# CHILDREN'S SELECT COMMITTEE

**MINUTES OF THE CHILDREN'S SELECT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 15 MAY 2019 AT KENNET COMMITTEE ROOM, COUNTY HALL, TROWBRIDGE.**

**Present:**

Cllr Jon Hubbard (Chairman), Cllr Mary Douglas (Vice-Chairman), Cllr Mary Champion, Cllr Andrew Davis, Cllr David Halik, Cllr Deborah Halik, Cllr Hayley Illman, Cllr Chris Hurst, Cllr Johnny Kidney, Cllr Jacqui Lay, Cllr Roy While, Dr Mike Thompson, Ms Sarah Busby, John Hawkins, Dr Mike Thompson and Cllr James Sheppard (Substitute)

**Also Present:**

Cllr Trevor Carbin, Cllr Jane Davies and Cllr Phillip Whalley.

34 **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllr Christopher Devine and Cllr Sue Evans.

Cllr Sue Evans was substituted by Cllr James Sheppard.

35 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 5 March 2019, previously circulated, were considered.

The Chairman noted that the SEND School Provision Task Group would not bring its interim report for response by the Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Skills to this meeting because the consultation process was reopened.

**Resolved**

**To approve the minutes as correct.**

36 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

37 **Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman made the following announcements:

a) Cabinet items

On 30th April Cabinet considered the following items:

- Five Lanes VC Primary School – Proposed Discontinuance of the Potterne Site
- Children's Centre Buildings Consultation (CSC involvement – Rapid Scrutiny Exercise)

On 22nd May Cabinet will consider the following items:

- Special School Consultation (CSC involvement – SEND School Provision Task Group received update)

b) New Overview and Scrutiny Guidance from Central Government

The new statutory guidance on overview and scrutiny in local government has now been published by the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government.

This guidance was produced following a commitment from Central Government in early 2018, which followed from the Communities and Local Government Select Committee's inquiry into O&S. Amongst other areas the guidance raises culture across the council as a whole as one of the most important aspects of effective scrutiny. The Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee have been actively involved during the development stages of the Guidance, and will be formally advised of its publication and any potential actions.

c) That the Committee extends its best wishes to Cllr Jerry Wickham, who has taken the decision to resign as Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health and Public Protection due to ill health.

38 **Public Participation**

There was no public participation.

39 **Corporate Parenting Panel Bi-annual Report**

Cllr Laura Mayes, Deborah Barlow and Matthew Davies presented a report on the progress made against the strategic priorities of the Corporate Parenting Panel.

Matters raised during the discussion included: the seven strategic priorities of the Corporate Parenting Panel; the format of Panel meetings and the Corporate Parenting Strategy.

In answer to a question from the committee it was noted that there were 25 Grand Mentors spread across the county and that 15 young people had been put forward for the scheme so far.

It was noted that Councillors have a responsibility to know the profile of its care leavers and the Corporate Parenting Panel were looking at ways in which their profile can be raised.

In response to an issue raised by the Chairman it was noted that the report did not include a core data set. The committee was reassured that data plays an important part in the thinking of the Panel and that future reports would include more detailed statistics. A key summary of this data and the minutes of the last meeting of the Corperate Parenting Panel are attached.

It was noted the Care Leaver Offer continues to be developed on a regular basis to ensure it does not remain static.

In response to a question from the committee it was noted that the Panel was working with businesses to see what they can provide for young people, for example in the form of apprenticeships.

**Resolved**

1. **To note the Bi-annual Report of the Corporate Parenting Panel.**

2. **To request that future reports from the Corporate Parenting Panel include relevant statistics and key performance indicators.**

3. **For the Corporate Parenting Panel to receive the comments of the Children's Select Committee on the report.**

40 **Childcare Sufficiency Report - 2019**

Cllr Laura Mayes, Angela Brennan and Judith Westcott presented a report on how well Wiltshire is performing in meeting its duty to secure sufficient Early Years and Childcare places across the county.

Matters raised during the discussion included: closures, openings and expansions in Early Years and Childcare provision; the challenges to provision; the role of childminders in ensuring sufficient provision; potential future projects and the Army Rebasing Programme.

In response to an issue raised by the committee it was noted that Wiltshire Council was working with childcare providers to ensure staffing capacity meets demand. There are systems in place to promote the 'grow your own' model of developing staffing teams and it continued to work closely with Wiltshire College.

It was noted that Wiltshire Council was aware of the important role childminders played in ensuring sufficient Early Years and Childcare provision and that it was

actively encouraging people to take up such roles. It is currently making an online course offering training to those that want to become childminders.

**Resolved**

**To note the update and agree that the committee are reassured regarding the sufficiency of Early Years & Childcare places in Wiltshire.**

41 **Report of the Children's Centre Consultation Rapid Scrutiny Exercise**

Cllr Trevor Carbin presented a report on the Children's Centres Consultation rapid scrutiny exercise which was tasked with considering the results of the consultation, the proposed closures and the plans for alternative venues.

Matters raised during the discussion included: The Council's proposals for moving children's centre services from buildings to community settings; the consultation process, results and reach and possible alternative venues.

In response to a question from the committee it was noted that Wiltshire Council had increased its children's centre services in people's homes. It is continuing to reach vulnerable people and building its knowledge of local community needs.

It was noted that that the Commissioning Team monitors data on a quarterly basis and that it would be helpful for some of this data to be fed back to the Committee.

In response to an issue raised by the committee it was noted that Wiltshire Council had been largely successful in finding alternative venues and that the more pressing issue continued to be people not showing up to use the service once these venues had been confirmed.

**Resolved**

1. **To formally note and endorse the report and recommendations of the Children's Centre Consultation Rapid Scrutiny Exercise for response at the next meeting of the Children's Select Committee.**

2. **To receive a copy of the monitoring framework by autumn 2019 if it is not available by the next meeting of the Children's Select Committee.**

42 **School Ofsted Judgements**

Cllr Laura Mayes, Jayne Hartnell and Helean Hughes presented a report on the most recent Ofsted Inspection reports.

Matters raised during the discussion included: that there had been ten inspections since the last report; that both the Oasis Academy and River Mead had seen their gradings improve; that Wootton Bassett Infants, Sutton Benger Primary and Westbury Leigh Primary had dropped to a Requires Improvement

grading; and the Interim School Improvement Plan and the Rapid Achievement Plan.

It was also noted that Wiltshire and the South West in general were continuing to fall behind national figures. These trends would continue to be monitored and acted on.

In response to an issue raised by the committee it was noted that all maintained schools continue to have their performance monitored through the Challenge and Support Partner programme and the new Interim School Improvement Framework will support a more intensive identification of needs and outlines the intensive and rapid support approaches that are now being implemented.

**Resolved**

**To note the update on Ofsted Inspection from February to April 2019.**

43 **DfE Changes - Update from Department for Education**

Terence Herbert presented a report on the Department for Education's update on children's services.

Matters raised during the discussion included: the guidance for local authorities and schools about children educated at home; the DfE response to the consultation on relationships (sex) and health education; identifying schools for improvement support; the review of post-16 education; social work rules and standards; the new child exploitation disruption toolkit; the principles for supporting care leavers in higher education and the new legal duty to tackle serious youth violence.

In response to a question raised by the committee it was noted that support is available to schools that need educational support from a range of organisations, from DfE to local authorities.

**Resolved**

**To note the update provided.**

44 **Task Group and Board Representative Updates**

**a. CAMHS Task Group**

The written update and following point was noted:

- That the Committee intends to ask the Task Group to provide an indication of how it intends to deliver its remit.

**b. Traded Services Task Group**

The written update was noted.

**c. SEND School Provision Task Group**

The written update and the following points were noted:

- That the Special Schools Consultation is being discussed at Cabinet on 22 May and the Task Group's report was available.
- That the System of Excellence was for the whole of the county and not just one area.
- That Wiltshire Council had secured funding for SEND provision in the south of the county.

**Resolved**

**To note the updates.**

45 **Forward Work Programme**

The Chairman presented the relevant items from the overview and scrutiny forward work programme and the latest version of the strategy list for the Children, Education and Skills directorate.

**Resolved**

**To note the forward work plan.**

46 **Date of Next Meeting**

The next scheduled meeting of the Health Select Committee is due to be held on Tuesday 16 July 2019 at County Hall, Trowbridge, starting at 10.30am.

47 **Urgent Items**

There were no urgent items.

