

# Meeting of the Children's Corporate Parenting Board

**Thursday 21st July 2022 at 6.00pm**  
**In Committee Room 3, the Council House, Priory Road, Dudley**

## **Agenda - Public Session** **(Meeting open to the public and press)**

1. Apologies for absence
2. To report the appointment of any substitute members serving for this meeting of the Committee.
3. To receive any declarations of interest under the Members' Code of Conduct.
4. To confirm and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 24th March 2022 as a correct record.
5. Public Forum
6. Children in Care Council – Welcome to Corporate Parenting Board Members
7. Action Tracker
8. Adoption Service Annual Report 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 (Pages 1 – 18)
9. Dudley Virtual School Update Report (Pages 19 – 46)
10. Children's Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report 2021 – 2022 (Pages 47 – 78)
11. Verbal Updates from the Working Groups
12. Appointing Chairs for the Working Group (Verbal Discussion)
13. Children's Corporate Parenting Board Forward Planning Dates (Pages 79 – 80)

14. To consider any questions from Members to the Chair where two clear days-notice has been given to the Monitoring Officer (Council Procedure Rule 11.8).



**Chief Executive**

**Dated: 13<sup>th</sup> July 2022**

**Distribution:**

Councillor R Buttery (Chair)

Councillor S Ridney (Vice-Chair)

Councillors D Bevan, H Bills, P Bradley, A Hughes, L Johnson, P Lee, A Millward, N Neale, D Stanley and E Taylor.

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- Hand sanitiser and antibacterial wipes are available at various locations.
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- Face masks may be removed when you are participating in the meeting.
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- Do not attend if you feel unwell; if you have tested positive for Covid-19; if you are self-isolating or if you suspect that you are symptomatic.
- All people are encouraged to be double vaccinated to limit any potential ill-health effects.
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## Public Gallery

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## Submitting Apologies for Absence

- Elected Members can submit apologies by contacting Democratic Services (see our contact details below). Members wishing to appoint a substitute should notify Democratic Services as soon as possible in advance of the meeting. Any substitute Members must be eligible to serve on the meeting in question (for example, he/she must have received the training required by the Council).

## Private and Confidential Information

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**Minutes of the Children's Corporate Parenting Board  
Thursday, 24th March 2022 at 4.30 pm  
in the Council House, Priory Road, Dudley**

**Present:**

Councillor R Buttery (Chair)  
Councillor S Ridney (Vice-Chair)  
Councillors N Barlow, C Bayton, P Bradley, S Greenaway, A Lees, N Neale and D Stanley.

**Officers**

C Driscoll – Director of Children's Services, M McFadden – Corporate Parenting Board Co-ordinator and J Mupombi (Head of Children in Care, Care Leavers and Resources) (All Directorate of Children's Services) and K Buckle – Democratic Services Officer (Directorate of Finance and Legal).

11. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received on behalf of Councillors D Bevan, B Challenor, R Collins, B Gentle, M Hanif, A Millward and E Taylor.

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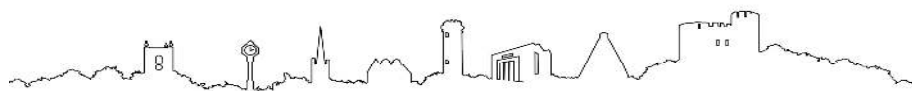
12. **Appointment of Substitute Members**

It was reported that Councillors N Barlow, C Bayton, S Greenaway and D Stanley had been appointed as substitute Members for Councillors D Bevan, M Hanif, R Collins and M Millward respectively, for this meeting of the Board only.

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13. **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor S Ridney declared a non-pecuniary interest as the Chair of the Management Committee of the Virtual School.



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14. **Minutes**

The Chair provided a verbal update on the Virtual School following her attendance at a Local Government Training Session hosted to extend the work of the Virtual School to any child that had been previously cared for by the Local Authority, as it had become evident that previous Looked After Children were failing to achieve their full academic potential.

The Chair supported the decision of the Government as that work would be extended to 1.6 million children nationally and one in ten or three children in every classroom. Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and Behavioural teaching would become embedded in all schools. The Director of Children's Services confirmed that the relevant teams had recently been extended, in order to deal with the additional responsibilities.

**Resolved**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 22nd July 2021, be approved as a correct record, and signed.

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15. **Public Forum**

There were no issues raised under this agenda item.

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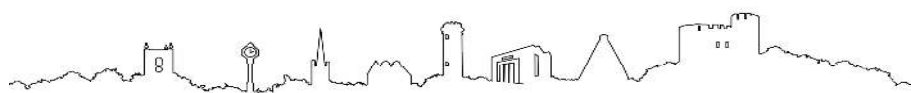
16. **Children's Corporate Parenting Board Municipal Year Report April 2021 to March 2022**

Members considered a presentation which provided detail in relation to the Board's Action Tracker for 2021 to 2022 including the reports considered by the Children's Corporate Parenting Working Group and the suggested recommendations during the municipal year. There had also been the establishment of the four Operational Working Groups which were facilitated by the Corporate Parenting Board Co-ordinator. The Operational Working Groups were as follows: -

The Care Experience Working Group  
The Emotional Health and Wellbeing Working Group  
The Skills Working Group  
The Permanency Working Group

It was noted that six care experienced apprentices had become employed by Children's Social Care.

A Workshop for Members had also been reinstated to outline their corporate parenting responsibilities.



The Local Authority's Communications and Public Affairs Section had published an article informing Members of the Operational Working Groups established by the Board.

The Members Corporate Parenting Handbook had been approved by all Board Members.

The Service Manager for the Independent Reviewing Service had provided assurances that the Independent Visitor Service had been improved.

The Director of Children's Services had appointed the Chair of the Emotional Health and Wellbeing Working Group to Chair the Strategic Leadership meeting of the Dudley Lighthouse Links to provide independent challenge and accountability.

The Head of Children in Care – Care Leavers and Resources referred to the reports presented to the Children's Corporate Parenting Board Working Group and the suggested recommendations made by that Group during 2021 to 2022 as detailed below: -

On 9<sup>th</sup> September 2021 the Lead for the Adolescent Response Team had presented a report on Children Missing from Care to the Working Group that included current arrangements for those children and details of the number of children who were reported as missing, together with details of missing episodes and Return Home Interviews.

In responding to a question from Councillor C Bayton it was confirmed that reciprocal arrangements for reimbursing Local Authorities for carrying out Return Home Visits would be considered.

In responding to a question from Councillor P Bradley, it was accepted that the timeliness of conducting Return Home Interviews remained an area for improvement and those Interviews would be conducted following the last missing episode.

The Director of Children's Services confirmed that it remained a priority to conduct Return Home Interviews for Dudley children and those interviews remained an area for improvement and some missing episodes may be marred with exploitation and therefore compliance and quality interviews were required. It was confirmed that there were a number of children residing out of Borough.

It was stated that the reasons for missing episodes varied in that some had argued with their parents or wished to go to places that they were not allowed to, however, the majority of children had not believed that they were missing when going out with friends or visiting their separated parents. Sometimes children removed from their parents returned to their parents.

It was noted that when a child in care was placed with a carer, details of their networks and social media would be provided to the carer. Should a child be reported as missing, their carers were supported by providing the most appropriate course of action to follow rather than immediately telephoning the Police, however urgency would be dependent upon a child's age and the level of risk. Children's parents' houses would also be checked.

The Adoption at Heart Service Report was also presented to the September meeting of the Working Group and provided a focus on the work of the Service which included details of those children placed in foster to adopt placements during 2020/21. Data in relation to those children in Dudley placed in foster to adopt placements were referred to, including those who were placed interagency. Data in relation to post adoption contacts was also referred to, together with the number of contacts with their siblings. Work was also continuing to provide birth parent support with a view to more effectively supporting birth parents and improving outcomes for them and their children.

The Matrix Project Manager Social Care undertook to provide Members with details of how successful birth parent support had been in terms of data.

Following consideration of the report, Members of the Working Group requested a report on the timescales involved during the process to adopt a child together with updated figures on the number of children in Dudley being adopted.

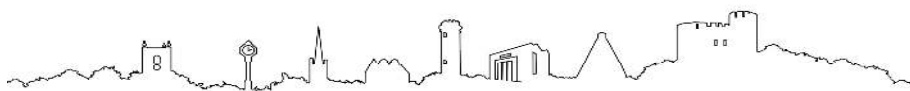
In relation to the Children's Services Complaints, Comments and Compliments Annual report from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2020 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021, Members were pleased with the improved response times to complaints, and it had been noted that 61% of complaints had not been upheld with eight cases being upheld or partially upheld and one complaint withdrawn. The reasons for upholding complaints were mainly due to the quality of service and support which included the lack of communication. That lack of communication had resulted in a huge drive through the Strategic Management Team to demonstrate improvement.

The Children in Care Team had received 23 compliments during the same reporting period.

The update report of the Dudley Lighthouse Links Service, Emotional Wellbeing Service to Children in Care 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2021 to 18<sup>th</sup> August 2021 was considered by the Working Group and it was noted that in June 2021, Children's Services had commissioned an Independent Strategic Review of the Service and an action plan had been progressed.

A Clinical Lead had been appointed who was trauma trained and Therapeutic Parent Plans were being prepared for carers to meet the needs of children and young people.

Members requested further update reports on the Service in order to monitor progress; case studies on how young people and carers had benefited from the Service and a report in relation to kinship care.



The Chair requested that the kinship care report also include details of funding strategies for kinship carers.

In responding to a question from Councillor C Bayton, the Director of Children's Services undertook to provide the Board with the 'No Detriment Policy' including details of resources available to kinship carers.

A report on the Corporate Parenting Handbook was presented to the November meeting of the Working Group and an overview of the content of the Handbook had been provided to Members. The Handbook ensured that Elected Members understood their corporate parenting responsibilities. It was confirmed that the Handbook would be regularly updated on issues affecting children and young people and how the Local Authority were performing in relation to performance indicators.

Corporate Parenting Board Members were requested to sign the Handbook and adopt the mantra 'Children first and at the heart of all we do' be included on the front page of the handbook.

The Corporate Parenting Co-ordinator undertook to insert Members signatures and request the Council's Communications and Public Affairs Section to publish the Handbook for Members.

Throughout the municipal year the Working Group had received details in relation to the Children in Care Council Activities.

Members had also met with care experienced apprentices who had all provided details of their achievements.

An updated report on the Care Leavers Service had been presented to the January meeting of the Working Group which provided data in terms of the areas where they resided, those Not in Education Employment or Training (NEET), care leavers successes and the reason why children in care exited care.

It was confirmed that the drop-in centre for young people was to be set up by the Service Manager Children's Services Children in Care and Resources.

The Annual Health Report for Children in Care 2020 to 2021 was also presented to the January meeting of the Working Group, and it was noted that the Emotional Health and Wellbeing Working Group had considered the App that Sandwell Council utilised for Health Passports, and it had been agreed that those passports would be electronic in the future.

It was noted that the children in care and young people had chosen the priorities for the 2022/23 municipal year which included the following: -



- Your Health and Emotional Wellbeing.
- Your Home and where you live.
- To be listened to and respected.

The Working Group considered the Independent Reviewing Officers (IRO) Annual Report 2020/21.

It was confirmed that the following items would be included in the Annual Childrens Corporate Parenting Board Programme for 2022/23: -

- Verbal Update Reports from the Corporate Parenting Board Working Groups.
- Children's Services Complaints, Comments and Compliments Annual Report 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022.
- Dudley's Virtual School Annual Report 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022.
- Report on care experienced young people Not in Education Employment or Training.
- Fostering and Permanency Service Annual Report 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022.
- Report from regional adoption agency Adoption at Heart.
- Review Report of Dudley Lighthouse Link Service.
- Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group Annual Children in Care Report 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022.
- Independent Reviewing Officer Annual Report 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022.
- Report on the outcomes of the Ofsted inspections, the Regulation Independent Visitor inspections and Regulation 45 quality of care reviews in respect of the Children Home (England) Regulations 2015.
- Care experienced young people update report.
- Connected Carers (Kinship) Report.
- Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report April 2021 – March 2022.

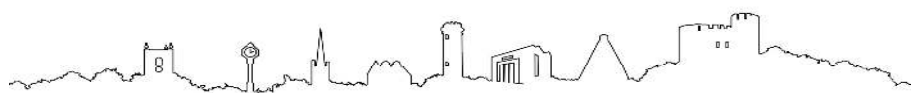
In relation to Leisure Centre Passes it was noted that S Gay, Leisure Services Manager would be invited to attend a future meeting of the Board to update Members in relation to passes for children in care and care leavers.

The Chair referred to funding available to prioritise children's mental health and the possibility of the funding being utilised for Leisure Passes as leisure centre activities not only prevent obesity but also mental health and wellbeing.

Councillor S Ridney referred to the request of the Children in Care Council to prevent constant changes in their Social Workers for children in care and a request to review pocket money.

The Head of Children in Care – Care Leavers and Resources confirmed that a review was being undertaken in relation to pocket money.

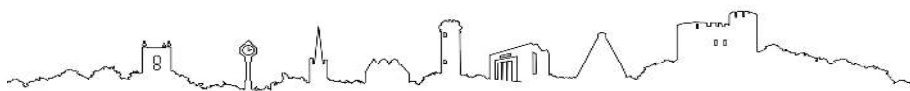
The Chair thanked Members and Officers for their support during the municipal year and Councillor S Ridney thanked the Corporate Parenting Co-ordinator for establishing the four Operational Working Groups. Thanks were echoed by all Members.



The Head of Children in Care – Care Leavers and Resources reported that all Elected Members would be asked if they wished to become Foster Carers as part of the Foster Carers Recruitment Strategy.

## **Resolved**

- (1) That the information contained in the presentation on the Children's Corporate Parenting Board Municipal Year 2021/22, be noted.
- (2) That the Lead for the Adolescent Response Team be requested to provide Members with statistics and comparisons with neighbouring local authorities on the number, length of time children were missing and reasons for those episodes and to investigate the possibility of carrying out Return Home Interviews for all children placed in Dudley with a view to being reimbursed by those children's home authorities, (should they have been placed out of their area and in Dudley).
- (3) That the Corporate Parenting Co-ordinator be requested to insert Members' signature on the Corporate Parenting Handbook and request the Council's Communications and Public Affairs Section to publish the Handbook for Members.
- (4) That the Director of Children's Services be requested to submit a report on the timescales involved during the process to adopt a child and updated figures on the number of children in Dudley being adopted to a future meeting of the Board.
- (5) That the Head of Children in Care – Care Leavers and Resources be requested to provide Members with details and data of how successful Birth Parent Support had been.
- (5) That the Children's Corporate Parenting Strategy for 2022 to 2023 be approved.
- (6) That the Service Director of Children's Social Care be requested to liaise with the Director of Children's Services and the Service Director - Early Help/Schools and SEND to ascertain the current position in relation to all Directorates extending the offer of Apprenticeships to care leavers.
- (7) That the Head of Safeguarding, Practice and Quality Assurance be requested to inform Members whether the written information regarding the IRO and the Reviewing Service that was provided to all children and young people was all inclusive and catered for different languages and to provide an update report on the Independent Reviewing Officers Reviews to a future meeting.
- (8) That the Director of Children's Services be requested to provide Members with the 'No Detriment Policy', to include details of the resources available to kinship carers.
- (9) That the following items be included in the Annual Children's Corporate Parenting Board Programme for 2022/23



- Verbal Update Reports from the Corporate Parenting Board Working Groups.
- Children's Services Complaints, Comments and Compliments Annual Report 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022.
- Dudley's Virtual School Annual Report 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022.
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- Report from regional adoption agency Adoption@Heart
- Review Report of Dudley Lighthouse Links Service
- Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group Annual Children in Care Report 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022.
- Independent Reviewing Officer Annual Report 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022
- Report on the outcomes of the Ofsted inspections, the Regulation. Independent Visitor inspections and Regulation 45 quality of care reviews in respect of the Children Home (England) Regulations 2015.
- Care experienced young people update report.
- Connected Carers (Kinship) Report to include funding strategies for kinship carers.
- Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report April 2021 – March 2022.

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The meeting ended at 5.45 pm

CHAIR



Report title: **Adoption Service Report**  
**01 April 2021 to 31 March 2022**

Date of report: 10 June 2022

To: **Dudley Council**

Produced by: Mark Tobin  
Head of Service

Service: Adoption@Heart

**1. Introduction and Purpose of the Report:**

This report fulfils the obligations in Adoption National Minimum Standards (2011) and Adoption Service Statutory Guidance (2011) Adoption and Children Act 2002, to report to the “executive side” of the local authority. This has guided the structure and information set out in the report below.

