2009, p.12). In order to assess mental health needs among Looked After Children placed by Warwickshire; each health assessment incorporates the SDQ in line with Warwickshire's Integrated Care Pathway (updated Autumn 2012) for children aged between 4 years and 16 years. Any score over 16 then requires a conversation with the young person, the foster carer and the social worker to consider how these needs can be best met and to signpost to local provision through Journeys (designated Emotional Health and Well-being Service for Looked After Children) or CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service) as appropriate. The Looked After Children's Health Team has developed very good professional relationships with staff from Journeys. As a result, Journeys regularly contribute to the Foster Carer Training provided by the Looked After Children's Nurses.

(a) Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ) - Desired Trajectory

The use of the SDQ is recommended in the 2009 Statutory Guidance (p.72). The scoring range of an SDQ is between 0-40. On an individual basis a score of 13 or below is normal, a score of between 14-16 is borderline and a score of 17 and above is a cause for concern. For Local Authorities, their overall average score will give an indication of the level of "concern" there is across the Local Authority. From a strategic point of view a high score will mean that more Looked After Children are displaying such problems. This is useful management information as it will give an indication of where resources may need to be allocated. Over time it will also give an indication of how effective services which have been put in place are at addressing these issues.

The health professional carrying out the health assessment ensures that the SDQ is completed for all Looked After Children aged 4 yrs -16 yrs. For children aged 4 yrs -11 yrs, this is completed by their foster carer. For young people aged 11 yrs -16 yrs, this is completed by both the young person and the foster carer using two separate forms so that comparisons between the carer's view and the young person's view can be made. Scores of over 16 are regarded as significant and require further discussion with the young person, their foster carer, social worker and parent (if appropriate) about whether services are required and how they can be accessed.

Percentage of SDQs for Warwickshire children in county and out of area



(b) Warwickshire Performance Summary (At 11/12 Year End)

Our overall score for 2011/12 indicates that the emotional & behavioural health of our Looked After population is 'borderline', with the average score being 14.1. Our score for 2011/12 is slightly above this year's national average but below our statistical neighbour average. It is also slightly above the 2010-2011 average score of 12.9

Performance against National Trends

	2008/9	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
Warwickshire	12.8	13.9	12.3	14.1
Statistical Neighbours	15.7	14.8	14.9	14.3
England	13.9	14.2	13.9	13.8

District Performance

	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
N. Warwickshire District	14.9	13.2	10.6
Nuneaton District	15.2	12.8	16.1
Rugby District	14.7	13.3	16.0
Stratford District	13.1	14.3	14.0
Warwick District	13.1	10.8	13.1
Integrated Disability	13.0	10.0	16.6
Asylum Seekers	7.8	7.5	9.8
WARWICKSHIRE TOTAL	13.9	12.3	14.1

NB. This is based on the average of those where an actual SDQ score had been recorded.

NB. Data for 2012-2013 will not be released until December 2013.

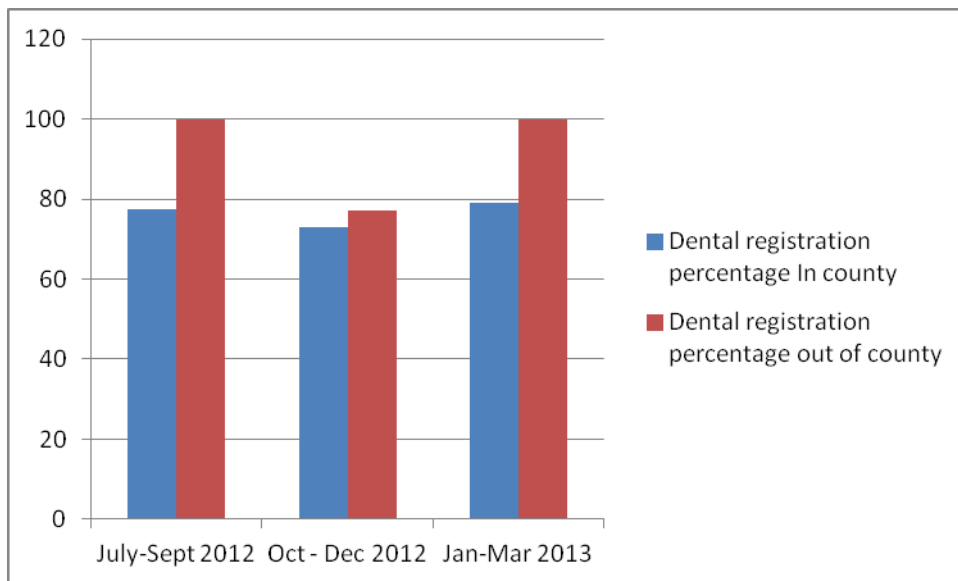
8. Levels of Health Needs

Looked After Children and Young People have difficult life histories and experiences which increase their health vulnerabilities. The long term health outcomes, particularly for care leavers, remain below that of their peers. Looked After "Children often enter the care system with a worse level of health than their peers, in part due to the impact of poverty, poor parenting, chaotic lifestyles and abuse and neglect," (Department of Health, Statutory Guidance, 2009, p.11). The health needs of Looked After Children and Young People, including the emotional difficulties and propensity for risky behaviours, cannot be underestimated.

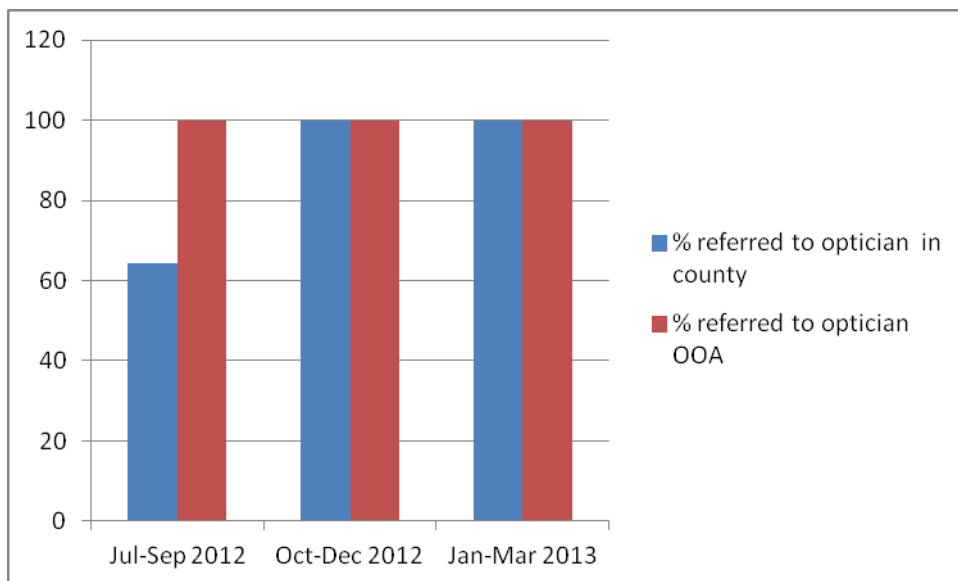
(a). Dental Health

All Looked After Children must be registered with a dentist. Looked After Children and Young People are routinely asked for the date of their last dental check at each health assessment. Dentists will advise on the frequency of dental checks for individuals but generally Looked After Children are encouraged to attend a dental check every six months. These dates are recorded on the BAAF Health Assessment Form and any deficits are identified on the Health Plan.

