



Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (2)

Time and Date

10.00 am on Thursday, 13th July, 2017

Place

Committee Room 3 - Council House

Public Business**1. Apologies and Substitutions****2. Declarations of Interests****3. Minutes** (Pages 3 - 6)

- a) To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 29th June, 2017
- b) Matters Arising

4. Support to Young Carers (Pages 7 - 12)

Briefing Note of the Deputy Chief Executive (People)

5. Improvement Board (Pages 13 - 20)

Briefing Note of the Deputy Chief Executive (People)

6. Work Programme (Pages 21 - 26)

Briefing Note of the Scrutiny Co-ordinator

7. Any Other Business

Any other items of business which the Chair decides to take as matters of urgency because of the special circumstances involved.

Private Business

Nil

Martin Yardley, Deputy Chief Executive (Place), Council House Coventry

Wednesday, 5 July 2017

Notes: 1) The person to contact about the agenda and documents for this meeting is Michelle Rose, Governance Services, Council House, Coventry, telephone 7683 3111, alternatively information about this meeting can be obtained from the following web link: <http://moderngov.coventry.gov.uk>

2) Council Members who are not able to attend the meeting should notify Michelle Rose as soon as possible and no later than 1.00 p.m. on 13th July, 2017 giving their reasons for absence and the name of the Council Member (if any) who will be attending the meeting as their substitute.

3) Scrutiny Board Members who have an interest in any report to this meeting, but who are not Members of this Scrutiny Board, have been invited to notify the Chair by 12 noon on the day before the meeting that they wish to speak on a particular item. The Member must indicate to the Chair their reason for wishing to speak and the issue(s) they wish to raise.

Membership: Councillors S Bains, S Hanson (Co-opted Member), K Jones (Co-opted Member), B Kaur (By Invitation), D Kershaw, J Lepoidevin, A Lucas, P Male, K Maton (By Invitation), C Miks, K Mulhall, M Mutton (Chair), R Potter (Co-opted Member), E Ruane (By Invitation) and P Seaman

Please note: a hearing loop is available in the committee rooms

If you require a British Sign Language interpreter for this meeting OR if you would like this information in another format or language please contact us.

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Coventry City Council
Minutes of the Meeting of Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (2)
held at 2.00 pm on Thursday, 29 June 2017

Present:

Members: Councillor M Mutton (Chair)
 Councillor S Bains
 Councillor D Kershaw
 Councillor J Lepoidevin
 Councillor A Lucas
 Councillor P Male
 Councillor C Miks
 Councillor K Mulhall
 Councillor P Seaman

Co-Opted Members: Mrs S Hanson and Mrs K Jones

Cabinet Members: Councillor B Kaur
 Councillor K Maton
 Councillor E Ruane

Other Members: Councillor J Clifford

Employees (by Directorate):

J Gregg, People Directorate
G Holmes, Resources Directorate
K Nelson, People Directorate
M Rose, Resources Directorate

Public Business

88. Declarations of Interests

There were no Disclosable Pecuniary Interests.

89. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 27th April, 2017 were approved.

90. Ofsted Report

Further to minute 84/16 the Scrutiny Board considered a briefing note of the Deputy Chief Executive (People) regarding the Ofsted re-inspection of services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers.

Children's Services were re-inspected by Ofsted from 6th to 30th March 2017. The Ofsted re-inspection of services report was published on 13th June 2017 and judged overall Children's Services in Coventry as "requires improvement to be good." Services for Children were no longer judged to be inadequate, this marked

a key point in the improvement journey and demonstrated the improvements made.

The Ofsted judgements received were as follows:

- Children who need help and protection Requires improvement
- Children looked after and achieving permanence Requires improvement
 - Adoption performance Requires improvement
 - Experience and progress of care leavers Good
- Leadership, management and governance Requires improvement

The Department for Education (DfE) removed Children's Services from intervention on the 13 June 2017, this meant the service was no longer subject to an improvement notice. Supervision and support would be provided by the DfE for the next 12 months, which would include two six month reviews.

The inspection report was attached as an Appendix and identified nine recommendations for improvement:

1. Continue to monitor and develop services through the work of the improvement board so that all children in Coventry receive the help and support that they need and their outcomes improve.
2. Ensure that the Local Safeguarding Children Board supports partners to understand and consistently apply appropriate thresholds to levels of need at every stage of the child's journey, including the early help pathway.
3. Ensure that the introduction of risk management methodology across the authority includes partners and the authority at all stages.
4. Improve the quality of chronologies to ensure that they provide relevant detail relating to children's histories and the impact of previous interventions.
5. Improve the quality of children's assessments and the focus of plans, so that all children at every stage of their journeys have their needs fully recognised and met.
6. Ensure that managers, independent chairs of child protection conferences and IROs improve their practice, by robustly chairing children's meetings and challenging any delays in their plans being progressed.
7. Review the authority's arrangements for privately fostered children and ensure that those arrangements and associated practice comply with statutory guidance.
8. Strengthen arrangements to ensure that the management of allegations of professional abuse is robust and effectively safeguards children.
9. Ensure that the progress of prospective adopters is tracked effectively so that the potential for children to be placed without delay is minimised.

