

CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

At a meeting of the **CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL** held at Room 15, Priory House, Monks Walk, Shefford on Monday, 3 February 2014

PRESENT

Elected Members (voting)

Cllrs:

M A G Versallion (Chairman)

A L Dodwell (Vice-Chairman)

Mrs A Barker

N B Costin

Mrs S A Goodchild

N J Sheppard

B Wells

Officers (voting)

Mrs J Ogle - Director of Social Care, Health and Housing

Carers (non-voting)

Mrs C Andrews

Apologies for Absence: Cllr D Bowater
Mrs H Phillips

Officers in Attendance: Mr A Ahmed – Team Manager 13+ Transition and Leaving Care
Mrs J Dickinson – Head of Leisure Services
Mr G Jones – Assistant Director Children's Services Operations
Mr T Keaveney – Assistant Director Housing Services
Mr L Manning – Committee Services Officer
Mrs C Seamarks – Personal Advisor/Participation Support Worker
Mr E Wong – Head of Corporate Parenting
Mr N Wood – Interim Head of Service for Adoption and Fostering

Others in Attendance: Mrs C York - Designated Nurse for Looked After Children (Bedfordshire and Luton Clinical Commissioning Groups)

Representatives - Children in Care Council

CPP/13/34 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel held on 2 December 2013 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

CPP/13/35 **Members' Interests**

Councillor Mrs A Barker declared an interest as a member of the Council's Adoption Panel.

Councillor A L Dodwell declared an interest as a member of the Council's Fostering Panel.

CPP/13/36 **Chairman's Announcements and Communications**

The Chairman welcomed Mr Edward Wong, the newly appointed Head of Corporate Parenting, to his first meeting of the Panel and reminded the meeting of the work that this officer had previously undertaken in relation to health assessments for Looked After Children. The Panel noted that the current Interim Head of Service for Adoption and Fostering would continue to remain in post for a temporary period.

The Chairman advised the meeting that Mrs H Phillips, a co-opted foster carer representative on the Panel, had received an MBE in the New Year's Honours List for her work as a carer. The Panel expressed its congratulations on receiving this news.

CPP/13/37 **All Party Parliamentary Group for Looked After Children and Care Leavers - Roles and Responsibilities**

The Panel received a presentation from the Children in Care Council (CiCC) representatives which set out the results of the work carried out in relation to the inquiry on entitlements being undertaken by the All Parliamentary Group for Looked After Children and Care Leavers

A copy of the slide pack is attached at Appendix A to these minutes.

In addition an action plan was circulated at the meeting setting out, in table format, the key findings and recommendations arising from the national inquiry. The table also contained local actions which had been devised by the Senior Management Team (SMT) in response to the recommendations.

A copy of the action plan is attached at Appendix B to these minutes.

The CiCC representatives then introduced their presentation. When asked what local entitlement issue required improvement they indicated that they thought some social workers lacked an understanding of what entitlements Looked After Children and young people could receive. The Assistant Director

Children's Services Operations explained that this matter had been considered by the SMT and action was scheduled within the action plan. The Assistant Director added that the recommendations in the action plan would be audited and an update report submitted to the Panel in six months. The Head of Corporate Parenting stated that the audit would cover compliance, meeting expectations and increasing social worker knowledge. At the suggestion of the Director of Social Care, Health and Housing the Assistant Director undertook to amend the action plan by including relevant dates and times.

In response to a query on the CiCC a representative of that body explained that it met once a month at various venues. A new chairman was elected at each meeting and minutes taken, typed up and submitted to the following meeting to ensure that decisions had been implemented.

A Member raised a number of queries regarding the composition of the CiCC, including the length of time in which individual CiCC members had been in care and participation by disabled young people, and how the viewpoints of the different age ranges were represented. In response, and with regard to the participation of disabled children in the CiCC, the Assistant Director Children's Services Operations stated that both he and the CiCC acknowledged that improvement was required in this area. The CiCC intended to recruit disabled young people and the Head of Services for Disabled People had been tasked with taking this forward. On the matter of representation of the views of different age ranges a CiCC representative stated that the older Looked After Children did seek the views of the younger children so they could be reported to the Panel.

In response to a query by the Vice-Chairman regarding the assistance offered to young people when claiming entitlements, the Head of Corporate Parenting advised that officers assisted young people to complete forms. The Team Manager – 13+ Transition and Leaving Care added that personal advisers would sit with young people and establish what entitlements they could receive and then assist them with their applications.