Percentage of Warwickshire children attending for their health assessment who are registered with a dentist



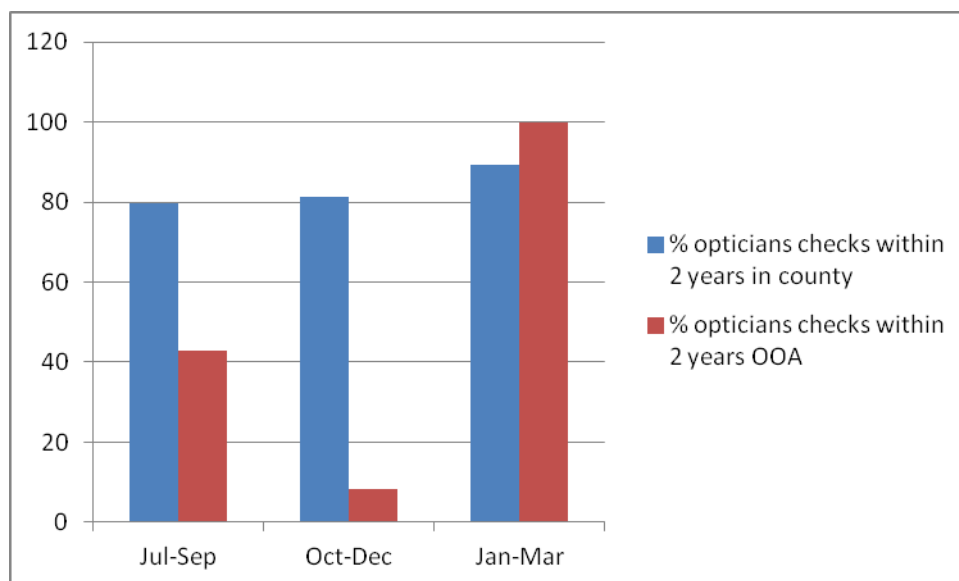
Percentage of children attending for a health assessment then referred to a dentist if not previously registered.



Where children were not registered with a dentist, 100% of those attending for a health assessment from October 2012 were recorded as then being referred to a dentist. Prior to this, data was either not available or incomplete.

(b). Opticians checks

Percentage of Warwickshire Looked after Children who have seen an optician in the past 2 years

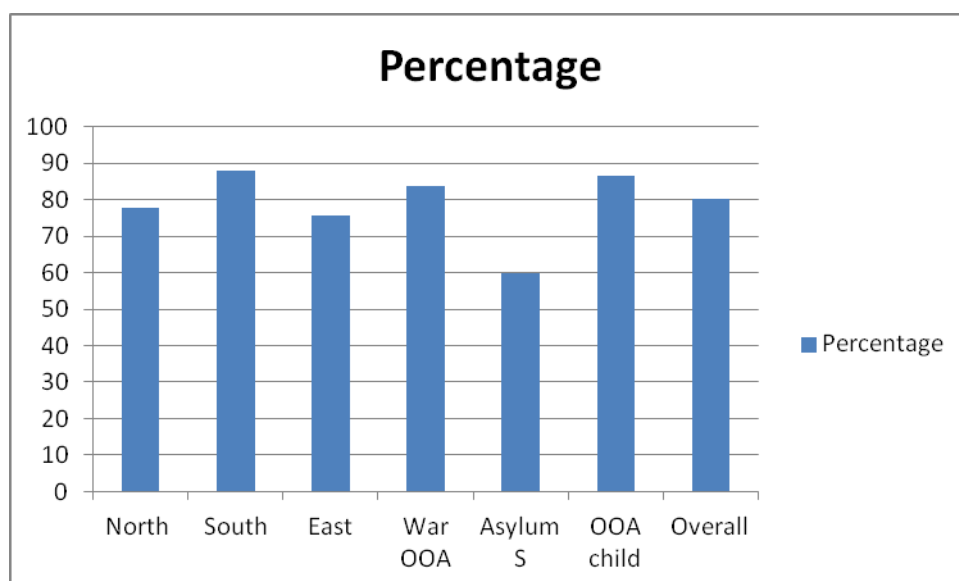


Due to the small numbers of children seen out of county for their health assessments between October and December 2012, the results were somewhat skewed.

(c). Immunisations

In 2011-12 Health Trusts reported that 94.7% of children reaching their first birthday had completed the primary immunisation courses compared with 94.2% in 2010-2011. MMR uptake in England 2011-2012 was 91.2% compared with 89.1% in 2010-2011 although the WHO (World Health Organisation) target is at least 95%. Pneumococcal uptake in 2011-12 was 91.5% compared with 89.3% in 2010-11

Warwickshire immunisation uptake 2013



The percentage of Looked After Children and Young People attending for all their immunisations is slightly lower than the national average. Where immunisations were incomplete, carers of children and young people have been advised to ensure that the children in their care attend their GP surgery to bring their immunisations up-to-date. This is recorded on the health assessment. The Designated Nurse also notifies children's panel where children discussed at panel have outstanding immunisations.

9. Audits

The Looked after Children's Health Team have an ongoing audit programme.

Two audits were carried out by this team during autumn 2012 as a direct result of the CQC inspection in November 2011.

- a) Audit to ensure that health visitors and school nurses are invited to statutory reviews where appropriate.
- b) Audit to ensure that copies of health assessments for Looked after Children are appropriately disseminated and received.

Both of these audits demonstrated very positive outcomes.

c) A third audit was undertaken in autumn 2012 to monitor the quality of health assessments undertaken by school nurses and paediatricians. This was a repeat of the audit completed in 2011 and was carried out to ascertain if there had been any improvements as a result of health assessment training to school nurses in 2011. The audit revealed significant improvements in the quality of health assessment paperwork across both disciplines.

10. Supervision

Following the CQC inspection in November 2011, an ongoing and successful group supervision programme has been set up and run by the Designated Nurse for Looked after Children from the beginning of 2012. The supervision

contains a training element which is recognised by the Learning and Development Unit within South Warwickshire NHS Foundation Trust. These supervision sessions have been well attended and very positively evaluated by school nurses and health visitors across Warwickshire. This supervision is also open to FNP (Family Nurse Partnership Nurses) and Children's Community Nurses.

11. Training

In the winter of 2012-2013, The Designated and Named Nurse provided eight comprehensive training sessions for health visitors and FNP nurses to undertake Review Health Assessments for Looked after Children. These trainings had the support of the Designated Doctor and received very positive evaluations. Those who completed the training have been able to undertake these health assessments since January 2013.

Following publication of the 2012 'Looked after Children: Knowledge, skills and competencies of health care staff. Intercollegiate Role Framework', the Designated Nurse and Doctor have set up a level 4 workshop programme for Paediatricians and Named Nurses who work primarily with Looked After Children. Trainings at levels 1-3 are already provided within the Child Protection training programme for the Trust.

Six training sessions were provided for foster carers in 2012 and all were very well attended and received. Where relevant, these trainings have also received valuable input from both Journey and COMPASS.

The Designated Nurse, together with a Team Manager from children's social care, now provide a regular training session to social care staff as part of their induction programme regarding the health assessment process for Looked After Children.

12. Service Specification

A service specification for the Looked After Children's Health Team has been agreed between the Looked After Children's Health Team and commissioners. As a result, the uptake and outcomes of health assessments have been recorded and monitored since July 2012 and three monthly data reports are now prepared by the Designated Nurse and submitted to commissioners.

13. Integrated Care Pathway (ICP)

Substantial additions and amendments have been made to the ICP to include flow charts to improve clarity. All amendments have been approved by members of HeLAC (Health of Looked After Children) multi-agency meetings and shared at the Children and Young People's Operational Meetings. The updated pathway was widely disseminated in October 2012.

14. Asylum Seekers

A joint health promotion session between Warwickshire and Coventry Looked After Children's Nurses was provided for Asylum Seeking young people in 2012. This was supported by the Asylum Seekers Social Care Team. Although attendance was small, attendees found the session extremely useful and it was very positively evaluated.

15. Cross border working

As a result of two meetings between Warwickshire and Coventry health representatives in 2012, a working agreement is now in place regarding provision of health visiting services for families living on the borders of Coventry and Warwickshire. Where there are Looked After Children in these areas with particular and specific issues relating to appropriate service provision, these have now been addressed.

