



## **Corporate Parenting Panel**

**Date**      **Friday 21 October 2022**

**Time**      **9.30 am**

**Venue**     **Committee Room 2, County Hall, Durham**

---

### **Business**

#### **Part A**

##### **Items which are open to the press and public**

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Substitute Members
3. Minutes of the meeting held on 30 September 2022  
(Pages 3 - 10)
4. Declarations of Interest
5. Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) - Presentation  
by the Practice Lead, Children in Care and Care Leavers Service  
(Pages 11 - 16)
6. Number of Children Looked After and Care Leavers - Verbal  
update from the Head of Early Help, Inclusion & Vulnerable  
Children
7. Ofsted Updates - Verbal update from the Head of Early Help,  
Inclusion & Vulnerable Children
8. Children in Care Council Activity - Facilitated by young people  
from the Children in Care Council
9. Proud Moments - Verbal update from the Strategic Manager
10. Aycliffe Secure Centre Update, including Maple House - Report of  
the Acting Centre Manager, Aycliffe Secure Centre  
(Pages 17 - 24)
11. Youth Justice Service - Report of the Youth Justice Service  
Manager, County Durham (Pages 25 - 34)
12. Transfer of Young People from Police Custody to Local Authority  
Accommodation - Report of the Youth Justice Service Manager,  
County Durham (Pages 35 - 44)

13. Review of the Independent Visitor Service - Report of the Independent Visitor Co-ordinator County Durham (Pages 45 - 56)
14. Research in Practice - Presentation by the Workforce Development Manager, Children and Young People's Services (Pages 57 - 60)
15. Such other business as, in the opinion of the Chair of the meeting, is of sufficient urgency to warrant consideration.
16. Any resolution relating to the exclusion of the public during the discussion of items containing exempt information.

### **Part B**

#### **Items during which it is considered the meeting will not be open to the public (consideration of exempt or confidential information)**

17. Regulation 44 Visits and Regulatory Body Ratings of Children's Residential Homes - Joint Report of the Practice Lead, Children in Care and Care Leavers Service and the Head of Early Help, Inclusion & Vulnerable Children (Pages 61 - 72)
18. Maple House - Aycliffe Secure Centre Transition Home - Presentation by the Acting Centre Manager, Aycliffe Secure Centre (Pages 73 - 76)
19. Such other business as, in the opinion of the Chair of the meeting, is of sufficient urgency to warrant consideration.

### **Helen Lynch**

Head of Legal and Democratic Services

County Hall  
Durham

13 October 2022

To: **The Members of the Corporate Parenting Panel:**

Councillor M Simmons (Chair)  
Councillor M Walton (Vice-Chair)

Councillors Adcock-Forster, C Bell, J Charlton, I Cochrane, B Coult, S Deinali, J Griffiths, O Gunn, T Henderson, C Hood, C Hunt, B Kellett, J Miller, I Roberts, K Robson, K Rooney, A Sterling, S Townsend and C Varty

**Co-opted Members:**

J Bell, C Brown, S Neale, W Taylor, R Upton, K Watson and R Woods and young persons representative of the Children in Care Council

---

**Contact: Jill Hogg**

**Tel: 03000 269 711**

---

## DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

At a **Meeting** of the **Corporate Parenting Panel** held in **Committee Room 2, County Hall, Durham** on **Friday 30 September 2022** at **9.30 am**

**Present:**

**Councillor M Simmons in the Chair**

**Members of the Panel:**

Councillors M Walton (Vice-Chair), R Adcock-Forster, J Charlton, B Coult, S Deinali, J Griffiths, T Henderson, P Jopling (substitute), J Miller, I Roberts, K Robson, K Rooney, A Sterling, S Townsend and C Varty

**Co-opted Members:**

J Bell, S Neale and W Taylor

**Also Present:**

Laura Armstrong – Professional Practice Manager  
Billie - Representing the Children in Care Council  
Sharon Davey – Strategic Manager (Looked After and Permanence)  
Jodie Henderson – Practice Lead, Children and Young People’s Service  
Robert Johnson – Project Manager, Investing in Children  
Gillian McNulty – Lawyer, Children, Adults and Health  
Lee Peacock – Participation and Engagement Officer  
Martyn Stenton – Head of Early Help, Inclusion and Vulnerable Children  
Bernadette Toomey – Practice Lead, Safeguarding  
Jayne Watson – Senior Partnerships Officer

### **1 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Councillors C Bell, I Cochrane and C Hunt and from Luke and officer, Laura Counce.

### **2 Substitute Members**

Councillor P Jopling substituted for Councillor C Hunt.

### **3 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 July 2022 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair. The following matters arising were reported.

- The Corporate Parenting induction refresher training was held virtually on 16 September 2022 and the presentation slides had been circulated to the Panel.

- The annual foster care update and the reasons for the increase in the number of young people entering care would be considered later in the meeting.
- A briefing note had been circulated on foster carer payments and an update on the relevant policies will be provided at the December meeting.
- The template for member profiles will be shared with the Panel in due course.
- Adoption marketing analysis relating to rurality will be incorporated into the adoption update report which will be presented to the Panel in December.
- The Corporate Parenting Panel Annual Report was presented to full Council on 21 September by Councillor Simmons accompanied by Luke, representing the Children in Care Council. The presentation was very well received.

#### **4 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

#### **5 Number of Children Looked After**

Martyn Stenton, Head of Early Help, Inclusion and Vulnerable Children informed the Panel that the current number of children looked after stood at 1,026, including 25 unaccompanied asylum seeking young people, 49 young people placed for adoption and 286 care leavers.

#### **6 Ofsted Updates**

The Panel noted that six inspections of children's homes had taken place during the period, with all but one being rated 'good' and one outcome was awaited. It was reported that the full inspection of Aycliffe Centre had started but due to the inspector taking ill, it had been halted temporarily. It is anticipated this will be completed soon, and feedback will be provided in due course.

#### **7 Children in Care Council (CiCC) Update**

Billie, representing the Children in Care Council delivered a presentation on activities during the summer (for copy of presentation see file of minutes). Highlights included the completion of the new edition of the CiCC newsletter and work with Independent Reviewing Officers on the Care Plan journey. The success of the Artstops project continues to attract an increasing number of participants and steps are being taken to expand the project's reach.

Billie spoke of a young person who is working with Durham Constabulary to build relationships with young people in children's homes. Robert Johnson, IIC Project Manager, informed the Panel that the hope is to extend the project and he spoke of how the work is proving beneficial for both the Constabulary and the young person involved. The Vice-Chair spoke anecdotally of very positive feedback on the impact of the young person.

Billie explained that the education fun fund is continuing to support young people to use pupil premium funding in creative ways to help with school work, learn new skills and achieve their goals.

Councillor Miller remarked on how much he had enjoyed the recent Children in Care Council meeting and he added that he would like Corporate Parenting Panel agendas to mirror the issues raised by the young people at the joint Children in Care Council / Corporate Parenting Panel meetings. Jodie Henderson, Practice Lead for Children and Young People's Services, agreed that Corporate Parenting Panel agendas should include items of business led by the young people themselves and also include items of business which provide assurance that the Panel is fulfilling its duties towards children looked after and care leavers. The Practice Lead advised that work is taking place to increase involvement in Children in Care Council meetings to ensure that they are representative of all children looked after in Durham.

