

Overview Report of LAC, Leaving Care & Housing Options - March 2014

Background:-

In February 2014, Warwickshire's Corporate Parenting Panel requested an overview report of LAC/leaving care and housing options. The People Group GLT approved this paper on 14th March, with a request that a brief financial summary to be added, before it was taken to the April Corporate Parenting Panel (re-arranged for 2nd May). Calvin Smith, Safeguarding Service Manager, with strategic lead for leaving care has completed the paper, assisted in this process by:-

Sue Green – Commissioner, Accommodation with Care.

Hugh Gaster – Housing Related Support Officer.

Tim Willis – Extra Care Housing Programme Lead.

Nigel Exell & Gina Di Marco – Children's Commissioning.

Katrina Cowells – Children's Asylum Team.

Jo Davies – Strategic Operations Manager Leaving Care.

Jamie Wait – Intelligence Analyst.

Summary:-

Over the past 6 years Warwickshire County Council have seen a significant rises in its looked after population, increasing from 483 in March 2008, reaching a peak of 736 in October 2013 before declining to 701 by the end of March 2014. The rise has slowed in the last three years but our number of asylum seekers have significantly reduced over this period, so the underlying rise in UK resident LAC and care leavers has continued its upward trend. The decline in asylum seekers and their rising average age has placed pressures on Safeguarding's finances, which will need to meet an overspend in the asylum seekers budget from next financial year.

The report also draws attention to the review, with Housing Departments of the Joint Assessment Protocol for 16 and 17 homeless young people across Warwickshire. Suggesting that the protocol is not being uniformly implemented and that an additional pressure on our LAC and leaving care numbers may well come from the impact of the Southwark Judgement, as Warwickshire is likely to find it necessary to accommodate or support more 16 and 17 year olds presenting as homeless.

A recently drafted needs assessment on the accommodation needs of care leavers and vulnerable young people, aged 16 to 25 within Warwickshire, suggests there is a shortage of supported accommodation. There is currently a Project Board, chaired by Hugh Disley, Head of Early Help and Targeted Support, that has brought together the County, District and Borough Councils to develop business options to address this shortage and to present these with a recommended option to People Group GLT. Following a decision on the preferred delivery model, People Group Strategic

Commissioning will lead on the commissioning and procurement activity. It is envisaged that the Board will continue to provide an opportunity to explore benefits from greater partnership working, possibly with a single front door with Housing; investment in mediations services, to support young people remaining at home, where this is possible; joining sub-regional housing related options; and the development of emergency/temporary accommodation, to end or at the very least reduce the use of B&B accommodation. The Project Board is also reviewing the Joint Assessment Protocol, this is discussed in more detail later in this paper.

Moving to independence is never easy and care leavers too often have to attempt this before they are ready. For this reason, it is important to ensure appropriate housing and floating support options are available to them. There is anecdotal evidence that we need to improve the quality and flexibility of accommodation options. Children's Commissioning will manage a robust consultation exercise with service user, Housing, social care workers and other stakeholders, to develop an understanding of the services currently offered and the service gaps to inform the re-commissioning of Warwickshire's Supporting People services and will advise on service provisions. The author of this report supports this recommendation.

Positively options for Care Leavers have recently improved with the extension of Safeguarding's Staying Put scheme. Adult Social Care are considering if they can offer a family based option for particularly vulnerable care leavers. While Tim Willis, suggests there may be Section 106 specialist housing options that can be explored.

LAC & Leaving Care Numbers:-

Table 1, illustrates Warwickshire's rising LAC population over the past six years.

Table 1:- LAC numbers over the past 6 years

Number of Children Looked After	31-Mar-08	31-Mar-09	31-Mar-10	31-Mar-11	31-Mar-12	31-Mar-13	31-Jan-14
	482	536	574	636	681	698	721
Gender							
Male	271	316	341	382	401	399	404
Female	211	220	233	254	280	299	317
Age							
Under 1	20	24	37	26	48	34	39
1 to 4	66	66	65	112	119	132	128
5 to 9	96	114	114	100	95	130	134
10 to 15	231	227	246	249	253	257	266
16 – 17	69	105	112	149	166	145	154
Other Demographics							
Asylum Seekers	37	60	66	87	69	45	34

Number looked after continuously for a year or more at 31 March	334	360	390	429	451	463	445
Number placed out of county	138	182	184	217	228	238	266

March's 701 represents 63 per 10,000 of the under 18 population, which compares to a national average of 60 per 10,000. Warwickshire has historically had a high asylum seeking population because of its location on key transport networks, excluding asylum seekers the number would be 60 per 10,000. Positively the LAC numbers excluding asylum seekers stabilized for 3 months from October 2013 and have fallen since January 2014. This reduction if continued will reduce pressures on fostering, housing options and budgets.

Another trend in table 1 is the rising numbers of young people in out of county placements, making them more difficult to support due to distance. The distance also hampers family contact and maintenance of social networks. These are usually agency placements which are significantly more expensive than internal options.

Table 2 illustrates the number of 13, 14 & 15 year olds, Looked After by district in December, illustrating particular pressures within Nuneaton, Bedworth & Rugby.

