

Corporate Parenting Panel

**Monday 7 July
2014**

Agenda

A meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel will be held on Monday 7 July 2014 at 2.00 pm, 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 2 May 2014

To approve the enclosed draft minutes

2. Children in Care Council updates

Councillor Yousef Dahmash – 6 May 2014

Councillor Jenny St.John – 3 June 2014

Councillor Peter Fowler – 1 July 2014

3. Update from Strategic Lead

Brenda Vincent, Service Manager (Safeguarding) will give a verbal update on current issues/challenges.

4. Performance Update

Brenda Vincent will present performance data in relation to Looked After Children.

5. Warwickshire County Council Children's Social Care - Compliments and Complaints

Karen Smith, Customer Relations Manager will present a progress report for 2013/14

6. Warwickshire Fostering Services

Sue Ross, Interim Head of Service – Safeguarding will report to the Panel on the Warwickshire Fostering Service.

7. Work Programme

Members of the Panel are asked to agree the work programme and to consider possible themes for future meetings.

8. Any other Business

Future meeting dates and agenda items

The following dates have been scheduled:

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: Peter Fowler, Bob Hicks, Clive Rickhards, Dave Shilton, Jenny St John and Chris Williams (Chair).

General enquiries

Please contact:

Ann Mawdsley, Senior Democratic Services Officer, Warwickshire County Council,

Tel: (01926) 418079

Email: annmawdsley@warwickshire.gov.uk

Minutes of a meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel held on 2 May 2014

Present:

Members of the Panel

Councillors:

Yousef Dahmash

Bob Hicks

Jenny St John

John Whitehouse

Chris Williams (Chair)

Officers

Jo Davies, Qualified Social Worker

Ann Mawdsley, Senior Democratic Services Officer

Calvin Smith, Service Manager (Safeguarding)

Brenda Vincent, Service Manager - South

1. General

Members recorded their displeasure at the late receipt of reports, which did not allow them any time to digest the information provided. There was some discussion about whether all the items on the agenda should be deferred to a later meeting. It was agreed that in future all reports would be provided to Democratic Services at least 10 working days before a meeting for that item to be considered.

(1) Apologies

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

(2) Disclosures of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

None.

(3) Minutes of the meeting held on 14 February 2014

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 February 2014 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

Matters Arising from Previous Meeting(s)

None.

3. Children in Care Council (CiCC) updates

Councillor John Whitehouse – 4 March 2014

Councillor Whitehouse reported that he had been the first member of the Panel to attend a CiCC meeting in this capacity. He noted that the CiCC meetings were held at the same time as the Youth Parliament and VOX, and there was an opportunity for the three groups to network outside of their separate meetings.

It was agreed that the notes of the CiCC meetings would be included in the Panel papers in the future.

The following issues from the CiCC meeting were noted:

- i. CiCC agreed to take part in the Warwick Museum Sheldon Project.
- ii. Different options were being looked at to make improvements to the Facebook/web page, including a possible grant from the Tiffin Club.
- iii. There had been a discussion on sexting and Cllr Whitehouse had informed the CiCC about a video that had recently been produced by young people at the Kenilworth Youth and Community Centre. The CiCC had expressed an interest in getting involved in the launch of this video, which had the potential for countywide use.
- iv. A request was made for one member of the Panel to work with the CiCC to develop training for members on corporate parenting.

Councillor Jenny St. John volunteered to help with the development of training. The Chair agreed to substitute if necessary and it was agreed that they would both attend an initial meeting (on a date to be set through Shinderpaul Bhangal).

There was some discussion about the possibilities and sources for grant money, including the Awards for All England Grants, which were small Lottery grants of between £300 and £10,000, and the Tiffin Club.

Councillor Bob Hicks – 1 April 2014

Councillor Hicks noted that this meeting coincided with a Youth Parliament meeting, so the Antechamber had been conspicuous with the number of young people.

At the CiCC meeting several subjects were considered:

- a. Digital by Default – a proposal for an ‘app’ to be created for people leaving care to be able to access for all kinds of assistance. The discussion was wide-ranging and very animated, about both potential content and the value to users. Robin Walsh took away lots of ideas and will be returning to a future meeting with a draft scheme.
- b. Police Cadet Scheme – P.C. Beki Taylor gave a presentation on this scheme, run by Warwickshire and West Mercia police forces. This was aimed at 16 year-old volunteers who take part in a two-year scheme with a

- Level 2 qualification at the end. The scheme is countywide and operates from North Warwickshire and Hinckley Technical College.
- c. The Council was organising an evening event for 16 July at North Warwickshire and Hinckley College, Nuneaton. It is hoped that Lorraine Pascale (TV cook and celebrity who champions looked-after children groups) will attend, and the main purpose of the event is to raise awareness of the CiCC and the Corporate Parenting Panel.
 - d. The Sheldon Project – this was again discussed, and some members of the CiCC stepped forward to work with the Museum Service on this.

Councillor Hicks noted that the CiCC appreciated what was being done and the relationship that was growing between the Corporate Parenting Panel and themselves.

Councillor St. John reported that she had also attended a Warwick District Council Young People and Community Group meeting showcasing what the young people were doing. She had been welcomed to the meeting and had been pleased to support the CiCC and suggested that it would be useful for Councillors to go to these events, particularly when LAC from their divisions were attending. Brenda Vincent agreed that the minutes of their meetings would be provided for the Panel agendas, as well as briefing sheets they produced. The Chair emphasised the need to keep up the pressure and to continue to break down barriers for our LAC.

4. Update from Strategic Lead

Brenda Vincent reported that the CiCC had attended the full Council meeting on 25 March 2014, and they had given a confident presentation followed by some good questions and answers.

She made the following points:

1. Foster Care Fortnight was a national two week period taking place from 12-25 May 2014. This annual awareness raising campaign aims to encourage a diverse range of people with the right skills and qualities to foster to come forward to meet the needs of children in care. Warwickshire wanted to focus on what young people were saying they wanted from foster care and was expecting higher than usual activity during that time.
2. A 'Fostering Fun Day' was being held on 7 June 2014 to promote fostering.
3. The Children and Families Act was enacted in April and members of the Panel would receive a briefing note on the implications for Warwickshire.

5. Performance Dataset

Brenda Vincent updated the Panel on the data that had been tabled at the meeting.

Despite the Panel agreeing that there had not been sufficient time to consider the data, the following points were made:

1. The information would be collated on a quarterly basis and needed to identify trends, national averages and statistical neighbour averages to allow for benchmarking.
2. There needed to be comparative data on the pupil premium compared to the rest of the school average to identify gaps, as well as comparisons between the Virtual School results and the general school results.
3. Data needed to be accompanied by commentary where possible to give context.
4. The Pupil Premium Plus was sent direct to the Virtual School and was linked to the personal education plans of LAC, which had to demonstrate that the child was progressing academically against clear targets and expectations. This enabled the Council to hold the school to account.
5. Members welcomed the good NEETs report.