The Panel considered the benefits arising from placing a greater emphasis on holding informal discussions with the CiCC representatives and the use of alternative venues for this purpose. Members and CiCC representatives indicated their support for this approach.

A Member commented on the sense of reality introduced by CiCC representation at the Panel's meetings and asked if it would be possible for at least one CiCC representative to attend each meeting of the Panel in future and report back on developments. Discussion followed on this suggestion which was welcomed by the Chairman and CiCC representatives. It was felt that meeting agendas should contain items of direct relevance to the CiCC in order to ensure their attendance was worthwhile. The Assistant Director Children's Services Operations stated that, if possible, future Panel agendas would contain at least one item which would enable CiCC representative participation and another on which the representative's views would be sought.

The Assistant Director Housing Services informed the CiCC representatives that he would value discussions with the CiCC on accommodation provision for

Looked After Children and being challenged by them on related policy and procedure. The CiCC representatives welcomed this opportunity and the Assistant Director undertook to invite the CiCC to meet him.

NOTED

the presentation on the Entitlements Inquiry for Looked After Children and Care Leavers and the accompanying Action Plan from the Senior Management Team.

RESOLVED

- 1a that an update report on the progress made under the Senior Management Team action plan, which had arisen in response to the outcome of the national Entitlements Enquiry, be submitted to the Panel in six months;**
- 1b that the action plan be amended to include relevant dates and times;**
- 2 that the Assistant Director Children's Services Operations ensure that, if possible, future Panel agendas include at least one item which would enable CiCC representative participation and another on which the representative's views would be sought;**
- 3 that the possibility of the Panel undertaking informal discussions with CiCC representatives at alternative venues be investigated.**

CPP/13/38 The Experience for Looked After Children with Housing

The Panel received a presentation from the Assistant Director Housing Services and the Team Manager – 13+ Transition & Leaving Care entitled 'Suitable Accommodation for Looked After Children and Care Leavers'.

A copy of the slide pack is attached at Appendix C to these minutes.

The Assistant Director Housing Services and Team Manager introduced their presentation and expanded on the issues contained within it as they went. During the introduction the Assistant Director explained that, under the legacy authorities, supported housing provision had largely been centred in the towns of Luton and Bedford. The local authority reorganisation had therefore lead to gaps in service provision within Central Bedfordshire and the resources that were available tended to be used in an uncoordinated way. In addition the matching of suitable support with the accommodation provided was an on-going challenge. The Assistant Director added that the lack of sufficient supported housing provision gave rise to a risk of social disconnection and exclusion amongst some young people. He also stressed the need to ensure that accommodation was not just be affordable but met the needs of client groups.

A Member suggested the provision of accommodation within walking distance of a young person's job or college as this would reduce or remove travel costs. She suggested discussions take place with businesses in towns regarding this point.

Another Member commented that the Council's design guide did not support the future provision of one bedroom accommodation and this could generate shortages. The Assistant Director Housing Services acknowledged this point but explained that this type of accommodation was largely used by older people for whom it was regarded as unsuitable. As a result it was proposed that older people should be encouraged to relocate to more suitable housing stock and the existing one bedroom properties be offered to young people. However, he also indicated that he was aware of the possibility of social isolation arising and that, as a possible alternative, the use of three bedroomed properties by suitable young people was under consideration. He acknowledged that various management issues relating to the use of three bedroomed properties for this purpose remained outstanding.

A CiCC representative informed the meeting of the problems which could arise for young persons who, having succeeded in gaining a tenancy at 16, lost their personal support on reaching 18 and then found they were unable to cope independently due to a lack of life skills training. In response the Assistant Director Housing Services acknowledged the need to work with individuals to ensure that they were taught the right skills to be able to live independently. Discussion took place on the robustness of the Council's procedures in both recognising that a problem existed and then remedying it. The CiCC representative also referred to other matters, such as mental health issues, which prevented a successful move to independent living by some young people and stated that these sometimes remained unrecognised. In response the Head of Corporate Parenting referred to the role of the new Support for Success Panel in ensuring that a gap in personal support did not arise. The Team Manager reminded the meeting of the development of the Independent Life Skills Programme to provide core skills and assured Members that officers were fully focused on the needs of individual young people and their suitability to move to independent living.

A Member felt that the possibility of individual living at 16 was too young and she expressed concerns over safeguarding. She suggested that, instead, a transition period between 16 – 24 years of age should be introduced for young people in order to prepare them for such a major change. The Member then referred to the suggested use of three bedroomed properties and queried the impact of the occupants being able to afford the cost of full Council Tax payments.