16. Liaison with Accident and Emergency (A/E) Departments

Working agreements have now been made between the Looked After Children's Health Team and the liaison contacts for A/E departments within Warwick Hospital, George Eliot Hospital and University Hospital Coventry and Warwickshire. The agreements are that the Designated or Named Nurse for Looked After Children will now be informed of any Looked After Children from Warwickshire or living in Warwickshire who attend the Accident and Emergency Department.

17. Charges for health assessments

Warwickshire do not currently charge other Health Trusts who request health assessments for Looked After Children placed in this county. However, there are a significant and growing number of other Health Trusts who do charge for this service. This is having a significant impact on the workload and time pressures of the Looked After Children's Nurses within Warwickshire who are now requested to visit children for their health assessments in other counties if the area where they are placed charges for health assessments and depending on the distance to be travelled.

Several meetings have taken place between Health, Social Care and Commissioners to consider whether or not Warwickshire should charge for health assessments and if so, what that cost should be, what should be provided for that cost, who should provide the assessment and finally who should manage that cost. A National Tariff has recently been agreed but has not yet been adopted by Warwickshire although it is under discussion between commissioners and senior managers.

18. Public and user involvement

- **Happy.pies@nhs.net** is a confidential email address which was set up in 2011 and has since been widely publicised. The name was derived from a suggestion by the Children in Care Council and its primary function is to provide a forum for Looked After Children and Young People to ask health-related questions to the Looked After Children's Health Nurses.

Additionally, it provides a means for social care staff to notify the Looked After Children's Health Team of the demographic details of children who move in and out of care or who change placements.

This facility is monitored by the Named Nurse. Any changes to the looked after status or changes in placement are then amended by the Looked After Children's Health Administrator on the Child Health IT system.

- **A Patient Satisfaction Survey** regarding children's, young people's, parent's and carer's experiences of health assessments has been written by the Looked After Children's Health Team and approved by HeLAC members. It has been loaded onto palm tops and has recently been made available to the Looked After Children's Health Team to provide to service users at the health assessments they undertake for Looked After Children and Young People. We currently await the outcome of this.
- **Appointment Letters** for children were written by the Designated Nurse and approved by HeLAC members so that children can receive their own letter inviting them to their health assessment. This enables children to take ownership of the assessment from their earliest years. These letters have been adapted to an invitation format for children aged less than 5 years. All feedback has been positive.
- **Children and Young People's website** is currently being developed for the Trust. This will be available to the public and the Looked After Children's Health Team have submitted relevant information for this.
- **Looked after Children Information Group**
The Designated Nurse provided the Health input regarding a multi-disciplinary group which included a care leaver, to provide relevant and up-to-date information to Looked After Children and Young People. As a result, a pack of playing cards has been produced for 11-16 year olds. These cards include QR codes and website addresses for a wide variety of health and social information sites. The QR codes take the reader to the relevant website and therefore will continue to provide useful and relevant up-to-date information for these young people. They were formally launched in 2012 and have been widely disseminated.

19. College links

With the support of the Head of the Virtual School, the Designated and Named Nurse have established links with the main colleges within Warwickshire. This has included various meetings with college staff plus attendance at both a Fresher's Fair at Stratford College and an information morning at Nuneaton College. The purpose is to provide a point of liaison to promote the health and wellbeing of Looked After Young People attending college in Warwickshire, to raise the profile of these young people within the colleges and to provide health assessments more creatively and flexibly for this group of young people.

20. Summary of Influences and impacts on the Looked After Children's Health Team include:

- A steady but significant escalation of the overall number of Looked After Children placed by Warwickshire
- A significant increase in the number of requests for adoption medicals and the short time frames required to achieve them.
- Increased monitoring of the Looked After Children's Service by Commissioners and the need to set up systems to enable the requested reports to be produced.
- The emergence of the new CCGs and required assurances.
- The appointment of a Looked After Children's Health Administrator within the team has resulted in the health assessment processes being managed and monitored by the Designated Nurse rather than by Child Health. This has streamlined the provision of health assessments and enabled outcomes to be monitored.
- Long term staff sickness of a community paediatrician in the North resulted in the retirement of the post holder and funding for the post no longer made available to the team.
- Charging for health assessments by other areas has resulted in the Looked After Children's Nurses in Warwickshire travelling out of county to undertake a significant number of health assessments.
- Establishment of group supervision for health visitors, school nurses, FNP nurses and Children's Community Nurses has increased the skills, competencies and confidence of these staff groups in undertaking their work with Looked After Children and Young People.
- Provision of eight training sessions for health visitors across the Trust enabling them to undertake Review Health Assessments.
- Establishment of an agreed protocol for access to health visiting records by paediatricians undertaking Health Assessments for Looked After Children and in particular Initial Health Assessments and Adoption Medicals. This has a positive impact on the quality of information available to clinicians undertaking these assessments. However, it has increased the workload of the Looked After Children's Health Nurses and Administrator in managing this process.

21. Service pressures and resource implications

The Medical Team consists of a part-time Consultant Paediatrician for Looked After Children (appointed March 2011) and three further part-time Community Paediatricians. These clinicians undertake Initial Health Assessments and Adoption Medicals and provide adoption reports for the Agency Decision Maker within the Local Authority. One part-time Community Paediatrician also undertakes health assessments.

The Designated Doctor is aligned with the district offices of Warwickshire's Children Safeguarding Teams.

The Nursing Team at March 2013 consisted of one Designated Nurse (1 WTE) with line management responsibilities for one substantive Named Nurse (0.5 WTE), one part-time seconded Named Nurse and one substantive part-time administrator (0.8 WTE).

Health visitors undertake routine Review Health Assessments for children under 5 years and school nurses undertake routine Review Health Assessments for Looked After Children who attend Warwickshire schools until the end of Year 11. Leaving Care Health Assessments and leaving care letters are provided by the Designated and Named Nurses for Looked After Children or sometimes by the paediatricians.

An increase in the number of Looked After Children, additional and increasing monitoring by commissioners and by the WSCB Health Sub Committee as a result of the CQC inspection, charging by other areas for health assessments resulting in Warwickshire Looked After Children's Nurses undertaking some out of county health assessments and long term staff sickness has created additional work pressures within the team. As a result the Designated Nurse wrote and submitted:

- A Business Plan to the Head of Children's Services and to Commissioners in October 2012
- A Governance Report which was submitted to the Governance Board in November 2012
- A Risk Assessment which was added to the Risk Assessment in November 2012 under the category of Dark Amber.
- A stress assessment specifically for the Looked After Children's Health Team in November 2012.

As a consequence of these measures, approval was given in December 2012 for an 18 month 0.5wte Band 7 Named Nurse secondment to be funded from the health visiting service. This post has recently been appointed to and the Named Nurse was completing her induction in March 2013.

An additional 7.5 hours of administrative time has been approved due to the increasing workload from the escalating numbers of health assessment and adoption medicals plus the recently developed and now ongoing monitoring of these assessments. In March 2013, these additional hours were in the process of being appointed to.

Appropriate health support is offered and provided to staff members as required within the team to promote staff health and safety.

22. Future Plans

- Improve liaison with health and social care teams plus agreed links with children's residential homes within Warwickshire as a result of the additional Named Nurse post.
- Increase in the number of group supervision sessions for Health Visitors now that they are undertaking Review Health Assessments
- Further update to the Integrated Care Pathway to include the recently agreed process for Adoption Medicals and Adoption Reports.
- Establish an Action Plan in line with the recently published NICE guidelines regarding looked after children and young people (published April 2013).
- Improve liaison processes with other Looked After Children's Health Teams for looked after children and young people who move out of Warwickshire or move into Warwickshire from other areas.
- Designated Nurse to meet with the Youth Justice Team and improve liaison.
- Looked after Children's Nurses to meet with the Integrated Disability Service and improve liaison.
- Audit the quality of health assessments undertaken by Health Visitors in autumn 2013.
- Training student Health Visitors who will be employed by Warwickshire in undertaking Review Health Assessments for Looked After Children.
- Review and update trainings to Foster carers.
Continue to develop the Level 4 workshops

Report prepared by Rachel Webster - Designated Nurse for Looked After Children

South Warwickshire NHS Foundation Trust July 2013

Item 8

Annual Report of the Head of Virtual School for Looked After Children

22nd January 2014

1.0 This is the annual report of the Headteacher of Warwickshire's Virtual School for Looked after Children. The report contains details of educational outcomes of Warwickshire's looked after children together with details of how the Virtual School has worked with partners to support their education. In section 3, the report summarises key developments that are currently taking place.