6. & 7. Focus on Care Leavers and Independent Housing

Calvin Smith and Jo Davies introduced this item. The following points were made:

- i. There was an increased responsibility on the Council for young people aged 16-17. In light of this, work was being done with housing partners, maximising opportunities for positive working, but there was a risk that the number of 16-17 year-old young people needing housing would increase.
- ii. All teams were working to the same protocols, but the relationships with different teams differed and each area had its own challenges in terms of the rental market and demographics. For instance Nuneaton and Bedworth had a large number of 16-17 year-olds presenting as homeless, but in Stratford housing options were restricted. There was the potential and willingness to consider a single front door approach for Warwickshire, which was positive.

Members of the Panel made the following comments:

1. St Basils, which helped homeless young people by providing a holistic range of services including prevention, accommodation and support, had been used to provide trained mediators who had worked with families and schools. This work, together with better co-ordination of workers, more streamlined accommodation and investment had resulted in a decline in numbers of the past two to three years.
2. Brenda Vincent agreed to look into the high number of external placements in Warwickshire.
3. Brenda Vincent agreed to investigate the reasons behind the struggle for LAC to get health assessments.
4. There was an issue around funding in relation to asylum seekers who were no longer eligible for government grants and student loans, but still the responsibility of the Local Authority. This had been predicted for some time and had been partly responsible for the decision to join the Asylum Seeker and Leaving Care teams. This meant that there was a reduction in staff and a less resilient service, but savings had been made across the

management structure and every young person still received the same offer when leaving the services. Barnardo's was being brought in-house as well and work was being done with other Local Authorities to see what was being done for Asylum Seekers.

5. The largest number of young people leaving foster care returned to their homes, and research showed that young people had better outcomes if supported at home.
6. Warwickshire had acted as a pilot for the Staying Put programme for 18+ family placements, and this had produced positive results.
7. The age young people could stay in foster care had been increased, but once young people turned 18 they were required to have their own room, and this was expected to impact negatively on the number of available foster beds.
8. Work was being done to look at agencies that could provide supported lodging in the short-term, including family-based options, as this was preferable to Bed and Breakfast options.
9. There was no an even spread of floating support across the county and the County were keen for all schemes to see care leavers as a first option.
10. Reductions had been made in the monitoring of contracts, but there was some monitoring done by social workers. It was agreed that within the process of commissioning it was important to listen to young adults to see what they wanted to ensure the Council got better at commissioning the right placements and paying properly. Jo Davies that a consultation on housing had recently been carried out with the CiCC.

Members agreed that while this was an area that had seen some of the biggest savings, the challenge was to look at better ways of working that could improve outcomes for young people.

8. Work Programme

The work programme was updated.

9. Any Other Business

None.

Future meeting dates

7 July 2014 at 2.00 pm

8 September 2014 at 10.00 am

27 October 2014 at 10.00 am

9 December 2014 at 10.00 am

9 February 2015 at 10.00 am

14 April 2015 at 10.00 am

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Chair

The meeting closed at 4:40 pm

Item 4

Corporate Parenting Panel – Dataset for 7 July 2014

The dataset is the same report that was presented at the previous meeting. This is updated in a quarterly basis and will be updated on 30.6.2014. The number of children with a placement order waiting to be matched with prospective adopters has been added, as requested, at the end of the report.

A report has been forwarded to Cllr Whitehouse clarifying 3 areas on the dataset.

The Children Looked After extract for May 2014 shows:

- For a 5 month period from December 2013 to April 2014 there was a steady decline in the number of looked after children from 735 to 681. However there was an increase in May by 11 children principally from Bedworth and Kenilworth/Warwick Children's Teams.
- The number of children with WCC foster carers has increased with a corresponding decrease in residential placements and placements in the independent foster sector during this period.
- The Briefing Paper of the Foster Care Service provides more detailed information about the numbers, usage and throughput of children through WCC Fostering Services.
- Agreement has been given to piloting the development of specialist single placement fostering scheme that is aimed at returning young people with complex needs from residential care.
- On 21 June an Adoption Activity Day is to be held at Solihull School in conjunction with Coventry and Solihull Adoption Services. The event allows prospective adopters to meet children who have a plan for adoption. Based on a model developed by BAAF such events can be successful in securing placements for harder to place children. Warwickshire will have 23 children attending and 12 adoptive households.

Issue/s for Elected Members to consider:

1. Your understanding as to the reasons why the number of LAC fluctuates?
2. What information might you like to know about the 'quality' of looked after child's experience in Warwickshire?

Brenda Vincent

Service Manager

Warwickshire Corporate Parenting Panel Dataset

Data Caveats: Please note that quarterly data, although of benefit because it illustrates activity trends, may not be reflective of our final position at the end of year as we will need to undertake further validation and data quality checks at the end of each financial year.

	To be provided by	2010/11 Yearly Outturn	2011/12 Yearly Outturn	2012/13 Yearly Outturn	2013/14 Q1 Outturn	2013/14 Q2 Outturn	2013/14 Q3 Outturn	*Current* 2013/14 Q4 Outturn	2012/13 England Average	2012/13 - Statistical Neighbours Average
LAC per 10,000 of the 0-17 child population										
No. of Looked After Children per 10,000 population	Jamie Wait	57.2	61.2	62.4	62	64	66	62	60	48.8

	To be provided by	2010/11 Yearly Outturn	2011/12 Yearly Outturn	2012/13 Yearly Outturn	2013/14 Q1 Outturn	2013/14 Q2 Outturn	2013/14 Q3 Outturn	*Current* 2013/14 Q4 Outturn	2012/13 England Average	2012/13 - Statistical Neighbours Average
Attainment of Looked After Children										
CiC attainment: KS2 - Percentage who achieved at least Level 4 in Mathematics - ANNUAL MEASURE	expected to achieve Level 4	36%	68%	71.0%				30.0%	59%	56.7%
CiC attainment: KS2 - Percentage who achieved at least Level 4 in Reading - ANNUAL MEASURE	expected to achieve Level 4	44%	80%	71.0%				30.0%	63%	60.2%
CiC attainment: KS2 - Percentage who achieved at least Level 4 in Writing - ANNUAL MEASURE	expected to achieve Level 4	N/A	72%	79.0%				30.0%	55%	51.8%
CiC attainment: KS4 - 5+ GCSEs A*-C or equivalent - ANNUAL MEASURE	Steve Pendleton - those expected to get 5 A-C	32.8%	38.8%	42.9%				24.0%	36.6%	33.1%
CiC attainment: KS4 - 5+ GCSEs A*-C or equivalent including English & mathematics GCSEs - ANNUAL MEASURE	Steve Pendleton - those expected to get 5 A-C (including English/Maths)	13.1%	16.3%	21.4%				24.0%	15.3%	15.5%
% of looked after children who are making at least expected progress – by year group	Steve Pendleton	N/A	N/A	N/A				56.0%	N/A	N/A
The percentage of sessions missed due to overall absences for children who have been looked after continuously for at least twelve months at 31 March - ANNUAL MEASURE	Steve Pendleton	5.0%	6.0%	TBC				TBC	Absence information is matched against the School Census (SC) which collects pupil level data on a termly basis (spring, summer and autumn collections). Absence data is returned in arrears and is therefore available at a later date than attainment information. As a result of this, the latest available absence information for primary, secondary and special schools covers the 2011/12 school year.	
The percentage of school-age children looked after continuously for 12 months who were attending a school that was assessed as being good or better by Ofsted	Steve Pendleton	N/A	N/A	N/A				60.0%	N/A	N/A