The Assistant Director Housing Services explained that the most common cause of homelessness was parental eviction due to either a breakdown in relationships or as a means by which to secure accommodation. He added that the Council's new Allocations Policy would prevent the use of parental eviction as a means to obtain housing. Following further discussion the Assistant Director stated that the new Allocations Policy would clearly articulate what its requirements were and these would be embedded in the Council's Annual Lettings Plan.

In response to a query from the Chairman regarding CiCC input into the new allocation policy the Assistant Director stated that he did not believe there had been specific consultation with Looked After Children. However, he undertook to what consultation had taken place and report back to Members.

Discussion took place on the teaching of life skills, education choices and apprenticeships for Looked After Children.

NOTED

the presentation on suitable accommodation for Looked After Children and Care Leavers.

RESOLVED

- 1 that the Assistant Director Housing Services submit a report to the Panel setting out the new Allocations Policy for consideration;**
- 2 that the Assistant Director Housing Services submit a report to the Panel setting out the new Housing Pathways for Care Leavers following its development by 30 June 2014;**
- 3 that the Assistant Director Children's Services Operations submit a report to the next meeting of the Panel updating Members on the progress made in encouraging the Council's business partners to offer apprenticeships to Looked After Children.**

CPP/13/39 The Health of Looked After Children - Six Monthly Update

The Panel received a slide pack from the Designated Nurse for Looked After Children (Bedfordshire and Luton Clinical Commissioning Groups) which provided Members with the six monthly health update for Looked After Children.

A copy of the slide pack is attached at Appendix D to these minutes.

The Designated Nurse then introduced the slide pack which covered the following matters:

- Numbers of Looked After Children
- Performance Data
- Achievements
- Leaving Care Health Service
- Out of Area LAC and Young People (including the difficulties experienced and the actions taken to mitigate risks).

Arising from the increasing numbers of Looked After Children in Central Bedfordshire, the Designated Nurse advised the meeting that her workload was to be divided between two posts, one of which would be responsible for Luton

and the other for the remainder of Bedfordshire, from 1 April 2014. She advised the meeting that she had been appointed to the post covering Bedfordshire.

The meeting then considered the comparative performance data for the periods April – September 2013 and April – December 2013 and the improvements that had been achieved. Reference was made in particular to the data which had been forthcoming from the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ). The Designated Nurse stressed the positive contribution played by the performance data in the health assessments of Looked After Children and in informing their requirements. In response to query from the Chairman regarding the inclusion of data on the immunisation of Looked After Children the Designated Nurse explained the historical reasons for its absence from her report and the measures she was taking to draw the data together in a spread sheet format. She added that she was unable to express full confidence regarding the accuracy of the data because of the manner in which it was stored and extracted.

Further discussion followed as Members sought clarification on various issues including the possible duplication of the initial health assessment work undertaken for Looked After Children. In response the Designated Nurse stated that the Bedfordshire and Luton Clinical Commissioning Groups were aware of the need to review the health assessment procedure and the Commissioning Manager was currently examining what improvements were required.

Following a request by the Panel the Designated Nurse undertook to ensure that future reports contained a full explanation of the acronyms used.

NOTED

the content of the six monthly update on the health of Looked After Children.

CPP/13/40

Quarter Three Report on the Fostering Service - October to December 2013

The Panel received a report by the Deputy Chief Executive/Director of Children's Services which outlined activity in the Fostering Service during Quarter Three (October to December 2013) with a comparison to previous quarters.

The report contained updates on the following areas:

- Background
- Recruitment of Foster Carers
- Training for Foster Carers
- Key Events and Advertising
- Ending of the Shared Service Arrangement

The Assistant Director Children's Services Operations informed the meeting that, following the end of the joint service arrangement on 31 December, the report covered the final period during which the Fostering Service was a shared service with Bedford Borough Council. Members noted that the disaggregation process itself had been successful with the related staff moves and reallocation of foster carers being carried out without loss of service provision.

The Assistant Director Children's Services Operations stated that, as a result of the disaggregation and in view of the volume of fostering cases to be heard, Central Bedfordshire and Bedford Borough Councils had introduced their own, separate, Fostering Panels. However, because of the lower overall number of adoption cases the Councils had retained a single, 'shared', Adoption Panel.

In response to Member's query on what, if any seasonal impact took place on foster carer recruitment the Interim Head of Service for Adoption and Fostering stated that family orientated times of year, such as Christmas and the summer holidays, generated a larger number of initial inquiries. However, the level of follow through from enquiries at Christmas was low. He added that the general level of response for the remainder of the year was unpredictable.