2.0 Pupil Outcomes

Although the report relates to activities of the Virtual School in 2013, the pupil outcomes were those gained by young people in years 6 and 11 during academic year 2012/13.

2.1 Exam Results 2012/13

Year 11

In 2012/13, the year 11 cohort, supported by the virtual school was 80, 69 of whom were students in the care of Warwickshire.

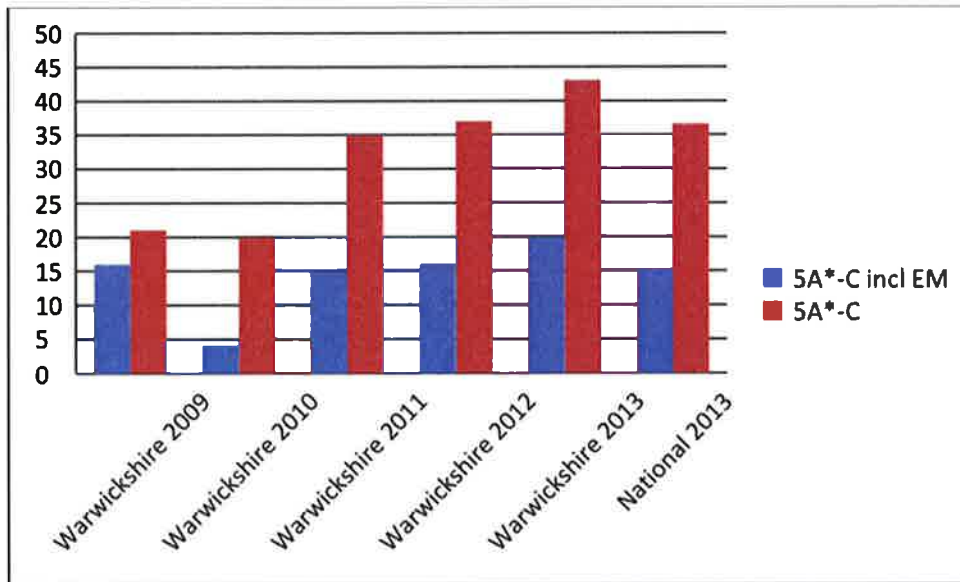
Of the 69 in the care of Warwickshire:

- 22 had statements of special educational needs and a further 19 were on the special needs register at school
- 9 students were unaccompanied asylum seekers
- 56 students were in care continuously for a year as of 31st March 2013.

Outcomes for the statistical cohort (used to measure performance nationally)

Statistical group of 56	SEN Statements	SEN register	UAS	5A*-C inc E & MA	5 A*-C	5 A*-G	1A*-C	1A*-G	Any qual.
Total	20	16	8	11	13	31	26	38	43
%	36	29	14	20	43	55	46	68	77

Warwickshire Year 11 Outcomes – Statistical Group



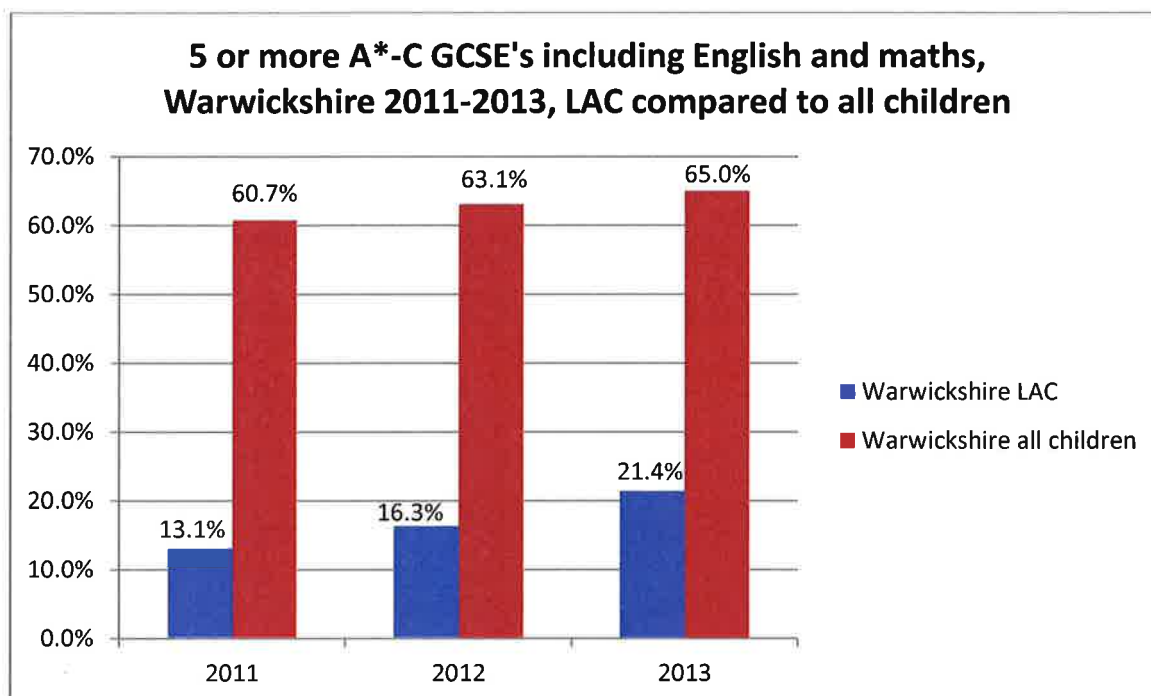
Comparison with Statistical Neighbours

The figure for 5 A*-C grades including En & Ma (20%) are higher than our (10) statistical neighbours (average 15.3%). The figure for 5 A*-C is higher (43%) than 9 of the 10 statistical neighbours - only Staffordshire (46.3%) is higher. The average for statistical neighbours is 33.1%.

Narrowing the Gap

The gap between the outcomes of Warwickshire Children in Care and their peers is getting narrower but it is still too wide.

5 or more A*-C GCSE's including English and maths, Warwickshire 2011-2013, LAC compared to all children			
	2011	2012	2013
Warwickshire LAC	13.1%	16.3%	21.4%
Warwickshire all children	60.7%	63.1%	65.0%
Difference	47.6%	46.8%	43.6%



Year 6

Of the statistical cohort of 23, 3 have statements of special educational needs and a further 5 are on school action plus. For both categories of need, the proportions are much lower than for other cohorts in Warwickshire (proportion of LAC with statement in Warks = 30%):

Attainment	Warks (stat. neighbours/England)
Level 4+ Reading	71% (60/63)
Level 4+ Writing	79% (52/55)
Level 4+ Spelling Punctuation & Grammar	54% (49/45)
Level 4 + maths	71% (57/59)

2.2 Exclusions/Pupils not receiving an appropriate education

In 2012/13 there were no permanent exclusions of Looked after Children, (so far there have been 2 permanent exclusions in 2013/14, one from River House School and one from St. Andrew's Benn C of E Primary School).

On 20th January there were 8 young people not being educated. One of these is "missing", 3 are waiting for a new school having recently moved and four are refusing to attend because of mental health/emotional issues.