(Duration of meeting: 10.30 am - 12.10 pm)

The Officer who has produced these minutes is Craig Player of Democratic Services, direct line 01225 713191, e-mail roger.bishton@wiltshire.gov.uk

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Wiltshire Council
Where everybody matters

# Children in Care

# Performance Data

## 2018/19 Q3

(As per 28th February 2019)

March 2019

**Corporate Parenting Panel Data Set**

## COMMENTARY FROM Q3 18/19 REPORT

1. This dataset provides an overview of key metrics and performance indicators to the Panel. It is proposed that it is provided at each meeting for information and is supplemented by an annual report on missing from placement, Health of Looked after Children and Virtual School.

**Commentary**

Over the last 5 years the number and rate of children in care in Wiltshire has increased from a low base in 2003. This increase has been more than that seen in the statistical neighbour and England averages. The rate remains slightly below statistical neighbours and significantly below the England average. Given Wiltshire's low levels of deprivation, we would expect the rate of children in care to be below the national average. The age profile of children in care is in line with the England profile. The placement profile is also in line with the England profile with 75% of children placed with foster carers.

2. A key performance indicator table is shown below. Of particular note:

    a. The number of children in Care has remained stable in this Quarter.

    b. Section 20 CA1989: Voluntary Accommodated Children has increased in direct relation to the increased number of children in care.

    c. The data of LAC reviews completed in this Quarter is not reliable because of the data migration from Care First to Liquid Logic in this quarter - it appears to have stayed the same in this quarter.

    d. Children placed more than 20 miles from home. Is showing a small decline percentage, this will continue to fluctuate as the challenges of securing local independent fostering and residential placements persist and the number of LAC within Wiltshire fluctuates: increased by 30 this quarter. Across the region LAC continues to grow.

    The work to ensure sufficiency of local placements, including growth of in-house fostering resource is in progress. Market engagement work is underway and relationships with local fostering and residential providers is being strengthened. Progress is reported to CPP at each meeting.

    Families and Children Transformation (FACT) program will be launched on 5th March 2019: will reduce and prevent entries of children into care.

    LAC Visits – target remains at 90-95%. The Liquid Logic migration has been completed and Reporting is a 'Work Flow' system. The 'work flow' is currently being configured for anomalies such as 'light touch' visiting. Q4 will be viable for this reporting and will increase accuracy overall.

    *NB: Q2 performance ran at 78% against a target of 95%. Improvements have been achieved within safeguarding team's compliance is at 87%. In the two children in care teams the average is 78%: North and South has significant vacancies over this quarter and visits scheduled against priority criteria.*

*e.* Adoption Performance – 3% increase: is measured against the adoption scorecard.

Q2 performance was affected by two children who were finally adopted in May/June 2018. These were challenging children to place: repeated national searches as adoption remained our permanency plan, contested by parents, leading to protracted proceedings.

The scorecard information is validated at the point of Adoption Order, it will continue to have scorecard impact for some time. NB: A1 result would be 331 for this year (within target of 426) and A2 would be 147 excluding two children.

## Children in Care in Wiltshire – at a glance

### Number of children under 18 yrs in the care of Wiltshire local authority between 2011 - 2018 (at 31st March each year)

| | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Children | 383 | 416 | 446 | 397 | 404 | 419 | 443 | 444 |

### Proportion of children per 10,000 of the under 18 population between 2011 - 2018 (at 31st March each year)

| | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Wiltshire | 37 | 40 | 43 | 39 | 39 | 40 | 42.6 | 42.3 |
| Statistical Neighbour | 40 | 40 | 42 | 43 | 45.3 | 48 | 52 | n/a |
| England | 58 | 59 | 60 | 60 | 60 | 60 | 62 | n/a |

### Number of children by age (at quarter end)

| | Q4 17/18 | | Q1 18/19 | | Q2 18/19 | | Q3 18/19 | | England* (2017) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Children | % | Children | % | Children | % | Children | % | % |
| Under 1 | 36 | 8% | 34 | 7% | 27 | 6% | 23 | 5% | 5% |
| 1 - 4 | 34 | 8% | 41 | 9% | 45 | 10% | 54 | 11% | 13% |
| 5 - 9 | 72 | 16% | 63 | 14% | 60 | 13% | 65 | 13% | 19% |
| 10 - 15 | 189 | 43% | 191 | 42% | 193 | 43% | 197 | 41% | 39% |
| 16+ | 113 | 25% | 127 | 28% | 129 | 28% | 145 | 30% | 23% |
| **Total** | **444** | **100%** | **456** | **100%** | **454** | **100%** | **484** | **100%** | **100%** |

### Number of children by placement type (at 30th September 2018)

| Placement type | Children | % |
|---|---|---|
| Placed with WC foster carer | 168 | 34.7% |
| Foster carer other local authority | 0 | 0.0% |
| Placed with IFA foster carer | 142 | 29.3% |
| Voluntary/third sector provision | 5 | 1.0% |
| Foster Placement with relative or friend | 51 | 10.5% |
| **Fostering subtotal** | **366** | **75.6%** |
| Homes & Hostels | 23 | 4.8% |
| Residential School | 6 | 1.2% |
| NHS / Health Trust / medical or nursing care establishment | 0 | 0.0% |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Family Centre / Mother and Baby Unit | 0 | 0.0% |
| Residential Accommodation not subject to Children's Home regulations | 2 | 0.4% |
| Residential Care Home (Reg Homes Act 1984) | 9 | 1.9% |
| YOI or Prison | 0 | 0.0% |
| **Residential subtotal** | **40** | **8.3%** |
| Placed with parents / person with parental resp. | 12 | 2.5% |
| **Placed with parents subtotal** | **12** | **2.5%** |
| Independent Living or Other Placement | 39 | 8.1% |
| Placed for adoption | 25 | 5.2% |
| Secure Unit | 2 | 0.4% |
| Missing from Placement | 0 | 0.0% |
| **Other placement subtotal** | **66** | **13.6%** |
| **Total** | **484** | **100.0%** |

## Safeguarding Improvement Data Set (Looked After Children) – 2018/19 Q3 update

Key to RAG ratings at end of document

| Ref | Indicator | Previous Yrs Performance | | Qtrly Performance (last 5 quarters) | | | | | | | | | | | 2018/19 | | Comparators (2017/18) | | Comment |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 2016/17 | 2017/18 | Oct to Dec 2017 | RAG | Jan to Mar 2018 | RAG | Apr to Jun 2018 | RAG | Jul to Sep 2018 | RAG | Oct to Dec 2018 | RAG | DOT | Actual (Ytd) | Target | England Avg | Stat Neighbr. ( good +) | |
| 1 | Number of looked after children | 443 | 444 | 435 | - | 444 | - | 456 | - | 454 | - | 484 | - | ↑ | 484 | 441 - 480 | n/a | n/a | |
| 2 | Looked after children rate per 10,000 | 43 | 41 | 41 | G | 41 | G | 43 | G | 43 | G | 46 | G | ↑ | 46 | 42-46 | 64 | 53 (51) | |
| 3 | Number/% of Interim Care Orders | 27<br>7% | 49<br>11% | 47<br>11% | G | 49<br>11% | G | 47<br>10% | A | 44<br>10% | A | 58<br>12% | G | ↑ | 12% | 11-14% | 16% | 15%<br>(15%) | |
| 4 | Number/% of Section 20 LAC | 117<br>30% | 99<br>22% | 101<br>23% | G | 99<br>22% | G | 113<br>25% | G | 116<br>26% | A | 129<br>27% | A | ↑ | 27% | 20-25% | 19% | 26%<br>(23%) | |
| 5 | % of Section 20 LAC more than 1 yr | 61% | | 63% | - | 59% | - | 48% | - | 49% | - | 50% | - | - | 50% | - | - | - | |
| 6 | % LAC reviews on time | 92% | 98% | 96% | G | 96% | G | 85% | R | 91% | A | 85% | R | ↓ | 85% | 95%-98% | - | - | |
| 7 | % LAC participating in reviews | 97% | 97% | 97% | G | 97% | G | 98% | G | 95% | G | Data unavail. | G | ↓ | 95% | 95%-98% | - | - | |
| 8 | % LAC placed more than 20 miles from home | 33% | 32% | 39% | R | 37% | R | 36% | R | 36% | R | 34% | A | ↓ | 34% | 28-33% | 19% | 27%<br>(32%) | 2016/17 comparator data |
| 9 | LAC with 3+ placements during the year | 10% | 12% | 11% | G | 12% | G | 10% | G | 9% | G | 9% | G | = | 9% | 9-12% | 10% | 11%<br>(14%) | |
| 10 | Looked after for at least 2.5 yrs in same placement for at least 2 years | 64% | 77% | 77% | G | 77% | G | 77% | G | 75% | G | 68% | G | ↓ | 68% | 68-77% | 70% | 70%<br>(69%) | |