The report jointly covers the full year 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022.

It is important to note that data and information within this report is accurate as of 31 March 2022.

Adoption@Heart is a Regional Adoption Agency, providing adoption services on behalf of Sandwell, Dudley, Walsall and Wolverhampton Councils. The service is hosted by City of Wolverhampton Council and became operational 1 April 2019.

**2. Number, type and age of children waiting for adoption and length of time waiting:**

As at 31 March 2022:

There were 14 children subject to placement orders, but not yet placed for adoption. Out of these three children were linked provisionally to adoptive parents but awaiting formal match and placement. 11 children were subject to active family finding and these include a sibling group of three, who have waited five months since Placement Order. Only two of these 11 children have waited longer than six months. All other children who have waited longer than six months are subject to a provisional link with adopters.

The timescales for the 14 children waiting on Placement Orders are:

Less than 3 months:	3
Between 3 and 6 months:	6
Between 6 and 12 months:	4
Between 12 and 24 months:	1
Children waiting over 2 years:	0

**2.1 Children Made Subject to Placement Orders**

Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep
0	1	0	0	4	3

Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total
6	2	3	1	3	0	23

**2.2 Children Subject to Should be Placed for Adoption (SHOBPA) decisions as at 31 March 2022 (without Placement Order)**

10

**2.3 Number of Children who had a SHOPBA during the period**

Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep
3	0	2	0	1	4

Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	<b>Total</b>
0	2	3	0	1	3	19

**2.4 The Numbers of Children with PO who had a Change of Plan (away from adoption) in the Period**

0

**2.5 Number of Children Placed for Adoption during the period.**

Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep
4	0	2	5	0	1

Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	<b>Total</b>
1	3	2	0	0	4	22

**3. Number of Children Adopted (April 2021 - March 2022)**

Number of children – 23

In year average timescale for children adopted.

A10 = 577.3 days

A2 = 273.2 days

Adoption numbers have significantly increased this year following the delays in the previous year caused by Covid-19 and the impact on the courts. This factor together with the low number of children placed (14) in the year 2020/21 has led to the low number of children adopted in the reporting year.

The higher number of children adopted in the reporting year evidences the process of recovery in the courts, following the pandemic and the number of children placed has also increased from 14 to 22 in the reporting year.

The numbers of children leaving care nationally via adoption has reduced continuously since 2017.

Financial Year:	18/19	19/20	20/21
Children Adopted:	36	34	7

**Adoption Scorecard Performance:**

In 2014, as part of its' Adoption Reform Agenda, the government introduced Adoption Scorecards to track local authority performance and to tackle delay in the adoption system. Scorecards are produced for a 3-year rolling average, with the latest data being published for April 2018 - March 2019 (Published April 2020 as below).

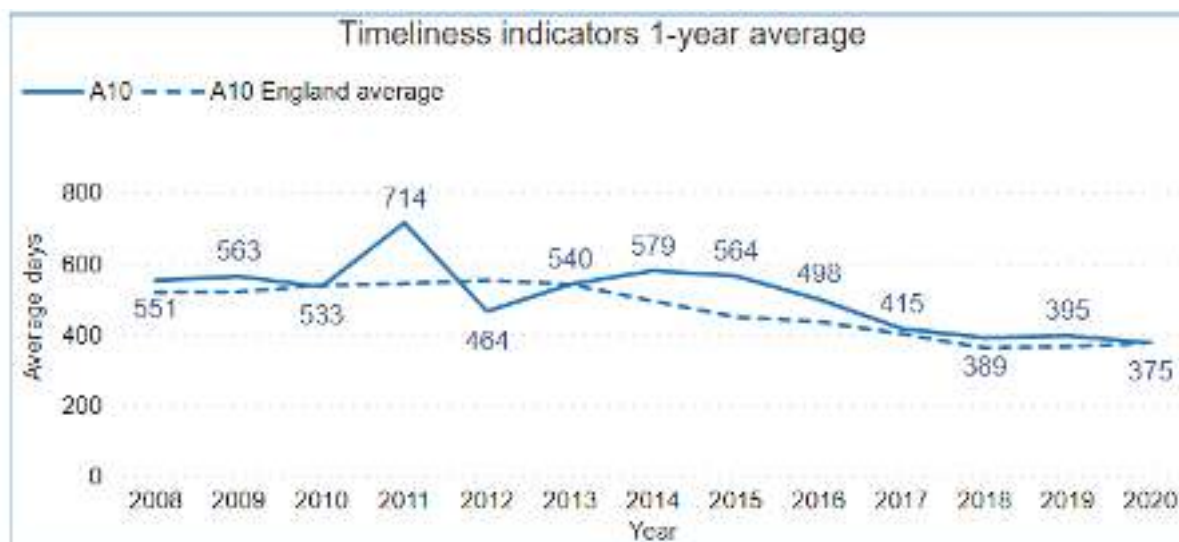
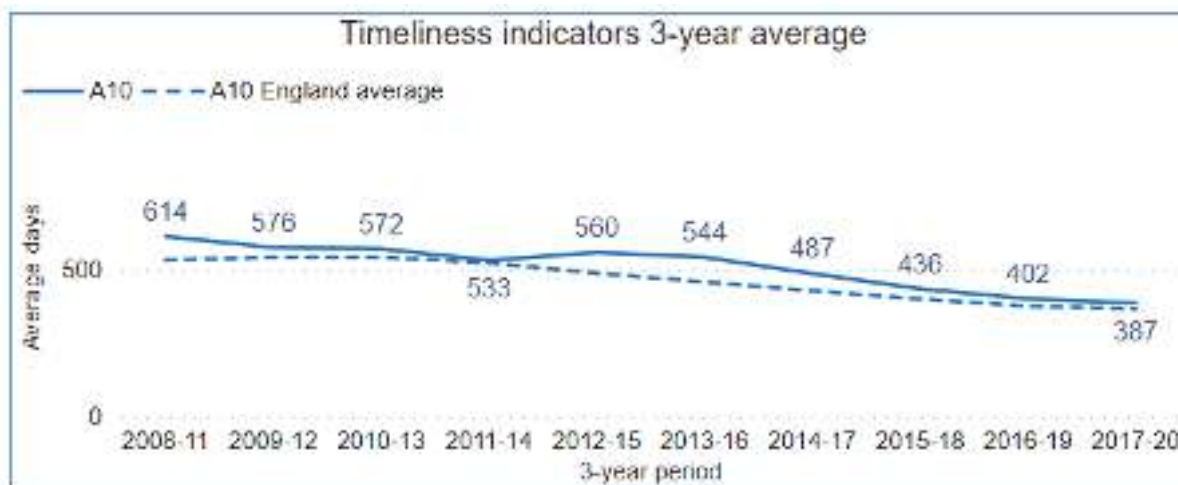
The current indicators are:

**A10** – number of days between a child entering care and moving in with their adoptive family. The current threshold is 426 days.

**A2** – the number of days between receiving court authority to place a child for adoption and the Agency decision about a match to an adoptive family. The current threshold is 121 days.



**A10**



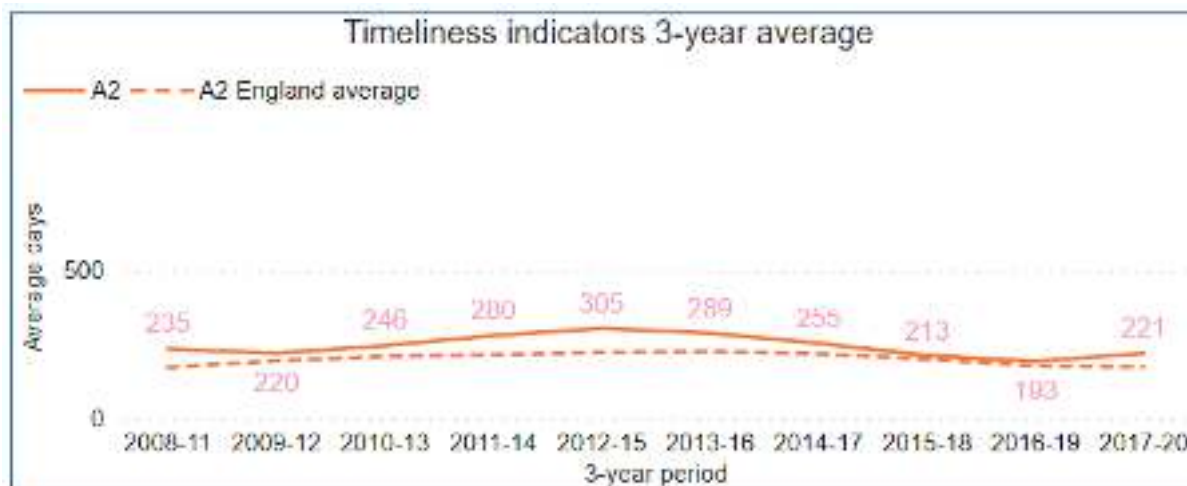
A10: Average time (in days) between a child entering care and moving in with its adoptive family adjusted for foster care adoptions:				
2020 average days: <b>375</b>	2020 England average: <b>375</b>	Average time in 2020 was shorter than in 2019	2017-20 average days: <b>387</b>	2017-20 England average: <b>367</b>

**A10** performance for both single year and three year average is below threshold (426) and close to or consistent with the England average (375).

The single year performance is 51 days below threshold and nine days above England average.

The three year average is 39 days below threshold and 59 days below national average.

## A2





**A2: Average time (in days) between a local authority receiving court authority to place a child and the local authority deciding on a match to an adoptive family:**

2020 average days: <b>312</b>	2020 England average: <b>185</b>	Average time in 2020 was longer than in 2019	2017-20 average days: <b>221</b>	2017-20 England average: <b>175</b>
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Performance for A2 is significantly above threshold for both three year average and single year. it is also above England average for both indicators.

The three year average is 100 days above the threshold (121) and 54 days above the national average.

The single year performance is 191 days above threshold and 64 days above the national average.

**Please note that published scorecard data incorporate average performance over 3 years up to and including the year 2019/20. Adoption@Heart provided adoption services for Dudley Council from April 2019, so currently the published scorecard data includes the 2 previous years.**

### 3.1 Early Permanency

There were three children placed in year in early permanence placements via Foster for Adopt.

## 4. Recruitment of Adopters:

### 4.1 New Enquiries

For the period from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022, 609 new enquiries were received by the Adoption@Heart Recruitment Team.

This is in comparison to 638 enquiries received last year.

### 4.2 Information Events

22 virtual information events took place with 311 people attending (262 units) and six phone consultations (mix of single and joint applicants). Therefore, 44 percent of people who made an enquiry went on to receive information.

## 5. Marketing Report:

Marketing figures for this period are:

- 609 enquiries
- Six phone consultations and 311 people attended virtual information events
- Between 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 and 31 March 2022, we had a total of 20,656 website visits – made up of 15,503 unique visits
- 457 Twitter followers
- 2,142 Facebook likes
- 286 Instagram Followers

### Marketing brief

The beginning of the year saw the launch of the national 'You Can Adopt' sibling campaign. Along with local PR, social media posts and a targeted Google Ads campaign, Adoption@Heart placed digital adverts on screens across the region including a digital screen on the M6 (both directions).

In September and October, Adoption@Heart took part in a black adopter's campaign, a national campaign to encourage black people to find out more about adoption. Using a toolkit of messages and artwork, Adoption@Heart ran a campaign including targeted Google Ads, PR to regional media, digital 'page takeovers' on the Express & Star website, a sponsored

story and Facebook post with the Express & Star, plus, a schedule of co-ordinated social media posts across Adoption@Heart's and partner social media channels.

In December, Adoption@Heart shared a story of two adopted brothers that wanted to donate their Christmas presents to children that go without during the festive period. The gifts were donated to Graiseley Strengthening Families Hub, which coordinated a donation drive for children in need and refugee families who had recently arrived in the city. Adoption@Heart helped coordinate the donation and shared the story with local press and via social media channels.

LGBT+ adoption and fostering week took place in March 2022 which saw the launch of the 'Be the Change' campaign, a recruitment campaign to encourage those from the LGBT+ community who are considering adoption or would like more information to come forward. Adoption@Heart had support from LGBT+ adopters to share their stories across multiple platforms including video, social media, blog posts, news articles and at a virtual information event.

Adoption@Heart has continued to offer virtual information events for prospective adopters using Microsoft Teams. These events have continued to work well and were attended by an average of 14 people per event across the year. Events are hosted by Social Workers, the Marketing Executive and an adopter, where possible. The format of video, a presentation plus Q&A session continues to provide an interactive and engaging session. Conversion from attendance to submitted EOI, continues to remain high.

Regular meetings continue to take place with the Communications Leads across the three local authorities and the Trust. The meetings are used to discuss both national and regional marketing campaigns and activities, the marketing and communications support given to Adoption@Heart by the other comms leads (utilising the knowledge of their areas and resources) and what future support is needed and how the partnership can work going forward. Ongoing plans include the possibility of a joint campaign for adoption and fostering plus working more closely together on community event attendance across the Black Country.

This year will see the launch of a further national 'You Can Adopt' campaign aimed at increasing awareness of the types of children that wait the longest for a family. The new campaign is due to launch late June 2022. Adoption@Heart also aims to make improvements to its website and grow its social media channels in order to increase reach and impact.

## **6. Requirements on the Preparation of Adoption Report Regulations:**

### **6.1 Complaints**

There were three formal complaints about the service during the twelve month period.

One related to adopter applicants who were not recommended for approval by the agency. This is delayed in stage one due to a pending IRM hearing which found in favour of the service

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Adoption Service Report  
01 April 2021 to 31 March 2022

and a subsequent review by the Local Government Ombudsman also support decision making in the service and did not uphold the applicant's complaint.

A further complaint related to delayed applications to the Adoption Support Fund as well as a delayed later life letter (for a child placed by Wolverhampton prior to April 2019). An LGSCO referral has found against Adoption@Heart and the Council and resulted in financial compensation to the complainant.

Additionally, an adoptive parent has made a formal complaint about the level of support provided to her teenage adoptive daughter, who is estranged from her care with no plan of rehabilitation. The young person concerned does not live in the A@H region and the complaint is still in process of investigation.

#### **7. Staffing:**

The service employs 32 qualified Social Workers on a permanent basis, along with six agency Social Workers, who are providing additional capacity due to vacant posts, sickness, maternity leave and additional demand created by Covid-19. Two agency Social Workers have been funded by the partner agencies for twelve months, to provide additional family finding capacity.

There are three Team Managers, with one each covering the thematic service areas. The panel team have two Panel Advisors along with a Panel Co-ordinator and three Panel Administrators.

Management capacity has been increased with the addition of a Service Manager, funded within the existing budget. A successful applicant was appointed internally and started in post 1 March 2022.

The recruitment vacancy rates have remained low since the service went live and despite Covid-19, sickness and absence rates have been minimal during the full year period of 2021/22.

#### **8. Referrals to the Independent Review Mechanism (IRM):**

There has been one referral to the IRM in the period and this has not yet been heard by the IRM panel. It relates to a non-approval of an adopter application.

#### **9. Children's Family Finding Activity:**

The tables below contain the total numbers of children placed by the service during the year 2021/22.

**Children placed 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022**

LA/Trust	Inhouse	Interagency	Total Placed
Dudley	12	10	22
Sandwell	17	12	29
Walsall	13	5	18
Wolverhampton	22	12	34
<b>Total</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>103</b>

Inter-agency usage for full year is 38 percent, thus 62 percent of children were placed in house.

**Children Placed Foster for Adopt**

LA/Trust	FFA Inhouse	FFA Interagency	Total
Dudley	2	1	3
Sandwell	9	3	12
Walsall	8	1	9
Wolverhampton	8	0	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>32</b>

Inter-agency usage for FFA placed in full year is 15 percent.

**Analysis – Children Placed**

The number of children matched and placed with adoptive families in the full year is 103. This is less than the number placed in the previous year (124).

38 percent of children placed to 31 March were placed inter-agency and this represents a significant improvement on end of the previous year performance (56 percent).

The spread of children placed/matched across the four partners is closer in consistency than in previous years, albeit numbers are higher for Wolverhampton and lower in Walsall. There has been a significant increase in children placed for Dudley.

More children have now been placed in house than inter-agency for all partners, without such significant variation as was evident in previous quarters.

It is very positive that 32 children have been placed via Foster for Adopt (31 in previous year) and that 85 percent of these were placed with in house adopters. Early Permanence practice in the partnership continues to improve and has significantly increased since the establishment of Adoption@Heart.

**10. Adoption Panels:**

During the year all adoption panels met virtually due to the constraints and restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic. This has continued and it is not likely that panels will return to a face to face format.