Table 2. Numbers of 13, 14 & 15 year olds that are LAC (as at 13/12/13)

	13 yrs	14 yrs	15 yrs
N WARKS CHILDREN/FAMILIES SERVICES TEAM	2	2	4
BEDWORTH CHILDREN SERVICES TEAM	21	10	14
NUNEATON CHILDREN SERVICES TEAM	3	2	1
NUNEATON DISTRICT CHILDREN SERVICES TEAM	1	1	1
RUGBY CHILDRENS SERVICES TEAM	11	7	11
STRATFORD DISTRICT CHILDRENS TEAM	8	3	8
WARWICK DISTRICT CHILD ASSESSMENT TEAM			2
KEN/WARWICK CHILDRENS TEAM	7	2	1
LEAMINGTON CHILDREN & FAMILIES TEAM	7	4	9
CHILDRENS ASYLUM TEAM		3	6
IDS AUTISM SOCIAL CARE		1	
NUN BED NW INTEGRATED DISABILITY SERVICE	1	2	
RUGBY INTEGRATED DISABILITY SERVICE		2	
WARK & LM INTEGRATED DISABILITY SERVICE	1	3	2
TOTAL	62	42	59

Table 3 and 4 illustrates the long term and more recent trends in care leaving numbers, which show a slow but steady rise.

Table 3:- Long Term trend in Care Leaving numbers

Care Leavers (inc CAT)	May-10	May-11	May-12	May-13	Comment:
Eligible	114	142	150	142	Stable in the last 3 years
Relevant	61	51	23	32	Reduction in early discharge

Former Relevant	196	238	264	300	On-going increase
Total	371	431	437	474	

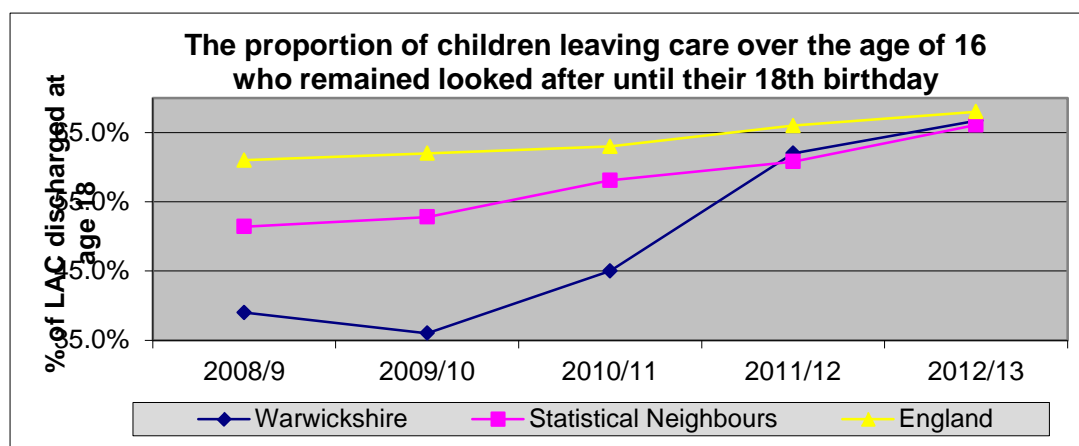
Table 4:- Recent trends in Care Leaving Numbers

Care Leavers (inc CAT	Sept 13	Oct 13	Nov 13	Dec 13	Comment:
Eligible	141	138	149	151	Small rise in the last year
Relevant	31	32	30	22	Reduction in early discharge
Former Relevant	312	318	320	319	On-going increase
Post 21 support.	13	11	11	20	On-going increase
Total	497	499	510	512	

The trends for Warwickshire's LAC & Leaving Care numbers until December 2014 were both rising, with Warwickshire having higher than national average LAC numbers. With these high numbers impacting on the foster care experience of children and young people but particularly teenagers, who are more likely to be in an agency placement. Rising numbers have also placed significant pressures on budgets. For both these reasons Safeguarding have been working with the Dartington Social Research Unit to introduce evidence based interventions, aimed at lowering the LAC population.

Information on the experience of care leavers in terms of when they stop being Looked After and where they move onto are collected for national comparison. The DfE has abandoned national annual indicators, rating authorities on performance over three year periods. Warwickshire's three year average (2011, 2012 and 2013) for the proportion of young people remaining in foster care at 18 is 59%, which is an increase on the previous 3 year average of 48%. However, Warwickshire's performance is currently lower than the national three year average of 66%. In 2012/13, Warwickshire were ranked 108 out of 152 local authorities based on our 3 year average, an improvement on the previous year when we were ranked 126.