| Ref | Indicator | Previous Yrs Performance | | Qtrly Performance (last 5 quarters) | | | | | | | | | | | 2018/19 | | Comparators (2017/18) | | Comment |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 2016/17 | 2017/18 | Oct to Dec 2017 | RAG | Jan to Mar 2018 | RAG | Apr to Jun 2018 | RAG | Jul to Sep 2018 | RAG | Oct to Dec 2018 | RAG | DOT | Actual (Ytd) | Target | England Avg | Stat Neighbr. ( good +) | |
| 11 | LAC statutory visits on time against basic practice standard: Any child more than one year LAC – at least one visit during the 3 months Any one less than a year - should have had 6 weekly visits | 78% | 89% | 84% | A | 89% | A | 88% | A | 86% | A | Data unavail | A | ↓ | 86% | 90%-95% | - | - | Measurement methodology changed Q4 2016/17 |
| 12 | Private Fostering: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | New notifications(confirmed) | 36 | 54 | 6 | G | 6 | G | 28 | G | 17 | R | 2 | G | ↑ | 47 | | - | - | |
| | % followed up in 7 days | 53% | 100% | 100 % | | 100 % | | 93% | | 65% | | 100% | | | 83% | 100% | - | - | |
| 13 | Number of children adopted | 33 | 22 | 2 | R | 3 | A | 7 | G | 8 | G | 4 | G | ↓ | 25 | 25-30 | - | - | |
| Page 142 | A1: Average time between a child entering care and moving in with its adoptive family, for children who have been adopted (days) (cumulative in year) | 445 | 326 | 336 | G | 326 | G | 253 | G | 343 | G | 326 | G | ↓ | 326 | 380(2016-19) | 520 (2014-17) | 477 (2014-17) | Two children adopted Q1 2016/17 with long history. |
| | | 450 (2014-17) | 392 (2015-18) | | - | | - | | - | | - | | - | - | 386 (2016-19) | | | | |
| 15 | A2: Average time between a local authority receiving a court order to place a child and the local authority deciding to match an adoptive family (cumulative in year) | 224 | 132 | 137 | R | 132 | R | 63 | G | 114 | G | 111 | G | ↓ | 111 | 120 | 226 (2014-17) | 177 (2014-17) | Two children adopted Q1 2016/17 with long history. long history. |
| | | 184 (2014-17) | 171 (2015-18) | | - | | - | | - | | - | | - | - | 169 (2016-19) | | | | |
| 16 | A3: % children who wait less than 14 months between entering care and moving in with their adoptive family (cumulative in year) | 80% | 74% | 73% | A | 74% | A | 79% | A | 75% | A | 78% | A | ↑ | 78% | 80% | 53% (2014-17) | 59% (2014-17) | Not comparable across yrs. |
| | | 72% (2014-17) | 73% (2015-18) | | - | | - | | - | | - | | - | - | 74% (2016-19) | | | | Number of months in indicator reduces each year |

| Ref | Indicator | Previous Yrs Performance | | Qtrly Performance (last 5 quarters) | | | | | | | | | | | 2018/19 | | Comparators (2017/18) | | Comment |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 2016/17 | 2017/18 | Oct to Dec 2017 | RAG | Jan to Mar 2018 | RAG | Apr to Jun 2018 | RAG | Jul to Sep 2018 | RAG | Oct to Dec 2018 | RAG | DOT | Actual (Ytd) | Target | England Avg | Stat Neighbr. ( good +) | |
| 17 | Number of newly approved adopters and time taken to approve adopters from application | 26 | 17 | 5 | A | 4 | R | 7 | G | 6 | G | 7 | G | ↑ | 27 | 22-27 | - | - | |
| | 0-3 months | 2 | 0 | 0 | - | 0 | - | 0 | - | 0 | - | 0 | - | - | | | | | |
| | 3-6 months | 9 | 4 | 1 | | 1 | | 0 | | 1 | | 2 | | | | | | | |
| | 6-12 months | 13 | 12 | 4 | | 3 | | 6 | | 4 | | 5 | | | | | | | |
| | More than 12 months | 2 | 1 | 0 | | 0 | | 1 | | 1 | | 0 | | | | | | | |
| | % LAC had health check in last year | 97% | 80% | - | | - | | - | | - | | | | | Reported Annually | 85-90% | 88% | 79% (82%) | |
| | % LAC had dental check in last year | 99% | 89% | - | | - | | - | | - | | | | | Reported Annually | 85-90% | 84% | 73% (81%) | |

**Notes:**

RAG definitions post April 2014

Red – not meeting levels of performance in line with statutory guidance or within 10% of target (for smaller numbers within 20%)*

Amber – not on target, up to 10% away (for smaller numbers within 20%) *

Green – expected to achieve current year target

*warning – where low figures are concerned, eg a target of less than 20, 10% variance is very small and reduces the reliability of the RAG rating

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# CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL

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**DRAFT NOTES OF THE CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL MEETING HELD ON 19 MARCH 2019 AT WEST WILTSHIRE ROOM - COUNTY HALL, BYTHESEA ROAD, TROWBRIDGE, BA14 8JN.**

**Present:**

Cllr Pat Aves, Cllr Mary Champion, Cllr Jane Davies (Vice-Chair), Cllr George Jeans, Cllr Laura Mayes (Chair), Cllr Stewart Palmen and Cllr Philip Whalley

**Also Present:**
Lucy Baker, (Acting Commissioning Director - Maternity, Children and Mental health for Wiltshire CCG), Sarah Banks (Acting Senior Commissioner), Deborah Barlow (Interim Head of Children in Care and Young People), Sally Ellis (Public Health Specialist), Terence Herbert (Corporate Director), Sara James (Service Manager – Conference & Reviewing Service), Dr Cathy Mallet (Designated Doctor for LAC), Denise Milton (Wiltshire Fostering Association), Lena Pheby (Designated LAC Nurse), Lisa Pullin (Democratic Services Officer), Lucy Townsend (Director – Families and Children's Services), Matthew Turner (Service Manager – Placement Services) and Chris Whitfield (Virtual School Head)

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15 **Apologies for Absence/Substitutions**

Apologies were received from Councillor Pauline Church.

16 **Chairman's Announcements**

The Chair, Councillor Laura Mayes made the following announcements:

**Welcome to Deborah Barlow**

Deborah is the Interim Head of Service Children in Care and Young People who replaces Martin Davis who is now Head of Service – Quality Assurance and Performance. The Panel wished to record thanks to Martin for all his work supporting the Panel over the last few years.

**Change to Agenda order**

There would be a change to the Agenda order with Agenda item 6 (Strategic Priority presentation) being brought forward to first Agenda item so that Lucy

Baker (Acting Commissioning Director - Maternity, Children and Mental Health), who is the new Panel representative from the Wiltshire Clinical Commissioning Group can be present to hear the presentation and discussions.

**Good News updates**

Good news stories are on pages 17 and 18 of the Agenda and the following further good news updates were received:

Alex - (care leaver)

Unfortunately, our care leaver didn't run the Bath Half Marathon last weekend, as Alex has recently started working and as a result his training was curtailed, and he didn't feel strong enough to run. He is going to keep training and we have plans for him to tackle some Wiltshire Race League runs in the spring with a view to running the Bristol Half in September.

Alex had planned to run in support of MIND and two of his training partners (Rob and James who are both PA's in the North of the County) did run for the charity and successfully completed all 13.1 miles (Rob's Strava says he ran over 14.5 miles – lots of detours around slower runners no doubt!).

**If members want to make a donation to MIND, they can do so using the link below.**

**https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/RobJanes1**

Head of Service Interviews

Sarah Banks (Acting Senior Commissioner) reported that CiCC representatives had been part of the interviews for the new Head of Service for Children in Care and Young People and were a very astute bunch of young people who should be very proud of their contributions to the selection process.

**Timing of CPP Meeting**

Lucy Townsend (Director – Families and Children's Services) reported that she had recently spoken with Lorna (who has previously attended CPP meetings and is the current Chair of the Children in Care Council) who said that she had really enjoyed attending the Corporate Parenting Panel meetings but was currently in Year 11 studying for her GCSE's and found the current timing of the meetings to be a barrier to her.