Virtual panels have been largely well received by adopters who have indicated that they feel more comfortable in their own homes. There have also been benefits for Social Workers and panel members who have not had to travel.

**Panel activity approvals & matches per month 2020/21 & 2021/22**

	<b>2020/21</b>	<b>2021/22</b>	<b>2020/21</b>	<b>2021/22</b>
	Approvals	Approvals	Matches	Matches
April	5	5	7	10
May	4	4	16	10
June	5	8	11	13
July	7	7	8	8
August	8	3	12	5
September	7	7	19	6
October	5	3	20	11
November	7	5	7	12
December	4	3	6	3
January	6	3	6	5
February	3	10	8	6
March	6	7	11	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>103</b>

**Panel membership**

The Panel continues to function and is well supported by its committed members and support staff. We currently have 36 panel members on the central list who can sit on the Adoption panel. In addition, six medical advisors for the three Local Authorities and the Children's trust sit on panels on a Rota basis. There are four Panel Chairs, following the recruitment of an additional chair.

The central list offers a good representation of members who have either been adopted or have adopted and this is seen as very positive in terms of the perspective they bring. Whilst a number have been recruited since last year, there is still further need to increase the number of males on the panel and people who are representative of the community we serve. The increase in the central list offers the opportunity to have a panel which reflects a professional perspective, independence, skill, knowledge and experience.



### Panel training

In the period 21/22 panel members have had the opportunity to attend the following training event:

A@H Panel Development Day 02/02/2022. With the agenda items including, A@H performance, a legal update, learning reviews & disruptions, examples of matching done well and keeping in touch (KIT).

### Panel business

Panel met on 53 occasions during 2021-2022, there are 50 panels a year for adoption matters to be heard. There is also flexibility within the panel system allowing for extra and special panels to be arranged in order to enable additional cases and emergency matters to be heard, as and when directed by the courts. This means that children do not wait and matters are dealt with in a timely manner.

The Agency Decision Makers from Dudley make all the decisions regarding the suitability for approval of all prospective adopters. The SHOBPA decisions remain in the three Local Authorities and the Trust. Agency Decision Makers are very flexible regarding early decisions in relation to matches, in order to enable transitions that work best for the child/ren for example, using school holidays.

### Approvals

A@H is welcoming of adopters from all cultural and ethnic backgrounds, those in same sex relationships, single applicants and those with disabilities.

62 adopters were approved in this reporting period reduction of seven from the previous year. Not all adopters recommended for approval at panel were subject to Agency Decision in the year, thus 57 were formally approved in the year.

### Feedback from Adopters about their experience at panel

Feedback from Adopters is sought after every panel. 32 responses were collated from adopters who had attended panel.

Of those who responded, 100% said that they had received enough information about panel beforehand, felt they were given enough notice, found panel members friendly, were given opportunity to express their views, felt they were treated fairly and found the questions they were asked relevant.

94% rated their overall experience as excellent. 6% rated their overall experience as good.

Quotes from adopters include

- *'We both felt really nervous about panel beforehand but was made to feel less nervous by the friendly panel team. Was really helpful speaking to chair beforehand too.'*
- *'Despite feeling nervous before hand, the panel was a really positive experience and we felt at ease answering questions.'*
- *'We have now experienced a face-to-face and online panel. Doing it online was extremely convenient second time around and still had the same impact as face-to-face.'*
- *'Our meeting was online and although everyone was introduced to us, when we were told that individuals were going to ask us questions it was difficult to identify them on the screen which could detract a little from the question being asked. It might be helpful for the person who is going to speak to put their hand up or wave for a very short period before starting the question, just so that we can identify the person speaking.'*
- *'Panel was an extremely positive and truly amazing experience.'*

## **11. Inspections:**

Two of the local authorities (Walsall and Wolverhampton) in the Adoption@Heart partnership were inspected in the year within the Ofsted ILACS framework. The first in Walsall was a full ILACS inspection and very positive feedback was provided by the inspectors about Adoption@Heart service and its effectiveness in meeting the needs of children and adoptive families. Inspectors in Wolverhampton, within a brief inspection process, raised no concerns about the effectiveness of the service.

## **12. Adoption Support:**

The team continues to provide all aspects of pre and post order adoption support on behalf of each of the four local authorities and now supports families pre and post order. The team commissions therapeutic services via applications to the Adoption Support Fund, plus post adoption contact, access to records and birth parent support.

It is recognised that early life adversity impacts children developmentally, emotionally, cognitively and socially and requires therapeutic support in order for children to thrive. Adoption@Heart operates a graduated approach, offering universal access to an adoption training programme and support groups delivered by staff; enhanced support includes an assessment of need and parenting support, individually or in groups and targeted support includes commissioning of specialist therapeutic intervention. We utilise the service of an Adoption Support Therapist employed by Adoption@Heart, as well as commissioning private and independent therapeutic services.

The starting point for accessing the Adoption Support Service is an Assessment of Need. The team undertook the following number of these in the twelve month period.

Dudley	69
Sandwell	43
Walsall	51
Wolverhampton	63
<b>Total</b>	<b>226</b>

The Adoption Support Fund was established in 2015 by the Government to help adoptive families access support and settle into their new lives following adoption. The Government committed ongoing funding for 2020-21 financial year in advance of the spending review settlement.

#### **ASF Applications completed in the year**

Sandwell	43
Walsall	51
Dudley	69
Wolverhampton	63
<b>Total</b>	<b>226</b>

#### **Post Adoption Contact**

Adoption@Heart is responsible for post adoption contact arrangements on behalf of Dudley Council. There are three full-time Family Support Workers who are responsible for administering the service. They offer support to adoptive parents and birth relatives. The service has continued remotely during Covid 19, albeit there has been delay in the exchanges at this time as access to post is limited to once a week.

Dudley	425
Sandwell	598
Walsall	826
Wolverhampton	367
<b>Total</b>	<b>2216</b>

### Access to Records

The provision of birth records counselling and access to information is of vital importance in enabling adopted adults to understand the circumstances of their adoption and enhance their sense of identity. The team supported the numbers of requests below within each area.

Dudley	20
Sandwell	12
Walsall	10
Wolverhampton	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>52</b>

### Birth Parent Support

The team also provides support to birth parents affected by adoption and the following numbers were supported by the service in the twelve month period.

Dudley	2
Sandwell	5
Walsall	7
Wolverhampton	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>18</b>

## 13. Accountability:

### Management board

The service has continued to have in place two key layers of governance with a Management Board attended by Assistant Directors and a Strategic Commissioning Board attended by Directors of Children's Service.

The Strategic Commissioning Board has continued to meet quarterly, supported by the commissioning lead from Dudley. The chairing of this board has remained with Dudley Council during the year 2021/22.

An Operations Group was established in the previous year, with a view to increasing engagement, oversight and operational involvement of Heads of Service and other Managers from each partner service. This group has continued to meet monthly, chaired by the Head of Service for Adoption@Heart. The Management Board has met bi-monthly.

Management Board is chaired by the Deputy Director for Children's Social Care in Wolverhampton, as host Local Authority for Adoption@Heart.

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Adoption Service Report  
01 April 2021 to 31 March 2022

With effect from autumn 2022, it has been agreed that the governance arrangements will change with the establishment of a new board which will be titled the Strategic Partnership Board (SPB). This will replace both Management Board and Strategic Commissioning Board and representation will be from Assistant Directors, with a Director of Children's Services chairing. This decision to streamline the governance arrangements has been made in light of the continued positive progress of the service in becoming an effective and high performing Regional Adoption Agency for the region. The legal agreement and related documents supporting the current governance arrangements are being reviewed to reflect this change.

**Report completed by:**



Mark Tobin  
Head of Service

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**Meeting of the Children’s Corporate Parenting Board 21<sup>st</sup> July 2022**

**Report of the Director of Children’s Services**

**Dudley Virtual School Update Report**

**Purpose**

1. The purpose of this report is to update Children’s Corporate Parenting Board on the developments of Dudley Virtual School

**Recommendations**

2. It is recommended that Members: -
  - Note and comment on the contents of this report and consider progress made

**Background**

**3 Highlights of the Academic Year 2020.21**

At a very challenging time in education, the proactive and positive work and influence of the Virtual School continued over the academic year of 2020.21 including:

**Key Stage Four Outcomes**

There is an upward trend of outcomes for our children at Key Stage Four over the past three years.

**Post 16 Outcomes**

In Year 13, 76% (6) achieved one or more accredited qualification this academic year.

At ‘A’ Level there was 100% pass rate of young people achieving their grades.



In Year 12 Students 72% are moving up a level after their first year of study. There is a rise in number of students who have achieved one or more qualifications, with improvements in Year 12 and 13 learners achieving 4 in GCSE in Maths & English and others achieving Level 1 & 2 Functional Skills.

There is an increase in the number of young people accessing University Destinations through A Level or Level 3 Routes.

The cohort of 2020/21 UASC/EAL Students have all moved up a course level or are accessing vocational courses linked to EAL.

A Post 16 young person who was disengaged from education a little over twelve months ago, has been recognised by a work-based training provider as the Learner Of The Year.

### **Early Year/Primary**

The number of children in Year 1 and 2 receiving Letterbox parcels has doubled this academic year.

The Maths/Numeracy targeted offer went on line during the pandemic maintaining focussed support on four primary children.

### **XLR8 Transition Summer Programme**

The first Year 6 transition programme took place targeting a small group of 6 young people from our cohort.

### **Arts & Sports Summer Programme**

The first Dudley summer learning activity programme was hosted this year in partnership with the Participation Officer/Team, Museums Learning & Access Team and Public Health. This included over 75 attendees over the five days.

### **Sports Link**

This academic year has seen the introduction of a virtual sports offer including training in Yoga sessions for children, carers and Social Workers, Cricket Skills from Worcestershire Cricket Club, and fitness from a Personal Trainer.

### **Arts Link**

The Arts offer has responded positively to the pandemic by successfully moving on-line with over 25,000 websites 'hits' regionally.

### **DVS Annual Conference**



The second annual party was hosted, virtually, to support over 150 professionals learning and understanding of the educational support of children who are care experienced.

### **All Party-Political Group Consultation**

DVS were, alongside children and young people from the Children in Care Council, invited to present to the West Midlands APPG review meeting held in March.

### **Children In Care Council Partnership PEP Development**

The introduction of 'Pep Champions' from the Children in Care Council has enhanced the development of children and young people's voice in Pep's.

### **PEP Development**

The Virtual School have piloted the introduction of the Cultural Entitlement section within the Pep on behalf of the West Midlands Region and to inform national development.

The number of Post 16 Pep's is growing with a particular increase in Year 12.

### **Not in Employment, Education and Training**

There is a downward trend in NEET for Year 12 and 13. The number of young people in Apprenticeships and Traineeships have increased, as have the number of Year 13 students staying in Education and Training. This has also included an increase in young mothers returning to college in Years 12 and 13.

Young people who have not previously been able to access Year 11 and Year 12 are returning to college on increased Level courses due to the success of the Pathways Programme.

There has been an increase in UASC/EAL arrivals but all are accessing appropriate college courses for the new academic year.

### **Ofsted Feedback**

A visit from Ofsted in November, during the pandemic, identified that the Head of the Virtual School has put in place, good systems which ensure effective support to children. Staff have adapted well to the COVID-19 restrictions.

### **Inclusion**

There continues to be no children or young people who are in care permanently excluded from their educational setting this academic year.

## **4. Academic Outcomes 2020.21**





There was a reduced data set of academic outcomes due to the changes across the education system.

**(a) Year One**

The phonics assessment was postponed from the summer term of Year One until the Autumn Term of Year Two.

**Table One – Year One Phonics (Nov 2021 – taken in Year Two) (Unvalidated)**

	<b>APS</b>	<b>Working At</b>
<b>National CLA</b>	30.4	66.00%
<b>Regional CLA</b>	30.9	66.00%
<b>All Dudley Pupils</b>	32	75.60%
<b>DVS</b>	33	72.70%

The results indicate that our cohort are performing well compared to all Dudley pupils and those in the care system regionally and nationally.

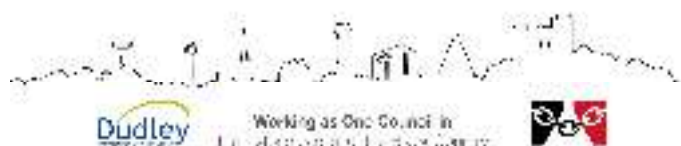
**Key Stage Two**

The Key Stage Two data was incomplete in this academic year due to Covid. There was a 68% of the OC2 cohort reported, so this analysis is limited to that number. There were 10 males in this group and 12 females currently reported on.

The full cohort has 38 young people attending 36 different educational settings. There is an upward trend in the all the Key Stage Two areas of Reading, Writing, Maths and the combined Reading/Writing/Maths (R/W/M). The outcomes for 2020.21 were:

**Table Two – Key Stage Two Outcomes (Unvalidated & Incomplete)**

	<b>DVS</b>	<b>Dudley LA (all schools)</b>	<b>WM CiC</b>	<b>National CiC</b>
<b>Reading</b>	59.1%	75.6%	53.0%	50.0%
<b>Writing</b>	50.0%	68.7%	43.0%	41.0%
<b>Maths</b>	59.1%	69.0%	50.0%	47.0%



<b>RWM</b>	50.0%	60.5%	41.0%	37.0%
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There has been a closing of the gap between Dudley CiC and their peers in the borough in all areas.

**Table Three – Key Stage Two Average Progress Score (Unvalidated & Incomplete)**

	<b>DVS</b>	<b>Dudley LA (all schools)</b>	<b>WM CiC</b>	<b>National CiC</b>
<b>Reading</b>	+2.20	-0.05	-2.00	-1.61
<b>Writing</b>	+2.61	-0.38	-2.02	-1.88
<b>Maths</b>	+2.85	-0.28	-1.80	-1.80

The male children performed better (-0.23) in Reading than the Dudley Average Progress Score (-0.74) and the regional CLA (-5.03) and national CLA (-2.77). The female children (+4.34) performed better than the males and the Dudley (+0.62), Regional CLA (+0.58) and National CLA (-0.15).

In Writing and Maths, there was a similar picture with the cohort currently being reported outperforming Dudley Schools, Regional CLA and National CLA by both males and females, with females performing better.

### Key Stage Four

The results have been collected from the educational settings for Key Stage Four, there has been internal refining to identify the OC2 group (i.e., those that have been in care for at least 12 months on 31<sup>st</sup> March). There are also two further young people who have just completed Year 11 but are in fact Year 12 so have not been included in this analysis.

**Table Four - Context: Full Year 11 Cohort**

<b>Boys</b>	<b>Girls</b>
32	18

**Table Five: Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (As at end of 20.21)**

<b>Pupils With EHC P</b>	<b>Pupils With SEN S</b>	<b>Pupils In Borough Provision With EHCP</b>	<b>Pupils OOB Provision With EHCP</b>	<b>Pupils In Borough With SENS</b>	<b>Pupils OOB With SENS</b>	<b>Pupils Not In Provision With EHCP</b>	<b>Pupils Not In Provision With SENS</b>
1	6	1	0	6	0	0	0
2	3	1	1	3	0	0	0



2	4	2	0	2	2	0	0
3	8	2	1	7	1	0	0
7	9	3	4	5	4	0	0
10	9	4	5	8	1	1	0
13	7	4	9	4	3	0	0
10	5	4	6	4	1	0	0
11	10	6	5	4	6	0	0
12	13	4	8	5	8	0	0
13	9	6	7	3	6	0	0
17	8	6	10	3	5	1	0
101	91	43	56	54	37	2	0

<b>Total CLA Pupils with EHCP (R - Yr 11)</b>	24.46 %	101
<b>Total CLA Pupils with SENS (R-Yr11)</b>	22.03 %	91
<b>CLA Pupils Educated In Borough with EHCP</b>	42.57 %	43
<b>CLA Pupils Educated OOB with EHCP</b>	55.45 %	56
<b>CLA Pupils Not in Education Provision with EHCP</b>	1.98%	2

**Table Six: Year 11 OC2 Cohort 20.21 Educational Settings Attended**

<b>Dudley</b>		<b>Out Of Area</b>		<b>Other</b>	
Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
17	45	22	55	0	

The number of young people attending alternative providers was been reduced in 2020.21 from the previous year.

In addition to the OC2 group the Year 11 cohort this academic year has included:

- 3 young people who have recently left care
- 2 young person who was in their third year in Key Stage Four (one who secured 8 GCSE/equivalent passes at Grade 4 or above)
- 3 young people who are Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC)



- 8 young people who are new to care.