Table 5:-



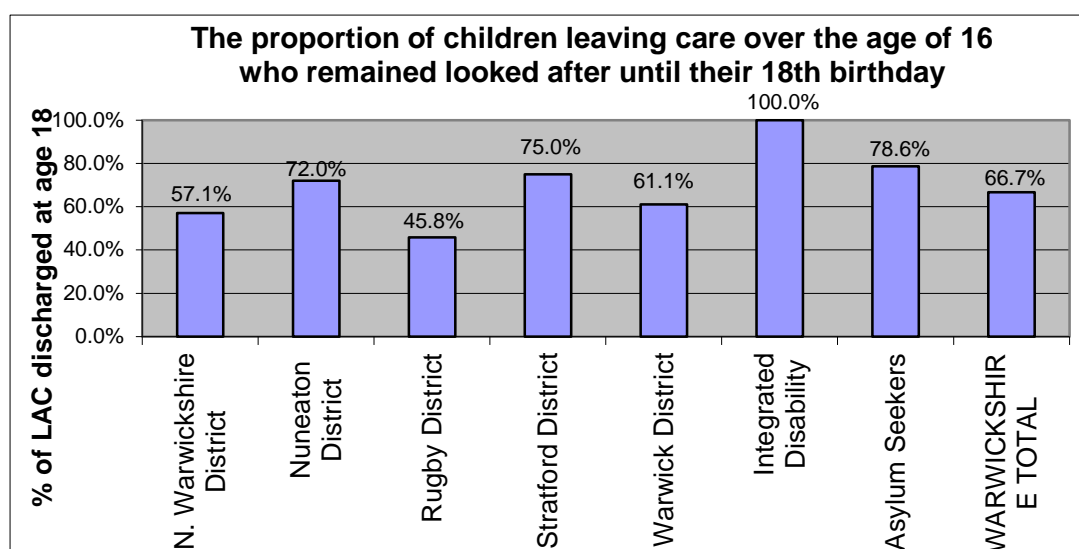
These figures can be presented as annual figures as in table 6, where they show Warwickshire has continued to improve its performance year on year and if this trend continues, our next year three year average will be above our statistical neighbours.

Table 6:- Annual % of young people were LAC at 16 and remaining LAC at 18

	2008/9	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Warwickshire	39.0%	36.0%	45.0%	62.0%	66.7%
Statistical Neighbours	51.4%	52.8%	58.1%	60.8%	66.1%
England	61.0%	62.0%	63.0%	66.0%	68.0%

Table 6 illustrates that District performance for this measure are inconsistent across the authority. It is believed the planned restructure of asylum and leaving care services, that is part of the One Organisation Plan will improve consistency in this area and therefore the experience of Care Leavers.

Table 7:- 2012/13



Last year an analysis was completed of each young person who left care before the age of 18, to identify areas for improvement. Of these a third were not legally late leavers as they were not Looked After for sufficient duration, e.g. an unaccompanied asylum seeker who went missing after one night, a teenage parent in a mother & baby placement, 12 young people had returned home to parents successfully for over 6 months). These will no longer be counted in the future returns.

Of the remainder:-

- 7 returned to their parents, but for less than 6 months, these have not returned, so successful rehabilitation (If they returned home at 17.5 they would also not be legally a care leaver).
- 8 young person choose to leave care as they wished to live with people who weren't foster carers (with partner/family/friends/army), these were mainly approved supported lodgings.
- 5 asylum seekers moved into cost-effective accommodation or semi-independent accommodation when appropriate.
- 6 refused to return to the foster carers and then moved to WCC supported accommodation & 1 with higher support.

Our work with Dartington Social Research Unit has been focused on both diverting young people from becoming Looked After but also rehabilitating them home with appropriate preparation and support, where this is possible. As a centralised team asylum and leaving care service we will continue to focus on supporting rehabilitation earlier, wherever safe and appropriate. Where rehabilitation is successful for over 6 months, the young person is no longer considered a care leaver, and they will then only receive a signposting service as they are re-established within their family.

Table 8 illustrates that Warwickshire follows the national picture for care leavers, with the largest reason for discharge, 96 being a return to parents or relatives.