Sarah Banks reported that whilst schools will release students to attend meetings such as the CPP and Children's Select Committee it is still inhibiting for the students as they are missing "the school day".

The Chair asked Panel Members for their views and it was suggested that later meetings/Saturday meetings or meetings during the school holidays could be considered. It was agreed that this would be further investigated outside of the meeting, but that for now the meetings would remain as they are.

**Agreed Action:**

**Officers to investigate changing the times/days of the Corporate Parenting Panel meetings and report back to the next meeting.**

17 **Notes of the Previous Meeting**

Councillors noted the record of the meeting held on 29 January 2019.

18 **Standing Items**

**18a Children in Care Performance Data - Q3 - October to December 2018 (SP 1-7)**

Deborah Barlow (Interim Head of Children in Care and Young People) referred to the quarter 3 2018/19 Children in Care Performance Data which was circulated with the Agenda. Deborah highlighted the following:

- The number of children in care had remained stable this quarter;
- The numbers of Voluntary Accommodated Children have increased in direct relation to the increased number of children in care;
- The data of the LAC reviews completed in this quarter is not reliable because of the data migration from Care First to Liquid Logic during the quarter – it appears to have stayed the same for Q3; and
- There is extensive ongoing work to ensure sufficiency of local placements, especially the growth of Wiltshire Foster Carers. The Council are engaging with existing Foster Carers and local employers to ask for their assistance to recruit new Foster Carers.

A Panel Member asked how many looked after children are educated in special schools. Chris Whitfield (Virtual School Head) reported that some children are in specialist schools that are out of county. 36% of school age? children are in a specialist provision as follows – 11% primary age and 25% secondary age. Chris offered to provide a more detailed breakdown of Special school placements and reasons for the next Panel meeting.

Chris confirmed that if the proposed Special School at Rowdeford is built then some of those currently out of county may move to the new school. Some won't come back if their current out of county school is the best for them as that is the important factor.

The Chair reiterated that the Council's top priority is to recruit more in house foster carers and be able to bring children back into Wiltshire and reduce the costs of out of county placements.

A Panel Member noted that Wiltshire are above the England average for the numbers of older children in care. It was reported that many these would relate to the 52 UASC that had been taken in. The Panel requested to receive information of what ages children and young people are entering care to see if it is because they have joined us at a younger age or come into care later on. It was agreed that this would be provided with the performance data at the next meeting which would be looking at the end of year 2018/19 data.

**Agreed Actions:**

1. **That the Performance Data be for quarter 3 2018/19 be noted.**

2. **Chris Whitfield to provide a detailed breakdown of LAC Special School placements and reasons for placement for the next Panel meeting.**

3. **That the Panel receive details of the ages that children and young people come into care included within the Performance Data at the next meeting on 25 June 2019.**

**18b <u>Summary of Missing Data for Q3 (October to December 2018) (SP6)</u>**

Karen Stokes (Missing Children and CSE Co-Ordinator) referred to the missing children quarterly report – October to December 2018 which had been circulated with the Agenda. Karen highlighted the following:

- That Section 5 of the report (from page 52 of the Agenda pack) relates specifically to Wiltshire's Looked After Children;

- Karen would be meeting with the new Service Manager (Andrea Brazier) on 20 March to discuss the looked after children that are placed out of county (OOC). The challenges are the sharing of information between other Local Authorities Police forces. They would look at reviewing processes to identify gaps. Details of recommendations and actions could be shared with the Panel at the next meeting;

- Karen would be attending the Managers Seminar on 8th April. This would be an opportunity to provide a briefing on "missing" children and young people and she would be able to highlight the challenges in relation to LAC placed OOC;

- Following an action agreed at the previous Panel meeting in January 2019 in relation to a risk RAG rating of the top looked after children, Cllr Pauline Church and Karen would be meeting with Andrea Brazier to discuss further;

- In relation to LAC missing for more than 5 days, Karen reported that one Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Child (UASC) was last seen by their Foster Carer at their placement on the evening of 16 February 2019 and was reported missing the following morning. Strategy meetings had been held, the Home Office have been informed, hospital checks have been completed, the case has been referred to a Missing Persons Charity, other Local Authorities have been made aware and the Police are tracking social media;

- Another UASC is still classified as missing since July 2018. This was reported within the quarter 2 and 3 reports. Efforts are still made to locate this young person; and

- Two UASC reported missing in June/July 2018 that were reported in quarter 2 have now been located within different Boroughs of London. The Council are taking legal advice on whose responsibility these young people should be. They are reported to be safe and well.

Lucy Townsend (Director – Families and Children's Services) reported that a young girl who was placed in a residential college in Wiltshire during September to December 2018 had been reported as missing. She returned to her home country of Vietnam over the Christmas period and was reported as missing when she was not found at the airport to be collected by the school. She had since been located in Croydon where she was currently claiming asylum. The Panel were reassured that there were robust procedures in place to track this young person who was initially treated as a missing Wiltshire young person.

A Panel Member commented that the number of return interviews completed seems to be an improvement.

Karen reported that the new systems, together with getting the message out about the importance of checking of what is happening for these young people is helping. Missing episodes have gone done 20% in Wiltshire and there is comparable data available now that this information has been collected over 4/5 years. Information that is gathered is shared to help build a picture of the reasons that the young people go missing.

Panel Members asked about age assessments for UASC and if there were non-invasive ways to check on their age so that time is not spent on those who are clearly over the age of 25.

A Panel Member noted some minor errors in the top missing tables with the ages and dates of birth not correlating. Karen agreed to correct those for future meetings.

**Agreed Action:**

**That the Quarter 3 (2018/19) missing children data update be noted.**

## 18c MOTIV8 Data Update (SP7)

Tom Ward (Public Health Specialist) referred to the Motiv8 data for quarters 1-3 2018/19 that was circulated with the Agenda. Tom highlighted the following:

- That the numbers of looked after children/child in need receiving Motiv8 treatment across the 3 quarters is consistent;
- There were generally good completion rates of the programme; and
- Motiv8 provide regular updates to schools.

A Panel Member asked if previous year's data could be made available so that any trends/patterns could be identified. Tom agreed to provide Motiv8 data for 2016/17, 2017/18 and 2018/19 for a future meeting. Tom also suggested that national comparative data could be made available.

Lucy Townsend (Director – Families and Children's Services) asked how the outcomes/benefits availability of the Motiv8 are shared/demonstrated. It was reported that there was an article about the Motiv8 service in the last Foster Carer newsletter.

A Panel Member felt that only 4 looked after children currently using the Motiv8 service felt low and Matthew Turner (Service Manager – Placement Services) agreed that it sounded low and that he would continue to talk to the Social Work Teams about the importance of identifying young people who could be referred to the service. It was accepted that getting the young people to engage with the service is an issue and they must agree to a referral. Consideration needs to be given on how this young people are reached and getting them agree to seek help. Tom reported that the service has the capacity to see around 100 young people and they are currently have around 80 young people registered in the service.

A Panel Member requested that case studies be shared a future meeting.

**Agreed Actions:**

1. **That the 2018/19 Motiv8 data be noted.**

2. **That the Panel receive the previous 3 year's Motiv8 data and national comparative data at the meeting on 10 September 2019 for consideration.**

**18d Update on Children's Placement Budget Management Project and Looked After Children, Young People and Care Leaver's Improvement Board (SP3)**

Deborah Barlow (Interim Head of Service – Children in Care and Young People) reported that the budget was currently showing a £239k overspend, but that it was anticipated that by the end of the year this would reconcile.

**Agreed Action:**

**That the budget update be noted.**

**18e Update on Adoption West (SP 2&3)**

Deborah Barlow (Interim Head of Children in Care and Young People) confirmed to the Panel that Adoption West had "gone live" on 1 March 2019.

Matthew Turner (Service Manager – Placement Services) reported the following:

- That a number of Wiltshire Council staff from the Adoption Service had transferred over to Adoption West via TUPE; they remain working at the County Hall hub, along with two Officers from BANES;

- Work would continue to align the processes of the 6 local authorities who form Adoption West and there would be learning opportunities across the teams, identifying best practice and ensuring that this is used as the practice benchmark in the new organisation; and

- Key staff from, and previously from, Wiltshire are heavily involved in Adoption West (Terence Herbert chairs the Board, Martin Davis is a Board member and Alison Lewis, formerly Wiltshire Adoption Team Manager is the Service Manager for Adoption West. This will ensure that there is a clear focus on the impact of Adoption West upon adoption performance in this local authority.