	To be provided by	2010/11 Yearly Outturn	2011/12 Yearly Outturn	2012/13 Yearly Outturn	2013/14 Q1 Outturn	2013/14 Q2 Outturn	2013/14 Q3 Outturn	*Current* 2013/14 Q4 Outturn	2012/13 England Average	2012/13 - Statistical Neighbours Average
Health of Looked After Children										
The proportion of children who had been looked after continuously for a year or more who had an annual health assessment during the previous 12 months.	Rachel Webster/Jamie Wait	80.2%	76.3%	76.8%				80.0%	87.3%	84.2%
Data caveats around % of LAC without Health Assessments are that young people decline health assessments, referral delays/health capacity issues and missed and cancelled/re-arranged appointments affect completion within timescales.										

	To be provided by	2010/11 Yearly Outturn	2011/12 Yearly Outturn	2012/13 Yearly Outturn	2013/14 Q1 Outturn	2013/14 Q2 Outturn	2013/14 Q3 Outturn	*Current* 2013/14 Q4 Outturn	2012/13 England Average	2012/13 - Statistical Neighbours Average
Looked After Placements Monitoring										
% of LAC placed in Internal provision foster care at year/quarter end	Jamie Wait	68.7%	65.9%	63.3%	64.1%	59.2%	58.9%	60.3%	51.0%	N/A
% of LAC placed in External provision foster care at year/quarter end	Jamie Wait	11.3%	14.8%	16.0%	16.6%	19.6%	19.1%	19.9%	24.0%	N/A
% of LAC placed in Residential provision at year/quarter end	Jamie Wait	3.6%	2.9%	3.3%	3.6%	3.2%	3.8%	4.3%	9.5%	N/A
Long Term Stability: % of LAC aged under 16 who have been looked after continuously for at least 2.5 years, who were living in the same placement for at least 2 years, or are placed for adoption.	Jamie Wait	73.1%	69.5%	63.8%	61.7%	66.1%	61.9%	62.2%	67.0%	65.2%
Placement Stability: The percentage of LAC with 3 or more placements over a year	Jamie Wait	11.8%	12.8%	12.5%	12.7%	11.5%	11.5%	12.5%	11.0%	11.1%

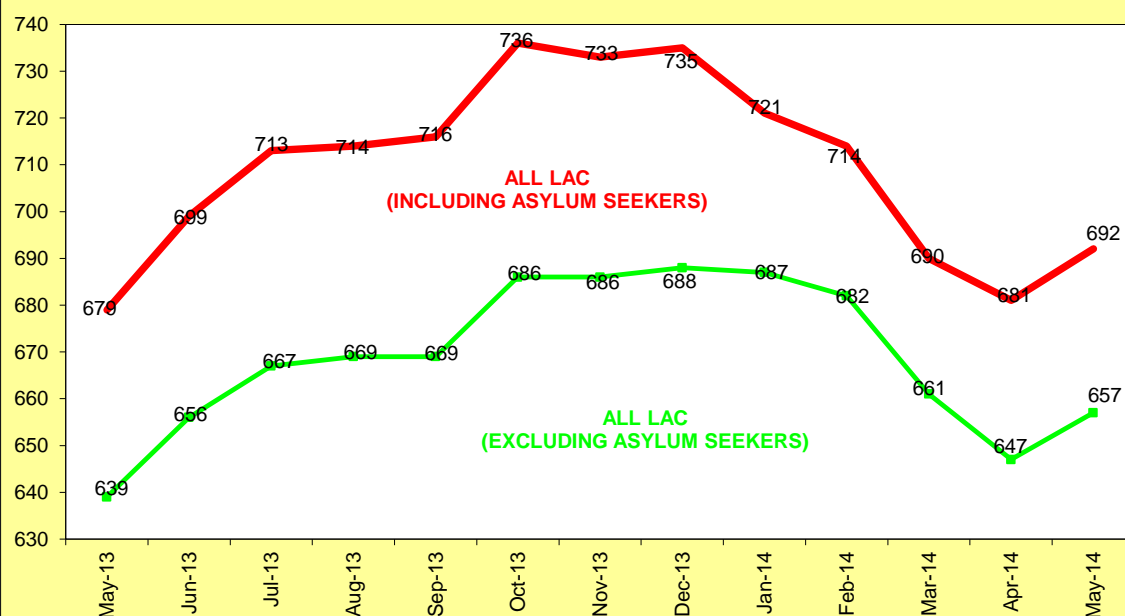
	To be provided by	2010/11 Yearly Outturn	2011/12 Yearly Outturn	2012/13 Yearly Outturn	2013/14 Q1 Outturn	2013/14 Q2 Outturn	2013/14 Q3 Outturn	*Current* 2013/14 Q4 Outturn	2012/13 England Average	2012/13 - Statistical Neighbours Average
Fostering										
Number of Mainstream foster care households at end of each year/quarter	Jamie Wait	253	263	252	257	263	261	257	N/A	N/A
Number of Family/Friends foster care households at end of each year/quarter	Jamie Wait	48	63	61	66	48	51	49	N/A	N/A
Number of Short Term Breaks foster care households at end of each year/quarter	Jamie Wait	32	27	26	21	20	20	21	N/A	N/A
Number of open child referrals for a fostering placement	Lesley Malley	N/A	N/A	N/A				65	N/A	N/A
Number of foster carers at stage 1 of the fostering information and preparation process	Lesley Malley	N/A	N/A	N/A				15	N/A	N/A
Number of foster carers at stage 2 of the fostering assessment process	Lesley Malley	N/A	N/A	N/A				16	N/A	N/A