A Children's Services Improvement Plan had been developed in response to the Ofsted recommendations and areas for development.

The report identified a number of issues for partners including the application of thresholds and the appetite for risk across the strategic safeguarding partnership.

The Improvement Board would work to strengthen and provide assurance and governance role of partners and the Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB). The LSCB would report on progress made in respect of the required areas of improvement that relate to partners.

The final Improvement Plan would be presented to a future Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (2) and submitted to Ofsted and the DfE by 20 September 2017.

The Scrutiny Board recognised the achievement and positive move from "inadequate" to "requires improvement to be good" and thanked the political leadership and officers involved in the improvement journey. The Board were keen to support the continuation of progress.

The Scrutiny Board acknowledged that the Ofsted Report had been published and available for discussion prior to the meeting. Scrutiny Board members were keen to include issues identified in the Ofsted recommendations on the work programme including:

- Managing risk effectively
- Private fostering
- Quality of practice
- Improvement Board updates
- Transformation of Children's Services

The Board were reassured that the 'Voice of the Child' was heard by Social Workers and that the improvement plan would include advocacy.

The Board were keen to investigate the challenge of retention of Social Workers as a Task and Finish Group.

RESOLVED that

- 1) **The report be noted and a report back at the end of the municipal year be requested.**
- 2) **A Task and Finish group be established on Retention of Social Workers with the following membership:**
Councillor M Mutton
Councillor Mrs Lucas
Councillor Seaman
Councillor Miks
- 3) **The work programme be updated to include issues identified by the Board following the Ofsted recommendations**

91. **Any Other Business**

There were no other items of business.

(Meeting closed at 2.30 pm)

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Coventry City Council

Briefing note

To: Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (2)

From : John Gregg, Director of Children's Services

Subject: Support to Young Carers

Date: 13 July 2017

1 Purpose of the Note

- 1.1 Following a discussion at Corporate Parenting Board, the Chair requested that an item be added to the work programme of Scrutiny Board 2 in relation to young carers as there was concern about children becoming looked after as a consequence of having carer responsibilities at home.
- 1.2 The purpose of this note is to update the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (2) about work undertaken to raise awareness of young carers and promote best practice in providing appropriate support.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that members of the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board:
 - Note the report
 - Identify any recommendations for the appropriate Cabinet Member.

3 Information/Background

- 3.1 Young carers are children and young people under 25 who provide regular and on-going care and emotional support to a family member or friend who is physically or mentally ill, disabled, frail and have a behavioural disorder or misuses substances. This could include a parent or sibling.
- 3.2 Young carers may take on practical or emotional caring tasks that an adult would normally do. Instead of seeing friends, enjoying hobbies and doing homework, children as young as 10 are cooking, cleaning, managing medication, shopping, looking after brothers and sisters.
- 3.3 The impact for a young carer can be significant, regardless of the type of care they provide or how often they provide it. It can take a toll on their physical and mental wellbeing as well as impact on their own development and opportunities.
- 3.4 Young carers do not always identify themselves as a carer because they see it as part of their everyday life and something they have always done. Often young carers may be reluctant to tell anyone about their caring responsibilities

for a variety of reasons including family loyalty, stigma, bullying or simply knowing where to go for support. There is broad recognition that young carers who support parents with mental ill-health or problems with drugs or alcohol are particularly at risk of remaining hidden from view because of concerns about being taken into care, or at least believe this is the case.