## **8 Proud Moments**

The Practice Lead for Children and Young People's Services spoke of how immensely proud she was to see a positive change in a young person who had previously struggled to engage. The Panel heard that the young person was making a real effort to work with the Virtual School and participate in education and focus on a positive future.

The Practice Lead also praised a care leaver who showed great maturity and strength of character to achieve the housing accommodation outcome that she believed she deserved for herself and her child.

## **9 Performance Update**

The Panel considered a report and presentation of the Corporate Equality and Strategy Manager which provided information on performance during the first quarter of 22-23 (for copy of report and presentation see file of minutes).

The following additional information was provided in response to questions and comments from the Panel.

- All children looked after are provided with the full range of health screening available.
- Placements referred to as 'other' in the report included friends and family placements, NHS placements and a small number of unregulated placements.
- Whilst the number of young people in secure placements had increased, a number of those were welfare placements as opposed to criminal justice placements.
- Checks are carried out to ensure placements and accommodation meet the required standard to be deemed 'suitable accommodation'.
- A great deal of work had been carried out to reduce the amount of babies and younger children entering care. With reference to the increasing number of young people looked after in the 14-15 age cohort, the Panel noted that the pandemic had led to unprecedented challenges, with many young people struggling to cope with the pressures of lockdown.
- Whilst the data relating to placement stability showed an increase in placement moves, within that, there were positive outcomes as some young people had been supported to return to their families.
- Information is gathered on entry to care which is collated to inform emerging trends. Recent years had seen an increase in the number of children and young people with complex needs entering care.
- A total of 77 children accounted for 266 missing from home incidents, therefore some young people had multiple missing episodes.
- Referring to the high percentage of children aged 3 and 8 within the looked after cohort, health checks carried out at these developmental stages may account for this, when concerns are highlighted by professionals.

### **Resolved:**

That the report be noted.

## **10 Language Update**

The Head of Early Help, Inclusion and Vulnerable Children spoke of the commitment to children, young people and their families to use straightforward and family friendly language as outlined in the 'Language That Cares' document. The Panel formed groups to discuss words and phrases that may have negative connotations and considered the impact the words may have on a child or young person. The Panel discussed the use of 'victim-blaming' language which wrongly implies that a child or young person is responsible for abuse or crime they are subjected to.

The Panel felt strongly that this terminology should never be used. The Panel also discussed the challenges of negative perceptions of young people who find themselves involved in sexual / criminal activity, noting that they are often the victims of trauma and abuse.

Officers remarked on the improvements that had been observed since the introduction of the 'Language That Cares' document and reported that young people feel very passionate about the issue and have expressed that they would like to see their lived experiences recorded kindly, accurately and with compassion. When young people are accessing their records, they are supported by workers and offered help and support to understand what can often be difficult reading.

## **11 Supporting Solutions Update**

The Panel received the Supporting Solutions Update presented by Bernadette Toomey, Practice Lead for Safeguarding (for copy of report and presentation see file of minutes).

The Practice Lead referred to the intensive support offered to families and carers to prevent children and young people from entering care. An increase in younger children presenting on the edge of care had led to the establishment of a pilot scheme 'Edge of Care Minis', working with children aged 7-11. The service had also extended work with 16-17 year olds on the edge of homelessness. The Panel received details of the profiles of young people supported and the outcomes from 2021-22.

In response to a question from the Panel regarding the gender of victims of child exploitation, the Practice Lead acknowledged that there is work to be done locally and nationally to recognise that exploitation happens to males as well as females and that methods of exploitation were developing at a fast pace, alongside technological advances. The Panel heard that work is taking place with an expert from Durham University in order to understand the demographics of the county and a pilot scheme is being developed in the north of the county to look at work within communities to share intelligence.

In response to a question from the Panel as to the success of family group conferencing, the Practice Lead responded that it can be very successful as families, assisted by skilled facilitators, are empowered to develop their own plans and are encouraged to be open and honest with each other.

Referring to the 7% of young people who suffer adoption break down, the Practice Lead pointed out that this may happen when children become teenagers and the Panel heard that a great deal of work is done with adoptive families to prepare them for future challenges.

The Panel commended the work of the service.

**Resolved:**

That the report be noted.

## **12 Contextualised Safeguarding**

The Panel received a presentation on Contextualised Safeguarding presented by the Practice Lead for Safeguarding (for copy of presentation see file of minutes).

The Practice Lead explained that the Adolescent Safeguarding and Exploitation Team had been in operation since February 2022 and is currently working with 68 young people aged 14-18 who are victims of, or are at risk of exploitation. The Panel noted that work takes place with partners across communities in order to increase protection from harm. Targeted work is undertaken with children who go missing from care to ensure a timely response is provided.

The Panel noted the work to develop a safeguarding pilot in Stanley, working with the community to share information to enable the wider community to become a guardian. It is hoped that learning will be shared across other areas of the county in the future. Councillor Charlton, Member for Tanfield division expressed a wish to be involved in the pilot and asked how many referrals the service receives from the police and neighbourhood wardens. The Practice Lead responded that the highest number of referrals are from the Police. Councillor Sterling suggested that School Crossing Patrol staff could play an important role in the pilot as they are a useful resource in safeguarding work.

Co-opted Member Sarah Neale, Designated Nurse for Children in Care commented that she and her health colleagues would continue to link in with this piece of work. The Practice Lead advised that the work of the ERASE team enables information to be shared through their multiagency protocols, which is available for Police Community Support Officers to access.

## **13 Annual Report of Durham County Council's Fostering Service**

The Practice Lead for Children and Young People's Services presented Durham County Council's Fostering Service Annual Report (for copy of report and presentation see file of minutes).

The Practice Lead referred to the increasing difficulties, locally and nationally, of recruiting and retaining foster carers and spoke of the work being done to provide an even distribution of foster carers throughout the county with targeted campaigns underway for foster carers for teenagers, children with disabilities and family groups.

The Practice Lead explained the service had developed a Mockingbird fostering hub, to build a fostering family, with an experienced foster carer providing support to the other foster carers within the fostering hub family. This benefits placement stability through providing peer support, respite time and regular social activities. A Mockingbird event was to take place on Saturday 1 October, at which the young people would share their initial experiences.

In response to a question as to how the hub foster carer was selected, the Practice Lead clarified that the role was advertised and is salaried. The successful candidate is trained to perform additional duties and responsibilities and to provide support to other foster carers and young people. In response to a further question as to whether the model is available to independent foster carers, the Practice Lead responded that the model is in its early stages and therefore is focusing on Durham County Council foster carers initially, however, should independent fostering agencies wish to set-up their own model, they are able to do so. Members praised the model commenting that it recognised foster parents face the same challenges as all parents and that it has the potential to have a positive impact on attracting and retaining foster carers.

**Resolved:**

That the report be noted.

**14 Exclusion of the public**

**Resolved:**

That under Section 100(a)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely discussion of exempt information as defined in paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

**15 Regulation 44 Visits and Regulatory Body Ratings of Children's Residential Homes**

The Panel considered the monthly update on Regulation 44 visits and regulatory body ratings (for copy of report see file of minutes).

**Resolved:**

That the report be noted.