	To be provided by	2010/11 Outturn	2011/12 Outturn	2012/13 Outturn	2013/14 Q1 Outturn	2013/14 Q2 Outturn	2013/14 Q3 Outturn	*Current* 2013/14 Q4 Outturn	2012/13 England Average	2012/13 - Statistical Neighbours Average
Adoption										
The Number of adoption orders granted (children adopted)	Sharon Shaw	25	31	33	17	23	39	56	N/A	N/A
The percentage of children who ceased to be looked after who were adopted (had their adoption order granted)	Jamie Wait	9.9%	10.5%	10.8%	18.9%	13.3%	15.4%	16.9%	13.2%	11.8%
The average time (days) between a local authority receiving court authority to place a child and the local authority deciding on a match to an adoptive family	Jamie Wait	113	117	87	260	212	164	172	210	215.4
The average time (days) between a child entering care and moving in with their adoptive family (3yr average)	Jamie Wait	558	562	535	783	693	580	556	647	664.8
Number of adoption decisions	Sharon Shaw	N/A	N/A	N/A				93	N/A	N/A

		2010/11 Outturn	2011/12 Outturn	2012/13 Outturn	2013/14 Q1 Outturn	2013/14 Q2 Outturn	2013/14 Q3 Outturn	*Current* 2013/14 Q4 Outturn	2012/13 England Average	2012/13 - Statistical Neighbours Average
Adoption continued	To be provided by									
Number of adopters in Stage 1 of the adoption information and preparation process	Sharon Shaw	N/A	N/A	N/A				16 [+5 on hold after stage 1]	N/A	N/A
Number of adopters in Stage 2 of the adoption assessment process	Sharon Shaw	N/A	N/A	N/A				17 [+1 on hold in Stage 2]	N/A	N/A
Number of approved adopters available	Sharon Shaw	N/A	N/A	N/A				33 [no placement or match]	N/A	N/A
Children with a placement orders not yet placed for adoption	Sharon Shaw	N/A	N/A	N/A				46	N/A	N/A

2. CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER

2.1 Children Looked After



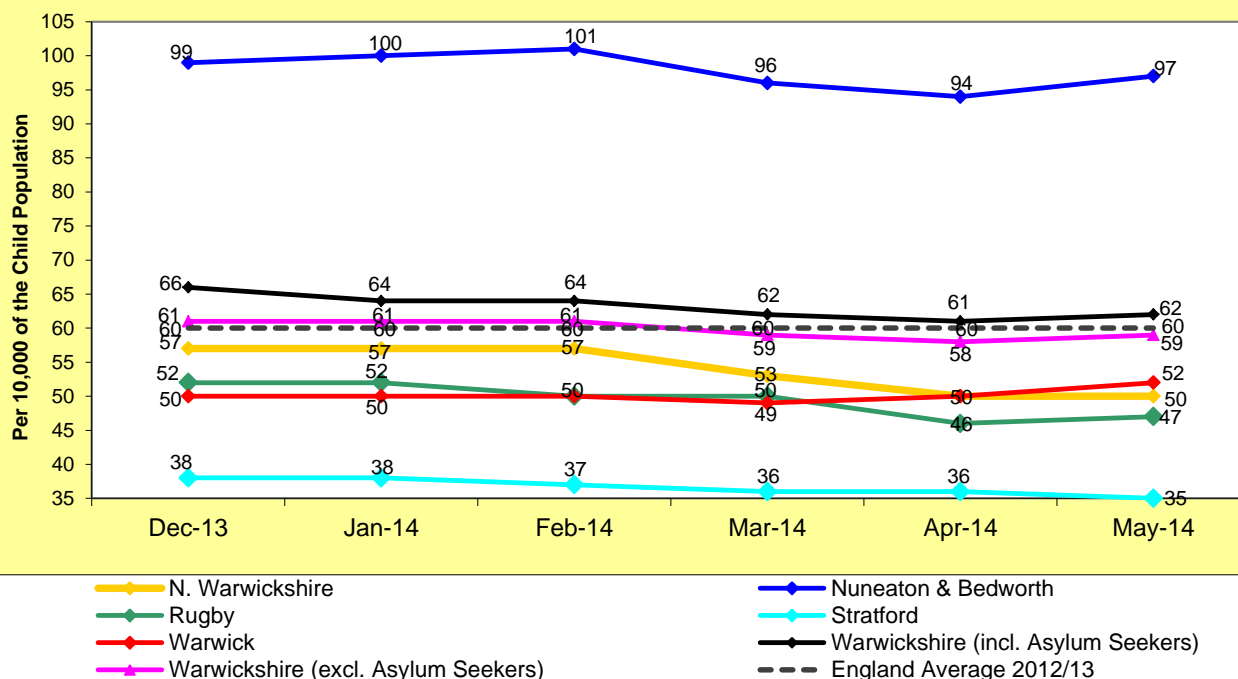
At 31 May 2014, Warwickshire's looked after population increased by 11 to 692, whilst the number of looked after children excluding asylum seekers increased by 10 to 657.

2.2 Number of Looked After cases allocated by team

	Dec-13	Jan-14	Feb-14	Mar-14	Apr-14	May-14
N. Warks Ch&F Team	72	71	71	67	63	63
North Warwickshire (ALL)	72	71	71	67	63	63
Bedworth Children's Team	181	183	195	197	192	200
Nuneaton Children's Team	72	72	67	58	54	55
Nuneaton District CST	12	12	7	1	4	2
Nuneaton & Bedworth (ALL)	265	267	269	256	250	257
Rugby Childrens Services Team	112	114	109	109	101	104
Rugby (ALL)	112	114	109	109	101	104
Stratford District Children's Team	89	87	85	82	83	80
Stratford (ALL)	89	87	85	82	83	80
Warwick District CAT	3	2	3	5	5	4
Kenilworth/Warwick	56	56	54	51	55	60
Leamington Ch&F Team	67	68	68	66	66	65
Warwick (ALL)	126	126	125	122	126	129
N/W, Nun & Bed Integrated Disability	6	6	6	6	8	8
Rugby Integrated Disability	2	2	2	2	0	0
Stratford Integrated Disability	1	1	1	1	1	1
Wark & Lm Integrated Disability	8	7	8	8	8	8
IDS Autism Team	7	6	6	6	5	5
Integrated Disability Service (ALL)	24	22	23	23	22	22
Asylum Seekers	47	34	32	29	34	35
LD Services Team - Adults	0	0	0	1	1	0
No Allocated Team	0	0	0	0	0	0
Youth Justice	0	0	0	1	1	2
Warwickshire (TOTAL)	735	721	714	690	681	692

2.3 LAC per 10,000 of the Child Population by District

Looked After Children allocated to the four district teams that form the Integrated Disability Service will be included under the relevant district when calculating the LAC per 10,000 by district



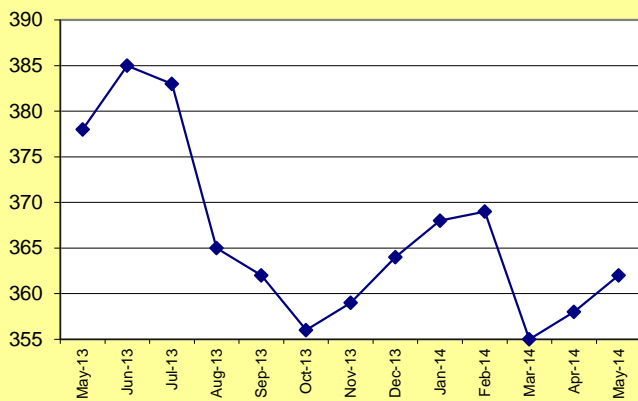
Please note that from February 2013 onwards the rates per 10,000 are based on the 0-17 population from the 2011 Census as supplied by the Office for National Statistics.

