

Update on Wiltshire's Corporate Parenting Panel (CPP)

This is an update of the activities that have taken place since the full update to Council in October 2021 on the Corporate Parenting Panel (CPP). The annual report covered the period September 2020 to July 2021, so this report will cover the period August 2021 to January 2022

"How does a child in care know that they are loved and they matter; who notices and encourages all the great things about them; and to whom can they turn when they are unhappy or want help to be heard?"

Corporate Parenting Resource Pack, p5, 2019

1. CPP Data Scorecard

1.1 The development of the new data set focuses on the main headline measures that look at direction of travel, comparisons with our statistical neighbours and national data to see whether we are performing well or could do better in the care of our children looked after and care experienced young people.

1.2 The performance report covers:

- Health & Wellbeing
- Safety & Security
- Child's voice
- Stability & Permanence
- Timely & Consistent Support
- Education
- Care leavers
- Fostering

1.3 Attached is the January 2022 CPP scorecard and narrative to support some of the data: (*Attached as Appendix 1*)

At the end Q3 we had 432 Children Looked After (CLA) and 311 care leavers.

Placement Stability:

Placement stability remains strong. The % of CLA with 3 or more placement moves in the last 12 months was 7.6% within the target range of 7-10%. Similar Councils are at 11%.

% of CLA for more than 2.5 years and in placement for at least 2 years is at 78.1% which is above the target of 75% and above the 70% for similar local authorities.

Health Data

% of children who have had a health assessment is at 94% just below target at 95%.

% of children who have had a dental check will be reported in June 2022 CPP once this has been collated by the CCG. The KPIs for dental assessments early in the year showed the difficulties faced during the pandemic and there was support from the Chief Dental Officer for England to prioritise CLA

Education

The 2020-21 performance of PEP timeliness was excellent at 100% for Statutory School Age, 99% for post 16 and 98% for early years; due to the Covid-19 Pandemic there had been no SATS for the end of KS2 for the last 2 years.

EET (Education, Employment & Training)

The % of care leavers aged 17-18 in EET was at 58% which was slightly below the 60% target. Last year we ended above the average for England which is 65% and for statistical neighbours at 60%. The % of care leavers in 19-21 in EET was at 65% which was higher than both statistical neighbours and the England average. Targeted work will take place with those young people who are NEET with colleagues in the Education & Skills Team.

Children placed out of county or at a distance

% CLA placed more than 20 miles from home was at 35.5% and within the target range – this was an improvement on last month and a year ago. Of those placed at distance - 9 are with connected carers and 24 long term matched, 33 in children's homes – 1 in a secure children's home, 1 in a Family Centre/Mother and Baby unit and 2 in residential schools.

Care Leaver - In touch

The % of care leavers aged 17-18 we are in touch with and recorded on Liquid Logic was 88%, below the target of 95%. This data was reviewed through POG and which confirmed 100% of our Care Leavers 17 – 18yrs were in contact with and 98% of 19-21 year olds..

Care Leavers in Suitable Accommodation

The % of care leavers in suitable accommodation aged 17-18 is reported at 84% related to 10 young people (54/64). This prompted a similar review at POG which confirmed the % of care leavers in suitable accommodation aged 19-21 was at 95% well above the 85% target.

2. Strategic Priorities

2.1 Priorities are as follows and will form the basis for this report

Corporate Parenting Panel – Strategic Priorities 2020-2021

I need:

1. To have links with my local community where I am trusted, respected and accepted. This means I can access the local community and I am not left out. *Cllr Laura Mayes - Support Officer – Rhys Schell*
2. Support for as long as I need it. *Cllr Simon Jacobs – Support Officer – Neil Adlam*

3. To feel and be safe. *Cllr Peter Hutton – Support Officer – Sara James*
4. To be heard – my voice is not the only way I am heard, it may come out as my behaviour. *Cllr Sam Pearce-Kearney – Support Officer – Jay Williams*
5. Support with my mental health especially at school, at a time and a place that suits me and not services. *Cllr Stewart Palmen – Support Officer – Saffia Ahmed*
6. Support to be the best I can. *Cllr Dominic Muns – Support Officer – Kathryn Davis*
7. Support to be healthy and this includes opportunities to be involved in new activities.
Cllr Jack Oatley – Support Officer – Chris Hussey – Young person lead
8. A loving home where I have good relationships, respect and the opportunity to see my family. *Cllr Mary Champion – Support Officer – Michele Llewellyn*

2.2 To have links with my local community where I am trusted, respected and accepted. This means I can access the local community and I am not left out.