This page is intentionally left blank

# Children in Our Care

## Supporting Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC)



# Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Child

Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) are children and young people who have travelled to the UK, usually alone and are seeking asylum in the UK.

They come from lots of different countries and most (if not all) have been exposed to exploitation and abuse before and during their journey to the UK.

When they come to the attention of UK authorities they become Children in Care.



# In Durham

- We currently have 31 UASC young people who are cared for within the Children In Our Care services
- They are mostly boys aged between 15 and 17
- In 2022, we have had 5 spontaneous arrivals
- We currently have 20 UASC Care Leavers who are supported by our care leaving service
- We currently have 23 outstanding NTS referrals

# What's working well

- We are developing social inclusion opportunities for your UASC young people such as a monthly football club, access to Independent Visitors and the use of the VCS Alliance Team to find community based activities/groups for young people based on their interests
- We are promoting advocacy services such as NYAS and the Refugee Council to provide independent advice/guidance for UASC young people
- We ensure that UASC young people are supported to access an asylum solicitor
- We have procured the use of two Translating Services to allow easy access to translators
- We are quick to support UASC young people into education where they have the opportunity to socialise and meet others. The Virtual School have a designated case worker who solely focuses on UASC cases



This page is intentionally left blank

**Corporate Parenting Panel**

**21 October 2022**

**Aycliffe Secure Centre - Annual Update**



---

**Report of Ann Haigh Acting Centre Manager, Aycliffe Secure Centre, Durham County Council**

**Electoral division(s) affected:**

Countywide

**Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of the report is to update members on the progress, development and priorities of Aycliffe Secure Centre since the last annual review on 28 February 2020. The reason for the longer reporting time is due to the restrictions and impact of the Covid19 pandemic.

**Executive summary**

2. The centre has continued to develop its service and resources, despite facing the impact of the Covid19 pandemic. Including fully implementing the SECURE STAIRS framework across the whole centre, rolling out the electronic case file system ClearCare and the building and development of Maple House – transitions home.
3. Recruitment and retention of staff has been exceptionally challenging over this period and remains a high priority for the senior management team.
4. Maintaining the physical environment and infra-structure has been undertaken over this period and an action plan is in place to continually improve it.

**Recommendations**

5. The Corporate Parenting Panel are recommended to note the content of this report and the progress made at the centre over the last two years.

## Background

6. Aycliffe Secure Centre is currently registered to care and educate up to 38 vulnerable and complex young people. Aycliffe is the largest secure children's home nationally. The centre cares for up to 8 young people referred by the Youth Custody Service (YCS) Placements Team following being remanded or sentenced. The other young people are accommodated for their own or others' safety under Section 25 of the Children Act 1989 (known as welfare placements) and are commissioned by local authorities. We can also care for young people placed under the Concordat, which prevents the detention of children in police stations following charge.
7. Local authorities across the country refer young people via the national Secure Welfare Hub and typically there have been fewer requests from our local area. However, over the last two years we have had a significant increase of young people being placed with us from both Durham County Council as well as neighbouring authorities.
8. Aycliffe Centre has five houses (Durham, Lumley, Auckland, Walworth, and Barnard), which are made to feel as homely as possible within the parameters of a secure setting. Young people are able to personalise their bedrooms and have a say in the decoration and furnishing within the home. Individual young people are matched to move into one of these houses using the information we have about them in order to ensure the "best fit". We always have an all-female and an all-male house and then other three are dependent on need.
9. There is a well-equipped school offering a broad curriculum which is both academic and vocational. The facilities in school are set over two floors in which more practical lessons are undertaken on the ground floor, including Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM), Motor Vehicle studies, Health and Beauty, Art and Design, Catering and Music. On the upper floor there is ICT, Health and Social Care, PHSE, Maths, English as well as a Library and exam room. The young people are educated in their house group but engage in differentiated learning. Some young people have bespoke 1:1 education plans in school and on the houses until they are able to work within a group setting.
10. There are extensive indoor and outdoor leisure areas in the centre for the young people. This includes play courts, gardens, Astro court, horticulture, and park areas, running track as well as indoor sports hall, exercise gym and training swimming pool.
11. The rest of the facilities includes visitors' areas and meetings rooms within the secure perimeter so that young people can see their families and professionals as well as attend their meetings. There are staff offices, facilities, and maintenances areas as well a central kitchen and laundry,

## Context

12. During this period the centre continued to face significant challenges due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. This has undoubtedly impacted

operationally and meant the centre has had to identify new ways of working in response to both the pandemic and changes within local/national legislation. Whilst still maintaining a safe environment in which young people are supported to grow and achieve. In Autumn 2021 there were extreme pressure on the centre due to high levels of absenteeism under “Track and Trace” as well as high staffing vacancies and other absenteeism. The impact of entering the third lockdown over the Christmas (2022) period presented additional challenge. In the early part of 2022, the centre experienced a significant rise in Covid-19 absence due to both positive tests and periods of isolation. However, this figure has trended downwards of late, with Covid-19 related absence at a minimum.

### **Inspection Framework**

13. Secure Childress Homes are inspected twice annually by Ofsted and the CQC. There is a Key (full) inspection in which all aspects of the centre are inspected, and a judgement grading is given. The Interim inspection reviews any requirement and recommendations from the previous key inspection as well as looking into key lines of enquiry. These are unannounced in nature and so continuous monitoring, matching against the Children’s Homes Regulations including the quality standards 2015 is required, to ensure that the centre is always inspection ready.
14. In April 2021 Aycliffe Centre had its Key Inspection and was judged as Overall **OUTSTANDING**. The individual grading measured against the inspection framework were.
  - a. Overall experiences and progress of children and young people – **OUTSTANDING**
  - b. Children’s education and learning – **GOOD**
  - c. Children’s health - **OUTSTANDING**
  - d. How well children and young people are helped and protected – **OUTSTANDING**
  - e. The effectiveness of leaders and managers – **OUTSTANDING**

With the overarching statement,

“The secure children’s home provides highly effective services that consistently exceed the standards of good. The actions of the children’s home contribute to significantly improved outcomes and positive experience for children and young people who need help, protection, and care.”

15. In November 2021 the centre had an assurance visit (as interim inspection were replaced with these due to the restrictions of Covid 19) and received the judgement of **SUSTAINED EFFECTIVENESS**.
16. At the time of preparing this report the latest inspection had commenced and updates will be provided to the Panel.
17. In November 2021 Ofsted undertook their Triannual Inspection of the Buildings and Premises. This is in order to establish that Aycliffe Centre has

maintained its registration as being fit for purpose - as a secure children's home. It highlighted a number of requirements including aspects of building repairs and maintenance and also aspects of upgrade of the centre infrastructure. This included external weathering of the building which could not be undertaken during the Covid 19 period due to contracting issue and restrictions. There is an action plan in place which is reviewed on a bi-monthly basis. We have also applied to the Department for Education (DfE) for grant funding for CCTV upgrade and Locks replacements and servicing – which has recently been agreed. We have also applied for Capital Funding from DCC for some other key areas of repair and refurbishment.

18. Alongside the Ofsted Inspection Framework we have regular monitoring meetings with the Youth Custody Service (YCS) which includes both contractual scrutiny and also thematic or responsive reviews.