2.4 Looked After Children by Placement Type by Team at 31 May 2014

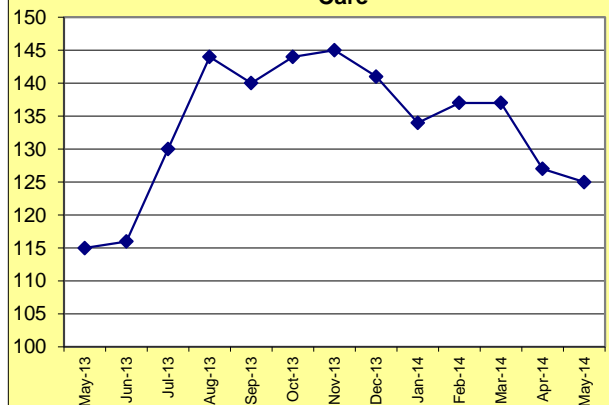
	WCC Foster Care	Placed for Adoption	Residential Home/School	Agency/O LA Foster Care	Relative/Friend Foster Care	Placed with Parents/Person with PR	Other Placement e.g. Independent Living, Mother & Baby Unit
N. Warks Ch&F Team	35	4	1	18	3	0	2
Bedworth Children's Team	107	9	13	50	16	2	3
Nuneaton Children's Team	36	7	0	4	4	4	0
Nuneaton District Children Services Team	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rugby Childrens Services Team	50	4	3	20	14	8	5
Stratford Children's Team	31	5	4	11	11	10	8
Warwick District CAT	3	0	0		1	0	0
Kenilworth/Warwick	31	1	1	4	8	4	11
Leamington Ch&F Team	41	7	1	11	3	2	0
N/W, Nun & Bed Int Disability	1	0	2	4	1	0	0
Rugby Integrated Disability	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stratford Integrated Disability	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Wark & Lm Integrated Disability	7	0	0	1	0	0	0
IDS Autism Team	1	0	3	0	0	0	1
Asylum Seekers	17	0	0	2	1	0	15
LD Services Team - Adults	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
No Allocated Team	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Youth Justice	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Warwickshire (TOTAL)	362	37	29	125	62	30	47

2.5 Children Looked After by Placement Type

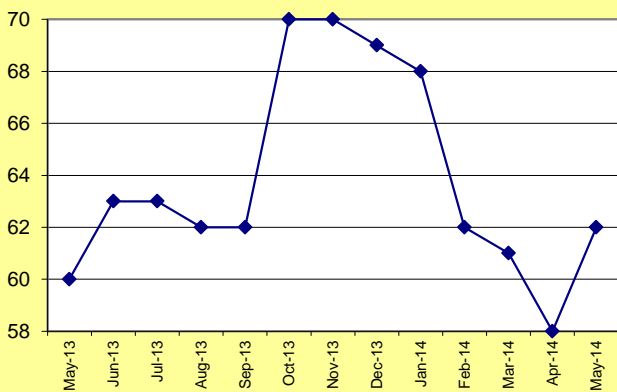
Children Looked After in WCC Foster Care



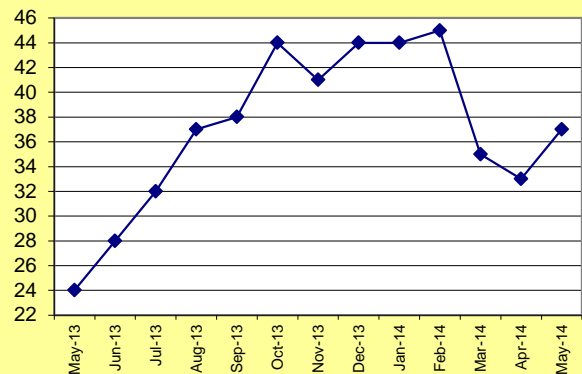
Children Looked After in Agency/OLA Foster Care



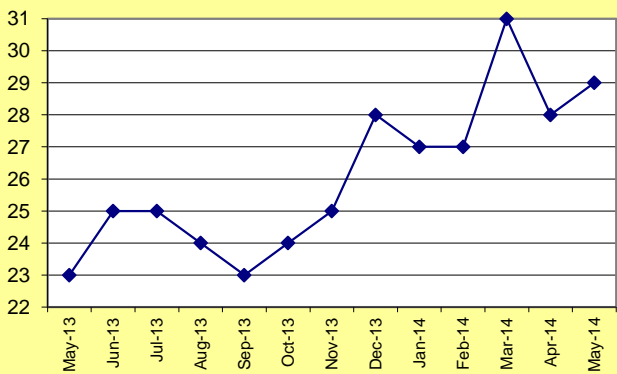
Relative/Friend Foster Care



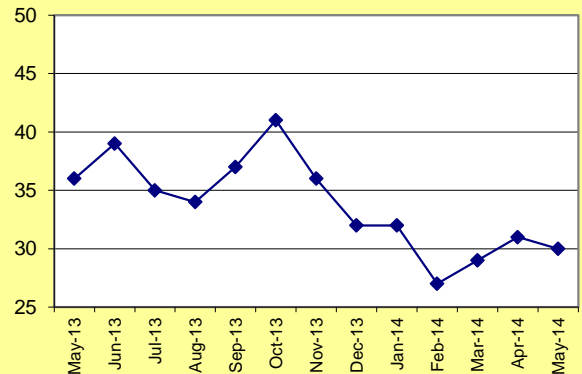
Placed for Adoption



Residential Home/School



Placed with Parents or Person with P.R.



At 31 March 2014, increases were seen in children placed in WCC foster care (up 4 to 362), children placed with relative/friend foster carer (up 4 to 62), children placed for adoption (up 4 to 37), children placed in residential home / school (up 1 to 29) and children placed in other placements (up 1 to 47).

Decreases were seen this month in children placed in agency/OLA foster care (down 2 to 125) and children placed with parents or person with P.R. (down 1 to 30).

2.6 Looked After Children Currently Missing From Care

Between 1 - 31 May 2014 there were two episodes of a children/young person missing from their placement.