4 The National Context - The Carers' Strategy

- 4.1 Carers' Strategy: the second national implementation plan 2014 to 2016, published in October 2014, sets out the Government plans for supporting carers. It describes in detail how different pieces of legislation, such as the Care Act 2014 and the Children and Families Act 2014, contribute towards significant improvements for assessing and supporting carers of all ages. The underlying implementation plan for the strategy includes NHS England's Commitment to Carers and the 'Making a Step' change programme for young carers and their families.
- 4.2 The Children's Commissioner issued her report in December 2016 – [Support Provided to Young Carers](#). The data gathered from this review suggests that only a small proportion of young carers in England are identified and supported by their local authority. Analysis from the survey issued to all local authorities in England found:
- Approximately 4 out of 5 (20%) young carers may not be receiving support from their local authority. According to the 2011 census there are 166,363 children and young people providing 'unpaid care'.
 - Just over a quarter of young carers have additional care needs of their own.
 - There are young carers under the age of 5 years.
 - Not all local authorities are taking steps to identify children who may be providing care in their area.
 - 94% of children referred to the local authority as a potential young carer, who were not deemed not to require support, had not received an assessment.
 - The emphasis on identification and assessment in legislation may lead to support for young carers being overlooked.
 - Young carers want to enjoy their childhood and for services to listen to them and respect their views.
- 4.3 Most local authorities are taking steps to meet their statutory responsibilities with 90% of 130 local authorities taking steps to identify children who may be providing care in their area. 50% of local authorities have a Memorandum of Understanding between children and adult services. 65% of local authorities taking a 'whole family' approach to support offered to young carers. The review does highlight a substantial unmet need and poses questions for local authorities on their pathways for identifying, assessing and supporting young carers.

5 Coventry Children's social care

- 5.1 The children's internal service is currently situated at the Logan Centre as part of the Children's Disabilities Team (CDT) and are co-located with the Short Breaks Team.
- 5.2 The internal service offers a targeted service for young carers who are 'children in need or above'. In January 2017 151 young carers were receiving a service from mainstream children's social care provision. When closed to social care, these children were referred to the universal young carers group at the Carers Centre. There are currently 95 young carers open to the internal services who are predominately carers for their parents and are supported under CAF level 3 or as a 'Child in Need' under the Children Act 1989.
- 5.3 The service receives referrals and completes assessments, undertakes home visits and one to one support for young carers, offers drop-in support within schools, including awareness raising and offers a range of group activities for young carers from across the city to attend; enabling opportunities for young carers to have a break from their caring role.
- 5.4 The following table sets out the ages of young carers open to children's social care or assessed in the 12 months to June 2017.

	Aged 5-9	Aged 10-14	Aged 15-18	Total
Young carers currently open to internal services	32	58	5	95
Young carers with new assessments completed in the last 12 months	30	37	8	75
Children scored very high level of caring	14	10	4	28

- 5.5 In addition, the following statistics illustrate recent activity aimed at supporting young carers in Coventry.
- 75 children have had a new assessment completed within the last 12 months
 - Individual work has been completed with 25 of these children (for a minimum of 6 weeks) in the last 12 months
 - 80 children attended last summer's holiday activity programme
 - 55 children accessed the service over the 4 days activity during Easter
 - 28 children scored very high (level of caring) on their assessment and additional support was offered via their social worker
 - The summer holiday programme this year will mean that all 95 children will be seen
 - The internal service is averaging 3-4 new referrals per week predominately from the neighbourhood social care teams.

6 “No Wrong Doors” – Memorandum of Understanding

- 6.1 “No Wrong Doors” – working together to support young carers. This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is an agreement between Children’s and Adult Social Care to ensure young carers are supported effectively and lines of responsibility are clear. The template has been developed nationally between the Children’s Society, Carers Trust, the Association of Directors of Social Services (ADASS) and the Association of Directors of Children’s Services (ADCS). This template has been adapted for Coventry and is being considered for signing.
- 6.2 Conversations are currently taking place at regional and national level with young carers’ leads, ADASS, ADCS and the Children’s Society about improving data collection and reporting for young carers reporting to accurately reflect the number of young carers receiving support from local authorities and young carer organisations. Developments and recommendations will be picked through attendance at the ADASS Carers Regional Network.

7 The Local Context – Coventry Carers’ Strategy

- 7.1 Although the 2011 census recorded around 3,100 young carers aged 25 and under living in Coventry, research conducted by the BBC in 2010¹ suggested census figures were an underestimate and it is more likely that there are around 5,000 children and young people under the age of 25 with caring responsibilities in Coventry of whom around 1400 are aged under 16.
- 7.2 Responsibilities for identifying and supporting young carers are placed on the Local Authority as a whole. These responsibilities are set out in the Children Act 1989 (as amended by the Children and Families Act 2014) and under the Care Act 2014. Section 96 of the Children and Families Act 2014 introduces new rights for young carers to ensure young carers and their families are identified and their needs for support are assessed.
- 7.3 From April 2015 all young carers are entitled to an assessment of their needs from the Local Authority. Consideration must be given to whether a young carer is a ‘child in need’ under the Children Act 1989. This new provision works alongside measures in the Care Act 2014 for transition assessments for young carers as they approach adulthood and for assessing adults to enable a ‘whole family approach’ to provide assessment and support. It is also intended that a consistent and co-ordinated approach is taken to identify and support young adult carers aged 18 to 24.
- 7.4 The Care Act 2014 placed additional duties on local authorities for young adult carers. It also covers young adult carers in “transition” before they are 18 who may be entitled to support with their caring role after they become 18. Adult Social Care has a duty to include any carers in the needs assessment of an adult and this includes any young carers and young adult carers. We do know that 23 needs assessments of adults carried out in 2016/17 by Adult Social Care included a young person under the age of 25. Five of these young people were under the age of 18, the youngest was age 12.
- 7.5 Admissions to care are robustly overseen by the Children Services Leadership Team and as a result of this it is clear that no children have been brought into

¹ BBC/University of Nottingham November 2010

care because they were young carers. Instead support is identified following an assessment to ensure that children are maintained within their family with assistance from relevant agencies.