Table 8:- Reasons for LAC episodes to cease

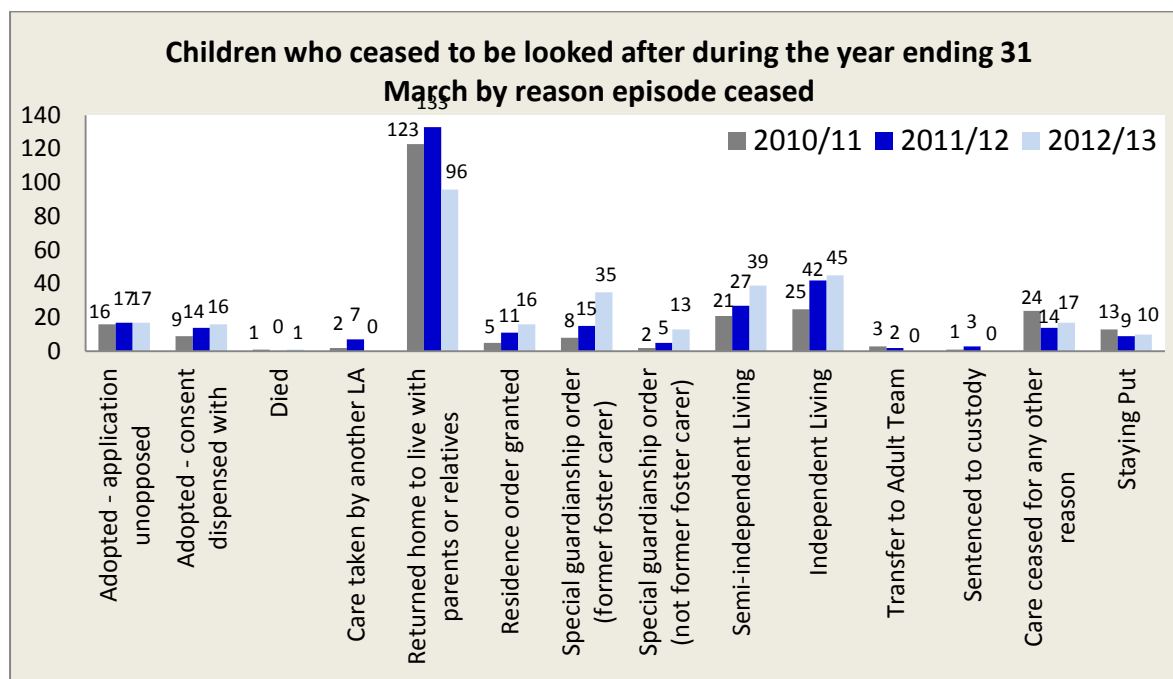


Table 8 also notes that in 2012/13, 97 young people moved to permanency via adoption, Special Guardianship Orders (including 13 to former foster carers) and Residence Orders. These care leaving options are family based solutions with generally positive outcomes.

Current Accommodation Options:-

For those children and young people unable to move to a family based option, Warwickshire’s Safeguarding service’s 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 so they can best support young people in developing independence skills. Where young people choose to leave their foster placement early a Looked After Review is held to plan for the transition into independent accommodation and where required, to assess the suitability of unregulated accommodation.

Staying Put:-

This is where a young person remains within the foster home until they are ready for independence. This scheme is managed by the Fostering Service. This used to be limited to the most stable young people who had been in that foster care placement

since their 15th birthday and would end when they were nineteen and a half. It excluded kinship carers and people who would not live independently after it ended.

Over the last 3 years we have had between 9-13 Staying Put placements at any one time, with 43 care leavers benefiting from Staying Put for an average duration of 18 months, ranging from 7 days to 36 months, with one at 57 months (at university on the retainer scheme).

The People Group GLT have recently agreed that the scheme will be extended to all young people, where there is a positive relationship with the carer, who will support them into independence. The scheme will now run up to a person's 21st birthday. This will expand opportunity to other young people and aims to provide greater continuity until they are ready for living independently. We anticipate that this will reduce the need for supported accommodation. The scheme provides a total weekly payment of £180 (in line with the West Midlands average), with additional monies for young people with complex needs.

Supported Lodgings:-

These are also family homes but are approved by a panel of managers within the Leaving Care Service. There is robust assessment and approval process, with monthly panels. There is also an assessment of suitability for the match between a young person and a provider. There is an option of emergency provision under this scheme subject to safeguarding checks.

Over the last 2.5 years we have had 29 Supported Lodgings Providers with 31 Care Leavers benefiting from this support. Of these, 14 were previous foster carers, who were not eligible for our previous Staying Put provision. Others were partner's family, friend's family, an ex-advocate, extended family and a manager at work (Apprenticeship). This is a flexible scheme that supports young people to live with people connected to them until they are 21 years of age, with 6 monthly reviewing through their Pathway Planning processes.

Other Local Authorities have had success in recruiting to Supportive Lodgings where there is no link to the young person placed with them. Warwickshire have 2 independent families, but recruitment campaigns have yielded little success as other schemes (i.e. host families for students) are seen to have lower risks with higher payments. Warwickshire's scheme sees host families receive £140 per week.

Where such placements have ended, the average duration was short term (15 weeks) but they prevented homelessness whilst the care leaver awaiting for other appropriate accommodation to become available. Moving on was usually in a planned way to appropriate accommodation. Breakdown was often quicker than anticipated due to difficulties in relationships or managing boundaries. Only one arrangement progressed long enough to require an annual review.

Adult Placements under a Shared Lives Scheme:-

Some local authorities provide this scheme to young adults with special needs, to support them living within a family home. We have had some out of county placements where we have negotiated with those authorities to fund this provision for young adults who have the mental capacity to decide to live in that local authority.

When GLT recently discussed the extension of the Staying Put Scheme, the People Group agreed to consider such a scheme for adults who are FACS eligible.

Current Supporting People Provision:-

Supporting People services support a variety of people aged 16 and above. With a number of these services catering for care leavers and other young people aged between 16 and 25. With all services providing support for a temporary period of up to two years. There are currently no services providing emergency accommodation.

The contracts for two of these services specify that the “primary client group” are care leavers. However, other young people at risk of homelessness are designated as the “secondary client group”, so it is possible that a care leaver could be on the waiting list while another young person is resident.

There are other Supporting People services that are open to care leavers, including services catering for young people at risk of homelessness, young parents and young offenders. In addition care leavers can access services for people of all ages, most significantly those targeted at single homeless people with support needs.

The number of available places and their geographical location is shown in table 9.

Table 9:- Accommodation based services

District / Borough Area	Care Leavers	Young People at Risk	Young Parents	Single Homeless (all ages)
North Warwickshire	0	0	6	0
Nuneaton	5	8	8	36
Rugby	0	24	0	40
Stratford	0	8	0	8
Warwick	8	12	5	75
Total	13	52	19	159

In addition, in parts of the County there are floating support services (although none in Rugby or Stratford districts for non-offenders), designed to support people to live independently.