The cohort of young people in our care continues to be distributed across a wide geographical area. This is illustrated by the Year 11 cohort.

**Table Seven: Out Of Area Educational Settings Locations**

<b>Local Authority</b>	<b>Number</b>
Bedford	1
Coventry	1
Herefordshire	1
Manchester	1
Sandwell	3
Shropshire	1
Stoke	2
Telford	1
Walsall	2
Warwickshire	1
Wolverhampton	1
Worcestershire	3

**Table Eight: Year 11 (Key Stage Four) Unvalidated Outcomes 2020.21**

<b>Category</b>	<b>2020.2021 Number</b>	<b>2020.21%</b>	<b>2019.20 Number</b>	<b>2019.20%</b>
Eng 4+	19	50	19	33
Maths 4+	17	44.7	13	23
Eng 5+	8	21	11	19
Maths 5+	12	26	9	16
Eng 6+	4	10.5	n/a	n/a
Maths 6+	3	8	n/a	n/a
Eng 7+	0	0	n/a	n/a
Maths 7+	1	2.6	n/a	n/a
Eng 8+	0	0	n/a	n/a
Maths 8+	1	2.6	n/a	n/a
Eng/Maths 4+	14	37	13	23
Eng/Maths 5+	5	12.5	7	12



E-Bacc Achieved	6	15	7	12
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This represents an upward trend, with further improvements from 2019.20, which had built upon the improvement on the outcomes from the academic year 2018.19 where the young people with English/Maths combined at 5+ was 6.1% (7.9% in 2017.18).

In considering those young people who have been following courses leading to GCSE qualifications then outcomes are further improved to 48% of the OC2 cohort achieving Grade 4+ in both English and Maths, with 18.5% achieving grade 5+ in English & Maths.

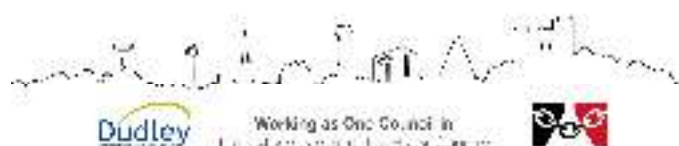
**Table Eight: Year 11 OC2 (Key Stage Four) Unvalidated Outcomes In & Out Of Borough**

Category	Dudley		Out Of Area		Other	
	Number	% of Dudley Cohort	Number	% of OOB cohort	Number	%
<b>E/M 4+</b>	9	22.5	10	26	n/a	n/a
<b>E/M 5+</b>	1	2.5	4	10	n/a	n/a
<b>E-bacc</b>	5	12.5	2	5	n/a	n/a
<b>No quals</b>	2		1			n/a

The unvalidated data in Table seven suggests that young people attending Dudley educational settings have improved on the previous year where the OOB young people outperformed those in borough. The focus English and Maths in Pep targets will be continued this year, with a further focus on SMART targets.

**Table Nine – OC2 Year 11 Breakdown of qualifications 2020.21 (Unvalidated)**

	Grades 9-4
Achieved 8x GCSEs	3
Achieved 7x GCSEs	3

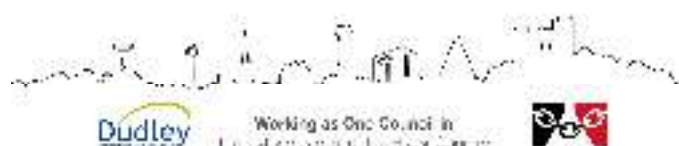


Achieved 6x GCSEs	4
Achieved 5x GCSEs	4
Achieved 4x GCSEs	1
Achieved 3x GCSEs	2
Achieved 2x GCSEs	3
Achieved 1x GCSEs	1

In addition, there were 12 young people who secured a Pass, Merit or Distinction at Level 2 in one or more BTEC subjects. A further young person secured Functional Skills at Level Two in Literacy and Numeracy.

**Table Ten– OC2 Year 11 Breakdown of Qualifications Entered 2020.21 (Unvalidated)**

	Numbers
Entered for 8x GCSEs/BTEC/FS L2	15
Entered for 7x GCSEs/BTEC/FS L2	3
Entered for 6x GCSEs/BTEC/FS L2	2
Entered for 5x GCSEs/BTEC/FS L2	1
Entered for 4x GCSEs/BTEC/FS L2	0
Entered for 3x GCSEs/BTEC/FS L2	1
Entered for 2x GCSEs/BTEC/FS L2	0
Entered for 1x GCSEs/BTEC/FS L2	3
Achieved 0x GCSEs	7



In the OC2 group there are 17 young people who have an EHCP, 16 of whom attended a Special School, with a further young person attending an Alternative Provision. In this group:

- 2 young people achieved a grade 4 in GCSE English, with a further 1 securing a Functional Skills at Level 2 Literacy.
- 1 young person achieved grade 4 in GCSE Maths, with a further 1 securing a Functional Skills at Level 2 Numeracy.

Furthermore, one young person secured Functional Skills at Level One literacy, and another at one at Entry Level One Literacy. In Functional Skills Numeracy, two young people secured Entry Level One.

A further success story is a young person who was in danger of securing no qualifications, has achieved a grade B in Maths, in a YOI in Wales (equivalent to Grade 6/7) and a Level One in literacy Functional Skills.

A focus on those young people with identified Special Educational Needs (including EHCP's) identifies that of the 27 young people, 14 followed GCSE courses of which:

**Table eleven: Year 11 OC2 SEN Group English & Maths (unvalidated)**

	<b>Grade 4+</b>	<b>Grade 5+</b>	<b>Grade 6+</b>	<b>Grade 7+</b>
English	9	3	1	0
Maths	9	6	3	1
English and Maths	7	0	0	0

There were 12 young people with identified SEND needs who attended mainstream schools, of which 9 followed GCSE courses.

As in the last academic year, there is a cohort of young people who are following courses leading to Level One or below outcomes. These are very appropriate to their learning needs at this time and can lead to Level Two in future years. There are 15 young people attending Special Schools.

The reporting of the Attainment 8 and Progress 8 will not be possible this year. Similarly, the comparative data with other groups, SEND, local authorities and trends will not be made available.

The academic tracking system that has been developed over the year and has identified the cohort in the following categories:



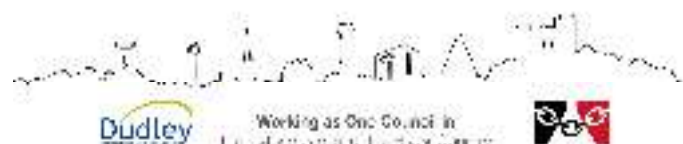
**Table Twelve: Year 11 Tracking Categories**

Code	Focus	Detail	OC2 Numbers 2020.21
	4+ E&M	Young People following GCSE courses and baseline data supports securing Grade 4 or above in core subjects	19
	1x4+ E or M	Young people following GCSE courses and baseline data supports securing Grade 4 or above in either English or Maths	3
	GCSE E&M >4	Young people following GCSE courses and baseline data supports securing below a Grade 4 in the core subjects	2
	FS	Young people following Functional Skills qualifications	13
	No quals.	Young people who have been disengaged from education and are at risk of not securing any qualifications	2

A review of the targets (Table Ten) included in the Personal Education Plans (Pep's) identifies that current outcome are similar to the targets for the group of young people who have studied GCSE courses and demonstrated the academic ability to achieve a 'pass' grade. This information has been shared with schools in the training made available for Designated Techers. The first Pep meeting of the year has been used to establish the criteria by which a school sets its targets in order that there is consistency of understanding by the Virtual School.

**Table Thirteen: Year 11 Pep Outcomes Targets**

Autumn Term 2020				
Group	At expected or above in English number	At expected or above in English %	At expected or above in Maths Number	At expected or above in Maths %
Blue	12	30	12	30





<b>Green</b>	2	5	3	7.5
<b>Amber</b>	3	7.5	2	5
<b>Yellow</b>	2	5	2	5
<b>Purple</b>	0	0	0	0
<b>Spring Term 2021</b>				
	<b>At expected or above in English number</b>	<b>At expected or above in English %</b>	<b>At expected or above in Maths Number</b>	<b>At expected or above in Maths %</b>
<b>Group</b>				
<b>Blue</b>	10	25	10	25
<b>Green</b>	2	5	2	5
<b>Amber</b>	4	10	3	7.5
<b>Yellow</b>	1	2.5	1	2.5
<b>Purple</b>	0	0	0	0
<b>Summer Term 2021</b>				
	<b>At expected or above in English number</b>	<b>At expected or above in English %</b>	<b>At expected or above in Maths Number</b>	<b>At expected or above in Maths %</b>
<b>Group</b>				
<b>Blue</b>	14	35	8	20
<b>Green</b>	3	7.5	2	5
<b>Amber</b>	6	15	3	7.5
<b>Yellow</b>	1	2.5	1	2.5
<b>Purple</b>	0	0	0	0

The number of young people with no qualifications in the two previous academic years has been a real concern. There was a focus on this year during 2019.20 helping with a 44% reduction of the number of young people in this category. In 2020.21, there were three young people in this category, all of whom had experienced a change in residential placement which adversely affected the academic progress and outcomes, not helped by the change in assessment processes with centre assessment grades (CAG's).

The Pathways Programme, a partnership with Juniper work-based training provider, has targeted the disengaged young people in Yar 11 and 12 to be supported by tuition leading to Functional Skills qualifications.



The initial plan was for the Pathway provision to deliver focused learning to this group of young people who were not anticipated to achieve at GCSE level. The pandemic presented challenges for the programme which was addressed by implementing online delivery of the provision. This change in intent presented some barriers however it also enabled the provision to become accessible for young people who are out of borough, disengaged with school and/or currently NEET and lacking the motivation to engage in FE or employment.

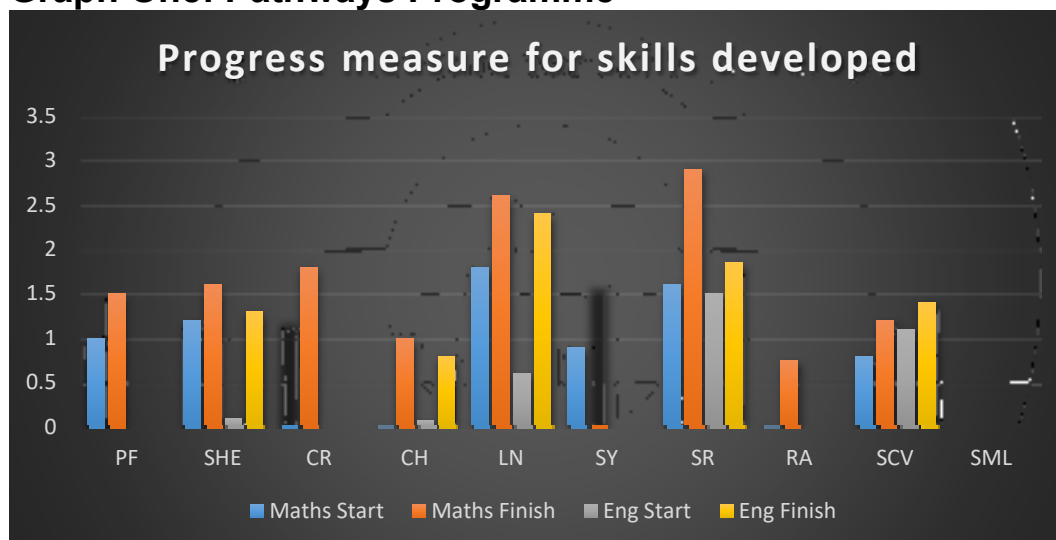
The key progresses identified in the pilot of the provision is the number of young people who have engaged with the provision, and although they may complete the full programme and achieve a qualification, the positive experience and skills developed have aided their transition into FE or employment.

There were sixteen learners who were signed up to the provision, the following outcomes were established:

Nine Learners engaged with the provision online at several stages throughout the provision, seven learners were referred however failed to attend or complete their initial assessments to enable them to have their provision planned.

The Table thirteen shows the skills development of each learner within the time they spent working with us on the Pathway Provision. To give context, where the starting point on 0 or below this indicates a starting level of Entry 1 – Entry 3

### Graph One: Pathways Programme



This illustrates that the pathways provision available for them to access enables any gaps in education to be minimised. This offer not only provides academic development, but it too has also proven to help build the young person confidence in working with people, their focus and drive to see their own potential and to drive themselves forward into a positive outcome.

These outcomes have included re-engagement with education, securing paid employment and feeling more comfortable in moving forward into an FE or college placement.

## 5 **Post 16**

The Post 16 cohort needs to be considered over a three, and sometimes four-year period. There are a number of young people who take longer to navigate their Post 16 pathway due to such issues as mental health problems, changes in educational placements during secondary education, breakdown of residential placements etc – all adversely affecting the continuity of their education. This can, and does lead to disengagement, underachievement in outcomes, a lowering of aspirations and enrolment on inappropriate courses. The VS has embedded excellent relationships to ensure advice and guidance can meet need and the CYP following successful courses.

The cohort attending FE Colleges fall into two categories. The first, those completing Level 2 by the end of the academic year will move to Level 3 if they want a University Course. These young people will be Year 14 before they conclude Level 3 studies so the Virtual School is developing work alongside the Care Leavers Team.

The second group, Level 1 Students who are placed on their courses due to their GCSE Results not being at Grade 4 have to complete another year of GCSE.

The partnership work with HMYOI provision has continued to be developed to ensure that young people who 'on release' can be quickly, and seamlessly re-integrate back into an employment, education, or training pathway.

The transient nature of Post 16 staffing in the educational settings has the risk of reducing continuity in relationships with our young people. All changes are quickly identified, and action, training and support rapidly taken. This is also helping to develop the resilience of our young people to cope with the changes as they are moving towards becoming an independent adult.



The Post 16 cohort for 202.21 was 144 with 65 young people in Year 12 and 79 in Year 13.

In Year 13, 76% (6) achieved one or more accredited qualification this academic year. At 'A' Level there was 100% pass rate of young people achieving their grades. There will be 5% (5) will be attending University via A Level or Level 3 routes set to increase next year. There are 5% (5) of young people in prison and on remand for this academic year. Furthermore, in Year 13 38% of the cohort have confirmed re-enrolment to next level of course representing a significant improvement from the previous two years.

In the Post 16 cohort (Yr. 12 & 13) 4% have an Apprenticeship or Traineeship, whilst 6% have entered employment.

In Year 12 Students 72% are moving up a level after their first year of study. An individualised approach to supporting Year 12 & 13 young parents to return to college has seen all targeted (2%/4). This has resulted in all having been supported with gaining finance and nursery provision for their children for the duration of the course.

There has also been a concerted effort in supporting young people who have followed other courses.

In Year 12 & 13 English and Maths Functional Skills Award gained are:

English

Entry 3 - 5% 5 students

Level 1 – 5% 5 students

Level 2 – 5% 6 students

Maths

Entry 3 - 5% 7 students

Level 1 -5% 7 students

Level 2 -5% 7 students

These are young people who had not achieved GCSE Grades in school  
In addition, there are a group of young people who have secured their GCSE in English and/or Maths including:

GCSE Maths Grade 4 or above 6% 9 students

GCSE English Grade 4 or above 7% 10 students

This cohort were young people who achieved 3 or less in school.



## Educational Outcomes Development Programmes

The true impact of the pandemic upon the academic outcomes of our young people continues to be reviewed. It is clear that, the academic outcomes indicated in the termly Pep reviews suggest outcomes will be significantly below those of their peers across all age groups. In addition to arranging a full range of interventions, including the National Tutoring Programme for older learners, a more transformational approach to teaching and learning needs to be introduced and developed.

In the Primary Phase, the EEF literacy Programme has been delivered across the schools. They are now looking at their research focus work in consultation with the EEF Research Schools. This programme is being developed in collaboration with other Black Country Virtual Schools as pilot for the West Midlands region. This is significant as between 40% and 50% of our cohort reside out of borough and therefore attend non-Dudley Schools. This will help to raise awareness of not only the cohort but teaching and learning approaches to support their needs.

There are discussions currently underway to plan the introduction of a parallel EEF Numeracy programme to commence in the new academic year.

At the secondary, the Virtual School, in partnership with Challenging Education, has agreed with seven schools about introducing the Raising Attainment of Disadvantaged Young people (RADY) for the next academic year. This has commenced now and will allow all the preparatory work to be made for the new Year 7 cohort.

RADY is a long-term 'hearts and minds' programme that eventually becomes habit for every member of staff in school. This programme aims to target teaching and learning through a different 'lens', making things 'feel different' for learners and their families, encouraging children to make accelerated progress and catch up with their non-disadvantaged peers.