3.0 Other work of the Virtual School

3.1 PEP support

PEP completion was monitored in November 2013

Social Care Team	No of LAC in Yr R-11	PEPS completed/book ed	PEPs not in date	%	OOC NOT IN DATE
Leamington	46	44	2	96	0
Warwick/Kenilworth	33	30	3	91	1
Stratford/Southam	50	36	14	72	12
Rugby	73	68	5	93	5
Nuneaton	124	121	3	98	0
Bedworth	53	40	13	75	12
North Warks	44	43	1	98	1
ASP	10	8	2	80	1
IDS	12	9	3	75	3
Total	445	399	46	90%	35

Currently the virtual school has no arrangements to conduct systematic monitoring of PEP quality. This issue is under review and will be addressed in the Virtual School Development Plan (see below).

3.2 Monitoring of use of Pupil Premium

The use of pupil premium by schools to support looked after children is monitored by Area Leads. All schools are asked for supporting information termly. This is supplemented by the evidence gathered at PEP and other meetings. In 2012/13 there was no escalation of a challenge by the Virtual School to a school regarding its use of the pupil premium. Given the increase in funding (see below) and the remit of the Virtual School to become enshrined in law through the Children & Families Bill, this issue will need to be reviewed and will be addressed in the Virtual School Development Plan.

3.3 Training

In 2013 training was provided to social workers in Rugby and Bedworth. Training has also been given to colleagues from Youth Justice and the Education Psychology Service. Some Barnardos carers have also been trained. There has also been a considerable amount of ad hoc training of colleagues carried out by Area Leads locally.

The Virtual School intends to offer a package of support to colleagues in 2014 which will form part of the Virtual School Development Plan.

3.4 Other Initiatives

STEM project (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths)

The Virtual School is represented on the LAC Progression Group, a sub-group of the Coventry and Warwickshire HEaT Partnership. This group has been successful in bidding for funding from the STEM Innovation Programme for a project aimed at improving the engagement and outcomes of LAC and Care Leavers in STEM-related courses in KS4 and Post-16.

The project, which will run until March 2015, will involve pairing the young people with mentors who work in STEM related industries or who are studying STEM in HE. This will create an opportunity for the young people to experience aspects of STEM which link to careers in which they have shown an interest; helping them see the educational routes they could follow to achieve their goals and inspiring them to achieve their potential. It may involve 1-1 tuition, visits and/or work shadowing, as appropriate.

The project is being led by the LACES team in Coventry working in partnership with the Virtual School. There are places for 5-10 Warwickshire learners in current Years 9 or 10. The aim is for sustainability, as it is hoped to enable schools to take ownership of and extend the activities into the future with a range of students.

Music Project

This project is supported by the County Music Service. It is for 20 children (2 groups of 10, one KS2 and one KS3/4) to work with musicians, over a period of 10 sessions, to develop the skills, confidence, and self-esteem to take part in a Grand Finale/Performance. The KS2 group is based at Stockingford and the secondary group are at Shaftesbury Alternative Provision at Keresley. It is hoped the experience will have a positive impact on the children's attainment across the curriculum. The project has to have a 'Legacy Element' so that the host schools/provisions will be able to repeat the experience for other students. Each participant will receive a memory stick that records their achievements and the final performance.

Tiffin Club

The Tiffin Club (the name given to Warwickshire Corporate Parents Association) is similar to a school's PTA. It became a registered charity in 2013 and has successfully raised thousands of pounds to provide extra help to young people.

The Tiffin club has supported the Virtual School Awards Evening and has provided mentors for several young people. There are also plans to offer one-to-one support to individual children and provide specialist help to children with particular talents

and abilities.

4.0 Virtual School Developments

4.1 Children & Families Bill

Extracts from a DFE announcement in October 2013:

“Children in care have previously attracted pupil premium funding at the same rate as children from low-income families, but in future they will attract a higher rate of funding - the pupil premium plus. From April next year, children in care will attract £1,900 additional funding per pupil, more than double the £900 awarded in 2013 to 2014.

In addition, this support will now reach more children. At the moment, children in care attract the pupil premium if they have been looked after for 6 months or more, but in future they will be funded from their first day in care

Through the Children and Families Bill, the government is also making it mandatory for every council to have a ‘virtual school head’ - an individual who champions the education of children in care and acts as their overarching head.

Today’s announcement includes plans to extend the role of the virtual school head to work with schools to manage the pupil premium plus and ensure that the money is spent on securing the best educational support and services for children in care. For example, this could include specialist tuition for musically gifted children or one-to-one catch-up sessions.

For the first time, children adopted from care and those who leave care under a special guardianship order or residence order will also attract the pupil premium plus.

The pupil premium is just one of a series of measures the government has introduced to help children in care achieve at school and get on in life:

- the National College for Teaching and Leadership is improving its training programme for school governors to improve the attainment of looked-after children and to work more closely with virtual school heads
- we are providing all looked after young people and care leavers aged 16 to 19 who stay in full-time education with a £1,200 bursary to help with the costs of their studies
- all 2-year-olds in care are now eligible for 15 hours a week early education”.

4.2 Virtual School Budget

In October 2013 it was announced that the Virtual School would lose all funding though the post of Virtual School Head would remain. Subsequently and in the light of the new legislation, the Learning & Achievement Business Group are seeking to find savings from elsewhere and continue to fund a Virtual School Team.

Nevertheless, efficiencies and improvements will be considered to align the work of the Virtual School with the statutory guidance shortly to be published and the support needs of colleagues in People Group and others.

4.3 Virtual School Development Plan

Planned improvements to the work of the team are being collated in the Virtual School Development Plan. This is shortly to be drafted and will be shared with members of the Virtual School Steering Group.

Steve Pendleton

January 21st 2014

Item 9

Year 6 results 2013

42 in cohort

7 from other authorities

Of the 35 Warwickshire pupils:

5 (14%) have statements of special educational needs

A further 6 are on school action plus

Attainment

Level 4+ Reading	68%
Level 4+ Writing	65%
Level 4+ Spelling Punctuation & Grammar	48%
Level 4 + maths	65%
Level 4 R, W, S & Maths	53%

Statistical cohort is 23 (those continuously in care for one year prior to 1st April 2013)

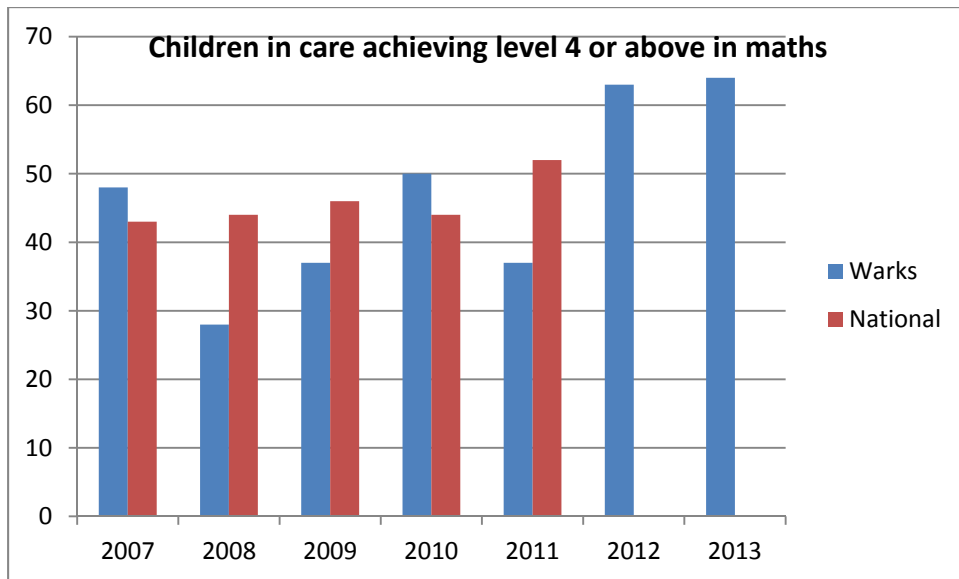
3 have statements of special educational need

A further 5 are on school action plus

Attainment

Level 4+ Reading	68%
Level 4+ Writing	68%
Level 4+ Spelling Punctuation & Grammar	52%
Level 4 + maths	64%
Level 4 R, W, S & Maths	50%

Note Those pupils who did not achieve level 4 or above in English or did not achieve level 4 in mathematics, were all either statemented or were on SEN register.