Further discussion then took place on the recruitment of foster carers. The foster carer representative present stressed the need to target the recruitment of younger people to become carers and referred to the perceived association of foster caring with older people. In response the Assistant Director Children's Services Operations acknowledged the need to increase the number of younger foster carers and stated that he had taken note of the comments made.

NOTED

the content of the Quarter Three report on the Fostering Service for the period October to December 2013.

(Note: The meeting commenced at 11.00 a.m. and concluded at 1.26 p.m.)

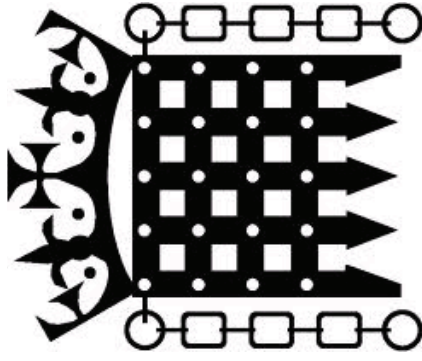


APPENDIX A

Entitlements Inquiry for looked after children and care leavers 2013

Children in Care Council report to
Corporate Parenting Panel

Entitlements Inquiry for looked after children and care leavers 2013



MP Craig Whittaker, wrote to Central Bedfordshire and asked for feedback from children and young people about their entitlements.



Entitlements Inquiry for looked after children and care leavers 2013

Using our peer mentoring scheme some of us spoke to young people during the participation summer activities and collected feedback.

The CiCC then sent the feedback to the All Parliamentary Group (APPG).



Entitlements Inquiry for looked after children and care leavers 2013



The feedback was collected and the APPG wrote up the 10 most important entitlements which they then sent back to us.

The CiCC presented these at Corporate Parenting Panel and asked

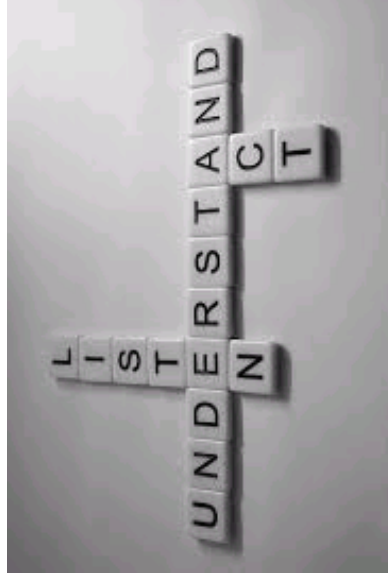
"As Corporate Parents, how will you ensure young people are receiving the entitlements they are due to receive as a looked after child or care leaver?"

- Lead members suggested actions such as
- To undertake independent checks to ensure young people are receiving their entitlements.
- Independent Reviewing Officers to discuss entitlements with children during their reviews.

We took these recommendations to share at our meeting at the House of Commons.

Entitlements Inquiry for looked after children and care leavers 2013

12th November we attended the House of Commons to hear the full Entitlements report and speak directly to Edward Timpson – Minister for Children in Care and Chair to the APPG meetings.



We also were able to ask Edward Timpson questions directly about our own experiences which he answered to us as individuals.

Entitlements Inquiry for looked after children and care leavers 2013



The CiCC are driven to empower looked after children and care leavers to have knowledge about their entitlements and how to challenge professionals if they are not receiving what they should be.

To ensure changes were made the CiCC attended the Senior Management Team Meeting (SMT) to share their findings and discuss how will we make positive change.

Entitlements Inquiry for looked after children and care leavers 2013



We presented our findings to Senior Management Team meeting and asked senior managers to consider how they will act on the recommendations made.

Our Head of Corporate Parenting stated that young people will have their entitlements documented in their Pathway/Care Plans. By doing this all young people will be aware of their entitlements.

SMT will provide an update to the CiCC in March which will evidence how their actions have been implemented.



Entitlements Inquiry for looked after children and care leavers 2013



Thank you for meeting with us today.

Please ask us any questions...



APPENDIX B

Entitlement Inquiry for Looked After Children and Care Leavers

The following table represents the key findings and recommendations found from the National Entitlements Inquiry. The Actions were devised from Senior Management Team (SMT).