8 The Carers Trust Heart of England

8.1 Coventry does not commission an external service for young carers but works in close partnership with Carers Trust Heart of England, who are a local voluntary organisation who work with all young carers regardless of level of need and provide the Council with monitoring data on a quarterly basis. They are currently in touch with 1,385 young carers aged 5 to 18 years.

8.2 They provide a range of support services for young carers including:

- Big Lottery Funded Project with two work strands.
 - Support for young carers and their families to ensure that the potential adverse effects are reduced / avoided, reducing the need for high level intervention plus independent support through the statutory processes.
 - Collaboration with schools to offer emotional support to young carers through the Young Carers' Family Information, Advice and Support Worker, help for schools to better identify and support young carers, and enabling primary schools to attain the Young Carers in School Award Accreditation. In the last project year (year 1 of 5) 241 'hidden' young carers were identified and 351 one-to-one support contact with 275 young carers were undertaken, of which nearly half were still in school; 35 primary and 19 secondary schools. To date 3 schools gained accreditation in 2016-17 with the aim of working with 5 primary schools each year thereafter for a further 4 years.
- Children in Need Funded Project.
 - The project provides age appropriate activities based in a dedicated facility 'owned' by young carers in which they can feel safe, can relax away from their caring situation and can develop friendships and peer support with others in the same situation. Being centrally based it is easily accessible to all young carers over the city. 283 young carers have benefitted from the project over years 1 and 2.
- In addition:
 - Young carers Facebook with 365 young carers registered
 - Facebook fan page with 892 subscribers
 - Quarterly e-newsletter live for all young carers
 - Participation in a number of policy initiatives including the Children and Young People's Voluntary Sector Provider Networks and the Safeguarding Children's Young Carers Sub Group.

More information about the support they provide can be found on their website www.carerstrusthofe.org.uk/young-carers/

9 Coventry Safeguarding Children Board

9.1 During the process to ratify the new Carers Strategy some issues were raised by Safeguarding Children's Board. They asked for assurances that the Council is meeting its duties in relation to statutory assessments, and that there is joint

working between Schools, Social Care and Carers' Trust Heart of England. In November 2016 a small task and finish group was convened to address these issues raised and the following actions have now been achieved:

- [Coventry Carers Bulletin](#) is circulated monthly to all schools improve communication, share latest news and celebrate success. Schools are invited to contribute
- [Good Practice Guides for supporting young cares](#) have been developed for Schools, Social Care and Health Professionals – this clarifies statutory duties and the support available to young carers from Carers Trust Heart of England and from the Council.
- A [Carers Homepage](#) has been developed on Beacon which brings guidance and information into one place for Council Employees and Schools
- [Young Carer Aware](#) e-learning course is being promoted through the bulletin, in the Good Practice Guides and on the Carers Homepage
- Presentation to Designated Safeguarding Leads meeting to brief leads on the above developments and to promote the Young Carers in Schools Programme provided by Carers Trust Heart of England – see item 8.2 above.
- A reference to young carers has been added to the Section 175 Safeguarding Compliance Audit to explore how schools identify and support young people who are carers and help identify future actions.

9.2 All of the above documents can be accessed through the Carers Homepage on Beacon or by visiting the Council website - www.coventry.gov.uk/carers

Report of: John Gregg

Job Title: Director of Children's Services

Contact details John.gregg@coventry.gov.uk. Tel: 024 7683 3402



Coventry City Council

Briefing note

To: Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (2) 13th July 2017

Subject: Progress on Children's Services Improvement Board 14th June 2017

1 Purpose of the Note

- 1.1 To inform the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (2) of the progress with the Children's Services Improvement Plan reported to the Children's Services Improvement Board on 14 June 2017. The report is based on data from April 2017, unless stated otherwise. The next Improvement Board will be held on 18 October 2017.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Education and Children's Scrutiny Board (2) are recommended to:
- 1) Consider the progress made to date.
 - 2) Receive regular updates from the Children's Services Improvement Board that will include further progress relating to the children's services improvement plan, including feedback from Ofsted and the DfE
 - 3) Identify any further recommendations for the appropriate Cabinet Member