### **Philosophy**

19. The model of care and culture within the centre is that of “Exceptional Parenting”. This is underpinned by Trauma Informed Care. Aycliffe centre has fully embraced the “Framework of Integrated Care for Children and Young People living in secure environment, SECURE STAIRS”. This offers the highest level of training and support, building resilience and psychologically informed staff so that they are supported in caring for our vulnerable and complex young people.
20. Aycliffe Centre was heavily involved in the National Anna Freud Research Team who have evaluated the SECURE STAIRS implementation and its outcomes, across the secure estate.

### **Service Priorities and Progress over this reporting period.**

21. Aycliffe centre continued to provide a Covid-19 safe environment for everyone living, working, and visiting the centre.
22. We moved to Hybrid working arrangements for those this was relevant for with team agreements put in place. Including the upgraded technology within meeting rooms. This is being used successfully for internal and external meetings e.g., partnership and Multi Agency Team Around the Child meetings.
23. Due to managing the impact of Covid 19 over this period we had to consolidate our people resources and also reduce the “foot fall” into the centre so Auckland House was temporarily “moth balled”. The re-opening of Auckland House was delayed due to a third national lockdown and high staffing vacancies and absenteeism. However, we used this home as base whilst kitchens and bathrooms were refurbished which has provided an opportunity for improvements to be completed ahead of schedule. As a result, there has been minimal impact to young people while this work has been undertaken. Auckland House was re-opened on the 20th of June 2022.

24. Ongoing development of the Recruitment & Retention Strategy has been a key priority for the senior management team and remains a high priority due to recruitment requirements and challenges.
25. The continuation of being part of the SECURE STAIRS national evaluation project with the final evaluation being published in Spring 2022. The SECURE STAIRS framework continued to be rolled out across all service areas. – The national pilot was completed by end of March 2022. Work was then underway with national leads to determine “cluster” homes to continue from shared learning of practices and developments. Fundamentally however, SECURE STAIRS is fully embedded within the centre and our second annual review is to take place in October 2022.
26. In order to achieve the above, the roll out of National SECURE STAIRS 5-day trauma informed care training programme (Level 3 NCFE accreditation). The commencement of the 5-day training programme started in October 2020 and to date approximately 140 people have attended. Alongside core staff undertaking the 5-day programme, a large proportion of support staff have attended module 1 of the training. In the spirit of SECURE STAIRS being a holistic framework of integrated care, this increases awareness across the entire centre. Thus, being able to follow the philosophy of every interaction counts.
27. The continuation of the ongoing work around least restrictive practices. Initial findings have been shared and as a next step this has been broadened out to include wider representation from across the centre.
28. Progression of the sleep/Fitbit project has been undertaken. The initial pilot has been completed and a second home is being piloted. Information gathered has already been used to inform change in both physical and psychological practice and this will remain an ongoing area of work.
29. Continuation with ongoing developments to further embed the Health Care Standards in the centre has been prioritised in order to meet the CQC inspection framework. The multi-agency team continues to further develop these standards and are currently working on a Health Promotion Strategy for the centre.
30. There has been further review and development of Durham House. In discussion with the Secure Welfare Hub and the centre’s multi-agency team, Durham House has been identified as a Home that will care for children who have complexities including neurodiversity, trauma experiences and high levels of emotional dysregulation. The centre is exploring further training for the staff in Positive Behavioural Support (PBS) programmes.
31. The centres system of communication and alarm (via a Bosch handset) had become outdated and needed replacement. A new radio system was procured and the decision to hard wire in beacons rather than the original proposal of battery ensured minimum maintenance. The system was tested in April 2022 with the ‘Go live’ in June 2022.
32. A vast amount of work to update and improve the physical environment and living and learning experiences of the young people has taken place over this

period of time. This includes completion of horticultural and park area. Replacement of Barnard and Walworth Kitchens. Replacement and redecoration of all the bathrooms including flooring have been replaced. Refurbishment of Catering and Music Classrooms. The Music room has undergone a full redesign and refit of all furniture in the room. This was undertaken to allow for a better layout and more functionality.

33. The centre registered for the Better Health at Work Award and achieved the BRONZE level in February 2022. We are now at the early stages of working towards the next level of Silver.
34. Seeking opportunities to create ways to celebrate achievements and promote the voice of both the adults and young people in the centre are essential to both build a culture of value and belonging as well as acknowledging individual successes.
35. Continued development of the young people's participation workstream has given young people greater voice in their care plans and developments in the centre. It echoes the culture of "No decision about me without me."
36. Development of the centre's Strategic Plan April 2022 – March 2025 has been undertaken in a collaborative and inclusive manner with the whole centre.
37. The centre has registered to undertake the Enabling Environments award; this will be over a three-year period. The development of an action plan for EE has started with data being gathered from service areas within the centre to seek the views of the workforce. Prior to the development of a formal action plan, further consultation with the EE consultant will take place along with support for corporate HR.

### **New Developments**

38. Maple House transition home - It is acknowledged nationally that there is a shortfall of community placements that can meet the needs of some of our young people who leave secure accommodation. The centre reviewed the outcomes for some young people who succeeded in the secure environment but then struggled once living in the community placements. The concept of the transitions home became a possible solution for some of these young people - seen as a steppingstone into the wider community. The project was developed and supported by some DfE funding and the premisses has been converted and extended from the "old" step down unit. It is due to open in November 2022.
39. The centre procured a new I.T. System in December 2020 - ClearCare case management system. A working group was developed in place to oversee progress of the project. Roll-out of Phase 1 of ClearCare system –took place in Mid-November 2021 to early December 2021 and saw the implementation of ClearCare in all homes and education. The culmination of a long-term project has seen care management recording move from paper-based systems to electronic. All centre staff have received training, and ongoing support and training is available upon request. The project is ongoing with plans to further expand what is undertaken on ClearCare once the current processes are embedded.

## **Conclusion**

40. Aycliffe Secure Centre has had a very challenging two years but has both continued to offer a high level of care and education for our young people and has also further developed resources, service, practice and environment within it.

## **Background papers**

### **Author**

Ann Haigh

Tel: 03000 262 286

---

## **Appendix 1: Implications**

---

### **Legal Implications**

None

### **Finance**

The centre continues to bid for DfE funding to improve the physical environment

### **Consultation**

None

### **Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty**

None

### **Climate Change**

None

### **Human Rights**

None

### **Crime and Disorder**

None

### **Staffing**

The centre is currently recruiting Residential Workers and Senior Residential Workers

### **Accommodation**

None

### **Risk**

None

### **Procurement**

None

## Corporate Parenting Panel

21 October 2022

### Youth Justice Service Update (Looked After Young People in the Youth Justice System, and First Time Entrants to the Youth Justice System)



## Report of Dave Summers, County Durham Youth Justice Service Manager

### Electoral division(s) affected:

Countywide

### Purpose of the Report

- 1 This report provides an update on the work of County Durham Youth Justice Service (CDYJS), with a focus on young people who are looked after by the Local Authority and our work to prevent young people from entering the youth justice system for the first time.