The following young person was missing during the month but has since been found:

16 year old male, allocated to Rugby Childrens Services Team, missing since 22/05/2014, whereabouts known (returned to placement on 23/5/14).

The following young person is still missing:

17 year old male, allocated to North Warwickshire C&F Services Team, missing since 27/05/2014, whereabouts unknown.

Item 5

Warwickshire County Council Children's Social Care

Compliments and Complaints Progress Report 2013/14

Corporate Parenting Panel
7th July 2014
Karen Smith
Customer Relations Manager

How we encourage positive and negative feedback about children's social care services from children and young people:

The Council wants to hear from children and young people when we get things right. This helps us to:

- understand what services people value and why;
- share best practice;
- make sure we learn and develop in a way which keeps providing a good service to our customers;
- recognise and reward when our staff “go the extra mile”.

A healthy working relationship with children and young people, their families, and those who act on their behalf, will also mean children and young people will feel able to challenge decisions and actions they do not understand or perhaps disagree with.

Children and young people may find it difficult to talk about their views or concerns. They may:

- be worried that complaining will lead to a reduction in services or “repercussions” from staff or foster carers providing an important service to them;
- find it difficult to speak out for a number of reasons including: disability, level of communication skills, racial, cultural or religious background or age, gender or sexual orientation.

The Council wants all children and young people to feel confident that their views will be taken seriously, and that there will be no “repercussions” if they need to raise genuine concerns.

Young people who are in the care of the Council may feel particularly vulnerable, need additional support and encouragement to raise any concerns they have, and have different expectations for how quickly and in what way they would like to see their problems resolved.

It is therefore important that children and young people have easy access to ways to raise their feedback, and have confidence that they will be treated seriously. Some of the ways in which the Council tries to make itself accessible for children and young people to raise feedback include:

- Direct links to information about how to provide customer feedback is on the new Young People web page of the Council's web site. (<http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople>)
- We have just completed a refresh of the leaflet for young people, after talking to young people on the Children in Care Council.
<http://apps.warwickshire.gov.uk/api/documents/WCCC-950-12>
- Our Customer Relations Officer link attends the Children in Care Council.
- Our Reviewing Officers regularly check with young people if they have feedback they want to take forwards, and the leaflet about feedback is part of the information that goes to all looked after children at Review.

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- Our Local Authority Designated Officer works within Children's Services and is alerted to all cases in which it is alleged that a person who works with children has behaved in a way that has harmed, or may have harmed, a child, possibly committed a criminal offence against children, or related to a child, or behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates s/he is unsuitable to work with children
- We have an independent advocacy support service for young people – Barnardo's Children's Rights Service. Their leaflet also goes into the looked after children information packs.
- Our foster carers are trained and supported to advocate on behalf of the young people they are working with.

When complaints come to the Customer Relations Service:

- We always check to see if a young person has an advocate, and organise one if they want one, and work closely with advocates to ensure that the young person's views are understood. We make sure we speak directly to the young person, and visit them if they would like us to.
- We always prioritise complaints directly from young people, ensuring that action is taken as quickly as possible.
- If a Stage 2 complaint investigation is needed, we will make sure that any complaint from a young person also has an Independent Person involved, to ensure that the investigator properly takes into account the views and wishes of the young person.

What procedures are in place to deal with feedback from young people:

The Council's children, young people and families social care representations procedure is designed to comply with the Children Act 1989 as set out in the Representations Procedure (Children) Regulations 1991, Section 117 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002, and the Health and Social Care (Community Health and Standards) Act 2003, the Representations Procedure (Children) Regulations 2006, and the policy guidance "Getting the Best from Complaints" issued by the Department for Education and Skills 2006.

Our procedure is designed to:

- Protect vulnerable children from abuse and lack of care
- Confirm the right of customers to make a complaint and to disagree
- Enable those denied a service to challenge that decision
- Allow customers or their representatives to complain about the quality of service
- Ensure that complaints or suggestions are acted upon
- Provide extra feedback from our customers on the quality and appropriateness of our services
- Inform planning, resource allocation and quality assurance mechanisms.

Some context about looked after children in Warwickshire:

The number of looked after children at 31/3/14 stood at 690. This represents 62 per 10,000 of Warwickshire's 0-17 population. The national rate per 10,000 for 2012/13 was 60 and our statistical neighbours averaged at 55 per 10,000.

132 referrals were made to Barnardo's Childrens Rights and Advocacy Project in 2012/13.

8 looked after children/young people chose to raise concerns through our complaints procedures in 2013/14.

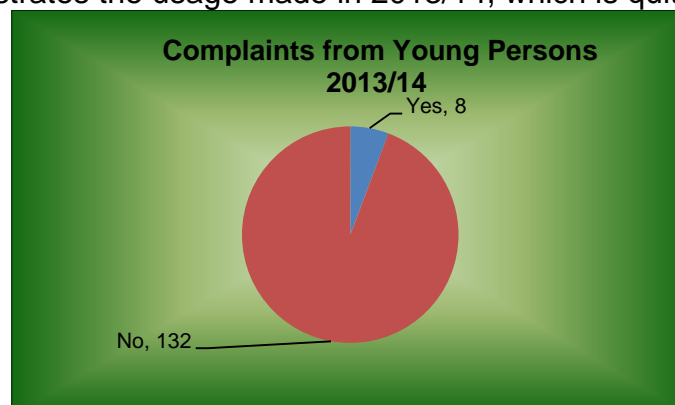
As at 31 March 2014:

- 4.3% of our looked after population were placed in residential provision. This compares to 9.5% nationally (based on 31 March 2013).
- 60.3% were placed in internal WCC foster care placements. This compares to 51% nationally (based on 31 March 2013).
- 19.9% were placed in Agency foster care placements. This compares to 24% nationally (based on 31 March 2013).
- 34.3% of looked after children were placed out of county. No national comparative data is available.

How much do young people use our complaints procedure:

The complaints procedure is not the preferred method used by children and young people to raise concerns about their care, and neither should it be. All national research shows that young people want to be able to resolve problems without fuss as quickly as they can with people they know and feel they can talk to. This is why the first point of contact for feedback from young people is their social worker, their foster carer, their reviewing officer or their advocate. Warwickshire is similar to most local authorities in recognising that for most young people this is the "front line" where problems are identified and sorted out. The number of times that young people decide they want to use the formal complaints process themselves is relatively few.

In Warwickshire, the complaints procedures are used primarily by adults rather than young people (less than 10% of complaints come directly from young people). The chart beneath illustrates the usage made in 2013/14, which is quite typical.