3 Information/Background

- 3.1 The Ofsted Inspection of Coventry's Children's Services and the review of the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB), published in March 2014, judged services and the LSCB to be inadequate. The Ofsted report identified a number of priority actions and areas for improvement. In response to the Ofsted report, a Children's Services Improvement Board was established and an Improvement Plan published.
- 3.2 An experienced improvement consultant and retired Her Majesty Inspector (HMI), chairs the Children's Services Improvement Board. The Board includes elected Members, Council representatives and representatives from partner agencies in the City as well as a representative from the Department for Education. Progress is reported to the Improvement Board every six weeks.
- 3.3 An Ofsted Monitoring Visit was undertaken on 8th and 9th November 2016, the focus of the visit was on practice within the 'help and protection' judgement with Ofsted doing a deep dive analysis (case tracking) in to six cases selected by Ofsted and one good example case selected by the service. The Monitoring visit also included a visit to

MASH/RAS. The letter on the outcome of the monitoring visit was published on 8th December 2016.

- 3.4 The Department for Education issued an Improvement Notice on 30th June 2014. The Improvement notice is reviewed every six months. The two year review was held on 30th November 2016 and focused on quality of practice; the effectiveness of the children's services system and partnership working. The formal feedback letter from the Minister on the outcomes of the review has been received.
- 3.5 Ofsted re-inspected Children's Services on 6th -30th March 2017, the outcome of the inspection was published on 13th June 2017, Children's Services were judged as "requires improvement to be good". Services for Children are no longer inadequate.
- 3.6 The Department for Education (DfE) removed Children's Services from intervention on 13 June 2017, the service are no longer subject to an improvement notice. Supervision and support will be provided by the DfE for the next 12 months, which will include two reviews.
- 3.7 The Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive have both given public commitment that Children's Services remains a key priority for the Council. This includes prioritising funding for Children's Services to maintain its capacity to improve. The Council, alongside partner organisations continue a relentless focus on securing improvements in services for children, young people and families to ensure they are safeguarded and achieve positive outcomes.

4 Ofsted re-inspection of Children's Services and the Improvement Plan

- 4.1 The Ofsted re-inspection of Children's Services judged overall services in Coventry "requires improvement to be good". Services for Children are no longer inadequate, this marks a key point in the improvement journey and demonstrates the improvements made over the last few years.
- 4.2 The report highlights nine recommendations and areas for further development. In response to this a Children's Services Improvement Plan has been developed, the plan includes the actions to deliver the recommendations and areas for development for Children who need help and protection; Children looked after and achieving permanence; Leadership, management and governance. New performance measures have been developed to demonstrate improvement and impact and will be included in the monthly performance report.
- 4.3 The report identifies a number of issues for partners including the application of thresholds and the appetite for risk across the strategic safeguarding partnership. The Improvement Board will work to strengthen and provide assurance and governance role of partners and the LSCB. The LSCB will report on progress made in respect of the required areas of improvement that relate to partners.
- 4.4 The final Improvement Plan will be submitted to Ofsted and the DfE by 20 September 2017. The report and revised Improvement Plan will be shared with staff and partners and progress against the plan reported to Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board at quarterly intervals.
- 4.5 With the new leadership team in place, the team are driving forward practice improvements and service changes. There is an explicit intention to ensure that Children's Services reaches a position where it is continuously achieving good outcomes for the Children of Coventry. The new Improvement Plan will support the journey in "Getting to Good".

5 Review of the Children's Services Improvement Board

- 5.1 The Department for Education have confirmed that the statutory requirement to operate an improvement board every six weeks as prescribed in the improvement notice has been removed following the publication of the Ofsted Inspection report.
- 5.2 At the meeting on 14th June 2017, the Improvement Board was reviewed and proposals put forward. Board members agreed to continue to operate a Children's Services Improvement Board. The frequency of meetings will change from 6 weeks to 12 weeks reporting on progress made against the improvement plan. The Shadow Board and Implementation Group will continue and will also be held every 12 weeks.

6 Re-design of Children's Services

- 6.1 Plans to redesign Children's Services and transform the way we work is progressing. Engagement Sessions were held in April 2017, the engagement sessions have helped to continue the improvement journey and ensure provide the right services for the children and young people of our city. The formal consultation commenced on 8th May 2017. Staff have received the proposed structures and the impact of the changes. FAQ – Frequently Asked Questions are being communicated to staff on a regular basis. The Children's Services Leadership team are responding and discussing questions raised throughout the consultation period.
- 6.2 Work continues with partners. A meet and greet with partners engagement session was held on 2 May 2017 to meet with partner agencies and Schools to share the Children's Service vision; meet the Children's Services Leadership team and share the Ofsted Inspection headlines and actions to work more closely with partners on.