This is an area that is still being developed and will be the theme of the CPP in June 2022. However, as part of the Fostering Excellence programme Wiltshire Council began targeting local areas where there is a high need for foster carers last summer, starting with Trowbridge and then Devizes. In March the spotlight will be on the Calne area. By focusing recruitment where a child lives will enable them to continue to access their local community and keep local connections, education and support family time.

Sprinkle some magic into a child's life

We have **17** children in the Calne area who need foster families – could you be one of them?

Call us
0800 169 6321

Text 'foster' to
60002



#FOSTERINGCALNE



2.3 Support for as long as I need it

In September we had an update from council officer, Neil Adlam:

- There is an Adults Transition Meeting which takes place monthly which considers the needs young people requiring transition. Iona Payne (Head of Children in Care and Young People) co-chairs this Panel with Dan Wilkinson (Head of Learning Disability and Autism) which is the formal route to access adult social care for young people already open to the Families and Children's Directorate. There are good working relationships between the Personal Advisers and colleagues in adult social care.
- We always consider and seek to drive forward the young people's aspirations and to celebrate all good news stories around our teams and listen to what the young people are telling us. Each tiny step and every achievement is encouraged;
- We work across other Council Directorates and partner agencies to look at shadowing/work experience opportunities/apprenticeships opportunities for our young people;
- There are some websites we use to assist with finding employment – e.g. Work Wiltshire, [Young Work Wiltshire - Work Wiltshire](#)
- We have also developed the children looked after destination panel focusing on suitable accommodation when young people are transitioning independence. There are a range of options including Staying Put, Shared Lives, Step by Steps and supported lodgings. We also act as rent guarantor on behalf the council and provide financial support for those attending University.

2.4 In November 2021 we had a two-day visit from the National Advisor for Care Leavers, Mark Riddell. Some of the quotes from his formal letter to Terence Herbert, Chief Exec, were:

"The local authority are in a good position to get to being great for care leavers"

"I was very impressed by the leadership and management approach that was ambitious, aspirational and I got a real sense of passion and commitment to have a better offer for care leavers across the whole service area"

"The Corporate Parenting Board is a very strong approach where elected members and senior officers/key partner agencies have identified champions"

"What was less clear was the dedicated offers from each key partner agency.....to get the best out of each key partner agency I would like the LA to develop a 'Whole Council Approach' and to consider holding a key partner event where each partner agency makes explicit their offer to care leavers"

During the feedback sessions he described the Personal Advisors and managers as being passionate, determined and ambitious to do better for our care experienced young people.

An action plan has subsequently been created following Mark's visit highlighting areas for improvement and development including a key partner engagement event.

A Care Leaver Focused Ofsted 2-day visit took place at the end of January this year. The outcome from the visit letter highlighted:

"Care leavers in Wiltshire receive the right support, at the right time, to help them make progress in their lives and a large majority have positive experiences. They are well

supported by a passionate, skilled, and stable workforce. Their individual achievements and successes are recognised and celebrated by workers, managers, leaders and elected members who are aspirational for them and share an ambition to be the best parents in the country. Leaders have a good understanding of service strengths and development areas and actively seek scrutiny and challenge from external sources and through regular and varied consultation with care leavers. This leads to plans which drive service improvement and help care leavers achieve their potential.”

The report also went on to say:

“The corporate parenting panel is inclusive of care leavers and provides effective scrutiny of the quality and impact of services received by care leavers.”

The inspectors identified 2 areas for us to improve on and these were, “the frequency of supervision and recording of reflective practice discussion and actions” and “the depth of information gained from audits that focus on the experiences of care leavers, and the extent to which their voices are included in this work to help inform learning and service planning”. The service has already begun to address these areas.