Findings	Recommendations	Action	Person(s) Responsible
<p>Looked after children and care leavers don't always know about their rights and entitlements. Only 29% of children in care and 17% of care leavers feel that they have all the information that they need.</p>	<p>Independent reviewing officers should report on whether young people know about their rights and entitlements. IRO managers should include this in their annual report to the Corporate Parenting Board.</p> <p>Children in care should be given the contact details of their advocacy agency at every review meeting in an accessible way.</p> <p>Ofsted to consider how information and evidence about looked after children and care leavers' receipt and awareness of legal entitlements could be retrieved and aggregated from the first year of the new inspections.</p>	<p>Independent Reviewing Officers to look at Entitlements and record them. This will go to Corporate Parenting.</p> <p>Independent Reviewing Officers to ensure that standard contact details of the advocacy agency are given at every review.</p>	<p>Head of Quality Assurance</p>
<p>Children and young people are not being told in the right way. They want to be told by their social workers or personal advisors, in person, and they want to have something written down so that they can check what they have been told. They don't want the responsibility of finding information out for themselves.</p>	<p>Statutory agencies should work together to produce a leaflet with best practice examples to be sent to all Children in Care Councils and lead members to support them to seek the views of children and young people in their own area about the best way to provide information about rights and entitlements.</p>	<p>Leaflet to be designed by the Children in Care Council showing examples of best practice. This will be sent to social workers and young people. CiCC to then liaise with Children with Disabilities and develop leaflet to meet the needs of young people under Ken Harvey's service.</p>	<p>Head of Children with Disabilities CiCC, and Participation Officer</p>

APPENDIX B

<p>There are particularly vulnerable groups among the looked after children population who struggle to understand information about rights and entitlements because it is not accessible to them.</p>	<p>Voluntary agencies should work together to produce a best practice guide for frontline workers on communicating complex information to children and young people with additional language, communication and learning needs. Department for Education to ensure information for frontline workers on entitlements is available on its website.</p>	<p>Workshop to be devised for social workers and personal advisors to inform workers of entitlements.</p>	<p>Head of Corporate Parenting</p>
<p>Where and when children and young people are told about their rights and entitlements are important. The length of time that someone has been in care and the age at which they entered care, as well as placement stability and instability, all impact on finding out and retaining information. 25% of children aged 5 to 9 know that they must have a care plan, compared to 68% of 10 to 15 year olds and 76% of 16 year olds and over.</p>	<p>Independent reviewing officers should report on whether young people know about their rights and entitlements. IRO managers should include this in their annual report to the Corporate Parenting Board. Children in care should be given the contact details of their advocacy agency at every review meeting in an accessible way. Care planning regulations should explicitly require social workers to share information about rights and entitlements regularly and not just on entry to care.</p>	<p>Independent Reviewing Officers to look at Entitlements and record them. This will go to Corporate Parenting. Independent Reviewing Officers to ensure that standard contact details of the advocacy agency are given at every review.</p>	<p>Head of Quality Assurance</p>

APPENDIX B

<p>Those who care for and work with children and young people do not have enough information about the rights and entitlements of looked after children and care leavers. Only 18% of professionals who work specifically with children in care said that they had all the information they need.</p>	<p>Government should set realistic and manageable maximum caseloads for social workers and personal advisors to ensure that they have enough time to spend regular and quality time with the children and young people on their caseload. Young people who are care experienced should be involved in delivering training in every local authority that focuses on communication and relationships so that professionals understand how to communicate information about rights and entitlements.</p>	<p>Caseloads to continue to be monitored.</p>	<p>Head of Corporate Parenting</p>
<p>Some children and young people aren't getting their entitlements. Only 50% of care leavers said that they had a pathway plan. Some know about their entitlements but aren't getting them. 12% of young people knew that they should have a pathway plan, but said that they didn't.</p>	<p>Lead members should review annually with their Children in Care Council whether there is enough accessible and relevant information about their entitlements.</p>	<p>Entitlements to be recorded into Pathway Plans and Care Plans. This is to be monitored for evidence.</p>	<p>Head of Corporate Parenting</p>