Table 10:- Floating Support Services

District / Borough Area	Young People at Risk	Young Offenders	Young Parents	Single Homeless (all ages)
Nuneaton & North Warwickshire	23-27	8	13-17	16-18
Rugby	0	4	0	0
Stratford	0	4	0	8
Warwick	7	4	7-8	0
Total	31-34	20	20-25	24-26

Supporting People services accept referrals from a range of sources, including self-referrals. With the services themselves determining who should be admitted on the basis of criteria stipulated in their respective contracts. This means that there is no strategic oversight concerning who receives support and with no preferred access to care leavers in the majority of contracts.

An informal survey of service providers conducted in December 2013 and January 2014 provides some insight into the number of care leavers and vulnerable homeless 16 and 17 year olds currently being supported in services.

Table 11:- Customers accommodated in Supporting People accommodation based services for young people

Primary Client Group Served by service	Total capacity of services that responded	16-17 placed by local Housing Authority	16-17 placed by WCC	Other 16 and 17 year olds	Other Looked After - 16 to 21
Care Leavers	13	0	8	0	0
Young People at Risk	33	6	5	2	1
Total	46	6	13	2	1

A recent needs analysis demonstrated that the current need for housing related support for young people exceeds the current number of service places available. Furthermore, the geographical distribution of services around the Warwickshire does not reflect the relative distribution of need.

In recognition of the need for change a Project Board, comprising representation from the 5 Districts and Boroughs, Housing Related Support Officer, Children's Commissioners, Leaving Care and the Youth Justice Service are currently considering how services for young people, including care leavers, should be re-

commissioned for the future. As part of this process active consideration is being given to how access to services could be coordinated via a single gateway/front door. The aim would be to reduce the duplication of Housing and Safeguarding services. With a prerequisite for Safeguarding that the new system must prioritize care leavers and other vulnerable to homelessness young people. This work is ongoing and a tender for new services is due to commence, with a view to new services commencing from 1st April 2015.

Safeguarding's view of Support People provision:-

The service has historically needed to provide support to a wide population and as a result it has not prioritised young people according to need or statutory responsibility, so care leavers or homeless 16-17 year olds are often waiting for provision and can be in emergency accommodation (B&B) in the meantime.

Safeguarding are currently paying the Supporting People element of service cost, in addition to the rent for 16-17 year olds placed by them, unlike those placed by Housing or other services. This payment arrangement is linked to previous grant conditions that are no longer relevant.

Safeguarding supports the consideration being given to shift from accommodation units towards floating support to maximise flexibility and continuity for young people. Historically Safeguarding have had some concerns about the consistency of quality of the Supporting People accommodation offer and believe there should be a single referral process, unified standards for the quality of provision and a compliance processes to improve quality.

Safeguarding welcomes that Children's Commissioning is undertaking research, including into sub-regional Housing Related Support options and will then consult with care leavers, social workers and personal advisor directly about the supported accommodation required.

Supported Accommodation for more complex needs:

If a young person has more complex needs and are unable to manage hostel style accommodation, then teams spot purchase provision from companies offering bespoke packages. This is often private rental of a property with floating support provided, from 6 hours a week to 24/7. This allows for flexible support and continuity for the young person to remain in the same property when they are able to live independently.

Children's Asylum Team Semi-Independent living arrangements:

This model has been developed by the Children's Asylum Team and has received positive recognition by the Children's Commissioner and Ofsted. It is a model we will seek to extend with the establishment of a central asylum and leaving care team.

CAT currently rent 8 houses/flats from private landlords (previously had 35 properties at service peak in 2008/9). Most landlords are longstanding and have positive and fair working relationships with CAT. Landlords in the private sector willing to rent to non-working occupants are limited (this is increasingly so), with CAT often getting contacts for suitable landlords through those we already have. Most properties rented are 2 bed flats and 3 or 4 bed houses. There are occasions where for risk management reasons we need 1 bed/studio flats.

Most of the properties are and have been in Coventry (historically we have had properties in Nuneaton, Rugby, Bedworth and Leamington too). Coventry has access to the appropriate range of resources to meet the needs asylum seekers.

CAT have two house in Leamington, one used for young adults who's Appeal Rights are Exhausted (ARE). Leamington properties are good because of distance to the office and are also good for the transition to independent post 18 housing. There is also a fairly supportive community of some of our over 18's and ex-service users. Positively the local Housing Department is supportive. Negatively, ESOL class time has been cut at the local college, so there is easier education access in Coventry.

CAT's working relationship with Coventry Housing has not always been straightforward but on balance is now a reasonable one.

CAT try to place young people with others of a shared language and culture, where young people want this (they do not always). They have systems and procedures in place to manage health and safety, repair issues etc.

Costs of the property, excluding the support the Team provides, is in Coventry for a three bedroom house with bills an average of £157.66 per week. A three bedroom house with bills in Leamington on average is £205.03 per week.

Independent living:-

In 2012/13 45 care leavers moved into independent living, usually within local authority, housing association or privately rented property. Our Children's Asylum Team, Get Ready for Adult Life practices and the Person Advisors from Barnardo's all provide support to this option. In addition family members also often form part an a social support network. For young people ready for this level of independence this option works well but it can be lonely and challenging if a young person does not have all the independence skills required.