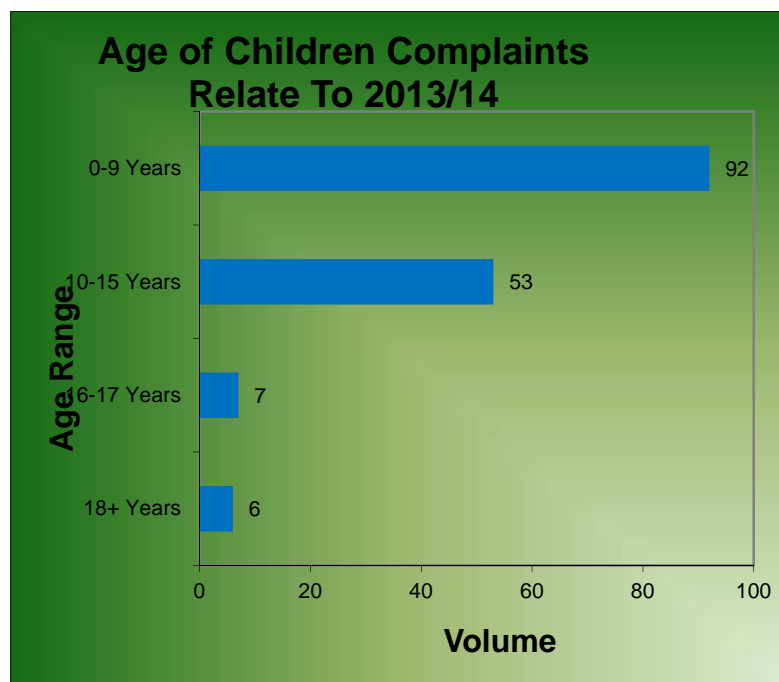
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Whilst the young people who do use our procedures often make use of Barnardo's, they sometimes use alternatives, or choose not to have an advocate at all – this year 50% of young people made use of an advocate. Our Customer Relations Officer link is a member of the Barnardo's Management Board, and plays an active role in supporting the use of this advocacy service by young people. We often spend a lot of time liaising with the Barnardo's advocate to help to take the complaints issues forwards in a way that works for the young person.

The most frequent area for complaints that relate to young people, are in relation to those young people who are in foster care. It is usually teenagers who are either in foster care or are leaving care who are most likely to use the complaints procedures directly themselves.

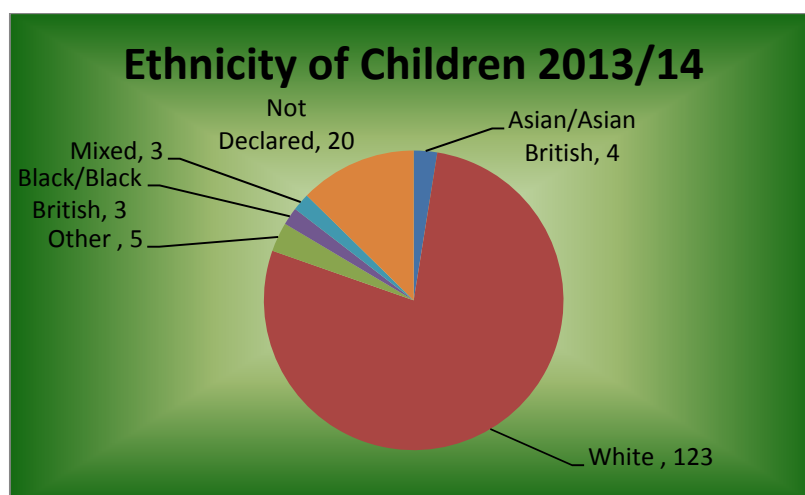
6 of the 8 young people who complained this year were in foster care, and all were teenagers. The kind of issues raised included: problems with the way people felt supported by their social workers, not wanting social worker to be changed, not wanting to move from a foster carers, problems with contact arrangements with mother, and problems with getting support with learning.

However, it is usually families with younger children within the care system who make most complaints. There has been a noticeable increase in complaints relating to kinship assessments, and from relatives of children such as grandparents, rather than just parents.



Relatively few complaints relate to young people from ethnic minorities, and fewer still are directly from young people themselves. This financial year, only one young person had a declared ethnicity other than White British.

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The outcomes of complaints from young people for this financial year are all investigated at Stage 1 of the complaints process: 1 upheld complaint, 2 partly upheld complaints, 1 not upheld complaint, and 2 withdrawn complaints.

Learning from complaints:

Some examples of cases where there has been organisational learning include –

Complaint	Improvement Made
Complaint from relative with parental responsibility for a young person, when young person chose to leave	Staff advised to ensure that case recording reflects situations in which parental consent is not sought clearly within the child's file
Complaint from parent of young person which included concerns over how his son was looked after whilst he attended a court hearing.	Development planned of a protocol for how young people should be supervised in the court arena
Concerns about failure to act on child protection referrals, case included interaction with councillors	The investigation revealed some shortcomings in recording relating to interaction with councillors, and the director agreed with the Stage 3 Panel that it would be helpful to provide briefing note advice to Members about what information Children's Services are able to provide when contacted by Councillors, and how they may best support their constituents on issues relating to safeguarding children.

Compliments:

These are often difficult and turbulent times for young people. It is not surprising that making compliments is not high on their list. However, the ones we do get make it all worthwhile for staff. When good practice is recognised and applauded, it can make a great difference. Below are some examples of positive feedback received last year from young people, or about services for young people:

Social Work Team

.....To everyone that was involved with A and supporting us threw these last few years and Im not going to say we will be missing you all, but thanks for everything! I know a few of you thought I would fail but I made a mistake I learnt threw this and I promise I will always put A first no matter what, and never go back down an old road again. We never been so happy in our lives. Many Thanks.....”

.....Thank you for supporting us you have been the best social worker yet I will miss you a lot but Im glad me and my mum can act on with our lifes now after so many years. My mum and me will be very happy now thanks for everything.....”

K School (after a fatal car accident)

.... Please also express my thanks to M. The school nursing team did a fabulous job this afternoon, working with students who continued to find school a difficult place to be. This support was much appreciated and we would recommend their support in the future to other schools who find themselves in similar situations.....”

Social Work Team

“ I just wanted to let you know that J and Ja have expressed their appreciation for your support and commitment with the placement of N. They commented that you are a pleasure to work with and when you say you will do something, you always do despite your busy work load. J expressed that in all her years in fostering, you are perhaps one of the best social workers she has met! “

M School re Integrated Disability Service

“ I just wanted to share with you the outstanding contribution that J brings to M School each week. Her knowledge and experience of Autism helps not only the students but the whole school. Her calming nature with our students provides them with the sense of security in an educational setting. Her commitment and time is relentless and very often we are emailing each other outside work hours..... has allowed the teaching staff as a whole to develop additional knowledge and skills in autism.....”