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APPENDIX C



Tony Keaveney
Assistant Director
Housing Services

Afzal Ahmed
Team Manager – 13+ Transition & Leaving
Care



Suitable Accommodation for Looked After Children and Care Leavers

Publications

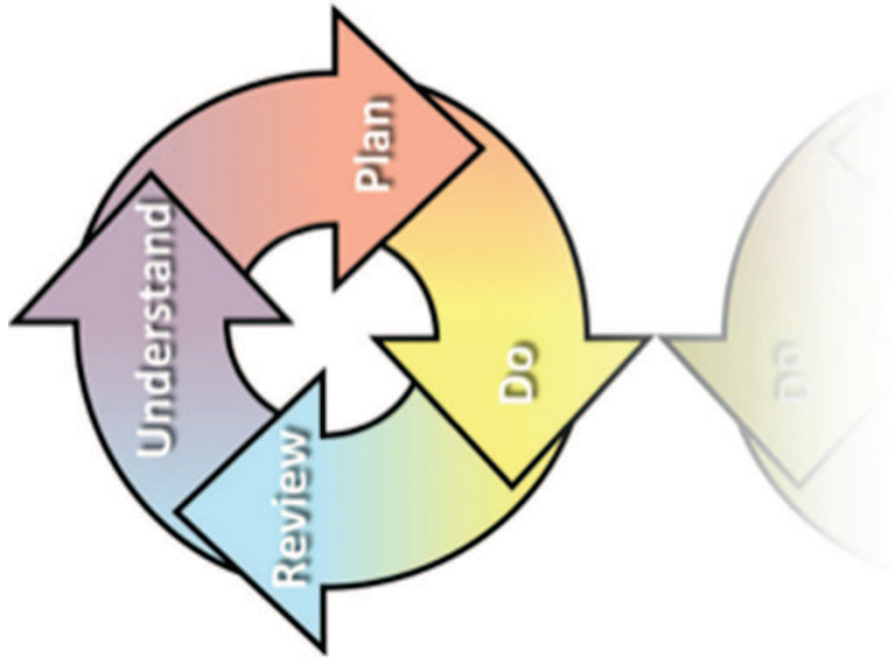


This statutory guidance provides clarification on the ‘sufficiency duty’ to secure sufficient accommodation to meet the needs of our looked after children. It is designed to guide us to:

- modify our commissioning practices to ensure we have sufficient local provision to meet the needs of our looked after children*
- ensure we have a strategic plan around commissioning placements for our looked-after children population.*

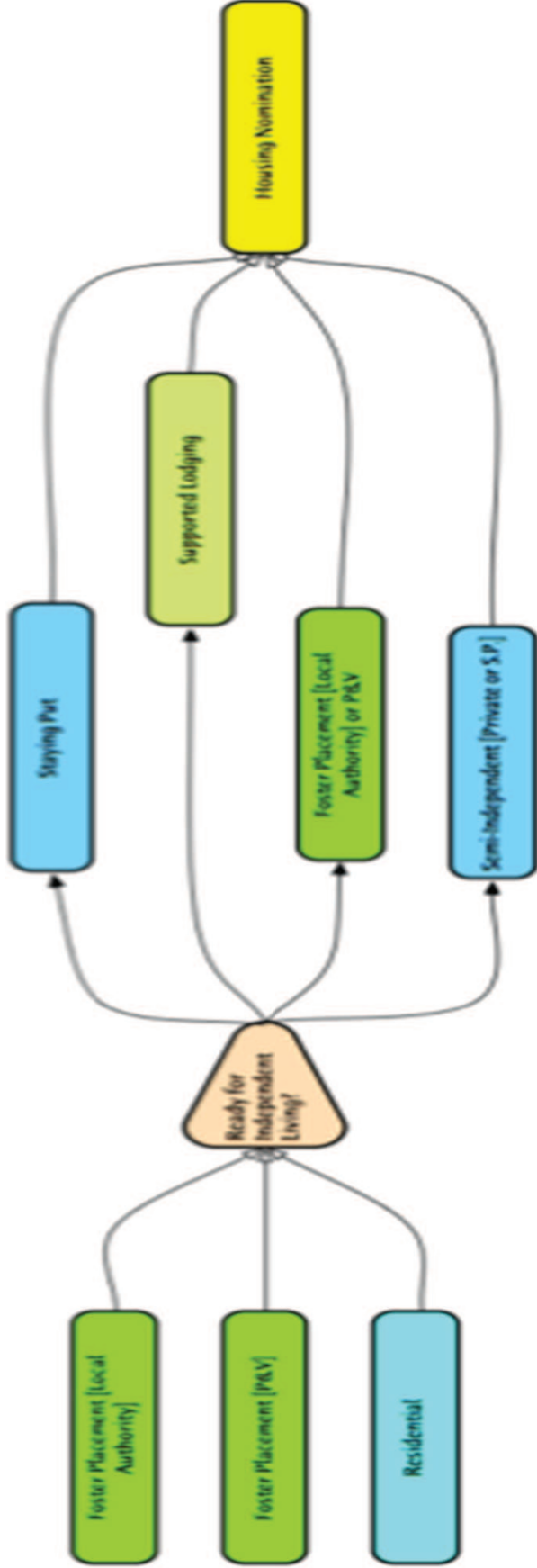


Analysing Needs & Gaps





Placement Pathways





Facts & Figures

- 85* looked after children [12-17]
- 40* young people aged 16-17
- 89 care leavers