Virtual School for Children in Care

Exam outcomes summer 2013

Profile of year 11 cohort 2012/13 supported by the Virtual School

The year 11 cohort, supported by the virtual school in 2012-13 was 80, 69 of whom were students in the care of Warwickshire

Of the 69 in the care of Warwickshire

- 22 had statements of special needs and a further 19 were on the special needs register at school
- 9 students were unaccompanied asylum seekers
- 55 students came into the care of Warwickshire continuously prior to 31st March 2012
- 7 students came into care between April & August 2012
- 3 students came into care between September & December 2012
- 4 students came into care after January 1st 2013

	No of Students	Into care before 31/03/12	Into care between 1/4/12 & 31/8/12	Into care between 1/9/12 & 31/12/12	Into care after 1/1/13	UAS	SEN Statements	On SEN register
Warks students in Warks Schools	42	30	6	2	4	2	11	17
Warks students out of Area (OOA)	27	25	1	1	0	6	11	2
Other LAC educated in Warks Schools	11							
Total	80							

GCSE or equivalent outcomes for year 11 cohort as described above

	5 A*-C incl EM	5A*-C	5A*-G	1 A*-C	1 A*-G	Any qual
Warks students in Warks Schools	9	10	24	10	29	32
Warks Students out of Area (OOA)	5	6	14	9	17	19
Total	14	16	38	19	46	51
%	20	23	55	28	67	74

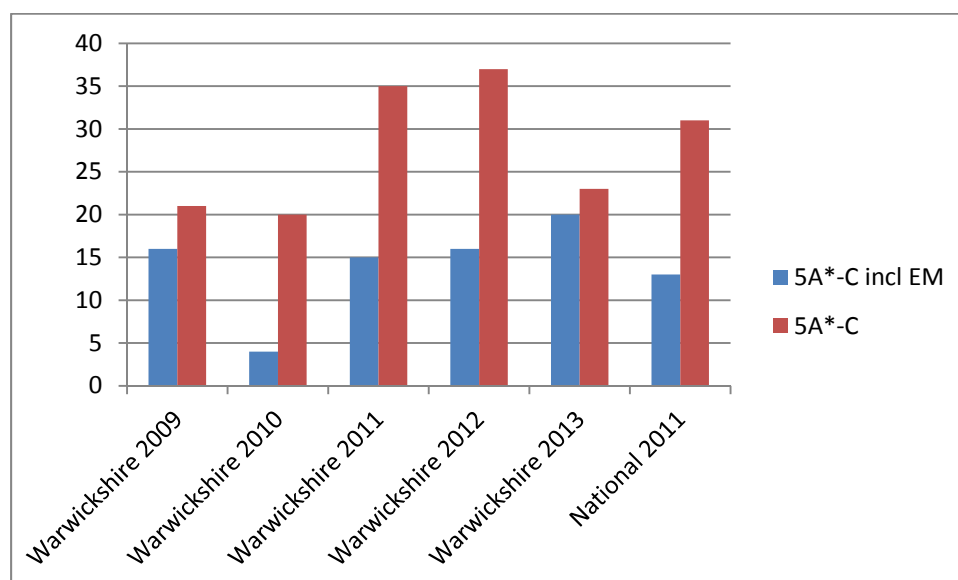
Outcomes for the statistical cohort (used to measure performance nationally)

This is the cohort of students who have been in continuous care for 12 months or more on the 31st March 2012. This is the cohort used to measure outcomes nationally

- 29 students were educated in Warwickshire schools
- 27 were educated out of area
- 20 had statements of special educational needs and a further 16 were on the special needs register in schools
- 8 students were unaccompanied asylum seekers
- Current information suggests up to 13 may have not achieved any qualifications Of these 4 were unaccompanied asylum seekers placed out of year and the others in special schools (results not yet available)

Statistical group of 56	SEN Statements	SEN register	UAS	5A*-C inc E & MA	5 A*-C	5 A*-G	1A*-C	1A*-G	Any qual
Warks students in Warks Schools	10	12	3	6	6	17	14	20	22
Warwickshire students OOA	10	4	5	5	7	14	12	18	21
Total	20	16	8	11	13	31	26	38	43
%	36	29	14	20	23	55	46	68	77

GCSE attainment 2013 compared with previous years



Item 10

Warwickshire County Council

Fostering Services Annual Report

April 2012 - March 2013

**Warwickshire County Council
Fostering Services Annual Report
April 2012 - March 2013**

1. Introduction

The Fostering Service is a countywide service, providing a range of foster placements including EDT placements, short term and respite care, family and friends care, long term, permanency and parent and child placements. In addition, foster carers may provide a Staying Put placement that will enable the young person to have placement continuity beyond 18 years. There are a further 4 Emergency Duty Team carers and a number of family link foster carers who provide short stay care for children and young people with disabilities.

On the 31st March 2013 there were 342 foster carer households. The service continues to be successful in recruiting sufficient families to meet the needs of the majority of Warwickshire Looked after children and young people.

The service was last inspected by Ofsted in June 2011, and was assessed as good with some outstanding areas of practice.

2. Structure of the service

A structure chart is attached (Appendix A)

The service has 4 practices -

Fostering North Practice: Located in Kings House, Bedworth

Fostering South Practice: Located in Saltisford Office Park, Warwick. The Practice is co-located with the Central Recruitment and Training Practice and the Adoption Services Team.

Fostering Kinship Practice: Located in Oakfield Park, Rugby and co-located with Rugby Children's Team.

Central Recruitment and Training Practice: Located in Saltisford Office Park, Warwick.

The Fostering Service is managed by an Operations Manager with 7 Practice Leaders.

The Service benefits from an experienced stable staff group. As a countywide service, there is the on-going opportunity to relocate staff members across the Service to meet increased pressure at different times within the different practices.

During the year the service provided 6 placements for Social Workers in training.

3. Functions of the services

North and South Fostering Practice

These Practices are responsible for undertaking foster carer assessments, supporting, supervising and annually reviewing all mainstream foster carers and private foster carers.

Kinship Care Practice

This practice is responsible for completing the assessments of prospective family and friends foster carers/connected others. Reports completed are presented to either the Fostering Panel or the Court. The Practice provides support, supervision and annual reviews of Family and Friends foster carers. The assessments may result in the assessment of relatives/connected others as special guardians or residence order holders.

Central Recruitment and Training Practice

This Practice is responsible for the recruitment of foster carers and for providing the annual training programme

Family Link Service

This service provides placements for children with disabilities. As of the 31st March 2013, there were 22 approved Family Link carers.

Administrative Team

The Fostering Service has 1 Team Administrator and the equivalent of 7 full time administrative staff based in 3 locations

4. Recruitment of Foster Carers

The Service recruits carers through a range of mediums.

These include by word of mouth, radio advertising, posters, newspaper and magazine advertising and the internet. The Service is also featured on West Midlands's web recruitment page.

Recruitment priorities remain:

- Carers for Teenagers (young people 10-18 years)
- Permanence placements for children 8 years and above
- Carers for younger sibling groups
- Parent and child placements

This service offers a duty system, which operates 9am - 5.30pm Monday to Thursday and 9am - 5pm on Friday.

Prospective foster carers have the opportunity to:

- Talk to a fostering social worker
- Attend an information session run by foster carers and social workers

- Receive an information pack within 1 working day
- Receive a home visit within 5 working days.(subject to the applicant's availability)
- Attend Fostering Preparation Groups

Data April 2012 - March 2013 (excluding family and friends carers)

Number of initial enquiries	399
Number of information packs sent	393
Number of home visits	83
Number of applications received	50
Number of Information sessions	4
Number of preparation groups	9
Number of households who attended	50
Number of households approved	27

Information Sessions were introduced in September 2012, enabling recruitment to fast track the initial visit stage.