2.5 To feel and be safe.

This priority will be the theme at the March 2022 CPP

2.6 To be heard – my voice is not the only way I am heard, it may come out as my behaviour

The Children in Care Council (CiCC) & Child and Youth Voice (CYV) Team continue to be regular participants at the CPP and have been involved in a range of activities over the last 6 months including:

- Hosting a successful weekend for CiCC members at the PGL Activity Centre in Swindon in September, 18 young people took part. This was an opportunity to recruit new CiCC members.
- Corporate Parenting Panel members were later invited to attend the Shared Guardian Session on 16 September 2021 where nine young people attended including some who had attended the PGL weekend. The “Promise” to young people was reviewed and discussed – it was agreed that all pledges were still relevant and the CiCC were asked to consider if they felt it was being delivered effectively and to be reported back to the CPP in January 2022.
- In line with a new CiCC structure Rhys Schell contacted the Community Engagement Managers (CEM) to look at different activities that CiCC can do around the county. Each CEM has been asked to come up with an activity that the CiCC can do each month
- The CYV Team with the Virtual School have been attending music sessions with CiCC members.
- The CYV Team are now represented on the VS Board of Governors
- A Dragon’s Den event was organised with a care leavers ‘walkabout’ which scrutinised the Care Leaver Local Offer.
- The Team have been working with the Virtual School to discuss what is working well and what they could do to improve support for young people;
- The use of the Mind of my Own app has gone well, and Wiltshire are now one of the top users in the Country.

- CICC have attended weekly sessions at the Kandu Arts Centre in Chippenham focussing on the theme for the fashion show which will be part of the Star Awards event in April 2022, celebrating our children and young people.
- The CICC and CYV have now set up a shadow Children's Fostering Panel for prospective foster carers and the first panel went really well. A young person reported that being involved with the YP Fostering Panel was a really exciting opportunity to have a say and to share their personal experiences to potential foster carers.
- We now have a fantastic group of 13 care experienced Youth Consultants who are aged 16+ who meet on a monthly basis and will be getting involved with different projects – pod casts, interviewing new staff members and inspections etc;

2.7 Support with my mental health especially at school, at a time and a place that suits me and not services.

This priority was reviewed in December by Saffia Ahmed (In-Reach CAMHS) and the CICC Chair, Alex. CPP heard an update for the Voice Team following a 'Meet Your Leaders Session' in which mental and emotional health was the topic for discussion. Results of a survey were shared with leaders and an action plan developed in response, implementation will be monitored by the young people. A key here is the development of a dedicated 16-25 yrs emotional well-being pathway.

2.8 Support to be the best I can

At CPP in September council officer, Kathryn Davis and Cllr Muns, lead a session on education, employment and training. This included Councillor Dominic Muns sharing a video where he met with two of our young people, with the support of the Post 16 Virtual School Officers (VSO's), Paula Page and Charlie Butler, to explore the priority 'Support to be the best I can'. The following was highlighted by Cllr Muns:

- Education is not just about classrooms and textbooks – support for students and pastoral care is really important – one of the young people shared the details of the support and encouragement that she found most valuable;
- The role that the VSOs play is absolutely vital to keep the young people focused and engaged. One young person shared they had fallen out of education and with the help and support of the VS they got back in and they were there to help navigate those obstacles. It was great to see the ambition and aspirations of the young people that hadn't always been the case for them – the VS had allowed them to see that they could aspire for more; and
- One of the young people had set their sights on attending the University that they had the opportunity to visit with the VS and the other young person was working towards a career in social care. The more experience we can give our young people, the more opportunities we create for them.

2.9 Support to be healthy and this includes opportunities to be involved in new activities

This strategic priority is currently being reviewed by the lead Councillor, officer and young people to tighten the focus and ensure the right areas are concentrated on. Discussions have been had with the Child and Youth Voice team in understanding what

young people would like to see in place for this priority. There is also connections between this priority and priority 1, to have links with my local community.

2.10 A loving home where I have good relationships, respect and the opportunity to see my family

See attached correspondence at Appendix 2 between our council officer, Michele Llewellyn and the response from the lead young person for this priority.

3. In conclusion the CPP continues to review all priority areas and continues to work closely with the Children in Care Council and the Child and Youth Voice team ensuring young people are represented and their voices are heard. The CPP have been able to consider key performance indicators relating to children looked after and care experienced young people to ensure they are safe, have placement stability, have a good education, positive relationships, are prepared for adulthood, independent living and support high aspirations. The strategic priorities have been recently reviewed and developed by councillors, officers, and partners. The priorities will be reviewed by young people later in the year.

The Panel has gone from strength to strength over the last 6 months with membership being expanded and attendance is strong. The Chair has plans in place for the CPP to take place across different areas within the county to increase accessibility; and members and officers are continuing to build relationships with the Children in Care Council through attendance at their weekend activity sessions where invited.

Iona Payne
Head of Children in Care and Young People
04 March 2022

Appendix 1 CPP Data Scorecard as at January 2022
Appendix 2 Correspondence between Michele Llewellyn and the response from the lead young person.