Placement Destination for LAC 15-17 yr. olds*

Placement Type	15	16	17	Total
In-House FC	7	4	2	13
IFA	2	2	8	12
Children's Residential Home	3	4	3	10
Semi-Independent	0	2	8	10
Living with family	0	2	4	6
Missing	0	1	1	2
Total	12	15	26	53

* January 2014 [Does not include CWD - follow a different pathways]

What is suitable accommodation?

The logo for Central Bedfordshire, consisting of a green circle with the text "Central Bedfordshire" in white, stacked vertically.

**Central
Bedfordshire**

Care leavers were asked in a recent survey 'what do you think is suitable accommodation' ?*

- ***Safe [34%]***
- ***Location/Area [12%]***
- ***Support [12%]***
- ***Good State of Repair [9%]***
- ***Affordable/Cost [5%]***

Current Supported Housing Provision for Young People

The logo for Central Bedfordshire, consisting of a green circle with the text "Central Bedfordshire" in white, oriented vertically.

Signposts , Based in Dunstable – 36 units (of which approx 18 for YP). Only available to YP in the “south”

MayDay Trust , Based in Leighton Buzzard – 40 units

Beds Housing Link – 18 units – mixed sex and age up to 65

Floating support services – Tenant Liaison Service and Bromford Support – 300 units but only a handful used by YP

Needs estimates – how many units of support needed at any one time?



Care Leavers – 21 units of Accommodation Based Support, and 36 units of floating support

Homeless 16 and 17 year olds – 22 units of Accommodation Based Support and 23 units of floating support

Gap for young people – 29 units Accommodation Based, and 61 units floating

Core Socially Excluded gap – 78 units of Accommodation Based and 211 units floating

Access to social housing tenancies-:



Around 1000 lets per annum, and anyone can joint the register at 16.

New allocation policy will introduce quotas for vulnerable groups – ring-fenced access to allocations.

Challenge will be provision of support to prevent tenancy failure and establish independent homes that feel safe and secure.

Market Position Statement



**Central
Bedfordshire**

This will articulate the requirement for Young People, based on the needs estimates, and seek progress towards that provision being available.

Revenue funding for support will be sticking point – may require disinvestment in existing services.

We can ring-fence access to existing floating services and put support in place up-front.

*New possibilities –
Supported house shares – best use of stock
Key-ring schemes for people needing lower-level
support.*

What have we done?



- *Support for Success Panel.*
- *Increase setting up home allowance to £2,000.*
- *Development of Accredited Independent Life Skills Programme in Partnership with Youth Support Service.*
- *Develop further joint work with housing colleagues and independent providers*
- *Continue consultations with young people*

Support for Success Panel



- *Care Leavers & Looked After Children fulfill their potential into adulthood*
- *Meets Monthly*
- *Multi Agency – Key Partners*
- *Reduce the number of young people not in education, employment or training.*