During this year, the Practice totally revamped the preparation groups, moving from Fostering Network's 'Skills to Foster' to Warwickshire County Council's 'Focus on Fostering' programme.

In addition, they have increased the number of weekend preparation groups running 'Focus on Fostering' on both Saturdays and Sundays.

North of the county continues to attract more potential carers. The Practice continues to review and try new recruitment initiatives in the south of the county.

5. Training for Foster Carers

The Service provides a range of training opportunities to foster carers. This ranges from Core Training through to an opportunity to gain a professional qualification through the team's QCF Centre.

The centre was inspected by City & Guilds on 14th March 2013 and obtained an excellent rating.

The Service also provides over 50 training events for foster carers, each course has 20-25 places available for carers and an additional 2 places for social workers/other professionals. This recognises the advantages of joint training opportunities.

Upon approval, every fostering household starts work on the completion of their CWDC training, support and development standards. They have one year to

complete this. Completion of these standards and attendance at training is linked to the County Council 'payment for skill scheme' at level 1 for foster carers.

The Core Training courses are run 3 times a year and include:

1. *Child Protection, Safeguarding*
2. *Making Placements Work*
3. *Attachments*
4. *Equality & Diversity*
5. *Basic First Aid*
6. *Recording Skills*

These courses are also available as distance learning packs/on-line training. Currently 288 foster carers have completed all of their required core training courses. This represents 64% of main stream carers.

The service invested in AC Education Online Training which offers carers the choice of a further 49 training opportunities.

6. The North and South Fostering Practices

As of the 31st March 2013, the service had 342 mainstream foster carer households and 16 staying put households.

Approval Process

Once potential carers have attended the preparation group Focus on Fostering they are allocated a social worker from either the North or South Fostering Practice. The social worker completes an assessment of the household, involving any children of the applicants. They undertake a number of statutory checks, including DBS, medical checks, ex-partner references, education checks and visits to referees. The completed assessment report is presented to Warwickshire's Fostering Panel.

WCC Fostering Service target for completion of the Assessment is 6 months (National Minimum Standard is 8 months).

Approval Timescales April 2012 - March 2013

Assessment length	Number
2 months	1
3 months	1
4 months	5
5 months	8
6 months	6
7 months	3
8 months	2
9 months	1
Staying Put 4 months	1

During this period xx % were completed within the enhanced timescale required by the Service

Once foster carers have been approved, their induction process begins. Carers need to complete their CWDC Induction standards within 12 months of approval. For kinship carers the timescale is 18 months.

All newly approved foster carers receive 6 weekly professional supervision by their social worker. After their first annual review, supervision is quarterly.

Support is provided to foster carers via their fostering social workers, the child's social worker, involvement in professional meetings, paperwork including the care plan and placement plan, which highlights the role and expectations of the carer, local support groups, training, newsletters and the services of an independent Advice and Mediation Worker.

In addition to support the North and the South Practices provide social opportunities to carers and their own children, via the Children who Foster programme, Christmas Parties and Family Days

In line with the Fostering Regulations all foster carer households have a minimum of one unannounced visit by a fostering social worker. Foster carers are only approved for 12 months at a time and all foster carer annual reviews are presented to the Fostering Panel for on-going approval

Foster carers accompanied by their fostering social workers attend a range of meetings concerned with the child/ren in placement including placement planning meetings, Child Care Reviews, End of Placement meetings and meetings with education and health professionals .

These Practices are also responsible for the assessment of private foster carers.

7. Fostering Duty Service

Warwickshire Fostering Service operates a county duty system. The system operates 9am - 5.30pm Monday - Thursday and 9am - 5pm on Friday. Duty cover consists of 2 Duty Social Workers, 1 Administrator and the availability of a Duty Manager.

The Service receives referrals from Children's Teams who are requesting a foster placement. A large percentage of these placements are same day requests. Once the service has received the referral, matching with foster carers begins. This involves considering both Warwickshire County Council foster carers but also the possibility of seeking a placement via an Independent Fostering Agency. Warwickshire is party to a sub-regional fostering framework agreement with Coventry and Solihull.

The service holds the following data:

- Details of all Warwickshire County Council foster carers and availability including profiles on these carers
- Vacancy lists
- Details of other children in placement
- Details of placements already arranged.

The number of Looked After Children:

March 2010	577
March 2011	639
March 2012	691
March 2013	699

Challenges to the Duty System:

- Volume of referrals including same day placements.
- Between April 2012 - March 2013 the Duty service received ??? referrals. . Key periods for respite referrals are the school holidays.
- Number of respite placement requests.
- Increase in referrals for solo placements for young people with challenging behaviour.
- The challenge to place children within their home location (to prevent changes in schools, travel to contact and to ensure the continuation of leisure activities etc.).

8. Kinship Care Practice

This Practice is responsible for the assessment and support of kinship and connected others as foster carers. This processes mirror those of the other 2 Practices. Kinship foster carers receive the same support, supervision and are involved in the same re-approval processes. In addition the Practice completes assessments of prospective special guardians. Timescales for all kinship assessments are tight and court driven. This Practice has undertaken assessments across the country and on occasions abroad (Ireland, Portugal and Scotland).

9. Working in Partnership with Foster Carers

The Service consults annually with all foster carers via an annual questionnaire. This seeks carer's views on a range of areas. The percentage of carers who responded during this year was lower than the previous year. However the majority of the feedback was positive especially around support. Areas identified for additional work included contact issues, support groups in the south of the county, lack of paperwork at the point of placement.

The Fostering Manager meets with the Warwickshire Foster Carer Group 5 times a year. This enabled the manager to receive direct feedback from carers and also involve carers in the on-going development of the service.

Foster carers are involved in recruitment initiatives and lead/ co-lead some training events.

Exit interviews enable carers to express their views about the service they have received and the Advice and Information Service provides information for the Service about the issues that concern carers.

10. Team Plan 2012-13 and Outcomes

Objective/Target	Timescales	Action to be Taken	Outcome
Review processes, timescales and preparation group material for potential fostering applicants	6 months	Produce Focus on Fostering Preparation material. Induct fostering staff on the new materials.	Achieved
Increase the number of Fostering applications by 10%	12 months	Increase advertising opportunities via the internet, Google etc. Redesign adverts for teenage fostering. Review all current recruitment avenues	Achieved
Improve level of support to all foster carers	12 months	SCW to be trained in Triple P Parenting. Increase level of supervision to newly approved foster carers. SW to visit within the first week of a placement.	Achieved
Review paperwork and procedures for the Kinship Care Practice	12 months	Received feedback from legal services, children's teams, Kinship Care Practice and carers	On-going – to reflect the changes of the Public law Outline
Involvement in sub regional work to ensure greater range of local placements	12 months	Work with Multi Agency Commissioning, fostering and the consortium to review future commissioning opportunities	On-going
Review Foster Carer financial systems	12 months	To review feasibility of deducting long term savings at resource. Amend skill level payments.	Partially achieved
To review and develop Parent and Baby	12 months	Working groups to review current arrangements,	Partially achieved. Areas for on-going

placements, permanency placements and solo placements		payment and support. Recommendations to SLT	development including sub regional work.
To explore the development of concurrent or 'fostering to adoption' placements	12 months	Joint workshop with Fostering, Adoption, Panels and Children's Teams	Ongoing Workshop completed. Scheme to be developed
Confirm funding for Family Link service	12 months	Joint work with Integrated Disability Service to explore the options re-funding and support to Family Link carers	On going

11. Achievements of the Fostering Service

In addition to the outcomes achieved in the Action Plan

- The reorganisation of the Fostering Service went smoothly and has resulted in greater consistency of the Service across the county.
- The Kinship Care Practice is working well and is developing specialist knowledge and skills in this area.
- We –Learn (secure email portal) is a positive development and enables the Service to communicate more efficiently with carers.
- The Service has been provided within budget.