The ambition of the programme is for as many schools as possible to embrace and engage with the RADY pledge and ensure that the most disadvantaged youngsters have every chance of attaining as highly as their peers. The programme looks at the challenge where national data shows that the attainment difference between learners in poverty and their peers is stubbornly resilient to improvement. The changes that RADY brings about in a school take



time to impact on learners, often requires changing hearts and minds and tend to be most successful when receiving ongoing support from an expert coach with school leadership experience.

The DVS is supporting a fully funded In-school RADY for the pilot schools. This offers three days in school (one per term) supplemented with remote coaching equivalent to three and a half hours per term. Remote coaching as described above. The programme for visits has been agreed with the schools and could include Visit 1 - Seeing the school's current position and priorities (discussions, observations, interviews); coaching key leaders on RADY and support with whole school launch; SLT session to golden thread the school development plan. Visit 2 - Participation, parental engagement, SEND/ALN; SLT review session on progress with golden thread; practical next steps identified and documented. Visit 3 - Evaluation visit. All aspects of RADY within the school are evaluated alongside school staff. Impact review report agreed, and practical next steps distilled from this.

The schools are:

- Bishop Milner
- Dormston
- Dudley Multi-Academy Trust (4 schools)
- Summerhill

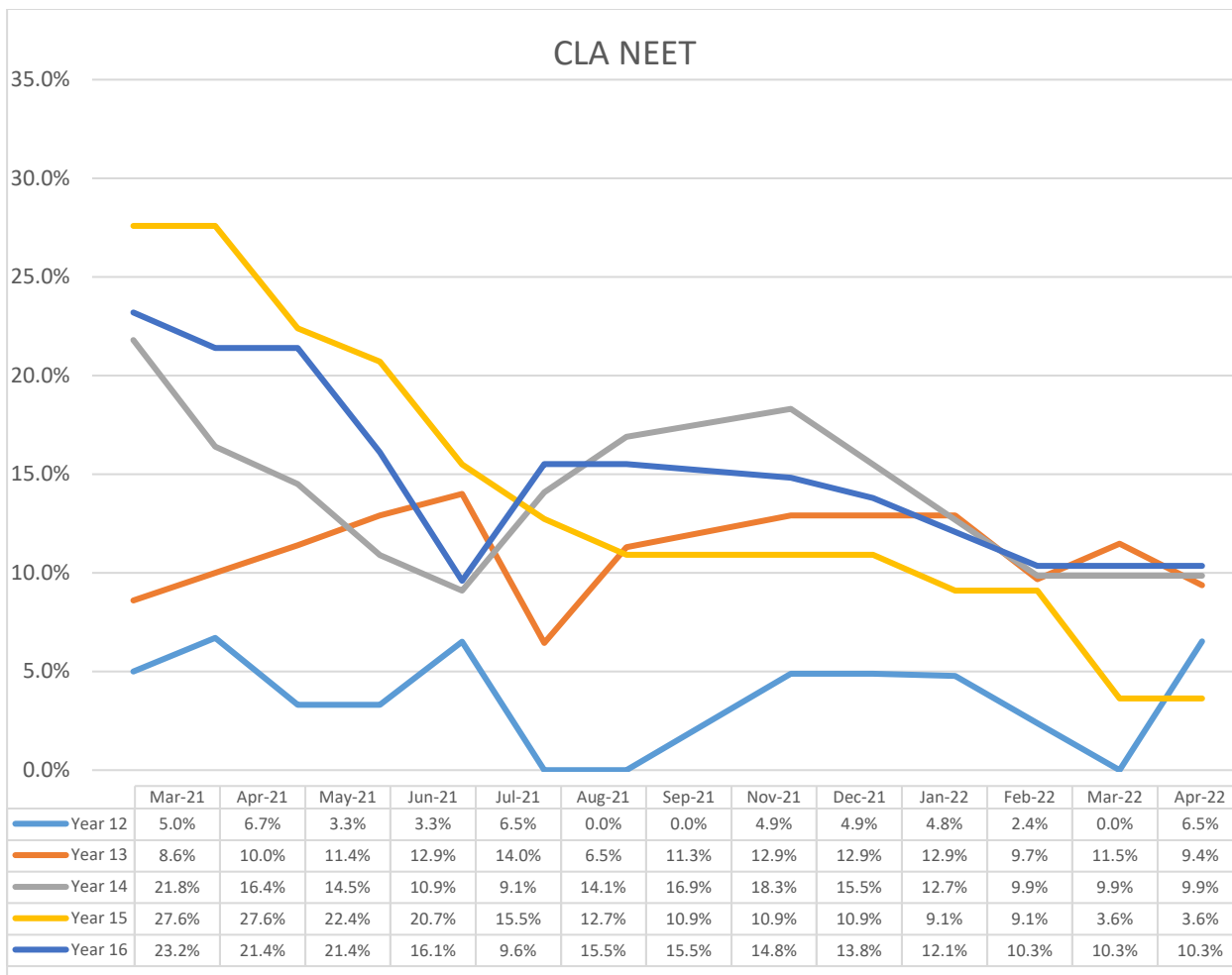
## **NEET's.**

The positive work with our Post 16 cohort to keep them engaged in their employment, education and training continues. The fact that all young people in Year 12 were fully engaged March is a fantastic achievement by our Post 6 advisers.

The forward planning for our Year 11 has been enhanced by a transition focus within the Spring Term Pep meeting, with the summer term Pep meetings being used to ensure all the cohort have been engaged in this and will be able to positively transition next year.

## **Graph Two: Not In Employment, Education or Training (NEET)**





## SEND

The SEND and Emotional Well-Being sections of the Pep have featured highly in the Designated Teachers briefings and the e-Pep training this term. This training has highlighted the need for detailed information around the needs of each child or young person and how it can help to secure the most appropriate and effective support.

The informed relationships that have developed between the children and young people and the DVS Education Adviser has helped to identify areas of need for some of our young people where this had not previously been identified. This is particularly pertinent to some older young people where a number of placement changes have minimised the opportunities for any effective assessment to be made.

In the case of younger children, this term has seen a growing number of children demonstrating emotional crisis that their schools have found it very challenging



to support. The partnership with Sycamore Short Stay Centre has provided a great support here in terms of emergency placements that has provided some respite for both the child and the school, allowing some stabilisation of emotions and the capacity to effectively plan a solution-focussed pathway.

The Virtual School continue to work closely with the SEND service. There are a number of initiatives that are being reviewed:

- Joint EHCP, LAC Review and Pep meetings
- Pathway Programme extension to support young people with emotional well-being issues that are potentially preventing engagement with education.
- Data sets

## **Emotional Well-Being and Mental Health**

DVS have taken a leading role in helping to develop a regional, and potentially national, approach to recognising good practice in Trauma Informed and Attachment Aware Schools (TIAAS). The West Midlands Violence Reduction Unit, Educational Psychology Services and Virtual Schools all have an ambition to see educational providers adopt attachment aware and trauma-informed whole school approaches. The VRU and West Midlands Combined Authority are also exploring ways to bring senior leads together from across the entire regional system of statutory and voluntary providers to examine ways to facilitate the embedding of trauma-informed approaches. As part of this connected activity, there is an appetite for developing a regional certification model that encourages trauma-informed and attachment aware approaches within education. Such a process could be used as a model for other sectors to follow as part of the WMCA/VRU regional work at a later date.

The vision for this process is that we practice what we preach. If we are seeking to encourage the use of trauma-informed approaches then this process itself must be trauma-informed. This means the vision is as follows:

- A truly collaborative enterprise that recognises and respects the skills, expertise and existing programmes being run in each authority. These are incorporated into the final product rather than replaced. Each locality/authority has an identity and an existing system that this process should add value to.
- A process that understands that past experiences of both collaborative working and partnerships of this nature can influence the way we





approach future exercises such as this one. Professionals may have unconscious or hidden anxieties/concerns about involvement in this exercise. The process should proceed carefully and purposefully, with enough time to explore and unpick any feelings that may arise during the process. Any concerns should be seen, heard, and understood and given the due consideration they deserve.

- The process should embody the core principles of safety, trust, choice, collaboration, and empowerment. It should be strengths-based and relationship-based with these values evident throughout.
- The vision outlined here may be amended through discussion amongst those involved in the group, but this acts a starting point to set out the vision from the outset around the spirit within which the exercise is to be conducted.

At a national level, the VSHT will be representing Dudley at the national launch of the REES Centre/Alex Timpson Trust research findings, and the Attachment Research Community parliamentary call to action event hosted by Edward Timpson MP – both taking place in June.

### **Arts Link Programme**

The new academic year of 2021.22 continues to see a developing Arts offer for our young people with a growing number of face-to-face activities re-emerging.

### **Instrumental Lessons**

The Autumn Term saw a 100% Year 4 take up plus three out of borough children receiving lessons in their authority.

There have been 34 instrumental lessons delivered across a range of instruments during this academic year despite Covid restrictions. Online instrumental lesson were a challenge for some of the cohort, however it was pleasing to note that with the help of DT's we did manage to teach some children in care online while they were in school.

Out of the 34 lessons:

- 14 children were part of the Year 4 funded lessons cohort
- 8 Year 5 children continued their lessons from the previous year



- 14 children from Year 2 – Year 9 started instrumental lessons after discussions in ePEP meetings

## **Network Meetings**

There has been a strengthening of relationships with Designated Teacher's regarding instrumental lessons. This has been achieved by networking DPA staff, DVS staff, social workers and DT's helping to initiate a more joined up approach to the Arts to create better opportunities.

There have been the introduction two online network meeting this year. One for designated teachers, social workers, and virtual school staff, the second was for foster carers. These were planned to talk about Arts opportunities available for children in care and how to access them. They provide a great platform to raise awareness of the work and have been calendared for the new academic year. This work has initiated more dialogue with virtual school staff and designated teachers talking about music lessons.

## **Residential Childrens Home Projects**

There has been a new focus upon Arts projects in three children's homes across the borough. Covid delayed the start of the project but we managed to get projects off the ground in two of the homes.

- Tipton Road - Edward Davies Singing and song writing workshop.  
Provided 4/4 workshops for 4 young people with a range of learning disabilities. Feedback from the home was 'a positive experience for all our young people' and they are looking at ways to progress from the workshop activities to have some studio sessions with Edward. The home were really keen for their young people to engage in the arts and very supportive of children and Edward.
- St James - Bethany Slinn Story telling workshop.  
Provided 4/4 workshops for 2 young people. When Bethany started the home only had one child (KR). She did 3 workshops with this child but the last one was cancelled because he was going home to his parents. KR said how much he enjoyed his sessions with Bethany. The last workshop was with a new child. Bethany actually delivered an extra session because she could see that this young person was gaining so much confidence from the workshop.



- Maitland Road - This home didn't have any children in until after Easter and then it was decided that the planned workshops for graffiti art were now no longer suitable for the young people they had in the home.

Evaluation meetings with care home managers is planned for this year to discuss the impact of the sessions, ways they could be improved and built upon.

## Holiday Offers

To extend the *Check it out Challenge* online February half term offer the Birmingham & Black Country cluster opted to create a number of online artist sessions over 2 days. A member of staff from each VS was responsible for identifying the art form of each session, selecting an artist (from a selection of pre-vetted experienced artists), and attending and co-hosting the sessions. Sessions offered: Breakin (dance), rapping & beats (music) drawing with everyday objects, mask making and graffiti drawing (visual arts), writing for social media, story play and poems (literature). 87 young people took part in 9 online artist sessions, the majority were young people from the cluster and in addition there were bookings from Worcestershire, Warwickshire, Shropshire and Coventry (bookings were opened to all VSs in the 10 days leading up to sessions).

Feedback included requests for more online sessions. Follow up included Arts Award offer, signposting to Connect & Create creative challenges and receiving updates via Artslink's mailing list. An Artslink Instagram account was launched to track the event, participants from sessions are invited to photograph and submit work to be featured in the online gallery and on Instagram (safeguarding protocols apply to the Instagram content and the young people are anonymised).

There have been other 'Give It A Go' activities over the Spring Term. The Brits Art Show 9 in Wolverhampton was supported by a group of our young people who attended the workshop and visited the Arts gallery. A further cluster event saw a small group of our young people benefit from the 'Let's Animate' programme.

## Summer School

As part of the first Virtual School summer school there five days of Arts to a group of children aged 9 – 16 at The Source Youth Centre.



This used DPA instrumental staff and a freelance artist to work with the group on two themed days – a STOMP style junk percussion day linked with eco art and a samba music day linked with carnival mask making. A third day had a graffiti artist working individually with the young people creating their own art work, this was alongside a word poet, Kurly McGeachie and Birmingham’s poet laureate, Dreadlock Alien who worked with the group to write and perform a rap/poem about being in care and their thoughts about what they wish their social workers were like. This was edited using some of their animations. There were two further days supported by the Museums Teams.

The mindset of the Arts days was that everyone there took part – all young people, staff and youth workers and this approach worked well.

### **Cluster Programme**

There was a performance-based Canal Trip in December where 87 people attended over various days leading up to Christmas (41 adults & 46 children). The feedback very positive:

*“Wow, today was amazing, we had the most wonderful time.”*

*“Thank you to all involved on the trip and getting the tickets.”*

*“Certainly, a memory for us to treasure.”*

*“It was great amazing time”*

During May half term we hosted a face-to-face session at Resonance on a Sunday afternoon with VITAL, a local rapper. This came as the culmination of a series of four online sessions for the Rap ‘n’ Write project. Children were invited from across our Artslink cluster. The afternoon included creating video material to run alongside the rap the children had created during the online sessions and each young person got the chance to record their part of the rap in the studio at Resonance. VITAL edited the material together and has been shared across Artslink. From participants.

*“I can’t get my feelings out when I talk. This is easier it means I can say what I’m feeling.”*

*“We want loads more of this cos it’s good and we can say what we want to say.”*

### **Layers Of Legacy Project**



The Layers of Legacy face to face session took place during October half term at African Caribbean Centre in Dudley.

This project was developed to celebrate important figures in Black History. This required children and young people to watch leading videos and 'create something' as a response to what they have seen. This was in any Art form, ie pictures, photographs, poems, songs etc.

### **Arts Award Discover At Home – update**

The Arts Award is an ongoing offer via Artslink and supported by the Dudley Arts Ambassador and the Dudley Participation Officer. The focus on developing the Arts Award continues with five young people already completing this and a further five near completions.

### **Other Developments**

A new initiative in using the Arts as an intervention for pupil struggling with school at Red House Glass Cone in conjunction with Kate Figgitt has been implemented to help prevent a permanent Exclusion.

There are two Arts Ambassadors now trained as Arts Award Assessors for Explore and Bronze awards

The Children in Care Awards were an excellent platform to share and celebrate the engagement of our children and young people in the Arts, with twenty-two performing during the evening. This has certainly given them the 'taste for treading the boards', with a Performance Platform now being planned for July 13<sup>th</sup>, exclusively for our cohort.

At a national level, Dudley Virtual School are a part of the national pilot by the Arts Council to develop the kite mark for Virtual Schools. In addition, DVS were represented at the national launch of the 'My Creative Track' offer of cultural entitlement for our young people, with follow-up discussions with Ofsted, Dfe, NAVSH and the Association of School & College Leaders (ASCL).

### **Sports Link**

The parallel programme, focussing on Sport was introduced in September 2020. The initial phase has seen a number of organisations and partners approached to develop an offer including: Sports4Life

- WBA Foundation



- Active Black Country
- Basketball England (Signposting to clubs)
- Wicketz Cricket

Due to the impact of Covid19, sessions both outdoors and indoors for sports were postponed until safe after lockdown.

This academic year of 20.21 has been used to pilot a number of sporting opportunities

### **Yoga & You:**

Yoga and You offered online sessions after school hours to keep young people (and carers) engaged and fit regardless of the restrictions. The sessions were a success, with children and young people who attended regularly started to build up relationships and confidence with the instructor. Sessions ran for young people in care Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Later, in the year, sessions for carers were organised and ran Tuesdays and Thursdays. These although not child based, deemed to be quite popular. There were over 150 participants in this programme which provided a potential exit route to private sessions.

### **October Half Term 2020:**

In October half term, Wicketz hosted a session for beginners and for anyone who was interested to attend at the Dudley Leisure Centre. In total 8 young people attended this event and really enjoyed it.

### **February Half Term 2021**

In February Half term, a range of online sporting activities were made available for our cohort. These sessions included:

- Embracing PE
- Beginners' fitness with Gwen
- Intermediate with Gwen
- Yoga and You
- 60 Second Challenges
- Talk with Bernardo Pezo

During the week, there was a total of 37 within the Birmingham & The Black Country, with the activities that were pre-recorded being readily available on the WMCiC Foundation website after the week.