A Panel Member asked when would they be able to assess if there were more/better matches being made for our looked after children? Matthew reported that Wiltshire would continue to produce its adoption scorecard. Results have been improving year on year and should continue to show improvements each quarter. *(NB Subsequent to this meeting, the DfE has announced new scorecard arrangements for 2020 onwards whereby RAA and Local Authority performance will be combined).*

**Agreed Actions:**

1. **That the update on Adoption West be noted.**

2. **That the Panel continue to receive regular verbal updates on Adoption West at their meetings.**

19 **Update on Strategic Priorities from Lead Members (SP 1-7)**

Panel Members were given the opportunity to provide an update on their Strategic Priorities:

Cllr Laura Mayes – Priority 1 – Strengthen the CP role and CP function across Wiltshire Council as a whole. At the meeting of full Council on 26 February 2019 she had accepted a motion to agree to accept up to 10 refugee children per year for the next 10 years, but strongly highlighted that there are not currently enough foster carers for our Wiltshire children. By talking directly with the campaigners involved she was able to share with them what had already been done for UASC and following this, received their pledges of support, (along with faith groups) to assist with the task of identifying suitable foster carers to be put forward for approval. This had raised the profile of the Councils issues and current priority on foster carer recruitment.

Cllr Mary Champion suggested that an idea would be to recruit more short-term foster carers would be able to help whilst longer term foster carers could be identified.

The Panel were reminded that they would receive an update from Jay Williams (Fostering Services Manager) on foster carer recruitment at the Panel meeting in June.

Cllr Mayes also reported that a proposal to introduce a Council Tax reduction/exemption for foster carers, shared living carers and those who provide supported lodgings would be but to Cabinet in April for a decision. Denise Milton (Wiltshire Fostering Association) was pleased that she would be able to report this update back to her group.

It was agreed that the meeting priority focus at the 25 June meeting would be Strategic Priority 3, led by Cllr Pat Aves.

It was agreed that the meeting priority focus at the 10 September meeting would be Strategic Priority 4, led by Cllrs Mary Champion and George Jeans who would be asked to report back to the Panel their findings on whether the Council was delivering on their Care Leaver offer that was launched in the Autumn of 2018.

**Agreed Actions:**

1. **That the Strategic Priority updates be noted.**

2. **That Councillor Pat Aves would be asked to lead the meeting priority focus at the 25 June Panel meeting - Strategic Priority 3 "Ensure that there is sufficient accommodation for looked after children within Wiltshire which meets the needs of those children. Prioritise placement within Wiltshire".**

3. **That Councillors Mary Champion and George Jeans be asked to lead the meeting priority focus at the 10 September Panel meeting - Strategic Priority 4 "Ensure "Improve care leavers journey by ensuring an enhanced offer to care leavers across all areas: education; employment and training, independent living, housing options and health".**

20 **Strategic Priority Focus - Priority 7 - "Ensure that looked after children and care leavers have timely and easy access to mental health services"**

Councillor Stewart Palmen (Strategic Priority Lead for Priority 7) made a PowerPoint presentation to the Panel (attached as Appendix 1 to the Minutes).

Cllr Palmen talked about who might identify emotional/mental health issues in looked after children and young people – these included:

- Foster Carers
- Medical Professionals during regular health assessments (SDQ) - *Initial Health Assessments (IHA) need to be carried out quickly!*
- School staff
- Social Workers
- Family Support Workers
- Other Agencies that come into contact with the LACs
- Self recognition of issues

Once issues were identified this would lead to an assessment by a CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service) LAC Therapist.

Lucy Baker (Acting Commissioning Director - Maternity, Children and Mental health for Wiltshire CCG) reported that another channel of entry to support would come via a GP referral or from an A&E department following if self harming had required a hospital admission.

Cllr Palmen shared a flow chart of services for Wiltshire's LAC and UASC. He explained that the CAMHS LAC Therapist (Roger Duncan) could be used to bridge the gap between services. Roger had been in post for 2 years and supports LAC in the following ways:

- By meeting with the LAC nurses for a weekly team meeting
- By joining the weekly Emerald team meetings with Lena Pheby to identify any LAC at risk of CSE
- By joining the monthly Risk management meeting (VACS meeting) with Lena Pheby to identify any LAC who are considered at risk.

Lena Pheby (Designated Nurse for LAC) reported that Roger Duncan offers the following:

1. Assessment of LAC mental health needs and risk
2. Support for referrals to CAMHS
3. Short term therapy work for LAC (10 cases)
4. Short term therapy work for UASC (2 cases)

If further support was required after a set number of sessions the young person would be referred onto the CAMHS service. Currently there was only one CAMHS LAC Therapist, so his capacity was limited.

Lucy Baker reported that the CCG were currently carrying out a review of demand and capacity to identify the commissioning gaps.

It was confirmed that Roger Duncan does work with young people if their application to CAMHS is declined and if support has been requested by the family.

Lucy Baker reported that there had been less bounce back from the young people in the system since the CAMHS LAC Therapist role had been introduced. Other support services are available including Kooth and that the numbers who access the CAMHS had dropped in the last 6 months.

Cllr Palmen referred to the limited data that is available the number of consultations undertaken by Roger Duncan between April and December 2018.

Cllr Palmen reported that there are a lot of things that can lead to mental health problems that LAC are more likely to have experienced as below and that not addressing these issues can lead to mental health issues in the future:

Early Life Experiences *or Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE)*
- *Physical Abuse*
- *Emotional Abuse*
- *Sexual Abuse*
- *Witness to Domestic Violence*
- *Neglect*
- *Trauma (especially true of unaccompanied asylum seekers in their country of origin) PTSD* Interpreters often needed to just find out about these issues

Cllr Palmen reported on the issues there are providing CAMHS support for LAC/Care Leavers as follows:

- CAMHS is a “brand” that some young people may not want to be associated with as there is a stigma attached to the word “mental”
- Family care workers are essential to provide support for those who don’t want to see CAMHS – children cannot be made to have CAMHS support
- Initial Health Assessments are often delayed, especially with placements out of county
- SDQ scoring often not completed in a timely manner
- There is no quantitative data available to see how well we are doing.

Deborah Barlow (Interim Head of Children in Care and Young People) reported that data is compared with other Local Authorities.

Cllr Palmen shared his improvement suggestions as follows:

- Improve support for Unaccompanied Asylum Seekers
  - *I am aware that recently funding has been secured for three levels of training that can Support UASC; Clinically, as a Social worker and residential and at a support worker/residential level*

- Recognise Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) early on and provide counselling/support quickly
  - *I feel this approach would benefit from multi-agency training and support including school as key front-line agencies*

- Have quantitative measures of more than time for Initial Care Assessment

- Improve the CAMHS brand*?*
  - *I am aware that recent changes in the CAMHS structure and establishment of the CAMHS Wiltshire Wellbeing team in currently addressing this*

- Looking at the Panel’s Strategic Priority – do we need to take the focus off “Timely Support” and onto “Preventative measures with correct support?”

Lucy Baker wished to assure the Panel that the reported issue of timeliness of IHA’s had been picked up and work was being undertaken to make improvements. They were talking to colleagues in Islington who are at “the top of the tree” in timeliness of IHA’s to find out what they do. Lucy also reported that national funding was coming and that they would be looking to make improvements early on in a young person’s pathway.

Lena Pheby reported that they are considerate in the way they address/discuss emotional health issues when they are talking to young people to take away the “mental” stigma.

A Panel Member asked young people had to be in a “stable” placement before they could access the CAMHS service. Xxx responded that if we are aware of a drug or alcohol issue then we would recommend a referral for a Motiv8 session with hope that more would be provided.

Lucy Townsend (Director – Families and Children’s Services) reported that Tracy Daszkiewicz (Director of Public Health) was leading on the core skills workstream under the FACT project which was looking at support for adverse childhood experiences (ACE).

A Panel Member asked if counselling should be offered to all children coming into care as standard?

Lucy Baker responded that workshop/play therapy is offered for younger children that come into care, particularly in school holidays so that continue to receive support during those times. Outdoor based activities and forest walks and talks are sometimes appropriate for older children. Lucy confirmed that the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust are used for adult support and she offered to see if they would be willing/able to extend their service to young people.

Chris Whitfield (Virtual School Head) suggested that she and Lucy Baker could meet to discuss support further and that funding from the top sliced Pupil Premium could be used.