12. WCC Fostering Service Data April 2012 – March 2013

Number of approved foster placements in total at 31 st March 2013	593
Number of children placed with WCC foster carers between April 2012 and March 2013 (excluding short breaks)	708
Number of exemptions to the fostering limit	14

Approved Foster Carers regulated on the 31st March 2013

Number of approved foster carers (not households)	421
Number of approved family and friends carers (not households)	100
Number of approved foster carers (not households) exclusively offering short breaks	36

Recruitment/Retention of fostering households approved April 2012 – March 2013

Number of approved	44
How many initial enquiries from prospective foster carer households	399
How many applications from new prospective fostering households	149

Retirements/resignations April 2012 – March 2013

Number of resignations/retirements (households) Of these 10 households had fostered for over 10 years 9 households had fostered for over 5 years 23 households had fostered between 1 – 5 years	52
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The overall percentage of retirements/resignations of foster carers April 2012 – March 2013 was 14% of the total.

Approvals April 2012 – March 2013

Number of approved	52
Number of applications withdrawn (this also includes applications received before 1/4/12)	94
Number of applications rejected by Fostering Panel	1
Number of applications to the Independent Review Mechanism	0

Complaints/Causes for Concern April 2012 – March 2013

Number of allegations of misconduct made against foster carers	12
Number of complaints made about the service	17
Number of complaints upheld	7

13. Challenges to the Fostering Service

Demand for local fostering placements

As the looked after population continues to increase, it is becoming increasingly difficult to meet this need. Although the number of foster carer applications has increased, matching placements can be difficult. There are a number of factors influencing this:

- Vacancies in the south of the county but teams requires children being placed locally in the north
- The number of same day placements which take priority over planned placement moves
- Inability to place another child/young person in placement because of the needs of the other children
- Lack of solo placements for young people with complex needs. The current skill level payment scheme makes solo placements less attractive to experienced carers
- Complex needs of many of the children seeking placements
- Parent and baby placements - a growing number of requests for mothers who are over 18 years of age or mother, father and baby placements. These placements are falling outside of a traditional view of fostering

Recruitment of Foster Carers

This remains a national problem, with both Local Authorities and Independent Fostering Agencies competing within the market. The Service has a proven track record for recruiting carers with a clear market brand. There are a large number of Independent Fostering Agencies operating in the area. The Service

continues to look at new advertising opportunities and ways to promote the profile of the Service. W.C.C. is part of a West Midlands web site which promotes the advantages of fostering for Local Authorities and caring for local looked after children.

Support needs for Kinship Carers

With the numbers of kinship carers increasing, the Service needs to provide a different form of support to these carers. They do not view themselves in the same way as mainstream carers, and are spread further afield, often not within Warwickshire. The Service needs to be able to signpost carers to the most appropriate support and local services.

Complex needs of Looked After children and young people

W.C.C does not have any residential provision and therefore young people with extremely challenging behaviour need local fostering placements. It is not always possible to match vacancies with the needs of these young people. In addition the Service cannot always access the intensive levels of multiagency support required. This can put foster carers under extreme pressure, and unlike residential care, foster carers have these young people in their homes 24/7.

14. Conclusion and Service Priorities for 2013- 2014

The Fostering Service over the last year has faced enormous challenges. The growing number of placement referrals, legislative changes, financial cuts within Local Authorities and the turnover of staff in some Children's Teams, all impact upon foster carers. Foster carers are required to work in partnership with a range of professionals, work with birth parents and at the same time provide children with a positive experience

of family life. Some of these young people do not want to be in care and may not be committed to their placement. Warwickshire retains a large pool of foster carers who want to make a difference to a child's life and will go that 'extra mile'. As the manager responsible for the Service, I want to acknowledge the work that foster carers undertake on behalf of W.C.C.

Over the forthcoming 12 months the priorities for the Service will be to

Lesley Malley

Operation Manager Fostering Services

Supervision Structure Chart
 Lesley Malley, Operations Manager
 Ext 58 3094

North Fostering Kings House King Street Bedworth CV12 8LL		South Fostering Saltisford Office Park Ansell Way Warwick CV34 4UL		Kinship Oakfield Park 32 Bilton Road Rugby CV22 7AL	Central Fostering Services Saltisford Office Park Ansell Way CV34 4UL
Janice Crookes, Practice Leader,	Yvonne Brown, Practice Leader,	David Price, Practice Leader,	Tracy Avill, Practice Leader,	Sybil Mlambo, Practice Leader	Dawn Jeffs, Practice Leader,
Fiona Bates, Social Worker,	Marie Anne Howell, Social Worker	Julie Ripley, Social Worker,	Sharon Beattie, Social Worker, (Part Time)	Wadzanai Wonzeri, Social Worker,	Jeanette Mainwaring, Social Worker,
Claire Brown, Social Worker,	Philomena Dickson, Social Worker	Gary Smith, Social Worker, (Part Time) Ext	Lynda Buckley, Social Worker, (Part Time)	Martin Quelly, Social Worker,	Kelly Furness, Social Worker,
Julie Kane, Social Worker,	Sarah Dawson, Social Worker,	Clare Bradley, Social Worker	Jane Beck, Social Worker,	Sue Barlow, Social Worker, (Part Time),	Rebecca Clifford, Social Worker,
Pam Uppal, Social Worker, (Part Time)	Kathy Louis, Social Worker,	Becky Eden, Social Worker, (Part Time) Ext	Tracy Faulds, Social Worker	Susie Rafferty, Social Worker,	Lynn Rowleston, Deputy QCF Centre Manager,
Harriet Finn, Social Worker	Beverley Ellis, Social Worker,	Bob Clark, Social Worker, (2 Days),	VACANCY	VACANCY x2	
Vikki Putt, Social Worker,(Part time	Sue Atkins, Social Care Worker,	Sarah Carson, Social Worker (Maternity Leave)	Norma Wilson, Foster Care Support Worker	Lynn Secret, Social Care Worker,	
	Diana Harris, Social Care Worker,	Karen McKay, Social Care Worker,			
	Kelly Somers, Social Care Worker	Margery Blower, Social Care Worker, Sally Smith, Social Care Worker,			
Admin Annette Easto, Norma Hill (Part Time)		Admin Debbie Clark, Tracy Buckley, (Part Time)		Admin Renuka Amanda Trodd (Part Time)	Admin Jen Brennan Nikki Salter
VACANCY		Marilyn Jones (Part Time)			

Item 11

Corporate Parenting Panel – work programme 2013/14

Date	Item	Report detail
14 April 2014	Update from CiCC	Members who have attended a CiCC meeting will give a verbal update to the Panel
	Update from Strategic Lead, Brenda Vincent	Brenda Vincent will give a verbal update on current issues to the Panel
	LAC Performance, Wendy Fabbro	The Panel will consider the performance of LAC
	Update from Corporate Parenting Board	Brenda Vincent will update the Panel on the work of the Board
	Draft Corporate Parenting Policy, Brenda Vincent	The Panel will consider the draft Policy
	Themed Item – tbc	
	Draft Work Programme	The Panel will look to agree their work programme
Items to be agreed/Dates to be set	Three or more placement moves, Brenda Vincent	The Panel requested update reports ever six months, including comparison data
	Independent Housing, Brenda Vincent	The Panel requested a report on housing-related issues and the work being done with housing authorities on options for independent housing and the support given to young people moving into independent housing
	Young People's Questionnaire	This report sets out the outcomes of consideration of this questionnaire by the 'Believe in Care Strategy Group' and the CiCC.
	Data Set	The Panel requested the data set to be presented as agreed at their meeting on 11 September 2013.
	Risk Analysis for Adoption Services	The Panel requested a report on the Risk Analysis for Adoption Services in Warwickshire.

	Report of the Complaints Service	This report was deferred from the meeting held on 11 September 2013.
	Ofsted Inspection Framework	Members requested a report to a future meeting on the Framework for Future Ofsted Inspections

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