This work has now been consolidated by a partnership with Active Black Country.

## **Workforce Development**

Dudley Virtual School, in the academic year of 2020.21, were involved in organising and/or hosting 36 separate formal training sessions. One to one and informal training carried out by individual members of staff also take place regularly on an ad hoc basis.

In addition, the Educational Psychology Service, on behalf of the Virtual School, has provided whole school training on Attachment throughout the year to a number of schools.

A small number of the formal sessions were cancelled or postponed due to Covid related restrictions but, despite this, training was delivered to nearly 600 designated teachers, social workers, carers and other professionals.

## **Nurture Provision**

This Public Health led initiative has focussed on Primary schools in phase 1 and 2. This initiative has been connected with the Attachment Aware Schools programme via the Nurture and Resilience Group.

The proposal to extend the Nurture and Resilience Project to Phase 3 y6/7 Transition was postponed until the new academic year due to the pandemic .

This programme has been recognised at a national level with the ARC Timpson Award for Collaborative Programmes.

## **DVS Annual Conference – Nurturing Educational Success For Children In Care**

This on-line event took place on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2021. This targeted Designated Teachers, Senior Leaders in charge of Teaching & Learning, Governor's with responsibility for CiC, Social Workers. It featured a focus on an Attachment Aware & Trauma Informed School, led by Stuart Guest (Head Teacher of a Primary School) and a second on being Care Experienced from Luke Rogers (Care Leaders).

## **Supporting Foster Carers**

There continues to be a developing offer to support Foster Carers around the education of our young people. This calendared programme includes:

- Arts
- Numeracy



- Emotional Well Being
- Personal Education Plans
- DVS Advice & Guidance For Supporting the home education of children in care
- Love To Learn Bulletin – a bulletin circulated during the lockdown periods for Carers providing learning tips and resources, plus emotional well-being links.

The DVS Website hosts a range of learning resources and links to many sites for all ages.

### **Post 16 Development**

There has been very focussed work around developing the e-Pep across the Post 16 cohort. This has been co-ordinated through the Lead Education Adviser in partnership with the Connexions PA, and integrates Career Guidance, SEND focussed work (specifically around EHCP's), and EET pathways.

The Post 16 workforce is a very transient group so the support and/or training that is required is continual and very much individualised to meet the needs of the changing staff.

### **Youth Offending Service Development**

The Virtual School has supported the YOT Team to further develop PEPS and greater information of the educational engagement which identify the progression of YP in HMYOI and a better understanding of how to support them on release to access appropriate pathways and maximise their opportunities in education, training and work opportunities.

### **Training Offered By DVS**

The Virtual School continues to offer a full training programme to Designated Teachers, School Governors, Social Workers, health Professionals, Education workforce.

### **Finance**

6. The developments within this report are supported by the Pupil Premium Plus Grant. This provides £2345 per young person in care. The financial plan is reviewed on a monthly basis to ensure targets are met.





## **Law**

7. There are no direct implications arising from the contents of this report.

## **Risk Management**

8. There are no direct implications arising from the contents of this report.

## **Equality Impact**

9. This report highlights the impacts made for Children in Care. It includes some consultations with children and young people in developing the offer.

10 There are no direct implications arising from this report.

## **Human Resources/Organisational Development**

11 There are no human resources/transformation implications.

## **Commercial/Procurement**

12 This report has no impact on trade and/or customer base.

## **Council Priorities and Projects**

13 This report supports the Council priority to become Child Friendly.

In particular this report supports the aim for Dudley to be a place where everybody has the education and skills they need, and where outstanding local schools, colleges, and universities secure excellent results for their learners.

14 This report integrates with the Corporate Parenting Issue.



### **Director of Children's Services**

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**Meeting of the Children’s Corporate Parenting Board**

**Report of the Director of Childrens Services**

**Children' Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report 2021-2022**

**Purpose**

1. The purpose of the Children’s Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report is to provide an over view of the work of the Children’s Corporate Parenting Board 2021 -2022. (Appendix 1)

**Recommendations**

2. It is recommended that: -
  - Members note the content and consider the progress made

**Background**

3. The report details the work of the Children’s Corporate Parenting Board In ten sections.
  1. Message from the Chair of the Board
  2. Meet the Board Members
  3. Board Structure
  4. Introduction
  5. Demographics of our children and young people in care
  6. Progress of the Children’s Corporate Parenting Board 2021-2022
  7. Educational progress of children and young people in our care
  8. Health children and young people in our care
  9. Reports presented to the Board
  10. Voice of children and care experienced in our care

## **Finance**

4. There are no financial implications to be considered

## **Law**

5. **The Children and Social Work Act 2017** defined for the first time in law the responsibility of corporate parents to ensure, as far as possible, secure, nurturing and positive experiences for looked-after children and young people, and care leavers.

## **Risk Management**

6. There are no risk management implication's to be considered

## **Equality Impact**

7. This report highlights the impact for children and young people in our care. It includes some consultations with children and young people in our care
8. There are no direct implications to be considered

## **Human Resources/Organisational Development**

9. There are no human resources transformation implications to be considered.

## **Commercial/Procurement**

10. This report has no impact on trade and or customer base

## **Council Priorities and Projects**

11. This report supports the Council priority to become Child Friendly.
12. This report feeds directly into the Councils corporate parenting responsibilities



Catherine Scull

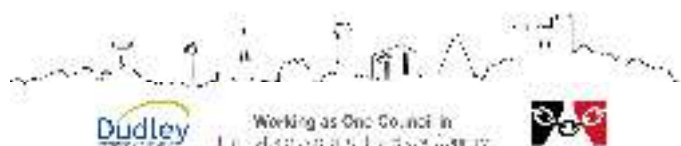
## Director of Children's Services

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## Appendices

### List of Background Documents

*Appendix 1 – Children's Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report 2021 – 2022*



# Dudley Children's Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report 2021-2022



**Working as One Council in**  
the historic capital of the Black Country



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<b>Voice of our children and care experienced young people .....</b>	<b>26.</b>

## A message from Chair Cllr Ruth Buttery



### *“Being a Corporate parent is a huge privilege”*

All councillors and employees of Dudley council are corporate parents and our aspiration for Dudley children and young people is the same as that for our own families and friends. Because of this, we have recently launched Child Friendly Dudley, so that all children and young people our care have even more support to help them achieve their potential and their dreams, in whatever area of life this may be.

As a cabinet, our commitment to children and young people in care within this borough remains focussed and strong

It has been really positive to see our care experienced young people accepted into apprenticeships within Children’s Social Care, and not just doing a job, but thriving, and blossoming as well as being a real inspiration to their work colleagues.

I’m pleased to commend the work the Corporate Parenting Board have done over the last 12 months in this annual report

## Meet the Board Members



Deputy Chair Cllr Sue Ridley



Cllr Rebekah Collins



Cllr Paul Bradley



Cllr Kathryn Bayton



Cllr Anne Millward



Cllr Elaine Taylor



Cllr Angus Lee



Cllr Bec Gentle



Cllr Daniel Bevan



Cllr Bryn Challenor



Cllr Natalie Neale

*We will*

*Seek to understand and*

*learn about what has*

*happened to children, not seek*

*to identify what is wrong with*

*them*

*Seek to identify and build on*

*children's strengths*

*Respond, not react*

*Support children to develop*

*Resilience*

*Be reflective and open to*

*to learning*

*Prioritise relationships in*

*every interaction*

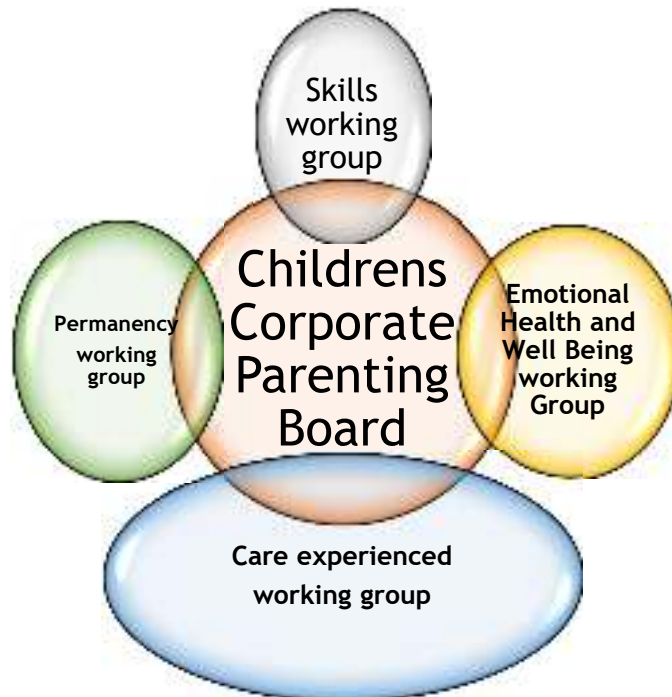


## Dudley's Children's Corporate Parenting Board Structure

The Board is a committee of Dudley Council the role involves the scrutiny of matters relating to children in care and care experienced young people in the Directorate of Children's Services.

The Children's Corporate Parenting Board meets five times yearly and in attendance with Members are the Director of Children's Services, Service Director of Children's Social Care, Head of Service for Children in Care, Care Experienced Young People and Resources, Corporate Parenting Board Coordinator, and a Democratic Services Officer. We all work together to achieve what is best for our children and encourage partners to fulfil their corporate parenting responsibilities.

In order to avoid any drift or delay in achieving what is best for our children in care and care experienced young people, the Board has four working groups which meets between Board meetings to complete, and progress identified tasks.



**Importantly the Board consults with the Children in Care Council and care experienced young people on a regular basis to listen to their wishes, ambitions, and priorities.**



This report draws together the range of activities and impact of the Children’s Corporate Parenting Board over the last year. It has been another year of unprecedented challenges. The challenges we have all faced as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic have naturally been an area of focus as we have adapted to the various restrictions placed on us and therefore the manner in which we have delivered services. In doing so we have listened to children and young people and are aware that there are some parts of the ‘virtual world’ they enjoy, and we are keen to learn lessons and use new ways of working once all of the restrictions are lifted. Our engagement of

young people with board members has been one of the areas that has benefitted from the increased use of technology. Board members have welcomed the opportunity to have both informal conversations and themed discussions to support planned agenda items.

The purpose of the Corporate Parenting Board is to inquire and understand; set ambition; and to champion and challenge our collective care of looked after children and care experienced young people

This is an assurance role that sits alongside multi agency operational work and organisational scrutiny. It is informed by our leaders, our practitioners, children and young people and carers.

The council takes its responsibility for Children looked after and care leavers very seriously and closely monitors the services provided to these young people to ensure that all children in care and care experienced young are safe, healthy, and happy and aspire to be the best they can.



## Demographic of children and young people in our care

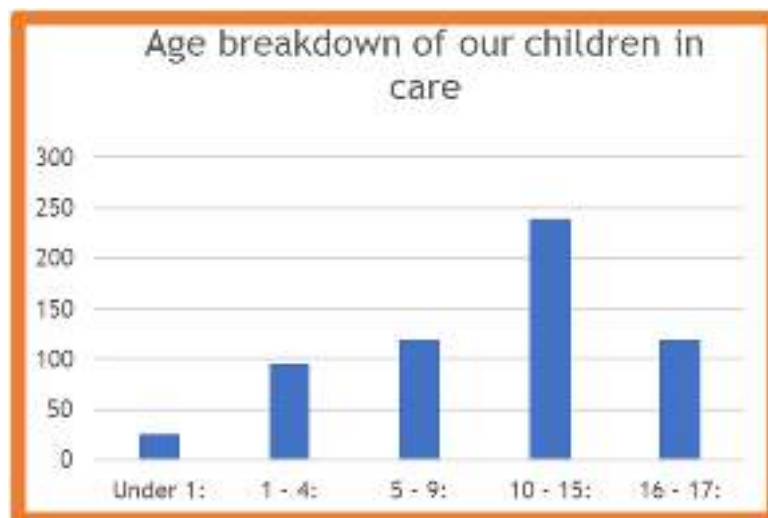
At the time of writing 72,875 children and young people live in Dudley Metropolitan Borough. The number of children that were looked after by Dudley Local authority in March 2021 was 621. This number has continued to reduce to 585 as at March 2022. This is a reduction rate of 5.8% with a rate of 84.5 children per 10,000. In the past year the drive to achieve permanency for our children and young people has resulted in an increase in children successfully being rehabilitated to their families in the last year and an increase in children who achieve permanency through adoption.

### Comparison table of the rates of children and young people care per 10,000 with our statistical neighbours and England

<b>Year Ending</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>
<b>Dudley</b>	<b>90.00</b>	<b>89.00</b>	<b>84.5</b>
<b>Statistical neighbours</b>	<b>81.70</b>	<b>83.50</b>	<b>Not yet available</b>
<b>England</b>	<b>67.00</b>	<b>67.00</b>	<b>Not yet available</b>

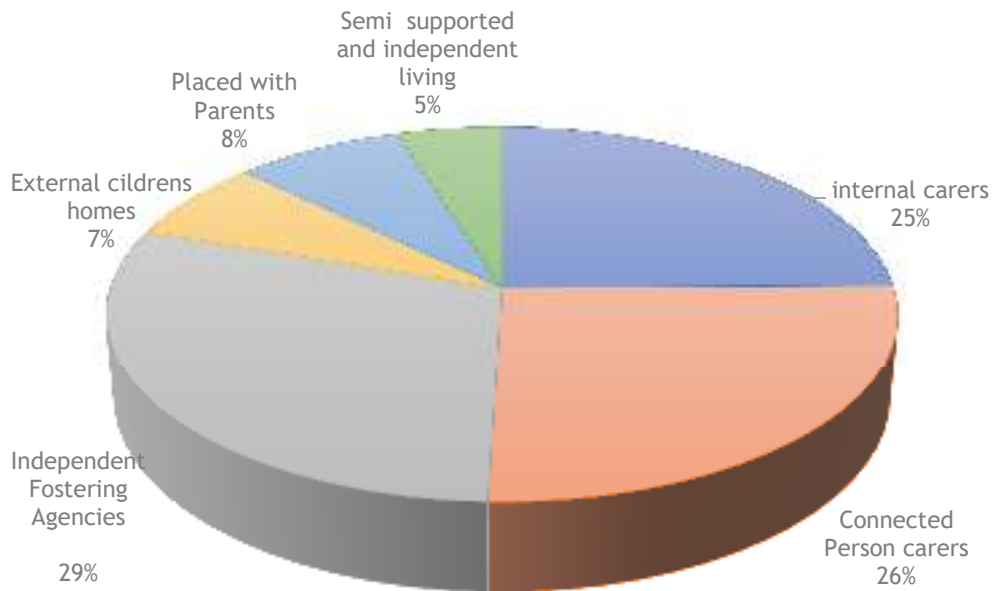
At the time of writing Dudley's Children's Social Care service were supporting 16 unaccompanied asylum-seeking children.

### The table below illustrates the age breakdown of our children in care



## Where our children and young people live

In March 2022, 77.6% of our children were placed in foster placements which is an increase from 76.7% on 31/03/21



### Progress of the Childrens Corporate Parenting Board 2021- 2022

#### Working Groups of the Board became operational

The working groups of the board are multi-agency forums and are chaired by a member of the Children's Corporate Parenting Board. They consist of partner agencies in Dudley, who are responsible for delivering good and effective corporate parenting for children and young people in care of the local authority, as well as those young people leaving care. The primary aim of the working groups is to implement the corporate parenting priorities and ensure

that appropriate services are in place to safeguard and promote their welfare. Also, to enable this group of children and young people to make positive choices and achieve the best possible outcomes during their time in care and into adulthood.

## Highlights of the working groups 2021 -2022



### Care experienced working group

#### You said

*'You needed help with heating and insurance costs when moving into new properties as well as support to combat isolation and loneliness'*

#### We are

- Working in conjunction with the local authority housing department; it has been possible to have a more economical heating system installed in council properties for care experienced young people.
- Actively seeking property insurance that offers discount to care experienced young people and have been assured by that they will provide insurance for the first month of a tenancy for our young people.
- department to identify a property to be used as a drop in facility for care experienced young people.



### Emotional health and wellbeing working group

#### You said

*'We need help to be physically healthy and have good mental wellbeing.'*

#### We are

- Seeking reassurance that our leisure department will improve our leisure offer to our children and young people as it is widely recognised that exercising is good for mental health and wellbeing.