### Executive summary

- 2 CDYJS supervises all young people sentenced by the courts, all young people receiving a police caution and all young people remanded in secure accommodation awaiting trial/sentence. In addition, CDYJS also operates a Triage process and a Pre-Caution Disposal process which provide police officers with an alternative to 'formal' police action. All young people falling into any of these categories (with the exception of Triage) are fully assessed to ascertain their risks of reoffending and/or harm to others and their needs. An intervention plan is then produced which, in the case of young people looked after, is developed and delivered in partnership with colleagues in Children's Social Care and elsewhere.
- 3 On average, around **13%** of the cohort of young people supervised by CDYJS are looked after. At the end of September 2022, that amounted to **20** young people out of a total cohort of **157**.
- 4 'First Time Entrant' (FTE) refers to those young people receiving a caution or conviction for the first time. The latest available data shows **58** young people becoming an FTE in 2021/22. This is a rate of **125** per

100,000 10-17 year olds. This compares with an England average rate of **154**.

## **Recommendations**

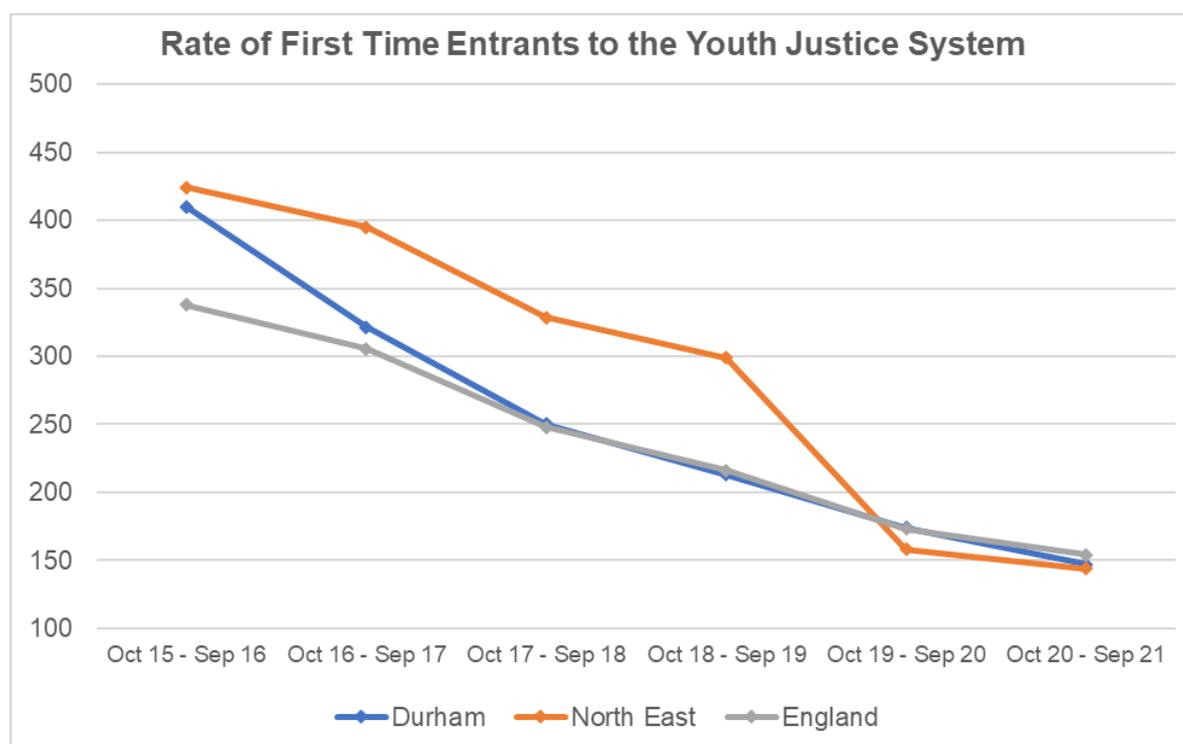
- 5 Corporate Parenting Panel is recommended to:
  - (a) Note the content of this report

## Background

6 County Durham Youth Justice Service (CDYJS), a statutory multi-agency partnership, is part of Children and Young People's Services, Durham County Council, and is managed by them on behalf of the partnership. A range of agencies second or deploy staff to CDYJS, these are:

- Durham County Council
- Durham Constabulary
- Probation Service
- Tees, Esk & Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust (Funded by ICB)
- Harrogate & District NHS Foundation Trust (Funded by Public Health)
- Humankind (Funded by Public Health)
- North Tees & Hartlepool Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (Funded by ICB).

7 Since 2015 we have achieved a **65% reduction** in first time entrants to the youth justice system. The latest available locally sourced data shows 58 young people entering the Youth Justice System in 2021/22 at a rate of 125 per 100 000 10-17 year olds.



8 In order to ensure continued improvement in performance in respect of first-time entrants to the youth justice system we have:

- Developed and introduced the VISIT Programme (Early intervention programme for children who come to the attention of the Police for violence for the first time). The programme was funded by the Youth Endowment Fund.
- Introduced a new assessment document and process that allows us to collate data on young people who offend
- Introduced a Triage intervention as a further alternative to caution/prosecution for police officers to refer young people to.
- Embedded a decision making panel, with Durham Constabulary, for out of court decision making involving a community member
- Developed a suit of intervention programmes that can be delivered either in-person or remotely
- Ensured greater coordination between 'on-street' restorative approaches by police and CDYJS interventions

9 CDYJS takes the view that whilst diversion from caution or prosecution of young people, when appropriate, is the preferred option; this can only be justified if there is a meaningful intervention, by CDYJS and other agencies working together with the young person which aims to reduce the risk of reoffending. Therefore, CDYJS provides the Pre-Caution Disposal (PCD), under which a full assessment of the young person is undertaken, and an intervention programme implemented. Currently, around 75% of young people receiving a PCD do not go on to reoffend

### Young People Looked After

- 10 Currently, 13% of the cohort of young people supervised by CDYJS are young people who are looked after. These include young people who become looked after because of their involvement with the youth justice system through being remanded to youth detention accommodation (secure) whilst awaiting trial or sentence.
- 11 During 2021 – 2022, Remand bed nights (Remands to Youth Detention Accommodation) at **5 nights** (3 young people) saw a **94.6% decrease** on the previous year. Each case where a young person was remanded to youth detention, has been reviewed and in all cases the remand to youth detention was considered appropriate due, mostly, to the seriousness of the offences but also due to the offending history of the young person.
- 12 Case Managers from CDYJS, including Social Workers, assess and plan in respect of young people, jointly with colleagues from Children's Social Care and other agencies when a young person is looked after.

The aim of joint planning is to ensure that decisions taken in respect of the care of a young person, in a looked after review for example, consider the impact that decision may have on the risk of reoffending and to ensure that the care needs of looked after young people are given full consideration in sentence planning.

- 13 We are currently undertaking a quality audit/review, jointly with colleagues in Children's Social Care and lead by a researcher from Cardiff University, of our work in respect of young people who are looked after to ensure that they are not unnecessarily criminalised for their behaviour compared to young people who are not looked after.

## **Conclusion**

- 14 Performance in respect of First Time Entrants to the youth justice system continues to show a positive picture as the reduction in FTEs is alongside a reduction in all offences committed by young people. The impact of a criminal record on the prospects of a young person, should not be under-estimated and is never positive. The aim of our work to reduce first time entrants is to ensure that only those young people for whom there is no acceptable alternative (due to the seriousness of the offence and/or offending history) are those who are cautioned or prosecuted at court.