Other arrangements:-

Some care leavers refuse structured support around accommodation and "sofa surf". This is not considered appropriate or safe. However, some young people who have chaotic childhoods or attachment difficulties do actually choose at times to reduce attachments through this insecure accommodation option. Workers continue to try to

support these young people to sustain accommodation and manage the risks associated with these arrangements.

Return to Foster Care:-

Many young people leave the family home for independence and return when things do not work out. While Safeguarding generally do not encourage 16 & 17 year olds to leave foster care, where this does not work out, many are offered further periods in foster care. Although usually not with the same carer, as the placement is unlikely to still be vacant.

Emergency Accommodation:-

If none of the above options are available we then resort to emergency accommodation.

This is an area of challenge as we do not currently have sufficient emergency accommodation. Fostering will try, for under 18's, to find placements but if this is unsuccessful then the individual teams will support the access of homeless provision through the District Housing Offices, or as a last resort use Bed and Breakfast. Some young people refuse to leave this accommodation and so it continues as otherwise they would be street homeless. This is never the preferred option and workers will endeavour to encourage more supported accommodation. For a recently produced reported on B&B usage for young homeless people in 2013, identified it had been used for 28 young people, at a cost of £62.432. We are currently assessing the quality, protocols and duration of these arrangements.

Emergency Duty Team Foster Placements:-

Out of hours there is provision for emergencies, but these cannot be used by daytime services. Over the past 3 years EDT placement usage has been as follows. The table 12 indicates that EDT have enough provision for out of hours emergencies but such placements are for one night only in the week or over the weekend and as foster placements can only be used for under 18's.

Table 12: EDT foster placements

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

Suitability of care leavers accommodation:-

The DfE seek to measure suitability of accommodation by looking at young people aged 19 and over who were looked after under any legal status on 1st April in their 17th year, the proportion who in their 19th year were in suitable accommodation. Once again the DfE measure performance over three years.

Based on this, Warwickshire's three year average against this indicator (2011, 2012 and 2013) would be 86% which is a decrease on the previous 3 year average of 92%. Meaning that Warwickshire's performance is currently lower than the national three year average of 89%.

In 2012/13, Warwickshire were ranked 114 out of 152 local authorities based on our 3 year average against this indicator. This is a deterioration on the previous year when we were ranked 56.