- Ensuring that our therapeutic service delivers on its promise to our children and young people in care and our care experienced young people by the Emotional Wellbeing Service - Dudley Lighthouse Links.
- Holding partners to account. A care experienced young person reported that she was unable to heat her accommodation because her windows were so badly fitted, and it was really draughty. This matter has been resolved successfully through collaborative work with the Housing Department. Improving accessibility of Health Passports for care experienced young people by producing an app that enables instant access.



## Skills working group

### You said

*'We want to be able to maintain our homes to a safe and comfortable standard'*

### We are

- Providing information to support care experienced young people to maintain & sustain their accommodation
- Working in partnership to provide tool boxes as a welcome gift to a new home for care experienced young people
- Working in partnership with the housing department to ensure that all the welcome gift vouchers can be spent online to enable care experienced young people can access them
- Working in partnership with public health colleagues and care experienced young people to produce recipe boxes for cheap and nutritious meals

## Permanency working group



### You said

*'We want to be safe, happy and have a forever home'*

### We are

- Making Dudley a Child friendly local authority.

- Creating a Fostering Friendly authority by adding QR Codes on the fostering recruitment posters to enable those interested to access the information quickly and avoid any delay in applying to foster care
- Improving recruitment of foster carers by having our young people share their experiences in foster care and what qualities makes a good foster carer.

## What makes a good foster carer?

### A care experienced young person's voice

*"There isn't a guide book on how to be a perfect foster carer there also isn't a guide on how to be a perfect foster child. Personally, I think the whole situation is nerve racking for both carer and child for example when a foster carer is welcoming a new person into their home plus everything that comes with that child for example their trauma /behaviour problems /mental health and their personal needs the list goes on. And as for the child... He/she is now moving into someone else's home for them this includes new rules new family new schedule. You could say in some cases they are being moved in with, someone who is a stranger, which is 100% frightening for the child.*

*So, from my experience, being a good foster carer consists of time, effort and generally understanding that child's needs /background. Often challenging children are mistaken for being misbehaved or naughty (I was one of those children) Sometimes all a child needs is someone to listen/understand what's going in their head/mind maybe even a hug and to be told its okay, comfort. Communication is a must"*





## Care experienced apprentices employed by Children's Social Care

In September 2021 five care experienced young people were employed by Children's Social Care Service in various roles. Using their expertise, they have been involved in all areas within Children's Social Care, to improve communication with children, young people, and their carers

### The apprentices have

- Developed an animated film about the role of the Independent Reviewing Officer for children in our care
- Produced recruitment material for the Fostering Service
- Represented Dudley at a regional participation workshop on behalf of Dudley MBC
- Involved in fostering recruitment events in Merry Hill shopping centre Dudley College, local libraries, and community groups
- Actively participating in the working groups of the Corporate Parenting Board







## Consolidation of Corporate Parenting Responsibilities

Throughout 2021 – 2022 the Board were committed to raising awareness of all Members' role and responsibilities as a corporate parent.

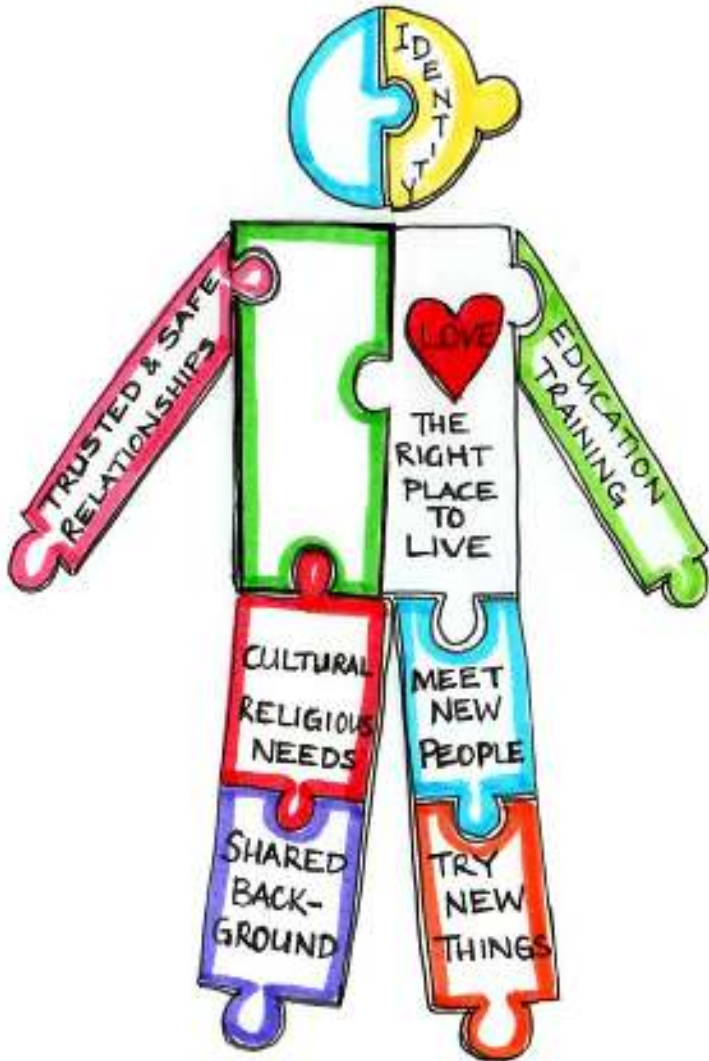
The first corporate parenting workshop for Members regarding their corporate parenting role and responsibilities was reinstated since pre COVID. This workshop was facilitated by the Director of Children's Services and the Service Director of Children's Social Care.

To raise awareness of the roles and responsibilities of corporate parents, an article was published in the Connect Councillor magazine.

Sixteen Members of the Council have joined the Children's Corporate Parenting Board Working Groups

Members Corporate Parenting Board signed off the Handbook which contained their responsibilities.

The children's Corporate Strategy 2021 – 2023 was signed off by Corporate Parenting Board members.





## Education progress of children and young people in our care

### Highlights of the Academic Year 2020 – 2021 for our children and young people

At a very challenging time in education, the proactive and positive work and influence of the Virtual School continued over the academic year of 2020.-21 including:

#### Key Stage Four Outcomes



There is an upward trend of outcomes for our children at Key Stage Four over the past three years.

#### Post 16 Outcomes

- In Year 13, **76%** (6) achieved one or more accredited qualification this academic year.
- At 'A' Level there was **100%** pass rate of young people achieving their grades.
- In Year 12 Students **72%** are moving up a level after their first year of study.
- There is a rise in number of students who have achieved one or more qualifications, with improvements in Year 12 and 13 learners achieving 4 in GCSE in Maths & English and others achieving Level 1 & 2 Functional Skills.

- There is an increase in the number of young people accessing University Destinations through A Level or Level 3 Routes
- The cohort of 2020/21 Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children Students have all moved up a course level or are accessing vocational courses.
- A Post 16 young person who was disengaged from education a little over twelve months ago, has been recognised by a work-based training provider as the Learner of The Year.

### **Early Year/Primary**

The number of children in Year 1 and 2 receiving Letterbox parcels has doubled this academic year. The Maths/Numeracy targeted offer went on line during the pandemic maintaining focussed support on four primary children.

### **Arts & Sports Summer Programme**



The first Dudley summer learning activity programme was hosted this year in partnership with the Participation Officer/Team, Museums Learning & Access Team and Public Health. This included over 75 attendees over the five days

### **Sports Link**

This academic year has seen the introduction of a virtual sports offer including



training in Yoga sessions for children, carers and Social Workers, Cricket Skills from Worcestershire Cricket Club, and fitness from a Personal Trainer.

### **Children In Care Council Partnership Personal Education Plan Development**

The introduction of 'Personal education plan Champions' from the Children in Care Council has enhanced the development of children and young people's voice in Personal education plans.

### **Personal Education Plan Development (Pep)**

The Virtual School have piloted the introduction of the Cultural Entitlement section within the personal education plan on behalf of the West Midlands Region and to inform national development.

The number of Post 16 PEP's is growing with a particular increase in Year 12.

### **Not in Employment, Education and Training (NEET)**



There is a downward trend in young people not being in employment education or training for Year 12 and 13. The number of young people in Apprenticeships and Traineeships have increased, as have the number of Year 13 students staying in Education and Training. This has also included an increase in young mothers returning to college in Years 12 and 13. Young people who have not previously been able to access Year 11 and Year 12 are returning to college on increased Level courses due to the success of the Pathways Programme.

Young people who have not previously been able to access Year 11 and Year 12 are returning to college on increased Level courses due to the success of the Pathways Programme.

As a result of the mandated National Transfer Scheme, there has been an increase in unaccompanied asylum-seeking children arrivals, but all are accessing appropriate college courses for the new academic year.

### **Inclusion**

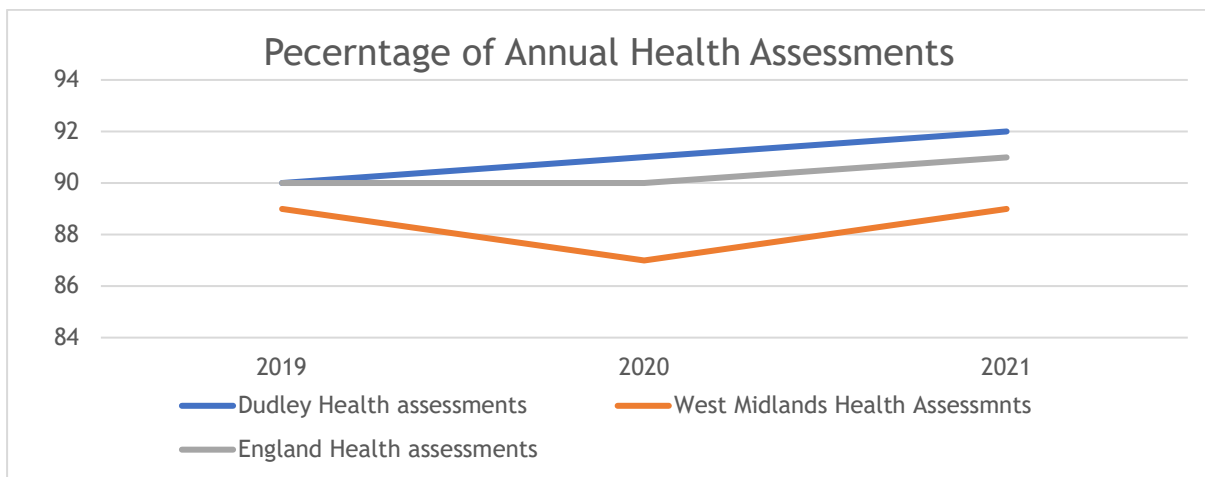
There continues to be no children or young people who are in care permanently excluded from their educational setting this academic year





## Health of children in care and young people in our care

During 2021 -2022 92% of the children and young people had their Annual Health Assessment. The graph below illustrates % of Annual Health Assessments completed in Dudley over the last 3 years benchmarked against West Midlands and England average.



Throughout 2021 – 2022 work was undertaken with the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and Dudley Virtual School Teams to map out pathway for children in care with Education and Health Care Plans (EHCP) to maintain a consistent approach to ensure the needs of the children were met and that all agencies were aware of their responsibilities.

Care experienced young people Health Passports has been designed and commissioned in collaboration with young people from the Care Leavers Forum



## Reports presented to the Childrens Corporate Parenting Board 2021-2022



### Report on children missing from care.

Children looked after are more likely to go missing than any other children we are involved with as a council. In Dudley there were 644 missing episodes and 290 of these involved children in care almost 35 % of all missing children were looked after. When a Dudley child in care that is placed out of area goes missing West Midlands Police are not aware as police recording systems are not linked. This means the Child and Adolescent Response Team is not aware either. To compensate for this Dudley Missing Procedures state that it is the responsibility of the allocated social worker to complete a missing/found notification form to enable the young person's missing episode to be discussed at the daily triage meeting. It is the responsibility of the placement provider and social worker to ensure that a Return Home Interview is completed. We found in average 78 % of children were offered a return home interview and 63% of children and young people participated in conversations about the reasons why they go missing and completed this interview. Children at risk of exploitation benefit from effective multi-agency intervention and information sharing. Members heard how the missing procedures were revised and implemented in January 2021. The revised procedures made the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub the front door for all missing episodes and strengthened multi agency working between Dudley Children's Services and West Midlands Police through the daily triage meeting.

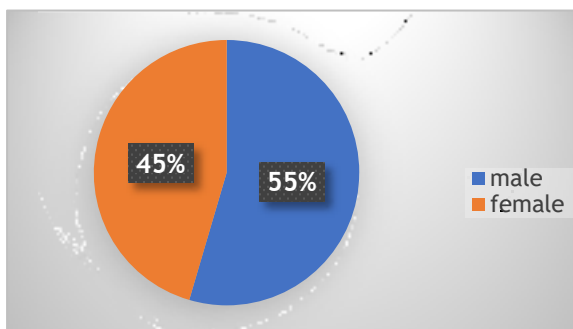
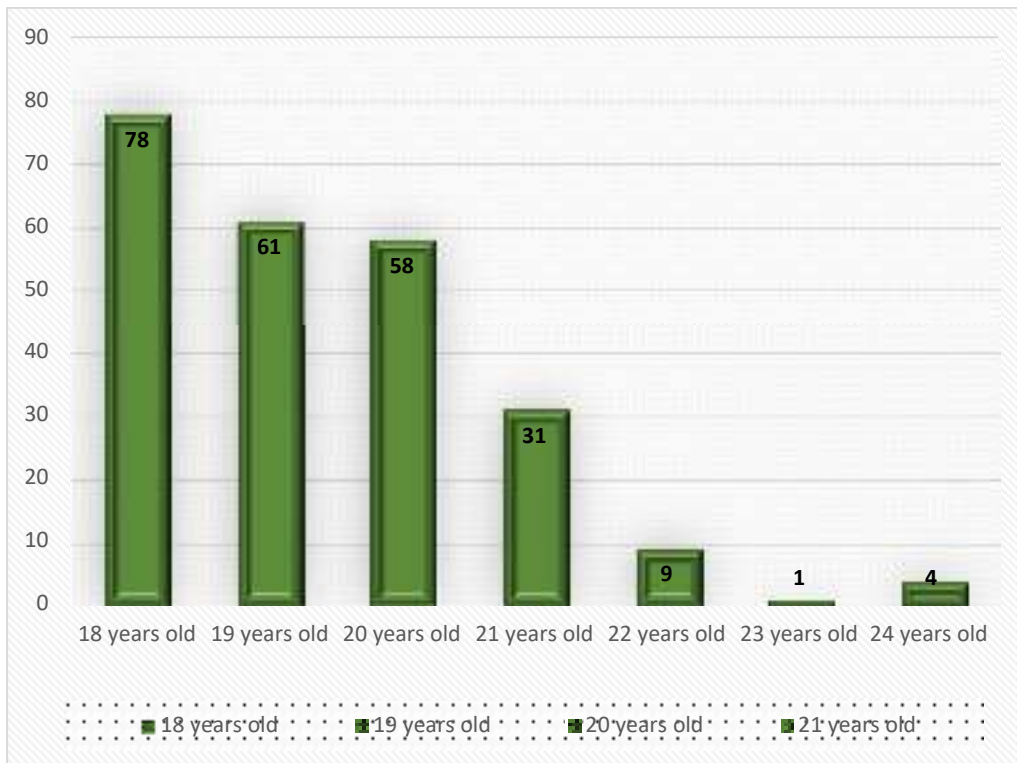


### Care Experienced Young People

There were 241 care experienced young people aged 18-25 years old; at the time of writing 99% of this age group are managed by the Care Leavers Service.

The majority of our care experienced young people are between 18-21 years of age.