## **Author**

Dave Summers

Tel: 03000 265999

---

## **Appendix 1: Implications**

---

### **Legal Implications**

None

### **Finance**

None

### **Consultation**

None

### **Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty**

None

### **Climate Change**

None

### **Human Rights**

None

### **Crime and Disorder**

The statutory duty of County Durham Youth Justice Service is to prevent offending by children and young people.

### **Staffing**

None

### **Accommodation**

None

### **Risk**

None

### **Procurement**

None

# County Durham Youth Justice Service: First Time Entrants and Children Looked After

Dave Summers

Manager

County Durham Youth Justice Service



# First Time Entrants

- **58** young people (2021/22)
- Rate = **125** per 100,000 (10-17)
- National Average Rate = **154**
- **65%** reduction since 2015
- **75%** of young people kept out of YJ system do not reoffend

## Developments

- VISIT Programme
- New assessment
- 'Triage' intervention
- Decision making panel

# Children Looked After

- **13%** of CDYJS cohort are Children Looked After (20/157)
- Remand 'Bed Nights': **5** nights (3 Young People), **95%** reduction
- Joint planning: impact on risk of reoffending & care needs considered
- Criminalisation of Children in Care: Research (Cardiff University)

This page is intentionally left blank

**Corporate Parenting Panel**

21 October 2022

**Transfer of Young People from Police  
Custody to Local Authority  
Accommodation under Police &  
Criminal Evidence Act 1984****Report of Dave Summers, County Durham Youth Justice Service  
Manager****Electoral division(s) affected:**

Countywide

**Purpose of the Report**

- 1 This report provides an update on the work undertaken to refresh the procedures and approach to the transfer of young people, charged by Police and detained pending court, within County Durham. This work has been undertaken alongside colleagues from Durham Constabulary, Children's Social Care and Aycliffe Secure Children's Home (SCH).

**Executive summary**

- 2 The Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 requires the transfer of children who have been charged and denied bail, pending their first court hearing, to more appropriate Local Authority accommodation, with a related duty in the Children Act 1989 for Local Authorities to accept these transfers. Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 requires both police and Local Authorities to have regard to the welfare and protection of children, and in 1991 the UK ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, agreeing that custody be used "only as a measure of last resort and for the shortest appropriate period of time".
- 3 As is evident, this duty has been required of the Police and Local Authority for many years, however, nationally, there was a considerably varied approach to meeting these demands and they were ignored in most areas of the country. However, in County Durham, the first protocol between DCC and Durham Constabulary was agreed and enacted in 2002, which placed County Durham in the forefront of practice in this area. In 2014, in an effort to improve practice across the country, the Home Office published '*A Concordat on Children in Custody: Preventing the Detention of Children in Police Stations*'

*Following Charge'* which sought, through explicit principles, aims and processes, to ensure consistent and improved practice. Both Durham Constabulary and DCC are signatories to this concordat.

- 4 In County Durham, the procedures were, initially, well used in appropriate circumstances, however, over the last few years their use declined, resulting in young people being detained in police stations rather than being held in more appropriate accommodation. As a result, it was agreed, in autumn 2021, that the procedures would be reviewed, refreshed and re-launched.
- 5 Between January 2020 and November 2021, Durham Constabulary made eight requests to DCC for the transfer of young people under our procedures. Two of those requests were met by DCC, the remaining young people being held in police custody until their court hearing. Since November 2021, and the work to refresh the procedures, there have been 28 requests made by Police and 20 have resulted in an agreement as to appropriate accommodation.

## **Recommendations**

- 6 Corporate Parenting Panel is recommended to:
  - (a) Note the content of this report
  - (b) Receive further updates annually.

## Background

- 7 Under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984, the detention of a child in Police custody, after charge and whilst awaiting their first court hearing, is permissible only where exceptional circumstances prevent movement (such as extreme weather conditions) or where the child is deemed to pose a risk of serious harm to the public between being charged and appearing at court and no Local Authority secure accommodation is available.
- 8 Once a Custody Officer has determined that a child is to be charged and detained pending their appearance at court, they must decide whether the child poses 'an imminent risk of serious harm to the public'. If it is decided this applies to the child, then they must request the Local Authority accommodate the child, until the court hearing, in secure accommodation. If the Local Authority is unable to identify any available secure accommodation (or it is 'impracticable' to transfer), then the Police may detain the child in Police custody. If the Custody Officer decides that the child does not pose an imminent risk of serious harm, then they must request the Local Authority accommodate the child in 'none-secure accommodation'.
- 9 As mentioned above, compliance with the procedures was poor and it appeared that in many of these cases the failure to comply with stemmed from confusion as to its requirements. Custody officers were often not clear as to whether they should request secure accommodation or not, and sometimes interpreted the Police and Criminal Evidence Act's use of the term 'impracticable' as meaning 'difficult' or 'inconvenient'. Local Authority staff were often not aware of their absolute legal duty to provide accommodation and often believe that a lack of available space in children's homes justified leaving a child in a police cell.
- 10 A small working group was formed comprising of managers from Police, CDYJS, Emergency Duty Team and Aycliffe SCH to review the procedures in County Durham and to consider any amendments required and re-launch. Agreements between Durham Constabulary and DCC were 're-visited' and it was ensured that all parties understood the statutory requirements placed upon them. Joint training and shared management meetings between all parties have either been held, or are planned, and there is now joint monitoring of performance by all services. Where practice in individual cases is identified as falling outside of procedures, the aforementioned group of managers will consider the issues and respond accordingly.

## **Conclusion**

- 11 Whilst County Durham was for many years at the forefront of practice in the transfer of young people after charge, over recent years practice had slipped, and the majority of young people were being held in police custody with no consideration for transfer to local authority accommodation. However, performance over the last 12 months has improved considerably and there is now greater common purpose and understanding between agencies. This has been reflected in increased numbers of referrals to DCC, improved practice and a shared approach between operational staff. This is something that will require sustained monitoring and management, especially given the relatively small numbers of young people these procedures apply to.

## **Background papers**

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/concordat-on-children-in-custody>

## **Author**

Dave Summers

Tel: 03000 265999

---

## **Appendix 1: Implications**

---

### **Legal Implications**

Transfer of young people under PACE Act 1984 and Children Act 1989 is a statutory duty of both Durham Constabulary & DCC

### **Finance**

None

### **Consultation**

None

### **Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty**

None

### **Climate Change**

None

### **Human Rights**

None

### **Crime and Disorder**

The duty to transfer young people is based upon the duty to prevent crime and disorder.

### **Staffing**

None

### **Accommodation**

The duty requires the Local Authority to provide both secure accommodation and none-secure accommodation.

### **Risk**

None

### **Procurement**

None

This page is intentionally left blank

# Transfer of Young People from Police Custody to DCC Accommodation

Dave Summers

Manager

County Durham Youth Justice Service



# Issues and Developments

- Hasn't been working well for a while – from all sides.
- Historically never many requests – so, when came in – unsure what to do in LA and Police unsure when to request
- Recently, increase in number of requests (28 since October 2021) – has helped to develop shared practice
- National Concordat – Durham LA & Constabulary signatories
- Concordat provides a clear process for both Police & Local Authority
- 'Durhamised' the working practices – case-by-case
- Support from CDYJS to prevent need for holding in Police custody

- Police input into briefings for Aycliffe SCH managers
- Joint briefings for Police/Emergency Duty Team/Youth Justice Service
- On-going issue remains – ‘non-secure’ accommodation. Very infrequent.
- Home should be first consideration – however take into account Police could have bailed.