A Panel Member asked if Wiltshire currently use the NSPCC for support work. It was confirmed that they do, but that they carry out specialist work and that they have a long waiting list to access the service.

The Panel requested an update in six months with an update on progress.

**Agreed Actions:**

1. **That the Strategic Priority update be noted.**

2. **Councillor Palmen to provide an update to the Panel on 10 September 2019.**

**Appendix 1 to Minutes - Strategic Priority 7 Presentation**

21 **Children in Care Council Update (SP 1-7)**

Sarah Banks (Acting Senior Commissioner) referred to the Children in Care Council update that had been circulated with the Agenda. Sarah highlighted the following:

- That CiCC’s meeting and activity dates for 2019 had been confirmed with more focus on community-based engagement and less meetings in Council buildings;

- That the Shared Guardian Session following the Panel meeting today would involve some Social Worker students from Bath University facilitating a series of exercises with the group to generate discussion, capture feedback and promote learning on the young people's experiences of their journey in care. A report on the outcomes would be made available to the Council and the CiCC would be invited to go to Bath University. This was evidence of good partnership building;

- CiCC were just finalising their first newsletter of 2019 which was going through the corporate branding team. The newsletter would be sent out to children and young people aged 8+ with an invitation to join CiCC;

- The Care Leaver's Forum had been established with its first meeting this year to be on Friday 29 March 2019. Wiltshire Council Personal Assistants (PA's) are helping to run the forum and possibly co-chair the meetings with car leavers;

- A task group has been put in place to support the facilitation of a bi-annual awards event to recognise and celebrate the achievements of our children in care. The date has been sent for Thursday 11 July at 5.30pm in the Atrium at County Hall – this date would be shared with foster carers etc as soon as possible; and

- CiCC are keen to meet up with other CiCC's from other counties and this is being planned for the autumn term.

A Panel member asked how the information about the Care Leaver's Forum was being shared. It was confirmed that PA's are sharing this information to their young people and Matthew Turner agreed to disseminate the details via his teams.

Lucy Townsend (Director – Families and Children's Services) reported that the use of alternative words/language for the terms relating to children in care/children in need is an area being explored by the Families and Children's Teams and recently discussed at a Senior Management Team meeting. The Council had started work to look at the terminology used and need to move to what the children and young people would like to be used. **Attached as Appendix 2** is the document 'Language that cares' sets out outcomes of some research led by TACT with a number of other Local Authorities. It was agreed that this should be discussed at a future meeting. Sara banks has commenced consultation with young people.

**Agreed Actions:**

1. **That the Children in Care Council update be noted.**

2. **That Matthew Turner would disseminate the date of the Care Leaver's Forum meetings and Star Awards to his teams to pass on to foster carers, etc.**

3. **That consideration of the use of alternative words/language for the terms relating to children in care/children in need be considered at the Panel meeting on 10 September 2019.**

**Appendix 2 to Minutes - Language that Cares**

22 **Corporate Parenting Panel Future Work Programme**

Councillors noted the future work programme with the additional agreed items. It was further noted that the report list for the Agenda for the meeting on 25 June 2019 was large and that the Chair would review the items due for consideration to see if they could be pushed back to a later meeting.

**Agreed Action:**

**The Chair to review the forward work plan, particularly in relation to the items planned for the Panel meeting on 25 June 2019.**

23 **Next and Future Meeting Details**

The date and time of the next meeting and future meetings were noted. The next meeting would be held on Tuesday 25 June at 2pm in the West Wilts Room, 1st Floor, County Hall, Trowbridge.

24 **Shared Guardian Session - 5.00pm - 6.30pm**

Present:

Corporate Parents – Councillors Pat Aves, Mary Champion, Jane Davies, George Jeans, Laura Mayes, and Phil Whalley. Denise Milton (Wiltshire Fostering Association).

Wiltshire Council Officers – Sarah Banks, Deborah Barlow, Dexter Chipeni, Sally Ellis, Lisa Pullin and Lucy Townsend

Young People – Anna, Dan, Jess, Konrad, Kyle and Steve

Bath University guests – Bobby, Ron and Shannon (Social Work students) and Justin (Tutor)

Apologies

Councillor Pauline Church.

Sarah Banks (Senior Commissioning Officer) welcomed those present and asked them to introduce themselves.

Justin outlined the aims of the session and the ground rules.

As an icebreaker, each young person joined a table, and all were asked to discuss their favourite dessert/pudding.

Review Meetings

The young people were then asked to think about their review meetings and discuss which things had worked well for them and what could be improved about review meetings.

Each group then fed back to the session as follows:

*Positives about Review Meetings*

+ I felt listened to
+ They follow through on what they said they would do, and they focus on what I need
+ I was able to chair my own review meetings towards the end
+ My brothers were able to come to my review meeting
+ The venue of the meetings was changed from school to my foster placement
+ I was asked what I wanted
+ I am happy, they are well organised meetings
+ I feel like I have a fair platform where I can express my views
+ I am given the choice/freedom of whether I attend the meetings

*Negatives about Review Meetings*

- They ask lots of questions
- My IRO (Independent Reviewing Officer) changed
- There were lots of Social Worker changes
- There are questions on the form that ask my parents about how I am getting on at school – “How are they supposed to know that?” The questions should be appropriate for me
- I would like to move the location of my review meetings as I don’t like being in cramped spaces – no one has offered me this option
- I am aware that I could use the Mind of My Own app to share my feelings and record what I want to say at the meetings, but I am concerned about security and my words being changed – I prefer to hand write what I want to say and pass this on

*Suggestions for improvements*

* I would like to receive a short profile about my Social Worker (and other Wiltshire Council staff who will be involved with me) before I meet them, so that I know what they look like, who they are and a bit of information about them
* My Social Worker should also know about me – a summary of my important points so that I don't have to keep repeating them and what I liked to be called. "I don't like Stephen, I am Steve!"
* I am on a Pathway Plan, but I haven't seen a copy of it – could my PA share a copy with me.

Placements

The young people were then asked to think about good and not so good points about the placements that they have had/are currently in.

- What were their feelings when they were moving in
  *It can be scary at first, but once you get settled in you realise that there was nothing to worry about*
- How did they feel about staying (been in placement for a period of time)?
  *More comfortable when you stay in one place for a long time*
- What happened when they moved on from that placement.

Each group then fed back to the session and the views were collected by the Uni students.

Social Workers

The young people were then asked to think about their Social Worker/s and write a poem starting with the words "I remember".

The poems were read out to the group and collated by the Uni students.

All were thanked for attending and for their contributions. Justin confirmed that the findings from the session would be shared with their Social Work students and be passed onto the Council so that Managers could share the findings with their Teams.

The session concluded at 6.30pm.

(Duration of meeting: 2.00 - 3.45 pm)
The Officer who has produced these minutes is Lisa Pullin, of Democratic Services, direct line 01225 713015, e-mail lisa.pullin@wiltshire.gov.uk

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# Corporate Parenting Panel 19 March 2019

## PRIORITY 7:

**“Ensure that looked after children and care leavers have timely and easy access to mental health services”**



Wiltshire Council
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# Identifying Emotional/Mental Health Issues

- Foster Carers
- Medical Professionals during regular health assessments (SDQ)
  - *Initial Health Assessments (IHA)need to be carried out quickly!*
- School staff
- Social Workers
- Family Support Workers
- Other Agencies that come into contact with the LACs
- Self recognition of issues