7 Quality Assurance and practice

- 7.1 The Improvement Board received a progress update on quality assurance and the outcomes of the external audit.
- 7.2 This training has continued ensuring the development of Service Managers, IROs and first line managers to undertake audits using the new audit model. This will increase the pool of current auditors and offer additional capacity to carry out monthly audits. As well as training auditors, four quality assurance workshops were also held in May 2017 and attended by service managers and team managers focusing on the impacts & outcomes on children's case recordings. This will enable the actual quality of the audit to become more child centred, and therefore learning will also become more child focused. This should lead to practice becoming more about outcomes and impact which will begin as a natural consequence to improve practice. Further audit training will be offered to all managers in Children's Services who have not yet completed this, including managers in Early Help.

8 Requests for further information

- 8.1 The Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (2) have requested responses to additional information requested at previous Scrutiny Board meetings. The information is provided below.
- 8.2 **The number of Return Home Interviews that have been refused**
- 8.3 In May 2017, a total of 39 young people went missing. This equates to a total of 74 missing episodes during the month. Five young people declined a return home

interview. Three were not interviewed, but are known to the service and have additional support around them. Staff working with these young people are alerted when they have not engaged in the process and encouraged to seek the opportunity to discuss the missing episode(s).

8.4 The service closely monitor young people who decline RHIs and ensure additional resource is provided when a person goes missing the next time.

8.3 The current number of children placed with foster carers and the current number in residential care

8.5 Currently there are 70 young people placed within residential provision. The YTD figures for residential placements show a small decline from 16/17. The new Placements approval process has given appropriate scrutiny to fostering and residential placement requests, confirmation of there being no appropriate internal fostering placement and robust approval for the use of external foster placement and residential placement.

Placement Type	YTD	% YTD	% 16/17	% 15/16	% 14/15
Fostering (External)	231	37.8%	38.5%	44.3%	46.8%
Fostering (Internal) – Family & Friends	45	7.4%	7.1%	3.8%	3.7%
Fostering (Internal) – Mainstream	191	31.3%	30.2%	25.5%	22.8%
Independent Living	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%	0.2%
Placed for Adoption	15	2.5%	2.8%	5.3%	6.5%
Placed with Parents	16	2.6%	2.3%	1.9%	2.4%
Residential (External) – Children’s Homes	65	10.6%	10.9%	12.2%	11.6%
Residential (External) – Children’s Homes (Secure Accommodation)	2	0.3%	0.0%	0.3%	0.3%
Residential (External) - Other	4	0.7%	1.1%	2.1%	1.7%
Residential (External) – Residential School	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Residential (External) – Supported Accommodation	33	5.4%	5.8%	2.6%	2.9%
Residential (Internal) – Children’s Homes	9	1.5%	1.3%	1.6%	1.2%
Total	611	100%	100%	100%	100%

Of those children placed in external Children’s Homes, approximately 4 are placed in Residential Schools which are dual-registered as Children’s Homes. Of those placed in other residential settings, 1 are placed in a hospital, 3 in a YOI.

8.6 Further information about whether the 61 appointed Social Workers have been retained

8.7 In line with other West Midlands authorities, Coventry has been challenged to recruit and retain experienced social workers. Significant progress has been made in recruiting experienced staff to vacancies in Children’s Services social work teams. Ongoing recruitment activity has resulted in 65 social workers being appointed in the last 16 months. 60 social workers have been retained during this period. As at May 2017 there are 12.5 vacancies, this is 16% vacancy rate. A further 10 newly qualified social workers have been appointed and will start in September and 8 experienced social workers have been appointed awaiting recruitment and clearance checks.

8.8 From 21 June 2017 the service launched an Assessment Centre model process to recruit experienced social workers, the process is a more robust streamlined process to appoint a high calibre of social workers.

8.9 How many of the newly recruited social workers had met the accreditation

8.10 The Children and Social Work Bill 2016 which received royal assent on the 28th April 2017 provides the legislative framework that supports accreditation.

- 8.11 The National Accreditation Assessment Social Work (NAAS) has been set up as the DFE delivery vehicle for taking forward Social Work Accreditation across Children and Families Statutory Social Work.
- 8.12 A national consultation on the proposals for Social Work Accreditation and the Practice Supervisor pathway closed in March 2017. The government response to this was delayed due to the General Election. The roll out of the new system of assessment and accreditation for all child and family social workers, practice supervisors and practice leaders will be completed by 2020. An implementation plan has been developed to work out a programme for accrediting newly recruited social workers. This is being led by the Principal Social Worker.

9 Performance Overview

- 9.1 A performance overview of April performance is highlighted in **Appendix 1**.