This page is intentionally left blank

**Corporate Parenting Panel**

**21 October 2022**

**Review of the Independent Visitor Service  
for Children in Care**



**Report of Mark den Hollander, Independent Visitor Coordinator,  
County Durham Youth Justice Service**

**Electoral division(s) affected:**

Countywide

**Purpose of the Report**

- 1 This report introduces the role of the Independent Visitor (IV) Coordinator, centrally coordinating the service from within County Durham Youth Justice Service.
- 2 The report examines the impact of the pandemic upon the Independent Visitor service and highlights how the service responded to the restrictions to ensure a high quality and effective delivery.
- 3 To summarise the current position of the IV service and highlight developments that have taken place since the restrictions caused by the pandemic were lifted. This includes recruitment of volunteers, referrals of young people to the service and ensuring effective matching of young people with Independent Visitors.
- 4 To examine the future development of the service including potential issues and challenges and how these can be effectively resolved.

**Executive summary**

- 5 On 9 May 2019, a report was submitted to the Senior Managers of the Children and Young Peoples Service which outlined the proposed arrangements for the Independent Visitor (IV) Service in County Durham run in-house by an Independent Visitor Coordinator based in the County Durham Youth Justice Service (CDYJS). A volunteer programme had been in operation within CDYJS for many years and was an established and well-respected programme.
- 6 On the 1 April 2020, the Independent Visitor Coordinator began employment with County Durham Youth Justice Service (CDYJS) which notably coincided with the beginning stages of the national lockdown

due to COVID-19. The service was significantly disrupted by the national lockdown for the first six months which required diversification of the IV Coordinator role for this period.

- 7 During September 2020, the service began face-to-face work with young people and the recruitment of volunteers to be Independent Visitors. The service has grown and exceeded its targets of 30 matches in the period 2020/21 and 2021/22.
- 8 With two years of active service in place, the IV service can now effectively look at patterns, challenges and issues that may affect the continued development in the future, such as ongoing recruitment of volunteers or budget implications.

### **Recommendations**

- 9 Corporate Parenting Panel is recommended to:
  - (a) Note the content of this report
  - (b) Acknowledge the potential challenges to the service as it develops in the future.
  - (c) To receive further updates at a schedule to be decided by the Corporate Parenting Panel

## **Background**

- 10 The role of Independent Visitor was first introduced as a statutory service for '*looked after children*' in the Children's Act of 1989. The Act outlined the statutory responsibility of local authorities to offer an Independent Visitor to any child that they are looking after. A volunteer to visit, befriend and advise the child as part of their care plan.
- 11 The Independent Visitor Service sits with Durham County Council within the Youth Justice Service. The Youth Justice service has already established links with appropriate services which benefitted the role of Independent Visitors

## **Challenges faced during Covid Lockdowns**

- 12 In March 2020, there was the first of the national lockdowns. This had a serious impact upon essential and statutory services within local authorities including the Independent Visitor service.
- 13 The IV service is dependent upon relationship building and face to face contact between the volunteer and young person. Lockdown impacted the services by preventing face to face appointments, effectively halted referrals to the IV service, halted the recruitment of volunteers and stopped all but essential contact between IV's, social workers, key workers, and young people.
- 14 Despite this unprecedented period of disruption, the role of IV Coordinator diversified for a 6-month period. During this time, the IV Coordinator conducted a full review of the service and ensured that all databases, paperwork, service advertisement, specification, current cohort of volunteers and live matches were current, effective, and efficient, suitable to manage the service when it became fully live and fully active again.

## **Current position**

- 15 At September 2020, there were 9 active volunteers and 7 'on hold'. By the end of August 2022, there were 49 active volunteers and 8 'on hold'. During the period, 88 volunteers had been recruited and trained in total, 31 leaving for personal reasons. Response to recruitment drives can vary enormously, a recent campaign generating 14 new volunteers (included in the totals).
- 16 At September 2020, there were 2 active matches in the IV service. By the end of August 2022, there have been 93 referrals to the service for a match. 70 matches have been made, with 37 matches having concluded. Such conclusions are mainly due to changes in the

circumstances of young people and occasionally with volunteers. The service will rematch young people where an IV leaves the service.

- 17 By the end of August 2022, there are 33 matches occurring. There are currently 23 young people waiting for a match with 15 of these in the process of being matched. The remaining 8 are waiting for permanent accommodation and will be matched once this has been secured.

### **Future Development and challenges**

- 18 As the IV service moves forward, our target is to meet the National Independent Visitor Network (NIVN) target of matching 10% of all children in care in the local authority area. In County Durham, this equates to approximately 100 young people. This will occur but will require ongoing monitoring of matches to pinpoint when. Currently, for every two matches that occur, 1 will conclude within one year. At the current rate of referrals, this equates to the 10% figure being met by June 2024.
- 19 To meet this 10% target also requires the recruitment of 100 volunteers. This is a challenging target where personal circumstances can affect volunteers and therefore service delivery. It also requires the examination of service resources particularly with emphasis on increased staffing.
- 20 Working towards the 10% target will result in the current budget becoming challenging. Current spend on activities averages at £27 per visit with an additional 50-mile round trip mileage claim for the volunteer (£24). As the cost-of-living rises, the cost of activities increases. This combined with a developing service will obviously increase the stress on the current budget and will require review moving forward.
- 21 Current referral levels will mean the service reaching the 10% target of matches without further need to promote referrals from social workers.

### **Conclusion**

- 22 The appointment of a specific IV Coordinator based in County Durham Youth Justice Service has been a positive move for the service, ensuring a significant increase in the number of referrals (93), matches (70) and volunteers (88) to the service.
- 23 Although the unprecedented restrictions during lockdowns affected direct person interventions in the service, it has also allowed a full review of the existing resource and created a positive change to allow the service to be more efficient and effective in the future.
- 24 Using the current patterns as an indication of future development and working towards the nationally recommended target of 10% for IV

services to match children in care, it is likely that the IV service will achieve this target by approximately June 2024. This positive outlook will put pressure on existing resource and the current budget will need reviewing.

**Author**

Mark den Hollander

Tel: 07584345947

---

## **Appendix 1: Implications**

---

### **Legal Implications**

It is a statutory duty of the Local Authority to ensure that all children and young people who are looked after, can access an independent visitor if they request one and it is in their best interests.