Table 12:- Care Leavers in Suitable Accommodate 19 and over

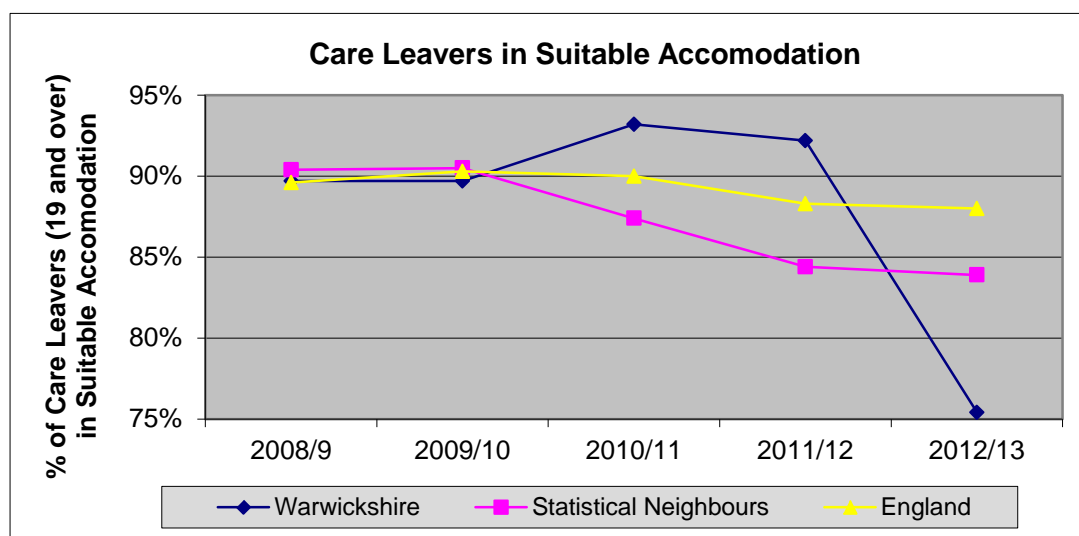


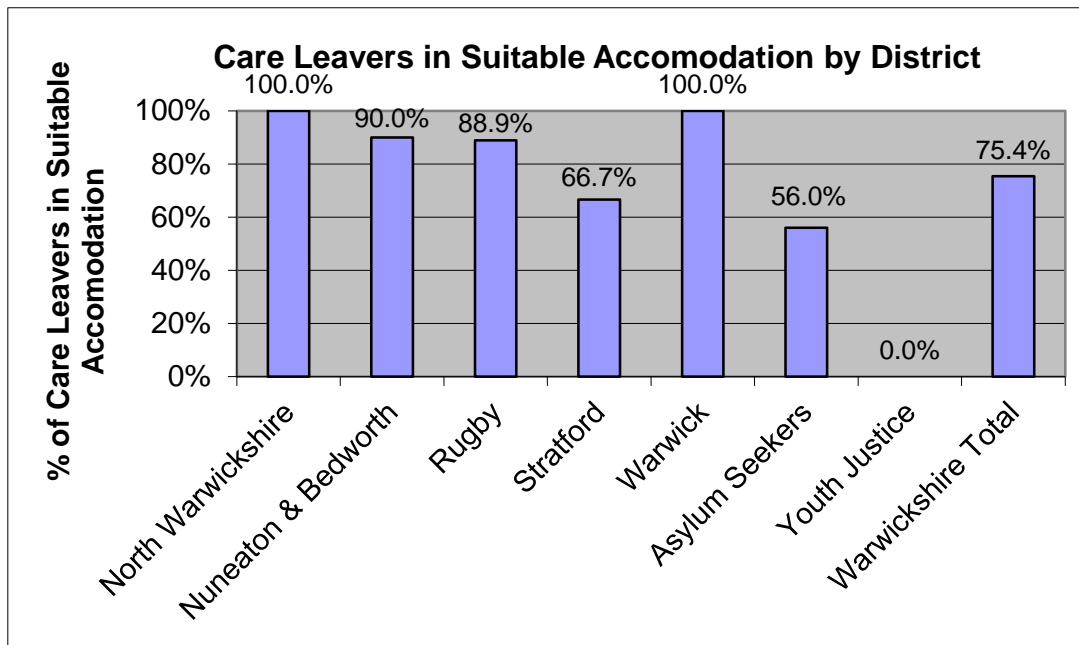
Table 13:- Care Leavers in Suitable Accommodation 19 and over

	2008/9	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Warwickshire	89.7%	89.7%	93.2%	92.2%	75.4%
Statistical Neighbours	90.4%	90.5%	87.4%	84.4%	83.9%
England	89.6%	90.3%	90.0%	88.3%	88.0%

The main reason for Warwickshire’s significant drop in performance in 2012/13 were the number of unaccompanied asylum seekers we are now no longer ‘in touch’ with. We think this may be due to the number of ARE young adults that end their contact with us. Some other unaccompanied asylum teams have better performances than Warwickshire in this area, which may be a result of a different post ARE assessment process. To clarify this situation we will be contacting some other local authorities to better understand and possibly learn from their approach.

Table 14 illustrates the significance of the impact of this by present appropriate accommodation fingers by district.

Table 14:- Suitable Accommodation by District.



Future Options & Pressures:-

Project Board:-

As noted above the District, Borough and County Council are currently meeting to review the Joint Assessment Protocol for homeless 16 and 17 year olds and also to consider if there is a better way to provide accommodation services, including mediation to 16 to 25 year olds. While there are no new resources, there is a willingness to work in partnership to make best use of current resources. This comes at a time when the Housing Related Support contracts have to be re-commissioned, so it is an opportunity to consider options such as a single front door for housing support. The Board could also consider reviewing sub-regional options for supportive provision; prioritizing care leavers and other vulnerable to

homelessness young people, over other groups.

Children's Commissioning have suggested that before any re-commissioning of services, a user consultation is required to ensure the specification meets need. In 2011 Jenny Bevan & Steven Haworth from Commission Support Services completed a needs assessment on young people and homelessness. The messages from that consultation remain relevant e.g. "early intervention, to help develop realistic expectations and mediation. Integrated working between Housing and Children's Services was the most important issue raised by young people. Their experiences of being pushed 'from pillar to post' were quite raw for many and increased their existing feelings of rejection. Being accepted by someone 'at the council' as their responsibility was frequently mentioned as an issue." The young people consulted recognized the need via early intervention to manage expectations.

In May 2009, the House of Lords made a landmark judgement in G vs Southwark Council. The Southwark Ruling made clear the responsibilities of Children's Services with regards to 16/17 year olds presenting as homeless. Single 16/17 year olds that are homeless are defined as a 'Child in Need' (as per section 17 of the Children Act 1989) requiring services from the local authority. If accommodation is one of these services, the young person will (subject to their agreement) become 'Looked After'. In February 2011 the Joint Assessment Protocol was agreed in response to the Southwark Judgement and the fact that the previous arrangements were not being uniformly implement across the County. Since the Protocol there are concerns that the Protocol is not being implanted uniformly. As a result Hugh Disley plans to complete and audit and report back to the Board. This is an issue that needs to be resolved to enhance working relationships with the District and Borough Councils but it could mean our providing support to more young people.

Section 106 Possibilities:-

As has been the case with Extra Care Housing for those aged 55 and over, it may be possible to achieve some new developments, e.g. the 'Foyer' model, for LAC via contributions as per Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended). This can be achieved either via an off-site financial contribution or direct provision of units and services on any proposed development site. This allows for (S106) contributions for:

- The development of 'affordable' extra care housing/accommodation suitable for older people, adults with a Learning and/or Physical Disability and/or Mental Health problems, e.g. dementia, and 'transitional' housing with care, e.g. for young people who are moving from Children to Adult Service care provision within People Group.
- Purchase of land for development of housing for all vulnerable adult groups

It should be noted that any contribution or on site development should be progressed in line with the aspirations of the Local Housing and Planning authority, usually this will be within the same locality/parish/town/ward , although the very nature of S106 agreement requires a case-by-case approach. Factors to be considered include: link to local needs; demographic of area for proposed development; annual changes; and, strategic objectives/aspirations.