*Leading to assessment by CAMHS LAC Therapist*



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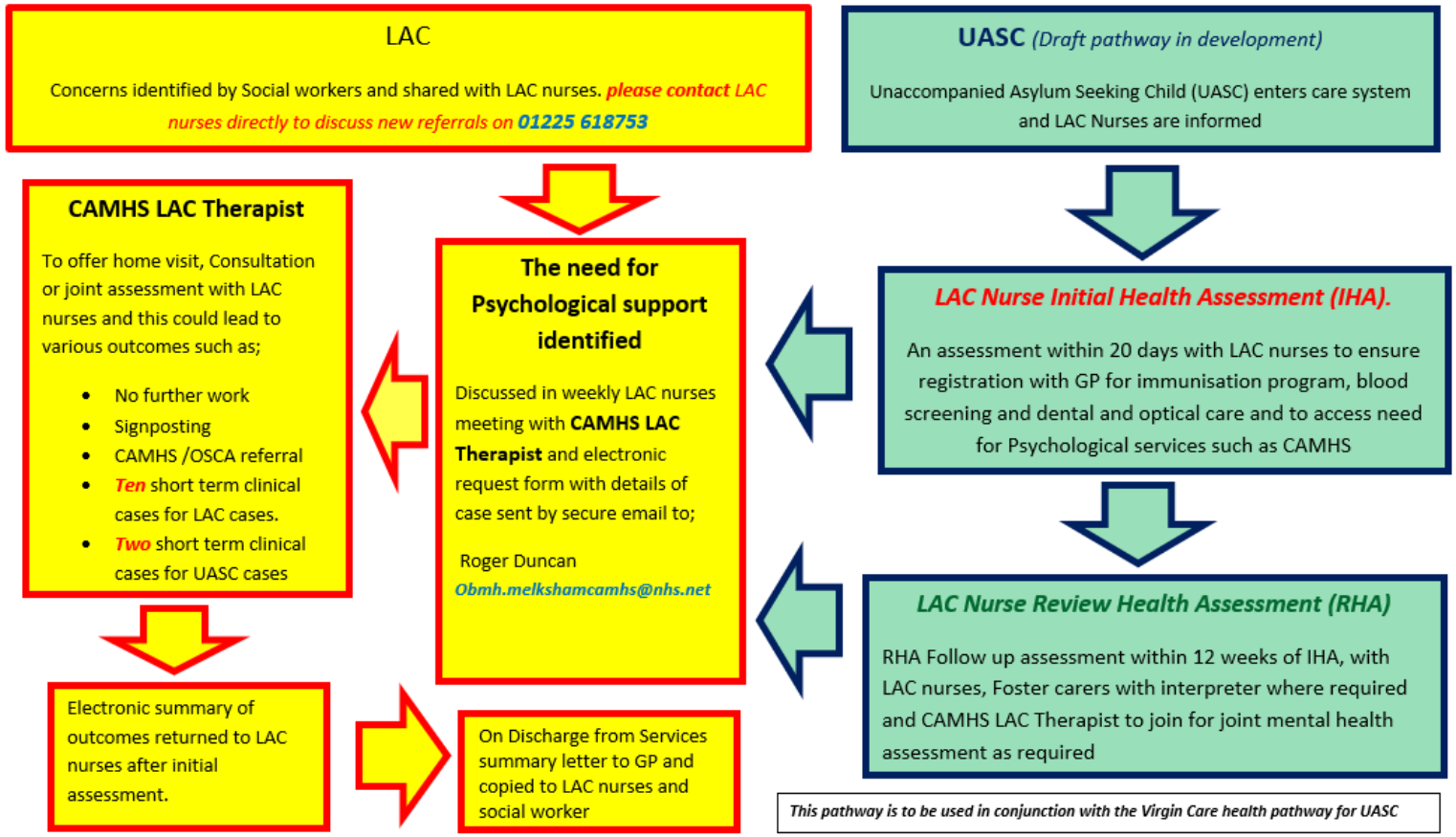
# Flow chart of services for Wiltshire looked After Children (LAC) Including Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC)

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# Understanding The role of CAMHS LAC Therapist

**The CAMHS LAC Therapist has been role for two years and supports LAC in the following ways;**

- By meeting with the LAC nurses for a weekly team meeting
- By joining the weekly Emerald team meetings with Lena Pheby to identify any LAC at risk of CSE
- By joining the monthly Risk management meeting (VACS meeting) with Lena Pheby to identify any LAC who are considered at risk.

- **The CAMHS LAC therapist offers;**

1. Assessment of LAC mental health needs and risk
2. Support for referrals to CAMHS
3. Short term therapy work for LAC (10 cases)
4. Short term therapy work for UASC (2 cases)

**See flow chart on next slide**

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# Understanding The role of CAMHS LAC Therapist

## Data on contact with cases involving looked after children

| LAC /CSE CAMHS Therapist contacts, April- Dec.2018 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Total number of consultations** | **Total number of direct one-hour CAMHS therapy session with young people** | **Total number of joint outreach visits.** | **Total number of CAMHS therapy session with Unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC)** |
| 110 | 68 | 11 | 15 |



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# Particular Issues For LACs/Care Leavers

**There are a lot of things that can lead to Mental Health problems that unfortunately Looked After Children are more likely to have experienced**

**Early Life Experiences** ***or Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE)***

- *Physical Abuse*
- *Emotional Abuse*
- *Sexual Abuse*
- *Witness to Domestic Violence*
- *Neglect*
- *Trauma (especially true of unaccompanied asylum seekers in their country of origin) PTSD* Interpreters often needed to just find out about these issues

*Not addressing these issues can lead to Mental Health Issues in the future*

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# Issues providing CAMHS Support for LACs/Care Leavers

- CAMHS is a “Brand” that some young people may not want to be associated with even if they may know they have issues. Family Care workers essential to provide support for those who do not want to see CAMHS – ***We cannot make Children have CAMHS support.***
- Initial Health Assessments often delayed especially with placements out of County – *Alternative Approaches?*
- SDQ scoring often not completed in a timely manner
- No quantitative data on how well we are doing



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# Improvement Suggestions

- Improve support for Unaccompanied Asylum Seekers
  - *Recently funding has been secured for three levels of training that can Support UASC; Clinically, as a Social worker and residential and at a support worker/ residential level*
- Recognise Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) early on and provide counselling/support quickly
  - *This approach would benefit from multiagency training and support including school as key front line agencies*
- Have quantitative measures of more than time for Initial Care Assessment
  - *Open to suggestion of what these should be*
- Improve the CAMHS brand*?*
  - *Recent changes in the CAMHS structure and establishment of the CAMHS Wiltshire Well being team in currently addressing this*
- Do we need to take the focus off “Timely Support” and onto “Preventative measures with correct support?”

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TACT
Fostering & Adoption

# Language that cares

## Changing the way professionals talk about Children in Care

March 2019

This project was led by Sara Ortiz, TACT Senior Research and Policy Advisor and TACT children and care experienced young people, with contributions from:

Blackpool Children in Care Council

Bristol Children in Care Council

Cheshire East Children in Care Council

London and South East branch of Clinicians and Professionals working with Looked After and Adopted Children

East Sussex Children in Care Council

Herefordshire Your Voice Matters Group

Rotherham Looked After Children's Council

South Tyneside Children in Care Council

Team Fostering 'Teamies' and Foster carers

Waltham Forest Children and Young People

Warwickshire Children in Care Council

West Berkshires Children and Young People in Care and Social Care Professionals

York Children in Care Council

Endorsed by The Children's Society

# Foreword by Andy Elvin, TACT CEO

*"We are not mistakes on pages, we are awesome novels with unorthodox beginnings."*
TACT ambassador Solomon OB.

Language That Cares is a collaborative effort led by TACT that aims to change the language of the care system. Language is a powerful tool for communication but sometimes the way that it is used in social care creates stigma and barriers for understanding. Language is power, and we want children and young people to feel empowered in their care experience.

Why has this language evolved? The reasons are varied but one respondent put it very well:

> *"Why we use these terms? It might be that it gives us a sense of control, reducing a complex situation into something that you can describe neatly and respond to or that it decreases our feeling regarding perceived risk, being able to name a difficulty or threat reduces the danger of an unknowable threat. It can offer a disguise for when we don't know, or we don't understand and defends us against an intolerable/unpleasant feeling."* Professional

Language can be a weapon but it can also be emotional armour.

We have asked children and young people about their wishes and feelings on the day to day language used with, or to talk about, them and Language That Cares is their work.

Language That Cares is not an absolute list of all words used in the care system and does not represent everyone's view. However, it starts a much necessary discussion about the way we communicate and engage with our children and young people.

Language evolves and changes and this is the 'first edition' of Language That Cares. We will all continue to consult with our children and young people about the language we use. We also hope that more Local Authorities and organisations will join us for future editions and, together, we can show our children and young people that we really care about them and about what they have to say to us.

I will leave the last word to some of the care experienced young people who created Language That Cares:

> *"The language of care is so mixed up with our everyday language that it is difficult to separate the two. These words that we challenge are used by everyone: foster carers, social workers, teachers, Independent Reviewing Officers, administrators and even children and young people. We should challenge ourselves and challenge people who we hear using them."* Rotherham Young People

# Ashleigh, TACT care experienced young person

I think the new dictionary of the words and phrases used by professionals like social workers is really helpful, because some words used in the care system can be really complicated at times. Professionals' vocabulary would confuse me even when I was 15, I was still a bit puzzled by what was being said during my meetings, because it seemed to be all in some kind of professional, social worker code. Therefore, I can only imagine how confusing it must be for younger children to understand it all.