Next Phase 6 Months



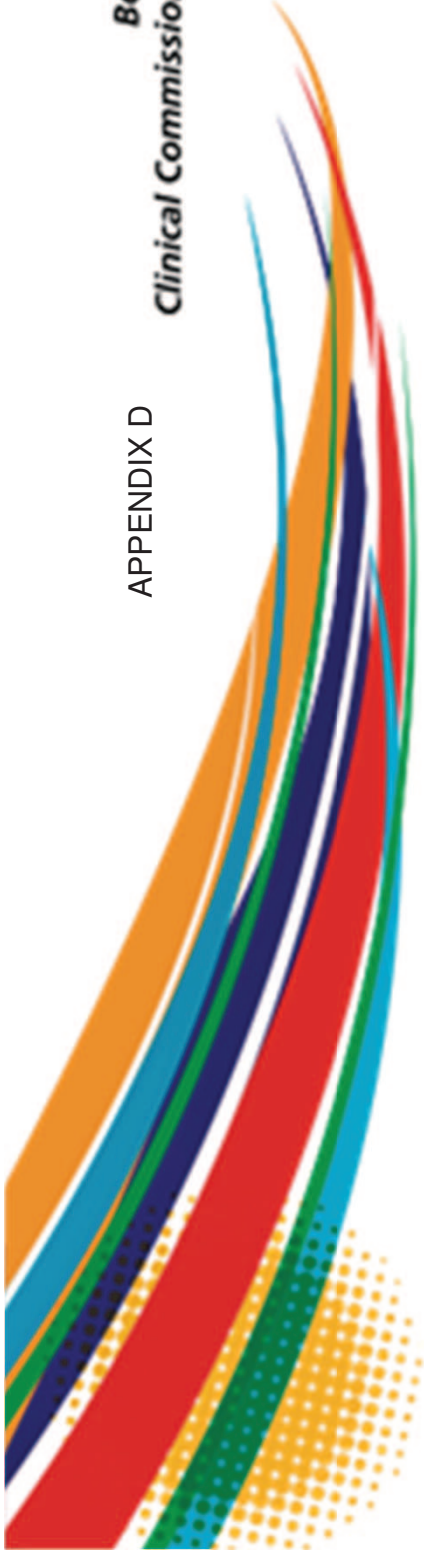
Central
Bedfordshire

- *Framework for Private Providers by 1/4/14*
- *Joint Housing Nomination Protocol by 1/4/14*
- *Develop CBC Housing Pathways for Care Leavers that meet their needs by 30/6/14*
- *Multi-agency & multi-disciplinary group to coordinate work by 1/5/14*

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APPENDIX D

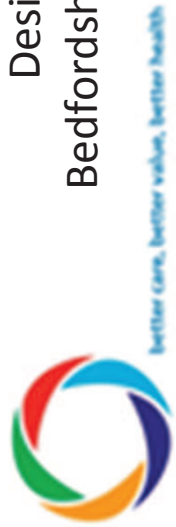
NHS
Bedfordshire
Clinical Commissioning Group



Looked After Children Health Update

January 2014

Catherine York
Designated Nurse for Looked After Children
Bedfordshire and Luton Clinical Commissioning Groups



Numbers of LAC

- March 2012 = 208
- March 2013 = 246
- January 2014 = 279

CBC Performance Team

Performance Data

	April – September 2013	April – December 2013
Review Health Assessments	89.9%	94.1 %
Dental Checks	92.9 %	94.1 %
SDQ	46.3 % of total cohort Average score = 14.7	74.2 % of total cohort Average score = 14.4
Immunisations	Now being recorded on CBC's IT system from the individual reports provided by SEPT, but not reported on the monthly performance report.	

Achievements

- SDQ Pathway developed and agreed
- External Review Action Plan developed and progressing
- LAC Health Strategy developed
- Audit of Health Assessment and pathway through to the subsequent Statutory Review
- Feedback from LAC and Foster Carers about their experience of their Health Assessments
- Briefing paper regarding LAC to all dentists and pharmacists in the BCCG area via Area Team
- Collection of LAC Health Data to be commenced – this will provide clear data of the identified health needs of CBC's LAC

Leaving Care Health Service

- Looked After Young People's Nurse Referral Pathways (16 year+) developed and agreed
- Leaving Care update provided to the LAC Health Group in November 2013
- Health Passport to in area LAC only
- Letter including contact and drop-in clinic details to all Out of Area Care Leavers
- Weekly drop-in clinics which can also be accessed by Out of Area Care Leavers
- RHAs for identified young people
- Specific, time limited work with individual young people as per the pathway

Out of Area LAC and Young People

Key Deliverable in the Practice Development Board LAC Health Work stream:

“All LAC placed out of area will experience the same level of service for their Health Assessments as those LAC placed in area”

Challenges increased due to change of the service commissioned in line with Ofsted/CQC recommendations and Statutory Guidance

Out of Area LAC and Young People

Difficulties experienced:

- Issues of Quality and time delays
- External health providers prioritise their own LAC
- Several Local Health Providers no longer taking referrals for RHAs so these are now being referred to the child/young person's registered GP (Hertfordshire, Luton, Cambridgeshire and Milton Keynes)

Out of Area LAC and Young People

Actions taken to mitigate risks:

- SEPT to BCCG Escalation procedure which includes raising concerns/issues with local Designated Professionals. Enables collation of the data to provide an overview and identification of problem areas. Does not result in immediate resolution.
- BCCG's Director of Quality and Nursing wrote to her counterpart in Northampton re issues of quality for 11 RHAs, which resulted in immediate action and resolution
- Identified on LAC Health Group and BCCG Risk Registers
- BCCG raised issues with Area Team
- BCCG have established funding for a 1 year fixed term nursing post to undertake these RHAs; SEPT need to recruit to this post