### **Finance**

Not applicable

### **Consultation**

Not applicable

### **Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty**

Not applicable

### **Climate Change**

Not applicable

### **Human Rights**

All children in care have the right to an independent visitor

### **Crime and Disorder**

Not applicable

### **Staffing**

Not applicable

### **Accommodation**

Not applicable

### **Risk**

Not applicable

### **Procurement**

Not applicable

# Independent Visitor Service

Mark den Hollander  
Independent Visitor Coordinator  
County Durham Youth Justice Service



# Role of the Independent Visitor

## **Improved social skills, friendships and mental health .....**

- Developing relationship with a trusted adult/peer
- Making positive friendships
- Developing social skills
- Improved self esteem
- Improving confidence and feeling accepted

## **Raising Aspirations and improving practical life skills**

- Increased opportunity to a variety of cultural, leisure and sporting activities
- Exploring education and training
- Becoming more independent
- Making choices
- Using different transports
- Budgeting and planning

# Impact of Coronavirus Pandemic

## Impact

- Unable to provide face to face appointments
- Delayed referrals to the Independent Visitor Service
- Delayed recruitment of volunteers to the service
- Prevented essential cross-service meetings

## Response

- Diversification of the service – review of databases, current volunteers, existing matches, service advertisement and service specifications
- To ensure an effective and efficient service was developed, ready for action!



# Current Position (to August 2022)

## Volunteers

- 88 volunteers recruited and trained (31 leaving for personal reasons)
- Currently 49 active volunteers, with 8 on hold
- 14 currently in the recruitment and training phase

## Matches

- September 2020 – 2 active matches
- By August 2022 – 73 referrals, 70 matches with 37 concluding
- Currently 23 waiting for a match, 15 in progress

# Future Development

- To reach the National Independent Visitor Service (NIVN) target of matching 10% of children in care with an Independent Visitor
- To recruit 100 volunteers to meet with this target
- Acknowledge that each activity visit averages at £27 with transport costs of £24 and that increased living costs impact the cost of transport and activities
- Current referral levels correspond to the level of service advertisement (appropriate to reaching the 10% target)
- 10% of children in care will be matched by June 2024

This page is intentionally left blank

# Research in Practice

Corporate Parenting Panel  
21 October 2022

Hazel Ostle  
Workforce Development Manager



# Overview

<b>What is it?</b>	<b>How does it help us?</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Supports evidence based practice with children and families</li><li>• Brings together academic research, practice expertise and the experiences of people accessing services</li><li>• Applies this knowledge to develop a range of resources and learning opportunities</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Available to all our practitioners</li><li>• Provides evidence we can refer to in Court in an accessible format</li><li>• Available whenever we need it</li><li>• Provides opportunities for Continuing Professional Development</li></ul>

# What can you access?

## Digital Resources



## Events

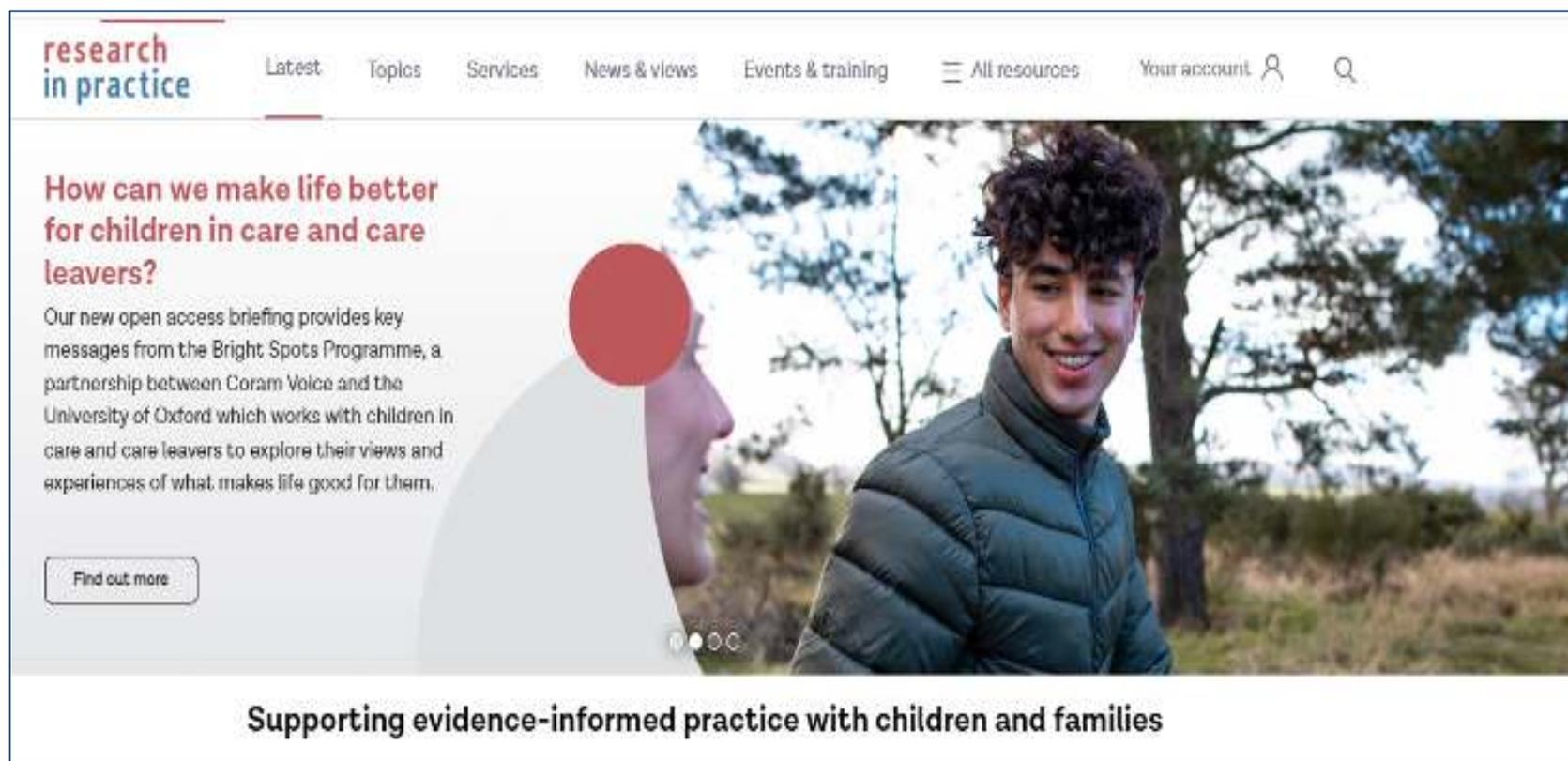


## Publications



# System Walk Through

<https://www.researchinpractice.org.uk/children/>



The screenshot shows the website's header with the logo 'research in practice' and a navigation menu with items: Latest, Topics, Services, News & views, Events & training, All resources, and Your account. Below the header is a featured article with the title 'How can we make life better for children in care and care leavers?' and a sub-headline 'Our new open access briefing provides key messages from the Bright Spots Programme, a partnership between Coram Voice and the University of Oxford which works with children in care and care leavers to explore their views and experiences of what makes life good for them.' A 'Find out more' button is located below the text. The background of the article features a photograph of a young man in a green puffer jacket smiling, with a woman's profile visible in the foreground. At the bottom of the article is a white banner with the text 'Supporting evidence-informed practice with children and families'. The Durham County Council logo is visible in the bottom right corner of the page.

By virtue of paragraph(s) 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A  
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

By virtue of paragraph(s) 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A  
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

By virtue of paragraph(s) 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A  
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

By virtue of paragraph(s) 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A  
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

By virtue of paragraph(s) 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A  
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank