

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

Date: Wednesday 27th July, 2022
Time: 1.00 pm
Venue: Mandela room

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Declarations of Interest

To receive any declarations of interest.
3. Minutes- Corporate Parenting Board- 27 April 2022 3 - 14
4. Participation of children and young people 15 - 20

Kathy Peacock, Youth Voice and Influencer officer and Xavier Davies, Apprentice Youth Training & Development Officer will provide an update to the Board.

Kathy will be joined by two members of the Children in care council.
5. Performance against Corporate Parenting Board Strategy

Paula Jemson, Head of Corporate Parenting and Performance, Strategic s Care will present the scorecard to the Board.
6. Feedback from Monitoring visit- Permanence 21 - 34

Paula Jemson, Head of Corporate Parenting and Performance, Strategic Services will be in attendance to provide feedback from the monitoring visit.

7. Review of Sufficiency action plan 35 - 42

Claire Walker, Specialist Commisisoning Manager will present the Sufficiency action plan to the Board.

8. Future for Families-Relational Practice Service 43 - 54

Rob Harmer, Service Manager, Future for Families and Julie O'Connor, Restorative Relational Practice coordinator, Future for Families will provide a presentation on the Relational Practice Service.

9. Any other urgent items which in the opinion of the Chair, may be considered.

Any other urgent items which in the opinion of the Chair, may be considered.

Charlotte Benjamin
Director of Legal and Governance Services

Town Hall
Middlesbrough
Tuesday 19 July 2022

MEMBERSHIP

Councillors C Hobson (Chair), D Davison (Vice-Chair), B Cooper, A Hellaoui, T Higgins, M Saunders, Z Uddin, J Walker and D Coupe

Assistance in accessing information

Should you have any queries on accessing the Agenda and associated information please contact Susie Blood, 01642 729645, susie_blood@middlesbrough.gov.uk

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

A meeting of the Corporate Parenting Board was held on Wednesday 27 April 2022.

PRESENT:	Councillors C Hobson (Chair), B Cooper, D Davison (Vice-Chair), A Hellaoui, M Saunders, Z Uddin, J Walker and C Dodds
PRESENT BY INVITATION:	Councillors
ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:	D fenny, K Peacock (Participation People) and K Glew (Thirteen Group)
OFFICERS:	V Banks, S Blood, S Butcher, X Davies, T Dunn, James, P Jemson, C Breheny and G Nicholson
APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:	Councillors T Higgins, R Brown, R Farnham, R Hamer, Jefferson, T Parkinson, P Rudd, N Ayres and Dunning

21/1 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

21/2 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest received at this point in the meeting.

21/3 **MINUTES- CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD- 30 MARCH 2022**

The minutes of the Corporate Parenting Board held on 30 March 2022 were read and accepted as a true record.

21/4 **COVID-19 UPDATE**

The Director of Children's Services advised the Board that there had recently been an outbreak of covid 19 in one of the children's homes, and although this did not affect the overall running of the home, it has had some effect on staffing.

In terms of Children's social workers, Middlesbrough were required to fill a return to the Department of Education and the last return outlined that Middlesbrough was in the 0-10% absence rate, however in 11-20% in residential homes due to the recent outbreak.

In terms of further information, the Children's Education Scrutiny panel had requested information on vaccination of children 5+ and 12+, and the Director would be returning with further information, the Board advised they would also like to receive this information.

Covid 19 updates to the Board would also return to a monthly basis.

Agreed- That the updated be noted

21/5 **PARTICIPATION OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

Kathy Peacock, Youth Voice and Influencer Contractor from Participation People and Xavier Davies, Apprentice Youth Training & Development Officer were in attendance and provided the Board with an update regarding participation.

Kathy provided an update in relation to the care experienced groups which were being supported by participation. Participation were currently supported two groups:

- Children in Care Council- 10-17 years, which will meet on a fortnightly basis at Easterside Hub
- Care Leavers Forum- 18-25 years, which will moved to a fortnightly basis.

Updated from the groups were as follows:

#YouthVoice Update April 2022



Children In Care Council (currently six members)

- The two OFSTED inspectors visited their group on the 29th March. They asked the young people questions about their care support and received positive examples of current support at school, from their social worker and knowing their plans. The young people did raise the issue that they wanted less changes of social workers and the inspectors said they would raise this issue in their meeting with the Children's Director the following morning. The inspectors heard about what the CICC had been doing and joined them in an activity to identify what they needed to reach their goals.
- Sue Butcher joined their group on the 5th April. She told them the inspectors really enjoyed their time with the group and that they had spoken to her about their issue of having too many changes of social workers. She explained what work was happening to bring experienced social workers into the Council and the incentives offered to ensure they stayed.
- The group met Keith from the Middlesbrough Football Foundation to plan a football themed activity day on the 28th July for care experienced young people. Part of the day will involve asking the young people questions about their support experiences.
- The group choose to have a fun activity instead of their group on the 12th April. We all went bowling.
- The group will continue working on the issues they have identified and will give feedback to key decision makers.

2 / 5



Kathy advised that the football themed activity day would now take place in the first week of August. Once details were confirmed, details would be forwarded to the Corporate Parenting Board. Likewise, she outlined that if Board members would like to attend the Children in Care Council, to contact her directly.

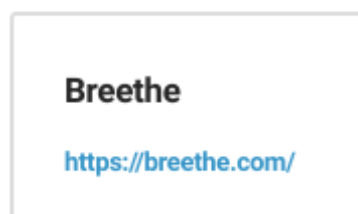
In terms of the Care Leavers forum, the following update was provided:

#YouthVoice Update April 2022



Care Leavers Forum (Currently two members)

- Numbers have decreased due to several members moving out of the area, one returning to work and one being heavily pregnant.
- We have one care leaver who attends every meeting and is very committed and enthusiastic. She is keen to grow the group and has been instrumental in organising the Care Leavers Brunch that will take place on the 14th April (10.30-1pm at the Folk in the Road). We plan to market the group during the event.
- We are working with the Pathways Team and every two weeks the social group they run will be taken over by Participation People to run engagement activities.
- The Children's Commissioner Office has given the CLF 200 free membership codes for Breethe – a wellbeing app.



These codes will be sent out to care leavers who might find it useful

Kathy advised that, whilst they have the group, to them, it is about meeting as many care experienced young people at possible. They will therefore be visiting childrens homes and looking at other ways to engage. Whilst the numbers were low for the brunch event, Kathy commented that it was a starting point. This will be run again and it doesn't work, another event/ engagement will be explored. A board member also stated that even though the numbers were low, it was a step to show that we care and support care experienced young people.

Following the information, the Director outlined that Ofsted took the views from young people very seriously, which provided a very good loop. She also commanded the survey undertaken by Kathy, as it was done in a fun and interactive.

The issue of engagement was raised, as a care leaver outlined that she did not receive the information on the event until an hour before it was due to start. Kathy advised that in the

future, a piece of work would be undertaken in conjunction with Pathways on ways to engagement. Kathy stated that during the Christmas period, she sent texts to over 200 care leavers and from those, she received 5 responses about interest in joining the care leavers' forum. We want to make sure that young people have plenty of notice.

A board members commended the work of Participation People and that as time goes on, it would be hoped that these become more popular with young people.

AGREED- That the update be noted.

21/6

PERFORMANCE AGAINST CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD STRATEGY

The Head of Looked after Children and Corporate Parenting was in attendance and provided the board with information relating to the Corporate Parenting Board scorecard.

The Head of Service advised that the scorecard was in place for the Corporate Parenting Board to see how our performance was progressing and have the opportunity to challenge. The data was presented slightly differently from previously meeting, and this data set went through every performance indicator for corporate parenting, however the Head of Service had selected the indicators which she thought the board would find most useful.

The updates were as follows:

CP1- number of children in care in Middlesbrough

- Numbers of children and young people open to social care, in particular, children looked after (CLA) have shown significant improvement since February 2021.
- CLA numbers have vastly improved, dropping down below the 500 mark in January 2022, reaching 503 in February 2022- a 2% increase prior to last month.
- In March 2022 there were a further 25 CLA and 12 that ceased to be looked after
- CLA numbers are down 14.2% in comparison to the same point last year.

CP2- Gap between Middlesbrough and Regional CiC rate per 10,000- Trend

- The rate of CLA per 10,000 had steadily declined since February 2021, recently reaching the lowest rate in 12 months in January 2022 at 40.81.
- The rate increased from January to February 2022 by 7.4%- still a 33% decrease in comparison to the same point last year.
- We remain above all external benchmarks, and have fallen below our 2022/21 outturn.

CP3- Ratio of children entering to leaving care- trend

- The number of children starting a period of care remains stable, while those ceasing a period of care is showing a decrease since June 2021. This could be influenced by the decrease in overall numbers of CLA.

CP5- FTE caseloads between 15-20 – Trend

- Board will be interested to know that caseloads have decreased.
- FTE caseloads between 15-20 reveal that peak caseload % was in March 2021 at 63.60%- 18.9% above the 2020/21 target.
- The caseloads have decreased since August 2021, falling below the target in February 2022 by 11.4%

CP6- Average number of weeks children spend in care (Ceasing Care in Month)- Trend

- The average number of weeks children spend in care has maintained below the 2020-21 target in the last 12 months. Highlighting the positive turnaround for children in care. With the exception of October 2021 and September 2021, when the average peaked to 240.30.
- In February 2022, the average number of weeks reached the lowest recorded in 12 months at 78.90.

CP9- % of CIC placed with parents on care orders at home- trend.

- The number of children in care placed with parents in care orders at home exceeds

the 2020-21 target across all months.

- In recent months the % has slowly declined, reaching the lowest recorded in February 2022 at 7.20%- a 41% decrease in comparison to 12 months previous.
- Currently have 45 children in total looked after by a parent.

CP12- % of children placed outside of 20 miles from home postcode- 12 month trend.

- The % of children in care placed outside of 20 miles of home postcode remains above the 2020-21 target, 15%. We do however need to consider the type of placement e.g. securing a plan of permanence or with family members.
- CLA placed more than 20 miles from their home postcode has stayed at a steady % in the last 12 months, at 20% in February 2022. This is a significant improvement in comparison to the highest recorded % in August 2021 at 26%.

CP13- % if CiC placed in in-house foster placements- 12 month trend

- The % of in-house foster carer placements had remained relatively stable in the last 12 months.
- The % exceeded the 21% 2020/21 target in January 2022 and has remained above the target in February 2022 reaching 22.27%- a 12.4 % increase in comparison to 12 months prior.

CP19- % of CiC/CL placements breakdowns in last 12 months.

- The % of children in care/ care leaver breakdowns on the last 12 months shows a significant decrease in October 2021.
- The % remains below the 2020-21 target in recent months. In February 2022 the % reached 4.04% , a -4.51% difference in comparison to 12 months prior.
- Date was not captured for December 2021.

CP22- % of post 16 CiC in EET- Trend

- The % of children in care post 16 in EET dropped below the 2020/21 target 65% from November 2021 to January 2022.
- In February 2022 the % increased to 70%- 5% above the target. This is a +10% difference in comparison to last month

CP25- % of SDQ's in 12 months (Age 4-16 and CLA for 12 + months- a 12 month trend

- The % of SDQ's in 12 months (aged 4-16 and CLA for 12+ months) has steadily increased over the last 12 months.
- In February 2022, the % increased to 88%, a +3% in comparison to January 2022 and a +42% difference in comparison to 12 months previous.

The Director of Children's Services added that the number of CLA had risen recently and there were two specific reasons for this:

- With the Future for families Hub, the complexity of cases means that the outreach work hasn't taken place.
- Somerset judgement- we have a cohort of children who have remained looked after due to this judgement. Current time we have 15-20 children who would have been adopted if not for the Somerset judgement.

A board member advised that she had read in the media that there had been a 14% increase in CLA in the North East of England. In response, the Director of Children's Services advised that Middlesbrough, in terms of the trend has been doing very well in terms of our North East colleagues however she was aware that some number of CLA in North East local authorities have gone up quite significantly, however Middlesbrough's trend has gone down.

The Director outlined that they can bring North East figures if desired.

A board member felt it would be useful to look at how we ensure good news stories are published and in response, the Director outlined she would be speaking to the Gazette about how we can be more proactive and introduce features. She also outlined that the recent report from the Ofsted monitoring visit would be published shortly and within this were positives.

A board member also queried the support provided to children who still live with their

parents but under the support of Middlesbrough Council.

Children who are supported by parents and by family members. When cared for by extended family members, they become a regulated foster carer and are provided support by the foster teams from supervision, support, training to financial support. When children are placed with parents they received a support from the social worker and from the intervention workers who will provide training and they also go out to the wider community to look at additional support to help integrate them in the local communities e.g specialised training, early help (group settings).

Each child has a care team round them e.g. mental health, drug and alcohol services, to support parents in all areas of life and that wraps around the child and the Head of service would bring a package to a future meeting for information.

AGREED- That the scorecards be noted.

21/7

FOSTERING- QUARTER 4 2021/22 DATA

Jennifer Rowan, Acting Service Manager was in attendance to provide the Quarter 4 fostering data- January 2022- March 2022.

The Acting Service Manager outlined that they had been a significant increase of enquiring coming through the fostering service as they had been due to the extensive recruitment campaign and periodic pushes on these. The Fostering service has continuous conversations with the marketing team regarding the best way to target audience, be that through google ads for social media posts.

Within quarter 4 there had been a 100% increase on enquiries, which was a great achievement (15 enquiries in Quarter 3 and 38 in quarter 4). There had also been significant increase in the number of initial first visits, with just 1 with quarter 3 and 14 in quarter 4. This number is a good sign in that the service are hopeful that these will become future fostering households.

In terms of the fostering families , this number has decreased in quarter 4 (119) however there have been a number of contributing factors to this, for example, there has been 5 de-registrations from the mainstream cohort. 1 household had been de-registered by the service area and the other 4 had deregistered as they had not been able to provide fostering for 2 years due to personal circumstances (health and change in work). Practical issues and covid 19 has also been contributing issues to de-registrations. It was also noted that although there have been de-registrations, 3 have continued to foster but under an alternative agency.

Within quarter 4 there had been no de-registrations for connected or foster to adopt. With regards to foster placements available for children that are not occupied, in quarter 4 there were 7. These placements were for babies (0-2) and respite care. In terms of panel activity, the acting service manager advised that there has been a significant increase as 8 connected fostering families had been approved by panel, which would provide connecting fostering for 12 children. Another success in quarter 4 is the number of matches for children and their long term fostering families (their forever fostering home for their childhood), 20 children have gained stability and permanence.

The Acting Service Manager did state that unfortunately there had been no supporting lodgings approved.

After providing the data set, the acting service manager outlined the following to the board regarding the service:

What is working well

- Performance was improving across the service in terms of compliance and quality.
- Foster carer reviews are taking place in timescales, over 80% of reviews held have been in timescales. No reviews have been held outside of timescales due to practice.

- Foster carers are receiving monthly supervision which supports the fostering families and the children in our care
- There has been a significant increase in enquiries and initial visits with a further planned recruitment drive in May 2022
- The service have improved timeliness of completion of connected carers assessments which supports plans of permanence for our children, at the time of writing no fostering assessments have exceeded the 24 weeks timescale.
- There has been a significant increase in children matched with their foster carers as their plan of permanence
- The recruitment of a liaison worker and hub carer for the Mockingbird has commenced – on target for implementation in September 2022.
- We have three social work students in the service.
- Staff morale remains good and they work collectively to support the service, the fostering families and the children in our care.
- We are utilising available foster placements more effectively and have a better understanding of availability.

What are we worried about

- There remains not enough fostering families for our children in our care.

What makes things more complicated

- Data performance systems are improved providing greater accuracy.
- There has been a number of deregistration's of mainstream foster carers, one has been due to this being progressed by the service, one as a result of a transfer to an IFA and the others had not provided care to children for extended periods due to their own personal circumstances.
- There were 7 foster placements available at the time of obtaining the data, these were a mixture of availability for babies and respite provision for children

Plan

- To increase the number of fostering enquiries and increase the number of newly approved carers to 10 in 2022 and 20 in 2023.
- Develop an improved system and tool box for collecting views of children looked after and fostering families birth children. Their voices need to be heard.
- To continue to develop a robust and targeted training programme for staff within fostering service to improve practice.
- Recruitment drive to progress in May 2022

A board member made reference to the comment surrounding Middlesbrough previous partner (North Yorkshire) and sought clarification on this.

In response, the Executive Director of Children's Services outlined that the partnership with North Yorkshire was a government run scheme and undertaken by the Department of Education. The partnership was carefully monitored and was put in place for a specific timeframe. The partnership looked a targeted piece of work, which has now been completed.

The Acting Service Manager also added that the partnership brought about 2 way learning. North Yorkshire have taken information back regarding connected carers and complimented Middlesbrough's performance. North Yorkshire also complimented Regulation 24 assessment (temporary approval for connected carers) and audit (learning conversations) highly praising the level of understanding and accountability about our

foster carers who they were supporting.

AGREED- That the information be noted.

21/8 **FUTURE FOR FAMILIES- SERVICE UPDATE**

21/9 **VIRTUAL SCHOOLS UPDATE**

Victoria Banks, Head of Virtual Schools provided an update in relation to virtual schools.

The Head outlined that every year the Virtual school holds an annual conference, however due to covid the last 2 years have been online, however this year it was held in person, which was fantastic.

The conference was held on 11 February 2022 at the Riverside Stadium. Virtual schools now have a responsibility for all children with a social worker and one of the aims was to gather delegates together to champion the education for our children with a social worker. There were over 150 delegates and it was attended by head teachers/ governors/ designated teachers/ mental health leads/foster carers/ delegates from children's service.

The conference was extremely well attended and the Head expressed a thank you to the senior leadership team. Rob Brown, Director of Education and Partnerships hosted the event, however the event was jointly hosted by Middlesbrough Council and Redcar Cleveland Council. There was a joint address from the Directors of Children's Services and Sue Butcher provided an inspiring speech.

Feedback from the event was excellent, and there were some excellent outcomes and change of practice for our children, for example:

"It was great to hear from people who have had lived experience of being in care and I was very moved at times. I found the balance of speakers great"

"I found it really beneficial and I am meeting with someone this afternoon about Trauma Informed Practice"

The event was free, however there was a catch for all delegates, in that they were asked to make an Education Champion pledge to become a champion for children with a social worker.

There were over a 150 signatures and the pledge was as follows:

- **I pledge to become an Education Champion for children with a social worker**
- **I pledge that I will promote good educational outcomes for children with a social worker I will raise awareness of the needs of children with a social worker within my daily practice and offer professional challenge to colleagues to ensure that children with a social worker have**
- **access to the best possible education both in school and in the community**
- **I pledge that I will advocate for children with a social worker in my daily practice by keeping children with a social worker in mind throughout my working day I will hold high aspirations and support colleagues to ensure all children with a social worker have outstanding educational opportunities I will have high expectations of the key adults who feature in the**
- **lives of children with a social worker and expect them to be involved in their learning and educational progress**
- **I pledge that I will, within my given role, swiftly intervene if there is evidence of any child with**
- **a social worker not reaching their full potential I will be mindful of educational barriers and**
- **work collectively with other professionals to remove the barriers preventing a child with a social worker reaching their potential.**
- **I pledge that I will delight in celebrating the achievements of children with a social worker I will encourage the ambition of our children and guide them**

into the future they aspire to.

The Head outlined that she would be calling on Councillors and if any Councillors would like to sign the pledge to become an Education Champion for children with a social worker, to get in touch directly.

The Head of Virtual School briefly outlined that data of the virtual school cohort.

The virtual school statutory school age roll has decreased month on month.

- Currently 339 school aged children
- 155 (46%) primary school
- 184 (54%) secondary school
- 53% male
- 47% female
- 207 (61%) are in-borough schools and 132 (39%) are in out of borough schools.

As a virtual school we give advice, and therefore the further they attend school, the more difficult it is to influence, however they have excellent partnership working and have a North East virtual schools group to ensure the education of the children is at heart.

In terms of education stability, these were reviewed by the Virtual schools governing body for oversight. The figures were as follows:

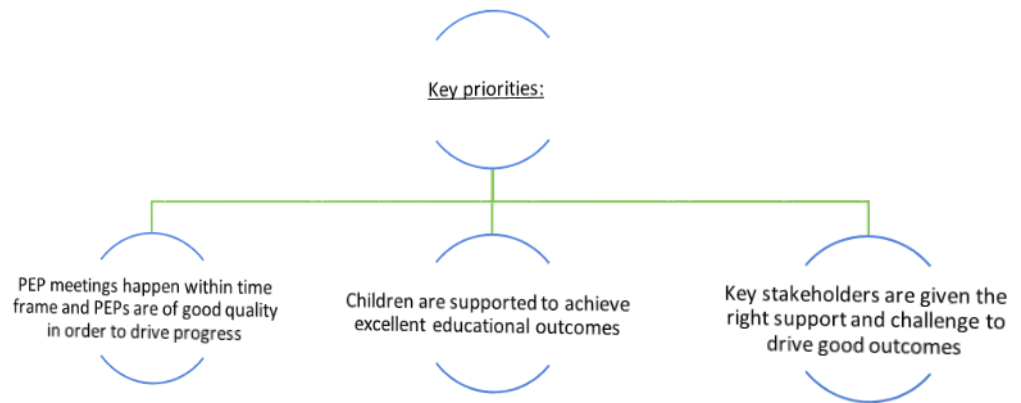
	Sept 2019 – July 2020	Sept 2020 – July 2021	Sept 2021 – April 2022	Projection 21-22
School Moves	85	67	43	57
Permanent Exclusions	0	0	1	2
Sessions lost to Suspensions	843	252.5	349	465
Attendance	74.4%	83.9%	88.1%	86%

In terms of permanent exclusion, there has been 1. However this decision would be going to an independent reviewing panel for challenge.

Next steps and how to sustain improvements

- DFE attendance improvement plan
- Inclusion policy launch
- School inclusion pledge
- PROCLAIM project roll out

The key priorities for the virtual schools for this year is as follows:



Each child with a social worker should have a personal education Plan (PEP) and the virtual schools is responsible for is making sure that the right people are reviewing the PEP- the social worker, the school, the foster carer and the young people.

Where all the stakeholders are in attendance, there are good outcomes and holistic PEPS which support the young people.

One aspects which has been a struggle is the attendance of young people at their PEP meeting. They voices are captured and someone speaks for them, however Tia James, Virtual Schools Educational Champion Apprentice has a list of young people who have not attended their PEP meeting and asking if there is anything we can do to change this e.g. face to face/ identify barriers.

At the end of each term, using the data we look at the outcomes the PEPs have made. There are over 300 sections of data within a PEP that can be analysed which can be done on a termly basis.

The virtual schools has an intervention centre, which had specialist English, Maths and Science tutors and young people who may require additional support can be identified by the data. Mental health and emotional support is also captured and we can fast track support if required.

The Head of Virtual Schools finally discussed the PROCLAIM project:

PROCLAIM

Providing Rich Opportunities for Children Who are Looked After In Middlesbrough

looked after by the community, who are vulnerable (who have a social worker, have special educational needs or who are young carers).

VISION

Our vision is to ensure that all Middlesbrough education settings are Attachment Aware and Trauma Informed in their practice, for the benefit of their whole learning community, by 2025.

MISSION

Our mission is to have a universal language of attachment and trauma across Middlesbrough, underpinned by training, supervision, support and challenge which will drive excellent outcomes for all children and young people, particularly those who are most vulnerable.

PURPOSE

Our purpose is to address the needs of children and young people in Middlesbrough. In education, we have witnessed further significant increases in children and young people requiring alternative provision, being referred for Education, Health and Care needs assessments, being persistently absent and being subject to permanent exclusions from our education settings. This data highlights an ever growing need to provide environments that are rich in positive and nurturing relationships and where our children and young people can

achieve their potential and 'grow and prosper' (SEND strategy 2020-2024).

The Head advised that key individuals from outside Middlesbrough have become interested in our work e.g Luke Rodgers, which is a fantastic achievement for Middlesbrough.

There had been an Easter holiday club, which focused on education , however this was only attended by 3 young people, and therefore further discussions would be held to discover how to engage further with young people.

The Head of virtual schools was commended for her report and presentation.

AGREED- That the update be noted.

21/10

ANY OTHER URGENT ITEMS WHICH IN THE OPINION OF THE CHAIR, MAY BE CONSIDERED.

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**MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL
CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD**



Report of:	Kathy Peacock - Youth Voice & Influence Contractor Participation People
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Submitted to:	Corporate Parenting Board- 27th July 2022
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Subject:	Care Experienced Youth Voice Engagement: May - July 2022
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Contribution to the guiding principles of the Corporate Parenting Strategy
Your Home
Your Family and Friends
Your Education
Your Adult Life
Your Health and wellbeing
Your Voice and Influence - Yes

Is the report confidential or does it contain exempt information?

No

What is the purpose of this report?

To update the Corporate Parents on Youth Voice activities that have taken place and being proposed.

Report Background

Please refer to Appendix 1

Appendices

Please refer to Appendix 1

Recommendations

Information only

Why is this being recommended?

N/A

Other potential decisions and why these have not been recommended

N/A

Impact(s) of recommended decision(s)

N/A

Legal

N/A

Financial

N/A

Policy Framework

N/A

Equality and Diversity

N/A

Risk

N/A

Actions to be taken to implement the decision(s)

N/A

Background Papers

Body	Report title	Date
Corporate Parenting Board	Participation Youth Voice Update	19.7.2022

Contact: [Kathy Peacock - 07926580007](tel:07926580007)

Email: Kathy.peacock@participationpeople.com

Care Experienced Youth Voice Engagement May - July 2022

Middlesbrough Participation Team facilitates open, safe, and inclusive spaces for care experienced young people/ adults to come together.

We provide fun activities for them to tell you what is important to them, so you can improve the support they and others receive

For more information:
Xavier_davies@middlesbrough.gov.uk
Kathy.peacock@participationpeople.com 07926580007

Care Experienced Youth Voice

We are.....

Care experienced young people between 10-25 years. Who come together, have a voice, create events to hear from more young people/adults. Share what young people want and be heard by key decision makers and professionals, who will act on what we say and positively change services to meet our needs.

Membership of the Children in Care Council (CiCC) for 10-16 year olds.

- Three young people in the same foster placement
- One young adult in supported housing (Young Leader for the group)
- One young person with SEND in a residential home (he is seen at his home to capture his views)

Membership of the Care Leavers Forum (CLF) for 16 - 25 year olds.

- One young adult in supported housing (same person who attends the CiCC)
- Care leaver who has a young child

The groups are supported by.....

- Kathy Peacock - Voice and Influence Manager
- Xavier Davies - Apprentice Youth Training & Development Officer
- Kelly Hammond - Independent Reviewing Officer (CiCC)

Over the last 3 months...

May

- Started to plan a Brunch event for other looked after young people
- Three of us went to the 'Big Bosses on the Spot' event



June

- We went to a Youth Voice meeting to hear what the Youth Council has planned and to learn about their 'Manifesto'
- One member of the CLF went to the Care leavers BBQ and promoted the group
- We invited Rachel Farnham to come to our group in July
- The CiCC had pizza to celebrate Alfie and Adam's birthdays
- We decided against going to FJYPB Conference in London
- One member of the CLF joined the 'Young Producers' group (meets weekly) to design a music event for all young people in Middlesbrough. Information about all the groups will be shared at this event



Care Experienced Youth Voice

July

- We held the CiCC Brunch. 15 young people came, nine foster carers and one residential support worker. The young people told us what else they would like to do
- Helped design the Communication and Language training session - first one will be delivered on the 27th July
- Ralph Jordinson from Digiwise (Middlesbrough Council) will come to the CiCC session to speak to them about a piece of work they have done with looked after young people and staying safe on line.
- Re-book Rachel Farnham as she was busy with the OFSTED inspection



Over the next 5 months we plan to

Summer Events

- CiCC/CLF collaboration with Pathways - Hold the Stepping Up Together event. We will promote the groups and the work planned
- 9th August - CiCC and CLF at the Beach
- 10th August - Possibly go to the the Climate Change Conference, Redcar and Cleveland College 10-3pm .
- Friday 2nd September - Picnic in Stuarts Park for All care experienced young people and **Corporate Parents**. **More information to follow**



Autumn/Winter

- Have a few more members join the groups
- Invite other senior decision makers and Corporate Members to our groups
- Work with Pathways to deliver sessions with Care leavers to look at the Local Offer
- Postcard feedback - asking care leavers about the support they get and what changes they would like
- Work with NEET care leavers to find out what they want re Training/Employment/Opportunities
- Continue deliver Communication and Language sessions
- Look at having specialised BBOTS sessions for care experienced young people
- Be part of the Middlesbrough Town Hall Takeover (see draft flyer)
- Design logo's for the groups
- Finalise our TOR for the groups and know what our budget is, so we can work out what we can afford to do
- Plan a Christmas party for looked after young people
- Plan a Celebration event/party for care leavers
- Have more fun as groups look at swimming/Flamingo Land/Climbing/Cinema



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**MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL
CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD**



Report of:	<i>Rachel Farnham – Director of Children’s Social Care</i>
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Submitted to:	Corporate Parenting Board- July 2022
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Subject:	<i>Permanence for Looked After Children – Monitoring Visit Update</i>
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Contribution to the guiding principles of the Corporate Parenting Strategy
Your Home
Your Family and Friends
Your Education
Your Adult Life
Your Health and wellbeing
Your Voice and Influence
Corporate Parenting Board will be provided with information regarding Ofsted’s findings in relation the above areas where appropriate.

Is the report confidential or does it contain exempt information?

No

What is the purpose of this report?

The attached presentation will provide Corporate Parenting Board with an overview of the finding of Ofsted during the Monitoring Visit of the services and support provided to children in our care in March 2022. The monitoring visit considered how effectively the local authority progress matching, placement and decision-making for Children in Care and how effectively the local authority plan and achieve permanence for children in care.

Report Background

Ofsted carried out a Monitoring Visit to Middlesbrough Children’s Services on 29-30 March 2022. The visit was carried out in line with the inspection of the local authority children’s services framework.

Appendices

Presentation – Ofsted Monitoring Visit, March 2022

Recommendations

Corporate Parenting Board continue to receive quarterly updates regarding the progress against the Permanence Action Plan.

Why is this being recommended?

To ensure that Corporate Parenting Board continue to have relevant information regarding the support and services provided to children in our care in order to provide challenge and support.

Other potential decisions and why these have not been recommended

N/A

Legal

N/A

Financial

N/A

Policy Framework

N/A

Equality and Diversity

None

Risk

N/A

Actions to be taken to implement the decision(s)

Forward Work Programme is in place to ensure Corporate Parenting Board are provided with regular updates.

Background papers

Body	Report title	Date
Ofsted	Monitoring visit to Middlesbrough Children's Services	06.05.2022 50182661 (ofsted.gov.uk)

Contact: Rachel Farnham/Paula Jemson.

Email: Rachel_farnham@middlesbrough.gov.uk,
paula_jemson@middlesbrough.gov.uk

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Ofsted Monitoring Visit March 22

Corporate Parenting Board

July 2022

Rachel Farnham/Paula Jemson





**Our mission is to show
Middlesbrough children
that they matter.**

Introduction

- Third Monitoring Visit since the last full inspection (plus a focused visit)
- Two Inspectors, two weeks preparation, two days on site 29th/30th March
- First one that has been ‘face to face’
- Monitoring Visit feedback letter was published 6th May 2022
- Areas covered
 - Matching, placement and decision-making for Children in Care
 - Planning and achieving permanence for children.

Perception

- We know ourselves. This is evidenced by our
 - Detailed improvement plan
 - Accurate Self Assessment (SEF). It's 'Spot On'.
- We know this through
 - Our Quality Assurance processes – It is not just about compliance!
 - Robust reviewing processes and panels
 - Audits – the learning loop is crucial
- The Centre for Practice Excellence. It is our central focus for collating learning and improvement.

Permanence ‘Forever Homes for Children’



- There is a systemic framework for permanency planning – it’s less reactive and more forward looking.
- Stronger practice with children who have come into care more recently and more thought about early permanence planning
- Permanency plans now include parallel planning to avoid drift and delay for children.
- Social workers know children need permanence and know what they need to do to achieve it.
- Regular and high quality supervision actively contribute to early permanence planning
- Monthly Permanence Monitoring Group (PMG) meetings track and quality assure both plans and progression towards permanence

Positives (1)

- Children in Care are visited regularly
- Most Social Workers know their children well and have built trusting relationships with them.
- Good direct work – calibrated to a child’s age and understanding
- Children’s voices are informing their planning.
- Family Time
 - Children benefit from safely assessed family time
 - Family time with wider family members is well considered
 - Brother and sister ‘Together or Apart’ assessments are completed quickly and relationships are maintained if they can’t live together.

Positives (2)

- Children are brought into care in a more timely way through better court applications
- Good feedback from the local judiciary and CAFCASS
- Child Permanence Reports are sensitively written
- Social Workers understand the need for children to have life story work so they will understand their parentage and identity as they grow up
- Children's records are written directly to the child by social workers who know them
- Children will be able to see the thought that went into the planning for their forever homes.

Positives (3)

- Planning
 - Care planning meetings, supervision sessions, reviews and legal gateway are well recorded forums for reflective and creative thinking. They provide clear oversight of the plans and actions for the best interests of children. Therefore children experience less delay.
 - Independent Reviewing Officers have improved oversight of children's plans. There is evidence of them carrying out mid-point reviews to consider if these plans are progressing.

Points to Consider

- There is still some impact on children from a legacy of absent or poor planning.
- Some children have experienced earlier unplanned placement moves and consequent disruption and instability
- There are a number of children placed with family members who have not been assessed and approved as connected foster carers.
- There is a minority of children with complex needs in unregistered children's homes awaiting a suitably matched regulated placement. The carer's ability to meet their needs is undetermined and unregulated.
- However, leaders are aware of these children and all have individual assessments and cumulative oversight to mitigate against risk.