H D Nursery re Integrated Disability Service

“.....we would like to thank you for your invaluable support and help in the last year. As you know we have three children with additional needs and without your positive and constructive approach, it would have been a very difficult year for us. The children have developed and matured well, thanks to the consistent strategies that were put in place following your recommendations.....”

Item 6

Briefing Paper for the Corporate Parenting Panel (July 2014)

Warwickshire Fostering Services

1. Context

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 3 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 2014 there were 330 foster carer households.

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
- **Fostering Kinship Practice:** Located in Saltisford Office Park, Warwick.

The Fostering Service is managed by an Operations Manager and 6 Practice Leaders.

2. Recruitment

During the last year the service continued the development of social media advertising including increased investment in the google ads campaign and continuation of Face Book ads campaign. The Fostering Website has been updated within the parameters of the Warwickshire County Council brand and is now easier to navigate and is more colourful. This site now includes more information including the experiences and views of foster carers and fostered young people.

Advertising activity is guided by the 'triggers' that influence applicants to enquire about fostering. This ensures that advertising is targeted. In addition, the service has been working with Warwickshire Observatory regarding the collation of demographic information.

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

Data	2013-14	2012-13
Number of initial enquiries	441	399
Number of information packs sent	395	393
Number of home visits	110	83
Number of applications received	59	50
Number of Information sessions	8	4

Number of preparation groups	8	9
Number of households who attended	36	50
Number of households approved	33	27

The data shows an increase in initial enquiries, home visits, applications and foster home approvals within the last year.

During this period 94% of mainstream foster carer approvals were completed within the enhanced 6 month timescale required by the Service. This compares to 78% in 2012-13.

4. Training and support

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 in March 2014 and obtained an 'excellent' rating which it has maintained since its onset. During 2013-2014, the Service provided 1067 places on training courses (requests 1274).

Upon approval, every fostering household starts to 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.

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 from their fostering social worker. After their first annual review, supervision is quarterly.

5. Placement Requests

The Service receives referrals from Children's Teams who are requesting a foster placement. Once the service has received the referral, matching with foster carers begins. This involves considering both Warwickshire County Council foster carers and 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.

There has been an increase in the number of looked after children over the past 5 years from 577 (31.3.2010) to 701 (31.3.2014)

At any one time the service can be looking for several same day placements. The average number of open referral in any week is in the region of 40 referrals. The Service made 557 placements during 2013- 2014.

Between September 2013 and March 2014, 240 children and young people were placed with internal foster carers and 39 were placed with Independent Fostering Agencies.

6. Service developments

The Service consults with all foster carers via an annual questionnaire. This seeks carer's views on a range of areas. This year the questionnaire focussed on support and supervision of carers and placement planning. Foster carers continue to feel the support from fostering social workers is of a very high standard, either good or excellent. There was also a number of positive comments in respect of Children's Team Social Worker. 92 comments were made of which 76 were positive.

Amendments to the Children Act 1989 Guidance and Regulations was published in July 2013. This involved guidance on

- Delegation of Authority to Foster Carers. The Service welcomed the new Guidance and the opportunity to clarify who can make the day to day decisions regarding the child's care.
- Assessment and Approval of Foster Carers. These Regulations introduced a 2 tier assessment process. It provided clarity about suitability to apply, the ability to obtain information from other fostering agencies records and the ability to change carers approval categories with the carer's agreement.

7. Challenges to the Fostering Service

- Demand for local fostering placements
- Recruitment of Foster Carers
- Support needs for Kinship Carers
- Complex needs of Looked After Children and Young People
- Retirements/Termination of Foster Carers

8. Summary and Service Achievements 2013 -2014 and Priorities for 2013- 2015

Objective/Target	Timescales	Outcome
90% of main stream fostering assessments completed within 6 months	12 months	Achieved and ongoing
To recruit 50 households a year, including family and friends	12 months	Achieved and ongoing
Improve level of support to all foster carers	12 months	Achieved

Involvement in sub regional work to ensure greater range of local placements	12 months	On-going
To review and develop Parent and Baby placements and specialist single placement scheme	12 months	Partially achieved.
To review and implement new processes for securing permanency fostering arrangements	12 months	Achieved
To improve communications to foster carers through the extended use of we learn 365 secure portal	12 months	Ongoing
To explore the development of 'fostering to adoption' placements	12 months	Ongoing
Audit to ensure that foster carers are provided with the required documentation at the outset of a new placement	12 months	On going
To increase foster carer recruitment through web based initiatives	12 months	Achieved and ongoing
To amend the Placement Plan incorporating the SIBS agreement and Behaviour Management Plan	12 months	Achieved

Some additional priorities for the Service over the next 12 months will be to:

- Update the foster care referral form and matching matrix incorporating a risk assessment tool
- To undertake an audit to ensure that foster carers are provided with the required documentation at the outset of a new placement
- To develop a specialist single placement scheme with bespoke support for young people with complex needs
- To work with IDS in reviewing the need for respite Family Link placements and to develop the service accordingly

9. Issues for Corporate Parenting Panel to consider:

- The opportunities for you to understand the role and responsibilities of being a foster carer and how this fits within their family life
- How can elected members support fostering recruitment actions and promote the reputation of the Service
- Maintaining the Service and commitment to the Fostering Network allowances and good support

Item 7

Corporate Parenting Panel

7 July 2014

Work Programme Report of the Chair

Recommendations

The Committee is asked to agree the work programme, to be reviewed and reprioritised as appropriate throughout the course of the year.

1. Work Programme

The Committee's Work Programme is attached as Appendix A. The Work Programme will be reviewed and reprioritised throughout the year so that the Committee can adopt a flexible approach and respond to issues as they emerge.

2. Children in Care Council Meetings

Members will be invited to put their names forward for future CiCC meetings.

Background Papers

None.

	Name	Contact Information
Report Author	Ann Mawdsley	01926 418079, annmawdsley@warwickshire.gov.uk
Head of Service	Sarah Duxbury	
Strategic Director	David Carter	
Portfolio Holder	n/a	

Corporate Parenting Panel – Work Programme 2014

Date	Item	Report detail
8 September 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
	Themed Item – Health related issues for LAC	
	Draft Work Programming	The Panel will look to agree their work programme
27 October 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
	Themed Item – Virtual School, Nigel Minns/Steve Pendleton	
	Draft Work Programming	The Panel will look to agree their work programme
9 December 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
	Themed Item - Adoption Panel/Scorecard	
	Risk Analysis for Adoption Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Panel requested a report on the Risk Analysis for Adoption Services in Warwickshire.
	Draft Work Programming	The Panel will look to agree their work programme
Items to be agreed/Dates to be set	Young People's Questionnaire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This report sets out the outcomes of consideration of this questionnaire by the 'Believe in Care Strategy Group' and the CiCC.
	Ofsted Inspection Framework	Members requested a report to a future meeting on the Framework for Future Ofsted Inspections