10 Communication

- 10.1 The e-newsletter continues to be produced focusing on Children's Services ahead of Ofsted re-inspection. This is issued to all staff in Children's Services, all partners, senior managers and Members to ensure everyone is aware of the progress made so far, what has still to be achieved and the role all employees can play in supporting the service in achieving a better Ofsted result. In addition to this, the Director of Children's Services holds open sessions for all staff and gets out and about visiting teams and talking to staff. This has included briefings with frontline staff recently.

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Appendix 1

Performance Overview – April 2017

CAFs	Mar 2017	Apr 2017
Open CAFs	1784	1787
CAFs open to other agencies	458 (24.8%)	454 (25.5%)
% Action Plans completed NFA	109 (58.0%)	65 (48.1%)
% Referral to Social Care	46 (24.5%)	43(31.9%)

Contacts	Mar 2017	Apr 2017
Number of Contacts	1128	930
Completed within timescales	60.7%	54.7%

MASH Assessments	Mar 2017	Apr 2017
Referral to Social Care	385 (86.9%)	265 (81.5%)
Diverted to eCAF	35 (7.9%)	39 (12.0%)

Domestic Violence (Contacts)	Mar 2017	Apr 2017
Number of Contacts	426	304
Completed within timescales	72.3%	62.2%

Referrals & Re-Referrals	Mar 2017	Apr 2017
Referrals	551	385
Re-Referrals	19.2%	14.8%

Children Seen	2016/17	Apr 2017
% seen within 5 working days of Contacts resulting in a Referral	47.6%	26.7%
% seen as part of Children & Families Assessment	98.5%	99.2%

Section 47s	Mar 2017	Apr 2017
S47s	175	190
Section 47 timeliness	84.6%	91.1%

ICPCs	Mar 2017	Apr 2017
Children subject to ICPC	37	43
ICPC timeliness	86.5%	88.4%

Child Protection	Mar 2017	Apr 2017
Child Protection Plans	517	530
% repeat plans	14.3%	19.6%

Looked After Children	2016/17	2017/18 (YTD)
% new LAC previously in care	14.3%	13.3%
% children seen within 1 week of entering care	90.7%	73.3%
% children 3 or more placements	11.5%	10.8%

Care Leavers	2016/17	2017/2018(YTD)
% care leavers in suitable accommodation	95.6%	93.7%
% in Employment, Education or Training	67.5%	66.0%

Missing Children	Mar 2017	2017/2018(YTD)
% RHs completed	46.2%	68.1%
% of completed RHs within timescale	86.7%	78.1%

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Coventry City Council

Briefing note

To: Education and Children's Services

Date: 13th July 2017

Subject: Work Programme 2017-18

1 Purpose of the Note

- 1.1 To summarise discussions at the informal meeting of the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board and agree the work programme for the municipal year 2018-18

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board are recommended to:
- 1) Agree to establish task and finish groups on
 - a. Retention of Social Workers
 - b. Private Fostering arrangements
 - 2) Consider whether the pending items should be carried forward for 2017-18
 - 3) Agree the work programme in Appendix 1

3 Information/Background

- 3.1 At their informal meeting on 29th July 2017, the Members of the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board considered information from the Education, Libraries and Adult Learning Services and Children's Services on their priorities and challenges for 2017-18 and proposed areas for Scrutiny work.
- 3.2 As part of the discussions, Members identified the following areas to include in the work programme:
- Special and Alternative Provision including Home Schooling
 - Managing Risk Effectively
 - Private Fostering (task and finish group)
 - Retention of Social Workers (task and finish group)
 - One Strategic Plan updates
 - Education Performance including vulnerable groups
 - Review of the Education Service redesign
 - Children's Services redesign
 - Regional Adoption Agency

4 Pending items

- 4.1 There were several items on the work programme from 2016-17 which hadn't been considered by the Board during the previous year.

4.2 These items are as follows:

Voices of Care	Update from the Look After Children's Council – Voice of Care
Short Breaks Review	To look in more detail at the provision of short breaks for disabled children
School based police panels	A report on how the police are supporting improving behaviour in schools and tackling anti-social behaviour in partnership
Serious Case Reviews	The Board will consider recommendations from serious case reviews when they are published.
SCR – Child F (if available)	The Board will consider recommendations from a serious case review.
Schools Ofsted Reports	Members requested information on how schools with poor Ofsted reports are being supported, using Stoke Park as a case study
World Class Schools Quality Award	President Kennedy School have been awarded this and the Board would like to know more about the process and what it means for the pupils.