People

- Senior leaders know their services well
- Social workers spoke positively about the determined efforts to make improvements and create the conditions for good social work practice through clear expectations and standards.
- They value the
 - Support from their team members
 - Training and development programme
 - Growing supportive working culture.

What's next?

- **Ofsted Monitoring Visit** – There was a further Monitoring Visit that took place on 13-14 July 2022. This focused specifically on the support and services provided within the MACH, Early Help and the Assessment Service. The letter will be published on 17 August 2022.
- The next Monitoring Visit will take place in November 2022 and will focus on the support and services to Care Leavers.

**MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL
CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD**



Report of:	Director of Children’s Care
Submitted to:	Corporate Parenting Board – 27 th July 2022
Subject:	Review of Sufficiency Action Plan

Contribution to the guiding principles of the Corporate Parenting Strategy
Your Home
Your Family and Friends
Your Education
Your Adult Life
Your Health and wellbeing
Your Voice and Influence

Is the report confidential or does it contain exempt information? No

What is the purpose of this report?

To provide an update to the Corporate Parenting Board on progress made against the Sufficiency Action plan.

Report Background

There is a highlight report attached to this report which provides the update on work undertaken since March 2022.

Appendices

Appendix A – Commissioning Action Plan Update July 2022

Recommendations

That the Corporate Parenting Board acknowledges the content of this report.

Why is this being recommended?

As this report is for information.

Other potential decisions and why these have not been recommended

Not applicable

Impact(s) of recommended decision(s)

Not applicable

Legal

Not applicable

Financial

Not applicable

Policy Framework

Not applicable

Equality and Diversity

Not applicable

Risk

Not applicable

Actions to be taken to implement the decision(s)

Not applicable

Background papers

Sufficiency Action Plan – July 2022

Contact: Claire Walker

Email: claire_walker@middlesbrough.gov.uk

Sufficiency Action Plan

Highlight Report

July 2022



1.0 Our Response

The Corporate Parenting Strategy for Children and Young People in Middlesbrough was presented to and signed off by Corporate Parenting Board in December 2020.

The strategy sets out our vision and action plan for how the Council and our partners will support children and young people who are in our care, and our care leavers, to achieve the best possible outcomes in their lives. Transforming our approach to corporate parenting.

Our Sufficiency Action Plan was developed in consultation and is built around the priorities set out in our Corporate Parenting Strategy. The action plan sets out actions we feel need to be undertaken in order to better meet our needs.

Our Sufficiency Action Plan will be reviewed and updated as actions are completed or as new work is identified in the event of any changes to our sufficiency needs over the 3-year cycle of our plan.

The overall responsible Council officer for the Sufficiency Action Plan for Children and Young People is the Director of Children's Services (DCS). For each of the six priority themes, senior Council officers have been delegated by the DCS as the accountable lead for maintaining an overview of the priorities set out in the action plan.

Themes and Responsible Officers

	Theme	Lead Accountable Officer
1	Strengthening Commissioning For Children & Young People	Head of Service Futures for Families Specialist Commissioning & Procurement Senior Manager
2	Increasing Placements Close to where Children & Young People Live and Learn	Head of Service Future for Families Specialist Commissioning & Procurement Senior Manager
3	Growing Early Intervention & Prevention	Head of Prevention Specialist Commissioning & Procurement Senior Manager
4	Improving Placements & Support for Care Leavers	Head of Service Children Looked After Specialist Commissioning & Procurement Senior Manager
5	Enhancing Learning Outcomes for Children & Young People	Virtual Head Specialist Commissioning & Procurement Senior Manager
6	Building Our Fostering Capacity and Adoption Outcomes	Head of Service Future for Families Specialist Commissioning & Procurement Senior Manager

2.0 Progress against Each Theme

The Commissioning Action Plan has been reviewed and updated in November 2021.

Theme 1 - Strengthening Commissioning for Children and Young People

- Work continues in relation to Controcc for Children's as well as the potential benefits that the new Supplier Incentive Programme (SIP) that has recently been commissioned by the Council could bring to streamlining the invoicing process for children's.
- A Market Engagement Plan did not get presented to the April Children's DMT and will now be presented at Children's DMT in August 2022.

Theme 2 – Increasing Placements Close to where Children and Young People live and learn

- The Tyne Tees Foster Care Service regional framework went live on 1st July 2022. Work on mobilisation and use of the framework is ongoing and this will be closely monitored to ensure it is working effectively for Middlesbrough.
- The Regional Children's Commissioning Group continues and at present Peopletoo have been commissioned to support with further driving the Regional Hub following an unsuccessful recruitment process.
- There are a few new providers opening homes in Middlesbrough and the Commissioning Team are working with those providers in order to understand the provision coming on line. At present registration has not been achieved but we are anticipating one provider obtaining Ofsted registration in July and just waiting for confirmation.

Theme 3 – Growing Early Intervention & Prevention

- PAUSE continues to deliver and the region is now reviewing our future commissioning intentions as the contract is due to end in 2023.

Theme 4 – Improving Placements & Support for Care Leavers

- Daniel Court has been constantly occupied and is effectively supporting young people with support needs to move into independence.
- There continues to be a need above the capacity of Daniel Court, however, we do have a number of young people turning 18 this year and as such planning on their move to independence is being focused on at present.
- We continue to awaiting further guidance on the new requirements from Ofsted for unregulated provision moving forward.

- Some of our unregulated providers are currently in the process of or considering registering some of their current provision with Ofsted as children's homes and again we are working with those providers to understand how this change can further support our sufficiency requirements.
- Placement planning meetings are being scheduled by the Director of Children's Care with the first focus being young people moving to independence and how they are being supported and managed effectively to ensure their needs are met and the transition to adulthood is smooth.