Positively as the Housing Project Board has demonstrated the District and Borough Councils do recognize the need for additional accommodation options for care leavers so are likely to be supportive of any Section 106 application.

A family based FACS eligible scheme:

As noted previously this is being looked as by Adult Social Care. If it could be delivered it would provide a new family based service for disabled young adults. In the consultation completed in 2010 for the Strategic Review, feedback received from service users suggested the need for more services for disabled young

Spot Purchasing Emergency accommodation via Children's Commissioning:

We are currently working with Commissioning to complete a needs analysis for emergency accommodation and propose a coordinated placement process that ensure cost effective and appropriate emergency accommodation. The development of a protocol and purchasing via commissioning could improve service quality and cost. This is something being actively worked on by Children's Commissioning within the Strategic Commissioning work on retendering the Housing Related Support (HRS) contracts. It is envisaged by Commissioning that the contracts will include framework agreements for these services. This contracting arrangement would allow both HRS services and Safeguarding BU to purchase services as and when required. The estimated aggregated volumes would encourage market development. Decisions on block purchase of a small number of dedicated emergency provision will be considered within the commissioning options.

New partnership arrangements with Housing Associations and Departments:-

Bromford Housing Association and Stratford Housing Department have proposed a new partnership arrangement with the County Council, that would provide a new leaving care option within Stratford District. It is a model that Bromford already deliver in Solihull. It involves a shared living arrangement, within a Bromford three bedroom property with floating support. While discussions are at an early stage they do illustrate that there remains a willingness for partnership working and that when resources are brought together, they do at times form more than the sum of their parts.

Emergency accommodation options:-

We will look again at our Supportive Lodgings process to see if we can recruit specifically to provide emergency provision of care leavers to avoid B&B.

Children's Commissioning also plan to look a better commissioning options in respect of this need.

Finance:-

Excluding the spend from the Children's Asylum Team it is anticipated that leaving care services will have overspent by £50k for the financial year 2013/14, excluding fostering and residential costs. While the Children's Asylum Team will have underspent by £70k in 2013/14. However, the rapidly changing profile and number of unaccompanied asylum seekers means we are projecting an overspend, for the first time in many years, of £70k for financial year 2014/15. With a rising overspend in coming years because of the aging and declining unaccompanied asylum population.

The need to address the overspend for leaving care generally and the projected overspend for unaccompanied asylum seekers, is being taken into account in the savings plan linked to the restructure of asylum and leaving care services. The restructure savings plan had a £70k target linked to it for 2014/15. It is believe the restructure will be able to meet the £70k target and the underlying budget pressures by creating a central Team, with a smaller management structure. The new Team will improve consistency of service delivery and caseloads for workers, so enhancing service delivery while making the necessary savings.

There are however other new financial pressures and opportunities as noted in this report.

- The extension of Warwickshire's Staying Put Scheme, to be compliant with Government guidelines, will provide an improved service option for care leavers but it is anticipated to increase our spend, beyond the government grant by approximately £100k in year three of the new scheme.
- During 2013/14, Safeguarding paid Supporting People £68,109 for the support that 16 & 17 year old care leavers received in their schemes. It has been agreed that these monies will no longer be reclaimed, with Safeguarding being able to use the funds to enhance housing options and support to care leavers. Safeguarding need to work with Children's Commissioning, Fostering and housing providers to ensure these funds are used to their full potential.
- Last year Safeguarding spent £62,432 on B&B emergency accommodation for care leavers. While some of the largest spends were on young people

who liked and wanted this option, it is not suitable emergency accommodation. This level of spend does however offer an opportunity to use these funds to work with Children's Commissioning and possibly local Housing Departments and providers to develop more appropriate emergency housing options.

- A significant financial risk is that linked to any rise in care leaver numbers as a result of accommodating more 16 & 17 year olds under the requirements of the Southwark Judgement. Work continues on this with District and Borough Housing Departments.

Conclusions:-

Warwickshire's rising looked after and care leaving numbers are placing pressures upon Safeguarding services, e.g. the relative shortage of internal foster placements & the rising number of out of county placements. These trends are impacting upon young people's looked after experience but are also placing additional pressures the Safeguarding Business Unit's finances, pressures that will be exacerbated by the changing profile and scale of unaccompanied asylum seekers; the impact of the Southwark Judgement; and the positive extension of services to care leavers e.g. changes to Staying Put.

There is a need to see through the work that has been started with the Dartington Social Research Unit, that is aimed at safely bringing down looked after numbers. Achieving this improves capacity within fostering, allowing better matching, fewer out of county placements and a lower use of expensive agency placements. Collectively this improves the looked after experience and reduces budget pressure.

The rising number of care leavers is also placing new challenges on the available housing options for care leavers. Challenges that will be best met if we ensure that we maximize the benefit from greater partnership working with the District and Borough Council. We also need to look at new methods of commissioning that make the best use of the market place, that enables us to personalize service delivery, while also building in greater monitoring of quality for newly commissioned services. Central to these new commissions has to be consultation with service users.

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