### Age breakdown



### Gender composition of our care experienced young people

### Employment, Education and Training

17.8 % of our care experienced young people are in employment

5.4 % of our care experienced young people are in training

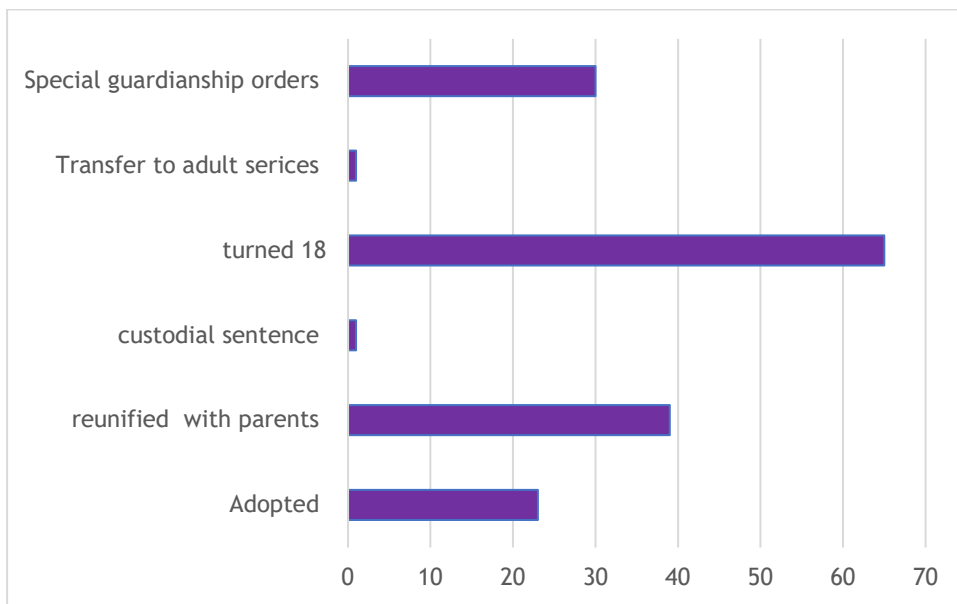
28.2 % of our care experienced young people are in education

42.3% our care experienced young people are not in education employment and training

29.9% of this group are pregnant or parenting, have a disability or illness or in prison which are classed as exemptions

To support care experienced young people who are not in employment, education and training the Care Leavers Service has employed a young person's advisor to provide bespoke support to this group.

### The reasons why are care experienced young people leave care



### What are care experienced young people have achieved

- High Sheriffs award
- Foundation Degree
- Higher Education
- Employment
- Parenting







## Review of the Dudley Light House Links Service

This report updated members on the progress of the Dudley Lighthouse Links service (DLL).

After a period of significant challenges across the Dudley Lighthouse Links Service, in June 2021 Dudley Children Services commissioned an Independent Strategic review.

Information in the report, provided reassurance to members that significant progress had been made regarding the offer for Dudley children as well as impact. Furthermore, progress is rigorously tracked through regular meetings with health partners.

It was noted that an update report on Dudley Lighthouse Links had been positively received by the Emotional Health and Wellbeing Working Group, and it was agreed that the Working Group would continue to receive updates and monitor progress.



## Independent Reviewing Service Annual Report

This report informed the Board of the role and function of the Independent Reviewing Officers and the legal status of our children in care.

It was noted that there have been less children coming into the care of the Local Authority during the last year, but trends in terms of the ages of these children are similar, with the main reduction being with younger children

## Legal Status of our children and young people in care

<b>As at 31/03/2021</b>		
<b>Legal status</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>%</b>
Interim Care Order	91	15%
Full Care Order	470	75%
Placement order granted	33	0.05%
J1 - On Remand or Committed for Trial or sentence and accommodated by Local Authority	3	0%
Voluntary Accommodation Under a Single Period of accommodation Under section 20	28	0.04%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>625</b>	
<b>New children into care during 2020/21</b>		
<b>Legal status</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>%</b>
Interim Care Order	57	48%
Full Care Order	16	14%
Placement order granted	4	0.03%
On Remand or Committed for Trial or sentence and accommodated by Local Authority	3	0.03%
Under police protection and in Local Authority accommodation	3	0.03%

In relation to legal status, the chart above shows the breakdown of the legal status for our Children in Care as of 31st March 2021; with the vast majority of children being subject to Care Orders.

Those children with an interim Care Order did not yet have a permanence plan as the permanence decision is awaited with the conclusion of care proceedings.

Those children with a Placement Order granted will have a plan of adoption.

Those children on remand make up a small proportion of the overall child in care population.

While a higher proportion of children enter care by voluntary agreement, under Section.20 of the Children Act, these figures show they do not remain in care under this legal status,

which shows the Local Authority are appropriately working with families to return the child home, or to enter proceedings to determine a permanence outcome.

This data tells us that 93% of all children and young people in care in 2020/21 were reviewed in line with statutory timescale.

Compared to 98.6% at the end of March 2020 showing a decrease in performance which is likely attributable to the accuracy of past data recording combined with issues experienced arising from migration from the previous Social Care Records system.

The Board viewed a video created by the children in care of the Independent Reviewing Service Annual Report and were encouraged when they heard that 96% of children had participated in their own review.

The Board noted that it was reported that timeliness of reviews of had dipped. As a result, a recommendation was made for the head of service to update the board on the interventions to ensure that the timeliness of reviews improves. This report is scheduled for the new financial year.



## Complaints and Complements in Childrens Services



23 complaints received

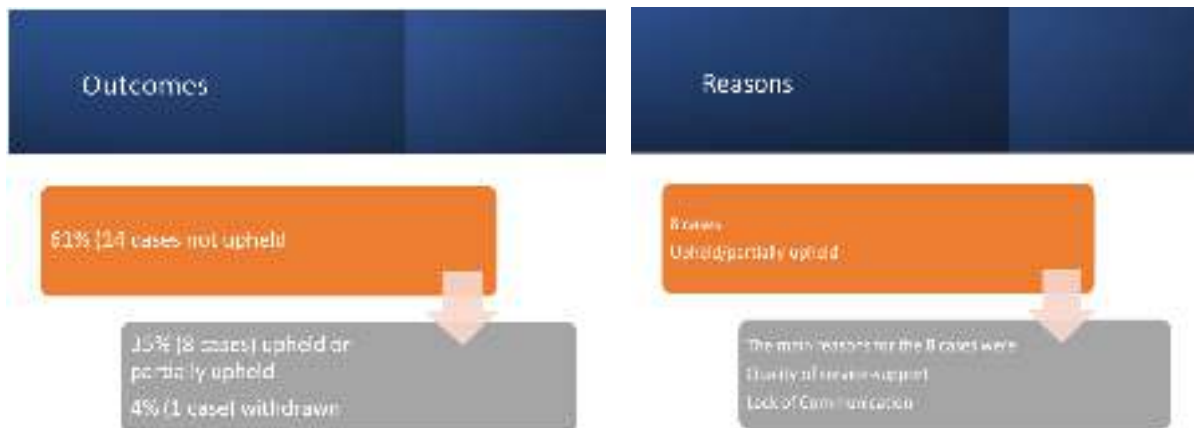
23% representation  
(99 complaints)

The Board considered the report which referred to statutory and corporate complaints and noted the data in relation to children in care, care experienced young people and their carers.

Members noted an improvement in response times A total of 70% of all complaints were responded to within 20 working days. This is an improvement on the 54% response rates previously reported for the Children in Care & Resources Service. Overall, this compares to an overall Children's Services response time currently at 77%.



## Data Presented



## Compliments



During the period 1<sup>st</sup> October 2020 to the 31<sup>st</sup> of March 2021 the Children in Care Service received a total of 23 compliments.

This represents 20% of all compliments received in respect of Children's Services



## Adoption at Heart Service Report

This report jointly covered the full year 2020/21. It is important to note that data and information within this report is accurate as of 31 March 2021. The report described the work of the Adoption@Heart is a Regional Adoption Agency, providing adoption services on behalf of Sandwell, Dudley, Walsall, and Wolverhampton Councils. The service is hosted by Wolverhampton City Council and became operational 1 April

2019.

Board members were particularly interested in the Dudley data presented.



## Dudley Data

### Children placed in foster to adopt placements 2020/2021

LA/ Trust	In House	Interagency	Total
Sandwell	3	3	6
Wolverhampton	4	5	9
Walsall	5	1	6
Dudley	3	2	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>26</b>

**Post Adoption Contact:**

Council	Number of Adoptee	Number of Contacts for Adoptee
Dudley	379	989

The table shows the number of children and the work generated as some children will have multiple post adoption recipients.

Council	Number of Adoptee	Number of Contacts for Adoptee
Dudley	379	989

The Board were pleased with the progress that children had found forever homes, however they requested a report on the timescales involved during the process to adopt a child and updated figures on the number of children in Dudley being adopted to be presented at the Working Group for further scrutiny in the new financial year.



## The voice of our children in care and care experienced young people

Our children in care and care-experienced young people told us priorities they identified as the most important for 2021-2023. The three priorities are based on the 'what's important to you' survey, questionnaire, focus groups and individual interviews undertaken with our children and young people in care.

### Priority 1: Your Health and Emotional Well Being

**You said:**

*'The most important issue for young people is the experience or trauma they have gone through.'*

**We promise:**

To improve your health and well-being by ensuring high quality health services and information is provided to children, young people, and carers, that makes them feel valued and supported.

## Priority 2: Your home and where you live

You said:

*'I want to feel happy and safe in my home'*

**We promise:**

That children and young people will live somewhere where they feel a sense of safety and belonging and are loved. We will help you prepare for independent living

## Priority 3: Your Voice

You said:

*'The most important thing is to be listened to and respected'*

**We promise:**

That children and young people will be at the heart of service design, delivery, and evaluation


## Children in care council and care experience young people's contribution for 2022-2022

The children in care council and care leavers forum have told us that small changes make such a difference.

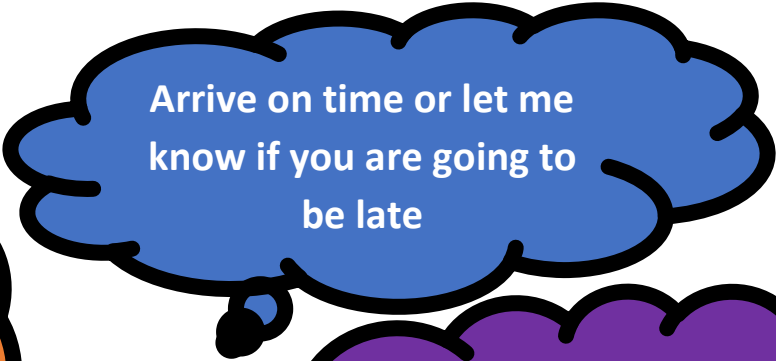
For 2022 – 2023 you have asked the board to help with the following

We want to build relationships with the professionals in our life and for them to show they respect you


### Can social workers



Let me know when you are going on annual leave




Arrive on time or let me know if you are going to be late

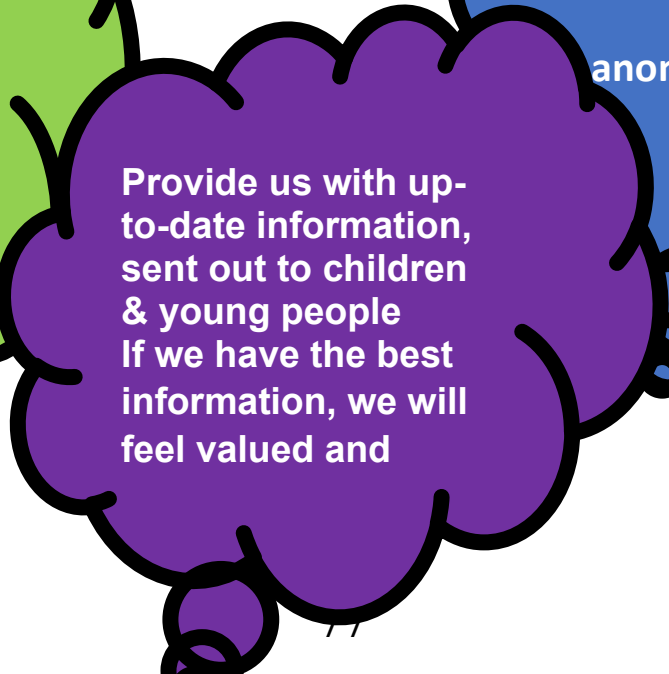


Spend more time with me and get to know me more


### Can Independent Reviewing Officers



See us more often than every six months  
You could check in with us by text, phone call or email



Provide us with up-to-date information, sent out to children & young people  
If we have the best information, we will feel valued and



Have young people as a Reviewing Champions to give feedback anonymously on their reviews





## Looking Forward

The purpose of the Corporate Parenting Board is to inquire and understand; set ambition; and to champion and challenge our collective care of looked after children and care experienced young people

This is an assurance role that sits alongside multi agency operational work and organisational scrutiny. It is informed by our leaders, our practitioners, children and young people and carers.

Throughout the next year we will continue to deliver on our pledge to children in care and care experienced young people, maintaining oversight of our corporate parenting services and our working groups will also focus on key themes when they meet:

- Preparing for independence
- Emotional health and wellbeing
- Education, employment, and training
- Placements, sufficiency, and permanence
- Leisure, and life skills

As your corporate parents we will listen to what you tell us, and we will respond by being open and honest with you, doing what we can and telling you if we are unable to carry your request.

***Our praise needs to go to all our children in care and our care experienced young people who have shown amazing resilience and compassion during what has been an extremely difficult couple of years for all children and young people***

**Children's Corporate Parenting Board – Forward Planning – Dates**

Agenda Item No. 13

<b>Papers Required/ Agenda Items</b>	<b>Request for papers (approx. 6 weeks before)</b>	<b>Reminder for papers (approx. 3 weeks before)</b>	<b>Deadline for Papers from Author</b>	<b>Jes / Martine QA of papers</b>	<b>Deadline for DLT Papers</b>	<b>Papers Presented at DLT and sign off by DCS</b>	<b>Rhys/ Martine QA/ Formatting</b>	<b>Send Papers to Democratic Services</b>	<b>Board Meeting</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Children in Care Council – Welcome to Corporate Parenting Board Members</li> <li>2. Adoption Annual Report</li> <li>3. Dudley Virtual School Annual Update</li> <li>4. Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report</li> <li>5. Verbal Updates from the Working Groups</li> <li>6. Chairs for Working Groups</li> <li>7. Corporate Parenting Board Yearly Planner</li> <li>8. Report on Childrens Social Care (Josh McCallister)</li> </ol>	10 <sup>th</sup> May 2022	2 <sup>nd</sup> June 2022	16 <sup>th</sup> June 2021	20 <sup>th</sup> June 2021	27 <sup>th</sup> June 2021	30 <sup>th</sup> June 2022	7 <sup>th</sup> July 2022	11th July 2022	21st July 2022

**Meet Your Corporate Parent Event – August 2022– Hold the date to be sent to Team Managers and above – TBC**

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Children in Care Council (CICC) Annual Update</li> <li>2. CIC Compliments/ Complaints – <a href="#">Briefing note</a></li> <li>3. Dudley Lighthouse Links Update Report – <a href="#">Briefing Note/ Brief overview</a></li> <li>4. Case Study from Dudley Light house Links</li> <li>5. CPB Working Groups – Verbal Update</li> <li>6. Performance Report – <a href="#">Briefing Note</a></li> <li>7. Leisure passes and leisure offer</li> <li>8. Young people not in education employment or training</li> </ol>	14 <sup>th</sup> July 2022	4 <sup>th</sup> August 2022	25 <sup>th</sup> August 2022	29 <sup>th</sup> August 2022	5 <sup>th</sup> September 2022	8 <sup>TH</sup> September 2022	15 <sup>th</sup> September 2022	19 <sup>th</sup> September 2022	29 <sup>th</sup> September 2022
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Reg 44/45 Report</li> <li>2. Fostering and Permanency Report</li> <li>3. CPB Working Groups – Verbal Update</li> <li>4. CIC Performance Report</li> <li>5. CICC – Group Exercise</li> <li>6. IRO annual report</li> <li>7. Missing from Care Report – <a href="#">Briefing Note</a></li> </ul>	3 <sup>rd</sup> October 2022	17 <sup>th</sup> October 2022	26 <sup>th</sup> October 2022	31 <sup>st</sup> October 2022	7 <sup>th</sup> November 2022	10 <sup>th</sup> November 2022	16 <sup>th</sup> November 2022	21 <sup>st</sup> November 2022	1 <sup>st</sup> December 2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Care Leavers Service – Update Report</li> <li>2. Children in Care Update Report</li> <li>3. CPB Working Groups – Verbal Update</li> <li>4. CIC Performance Report</li> <li>5. CCG CLA Health/ Health App update</li> </ul>	31 <sup>st</sup> October 2022	21 <sup>st</sup> November 2022	7 <sup>th</sup> December 2022	9 <sup>th</sup> December 20212	12 <sup>th</sup> December 2022	15 <sup>th</sup> December 2022	21 <sup>st</sup> December 2022	22 <sup>nd</sup> December 2022	12 <sup>th</sup> January 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>End of Year Review</li> <li>1. Priorities for 2022 – 2023</li> <li>2. Children in Care Council Briefing Note</li> <li>3. Detailed Update – Working Groups</li> <li>4. Apprentice update report</li> </ul>	4 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2023	25 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2023	15 <sup>th</sup> February 2023	16 <sup>th</sup> February 2023	20 <sup>th</sup> February 2023	23 <sup>rd</sup> February 2023	25 <sup>th</sup> February 2023	10 <sup>th</sup> March 2023	23 <sup>rd</sup> March 2023