Gennie Holmes
Scrutiny Co-ordinator
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Appendix 1

SB2 Work Programme 2017/18

Last updated 30/6/17

Please see page 2 onwards for background to items

29th June 2017 – formal/ informal meeting
Ofsted Inspection Report Informal briefing of the Board
13th July 2017 – 10am
Young Carers Improvement Board Report Work programme briefing note
14th September 2017
LSCB Interim Annual Report -
12th October 2017
Quality of Social Workers -
23rd November 2017
Improvement Board Report – 18 th October 2017 -
11th January 2018
- -
1st March 2018
Improvement Board Report – 10 th January 2018 -
29th March 2018
- -
26th April 2018
Improvement Board Report – 11 th April 2018 -
Date to be determined
Special and Alternative Provision including Home Schooling Managing Risk Effectively Private Fostering Retention of Social Workers One Strategic Plan updates Education Performance including vulnerable groups Review of the Education Service redesign Children's Services redesign Regional Adoption Agency
Pending items
Voices of Care Short Breaks Review School based police panels Serious Case Reviews SCR – Child F (if available) Schools Ofsted Reports World Class Schools Quality Award

Appendix 1

SB2 Work Programme 2017/18

Date	Title	Detail	Cabinet Member/ Lead Officer
29th June 2017 – formal/informal meeting	Ofsted Inspection Report	Following the Ofsted inspection in March, the inspection report is published on 13 th June. This is an opportunity for Members to consider the outcomes of the inspection and the subsequent action plan.	Gail Quinton John Gregg Cllr Ruane
	Informal briefing of the Board	To cover the work areas of the Board plus. Looking at the Council's Corporate parenting requirements and how the Council is meeting them.	
13th July 2017 – 10am	Young Carers	Referred from the Corporate Parenting Board, to look at support offered to children and young people who are carers, especially those that are children in need, child protection or who come into care because of the health of their parents.	Paul Smith Jon Reading Cllr Ruane Cllr Abbott
	Improvement Board Report	A standing item as agreed by Council reporting progress against the areas identified in the improvement notice, to include follow up from the DfE visit	John Gregg Cllr Ruane
	Work programme briefing note	A follow up from the informal meeting to agree the work programme for the year	Gennie Holmes
14th September 2017	LSCB Interim Annual Report	Members requested to see the interim annual report of the LSCB following their consideration of the Annual Report at their meeting in January 2017	David Peplow Cllr Ruane
	-		
12th October 2017	Quality of Social Workers	A 6 month follow up report from the meeting on 27 th April	Lee Pardy- McLaughlin Cllr Ruane
	-		
23rd November 2017	Improvement Board Report – 18 th October 2017		
	-		

Appendix 1

SB2 Work Programme 2017/18

Date	Title	Detail	Cabinet Member/ Lead Officer
11th January 2018	-		
	-		
1st March 2018	Improvement Board Report – 10 th January 2018		
	-		
29th March 2018	-		
	-		
26th April 2018	Improvement Board Report – 11 th April 2018		
	-		
Date to be determined	Special and Alternative Provision including Home Schooling	Members requested a report on how children who are home schooled are supported by the LEA and also to discuss whether pupils excluded from school are being home schooled by parents	Kirston Nelson Cllr Maton
	Managing Risk Effectively	Following the recommendations in the Ofsted report, Members want to look more closely at how risk is managed, especially with partner agencies such as health and schools	John Gregg Cllr Ruane
	Private Fostering	Following the recommendations in the Ofsted report Members requested to look in more detail at private fostering arrangements	John Gregg Cllr Ruane
	Retention of Social Workers	Members wanted to establish a task and finish group to look at how the Council can retain the workforce once they are in post	John Gregg Cllr Ruane
	One Strategic Plan updates		
	Education Performance including vulnerable groups		
	Review of the Education Service redesign		

Appendix 1

SB2 Work Programme 2017/18

Date	Title	Detail	Cabinet Member/ Lead Officer
	Children's Services redesign		
	Regional Adoption Agency		
Pending items	Voices of Care	Update from the Look After Children's Council – Voice of Care	Sheila Bates Cllr Ruane
	Short Breaks Review	To look in more detail at the provision of short breaks for disabled children	John Gregg Cllr Ruane
	School based police panels	A report on how the police are supporting improving behaviour in schools and tackling anti-social behaviour in partnership	Kirston Nelson Cllr Maton
	Serious Case Reviews	The Board will consider recommendations from serious case reviews when they are published.	Cllr Ruane
	SCR – Child F (if available)	The Board will consider recommendations from a serious case review.	Cllr Ruane David Peplow
	Schools Ofsted Reports	Members requested information on how schools with poor Ofsted reports are being supported, using Stoke Park as a case study	Kirston Nelson Cllr Maton
	World Class Schools Quality Award	President Kennedy School have been awarded this and the Board would like to know more about the process and what it means for the pupils.	Cllr Maton Kirston Nelson President Kennedy pupils