Professionals need to understand that not everyone speaks the same language as them, and for children it can feel complex and overwhelming, and sometimes even embarrassing, as there is a lot of stigma attached to some of the terms used by professionals.

Using alternatives to the word 'foster carer' is a good idea, because from personal experience I only referred to my carer by her name, or just saying my foster mum, because it seemed easier and it was more personal. Also, with regard to the term 'care leaver', I think changing it is really positive, because there is some stigma attached to 'care leaver', as it just feels like you've left care and that's it, there is nothing else to you or your life. Personally, when I say to people that I'm a care leaver they kind of just think of me through the usual perception of what someone in care looks like, and it's difficult to explain that it's different for every care leaver.

I also agree with changing the word 'peers' to 'friends'. When I was a child, my social worker would always call my friends peers, but I didn't really know what peers were at the time, and I'd never really heard anyone use that word before.

In general the words chosen by the young people in the new dictionary are helpful but at the same time they could make it difficult for professionals, like social workers, who need to use professional language in their work. However, I believe social workers and other care professionals should leave the big words for other professionals who understand them, and adopt the words provided in the new dictionary when talking to both young people and children and make the language they use around them more accessible, clear and sensitive.

# A

## Abscond

We prefer: **Run away; Go missing**

## Advocate

> *"Says what it is but it might need explaining to some children and young people."* Cheshire East Young People

## Asylum seeker

We prefer: **Young people**

> *"Asylum seeker is a home office term, these young people are much more than a Home Office label."* Social Worker

# B

## Birth/Biological Parents

We prefer: **Parents; Family; Mum or Tummy Mummy; Dad**

> *"You should access each child individually to find out what they like calling their family members."* Cheshire East Young Person

> *"The words can also be excluding and disadvantageous to birth parents and it is important for this to be considered as well."* Foster Carer

# C

## Care leaver

We prefer: **Care experienced adult**

> *"We prefer 'care experienced' but we are not always keen on the word 'care' as this can mean anything due to 'care' having a wide definition."* Cheshire East Young People

## Care plan

We prefer: **Future plans; My plan**

> *"The word 'care' needs less usage, it is used too commonly, and I am fed up of hearing it."* Cheshire East Young Person

### Challenging Behaviour

We prefer: **Having trouble coping; Distressed feelings; Different thinking method; Difficult thoughts**

> *"Children and young people who are finding coping tough are not 'challenging' they are in need of your help and support."* Social Worker

### Consistent guide

We prefer: **Constant support**

> *"When we fall, you will catch us and help us get back on track."*
> Cheshire East Young People

### Contact

We prefer: **Making plans to see our family; Family meet up time/Family time; Seeing Dad/Mum/Grandma/etc.**

> *"Contact should be changed to meeting with friends and family!"*
> Waltham Forest Young Person

> *"I would prefer 'seeing family'. Seeing family is normal for anyone but 'contact' makes it sound like it's not normal."* York Care Leavers Forum

> *"Contact means staying in touch with the people that you care about."*
> Waltham Forest Young People

> *"For me it would be 'golden time', because seeing your family is golden and it's the best time."* TACT Young Person

### Contact centre

We prefer: **Family centre**

## D

### Designated Teacher

We prefer: **Teacher**

> *"Just say it's a teacher we can talk to, who is trained and who attends our reviews. The word is too obvious, we don't want everyone knowing."* Cheshire East Young People

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### Difficult to place

We prefer: **Can't find a home good enough for them; Failed by the system**

> *"The phrase 'difficult to place' blames the child for a failure of the system."*
> Charity Social Worker

### Drop out

We prefer: **Early school leaver**

## F

### Foster carers

We prefer: **My family; Foster Mum; Foster Dad; People who care about me; My new family; The family that chose us; Aunty/Uncle; Their name**

> *"The use of language is at a very individual level, so a term used for one child may not be right for another. Children use different words in different contexts, they may call foster carer 'Mum or Dad' in one situation but not in another. Foster carers and the children they look after need to work this out between them."* Foster Carer

### Full potential

We prefer: **You will make sure I have every chance to achieve my dreams**

## H

### High aspirations

We prefer: **Good choices; Wanting the best for our children**

> *"You will try your best to help me because you want me to achieve."*
> Cheshire East Young People

## I

### In care

We prefer: **Another home away from home; Living with a different family in a different home**

### Isolation

We prefer: **Reflection time**

> *"I really dislike this term. It should not be in existence as it is punitive in its nature."* Professional

# L

### LAC review

We prefer: **My meeting or my review meeting; Improving your time in care; [Child's name]'s Review**

> *"It is your time to speak up and talk about what is happening or what's happened, what is good and what is bad."* Waltham Forest Young People

### LAC visit

We prefer: **Home visit; [Child's name] visit; Catch up**

### LAC/Foster child

We prefer: **Call children by their names; LA should say 'our children' or [insert name of LA]'s children; Young People or Children**

> *"Every child is 'looked after'; there is no need to point us out. Some would consider themselves looked after before coming into care."* Cheshire East Young People

> *"I do not mind the saying, but just don't say it a lot."* York Young Person

> *"The acronym 'LAC' can be understood as a suggestion that the child or young person is 'lacking' something."* Professional

> *"Take away LAC acronym completely."* Herefordshire Young People

### Leaving care

We prefer: **Moving on or Moving up**

# M

### Moving placements

We prefer: **Moving to a new house; A new chapter or fresh start**

# N

## NEET

We prefer: **Unemployed or not in training or in education**

> *"NEET is a silly word, no young person knows what it means yet we are called it."* Warwickshire Young People

# P

## PA

We prefer: **Advisor; Personal advisor; Guidance giver**

## Pathway plan

We prefer: **Future planning for 16+; Leaving care plan; Path to independence**

## Peers

We prefer: **Friends**

## PEP

We prefer: **School review; Education meeting; Education plan**

> *"It is not about the word 'PEP' itself, it is how it is presented in school. Some teachers openly announce in class that the LAC student has a PEP meeting and this will arouse the interest from the rest of students, leaving the looked after student to explain what it is and why they have it."* Rotherham Young People

## Permanence

We prefer: **My home without disruptions**

### Placement

We prefer: **Our home or home; My house or the house where I live**

> *"Placement sounds like you are being forced to live there."* TACT Young Person

> *"I don't like when they say, 'you are a normal child living in someone else's home' or when they use the term 'child in care'."* Bristol Young Person

> *"This should be a word used more for a temporary placement, not when you see it as your home and have been there a long time."* York Young Person

> *"A foster home might be somewhere where you're placed against your will, but that doesn't stop it from being a home."* York Care Leavers Forum

> *"We should talk about 'foster homes' and not 'placements', particularly when children themselves are referred to as placements."* Foster Carer

## R

### Respite

We prefer: **A break for children (not carers); Day out; Home away from home; Stay over/ Stay over family; Sleepover; Time off/Time off for us/Time off for our carers**

> *"This word does not make much sense. It is too formal and not a word we use everyday."* York Young People

> *"It can be offensive as it means an escape or a break from something that is not enjoyable."* York Young People

### Restrained

We prefer: **Physical help to stay safe**

### Reunification

We prefer: **Going back to live with my family; Going back home**

# S

## Siblings

We prefer: **Our brothers and sisters; People who are related to me**

> *"This is too formal, and it is ok in written language but in spoken language I think it should just be brothers and sisters."* York Young Person

## Sick

We prefer: **Unwell**

> *"I don't like when they say that my Mum is sick, I would rather they say Mum is unwell."* Bristol Young Person

## Social worker

We prefer: **One to one worker; Someone who understands your family background and knows what you have been through**

## Special needs

We prefer: **Additionally supported; The needs name, i.e. disabled, global developmental delay, learning need, etc.**

> *"Everyone is special, and everyone has different levels of need."* Warwickshire Young People

## Staff, Support worker, Unit manager

We prefer: **Their name**

> *"Explain their role but use their name to refer to them."* Professional

## Stat visit/Statutory visit

We prefer: **Coming to visit to see how we're doing**

> *"I didn't know what a stat visit is. For me it is when my social worker just comes around, so I do not feel there has to be a specific word for it."* York Care Leavers Forum

# T

## Therapy

We prefer: **Talking things through sessions; Trying to make sense sessions; Help to work things out**

## Transition

We prefer: **Preparing for change**

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