Theme 5 – Enhancing Learning Outcomes for Children & Young People

- Work on a free school application is being progressed and as part of that there is consideration about residential capacity which could further support meeting our children and young people's needs locally.
- The SEND review continues and sufficiency of placements is a work stream of that work.
- Alternative Provision (AP) has been reviewed and work to commissioning additional capacity in this market is being taken forward by Middlesbrough in light of significant increases in exclusions.

Theme 6 – Building Our Fostering Capacity and Adoption Outcomes

- In-House foster placements continue to increase and there are currently 190 active placements which is approximately 57% of our over fostering placement numbers with the IFA market having 43%.
- Recruitment campaigns continue to be run and promoted locally.
- Roll out of Mockingbird internally is progressing.

3.0 Impact/Performance/Data

- Weekly reporting on residential placement activity continues and is providing greater level of data on placement changes and needs.

5.0 Risks

- Recruitment continues to be a national issue in a number of areas and work to ensure levels of staffing both internally and externally continues.
- Agency staff are being utilised and internal recruitment campaigns are on-going.

6.0 Next Steps

- A full refresh of the Commissioning Action plan is needed and will be completed by November 2022.

Owner – Rachel Farnham, Middlesbrough Council, Director of Children’s Social Care

Author – Claire Walker, Specialist Commissioning & Procurement Senior Manager

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Report of:	<i>Rob Hamer Future for Families Service Manager Submitting the report for Rachel Farnham Assistant Director</i>
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Submitted to:	Corporate Parenting Board- 27 07 22
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Subject:	Relational Practice Service
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Contribution to the guiding principles of the Corporate Parenting Strategy

Your Home

The Relational Practice Service (RPS) assists in meeting the needs of a stable and secure home for children by engaging with those who are not currently engaging with services. We offer a different work style by allowing previous care-connected young adult to reach out and support current children and young people in the care system, using peer support, advice and advocacy in a restorative and relational manner. This is done by using language that the child or young people are comfortable with and allowing time for reflection upon their own journey so far. To support in preventing family and school placement breakdowns.

Your Family and Friends

The RPS workers meet the child or young people where they feel most comfortable, be that at home, school or in the community and offer mediation for conflict between family and friendships, allowing for reparation and for the relationships to be rebuilt.

Your Education

The RPS offer in-house training opportunities for all children or young people connected with the service allowing them to work at their pace and level utilising a variety of awards and qualifications.

Your Adult Life

The RPS support in the transition from childhood to adulthood and act as a steppingstone between training to employment for care-connected young adults.

Your Health and wellbeing

The RPS are a specialist service that can work with a child or young person on a specific piece of work that cannot be met by current Children's Services. All work is offered as a bespoke package and is built around the needs of the child and those around them, supporting the wellbeing of current children in care.

Your Voice and Influence

The RPS workers will act as the voice of the child when they feel they are not being listened to by other departments, and will advocate, support, and mentor the child or young person until they feel confident and ready to speak for themselves, all the time addressing the challenge currently being faced.

Is the report confidential or does it contain exempt information?

No

What is the purpose of this report?

1. To introduce the Relational Practice Service (RPS) as a branch of the Futures for Families service. The RPS offers job opportunities for care experienced and service-connected young people aged 18 years plus, to allow them to use their past experiences to help other young people currently experiencing the care system where there is a relationship breakdown.
2. The Relational Practice workers offer support and guidance to young people who are otherwise struggling to engage with other services. The workers form a trusted relationship with the young person, as a peer mentor, who they can express their thoughts, wishes and feelings to as well as helping them to resolve the conflict with family members or peers, this service has been very successful within NYCC who continue to support and advice Middlesbrough on this new approach.

Report Background

3. At Middlesbrough Council we want to stop families from failing, we want to keep homes safe and most of all enable children to have a future that is not limited by circumstance.
4. Children who for a multitude of reasons are at risk of being cared for outside of their family home if they don't receive support.
5. Futures for Families (FFF) is adapted from NWD (No Wrong Door) which is being held as an example of excellence by DfE strengthening families protecting children programme and from North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC). This is a nationally recognised innovative programme working with complex young people and their families who are on the edge of care and supporting young people to return to their community. It integrates outreach support, residential care, foster care, speech & language support, mental health support and the police in a single service.
6. Middlesbrough launched Futures for Families in the summer of 2020 and already it has made a massive difference to the young people and families in Middlesbrough. Now in Summer 2022 Middlesbrough are launching the Restorative Relational Practice Service.

7. The Restorative Relational Practice Service will train and develop skilled staff from young people who have been service connected with Children's Service's to work in a restorative relational manner with current service-connected children.

8. These employees are to sit within the Futures for Families service and will be supporting work with vulnerable children and families from across Children's care. These posts are brand new and are an opportunity to develop and build a service to embrace and enhance Futures for Families values and ethos.

9. The Restorative Practice Service will successfully deliver the Asdan Group Award to all its workers.

10. Futures for Families service will become Restorative Justice Accredited as a Service and have two Advanced Practitioner expert staff trained to deliver Restorative Relational Practice Training.

11. The Restorative Practice Service will contribute to reducing the cost to children's Service for care placements as evidenced in NYCC.

Appendices

The All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) Restorative Justice Inquiry into Restorative Practices in 2021/2022

Report on the Inquiry into Restorative Practices in 2021/2022

The independent review of Children's Social Care Josh McAlister May 22

Relational Practice and Conflict Resolution Referral Form

Recommendations

12. This service is apart of the DfE strengthening families protecting children programme which has already been agreed by the board.

13. To provide an accredited training opportunity for young people and young adults to learn how to facilitate Relational Practice.

14. Relational Practice is about offering people an opportunity to make amends, and to put things right where there has been conflict or harm. We do this by working together with all those close to the child to address any harm done and rebuild relationships.

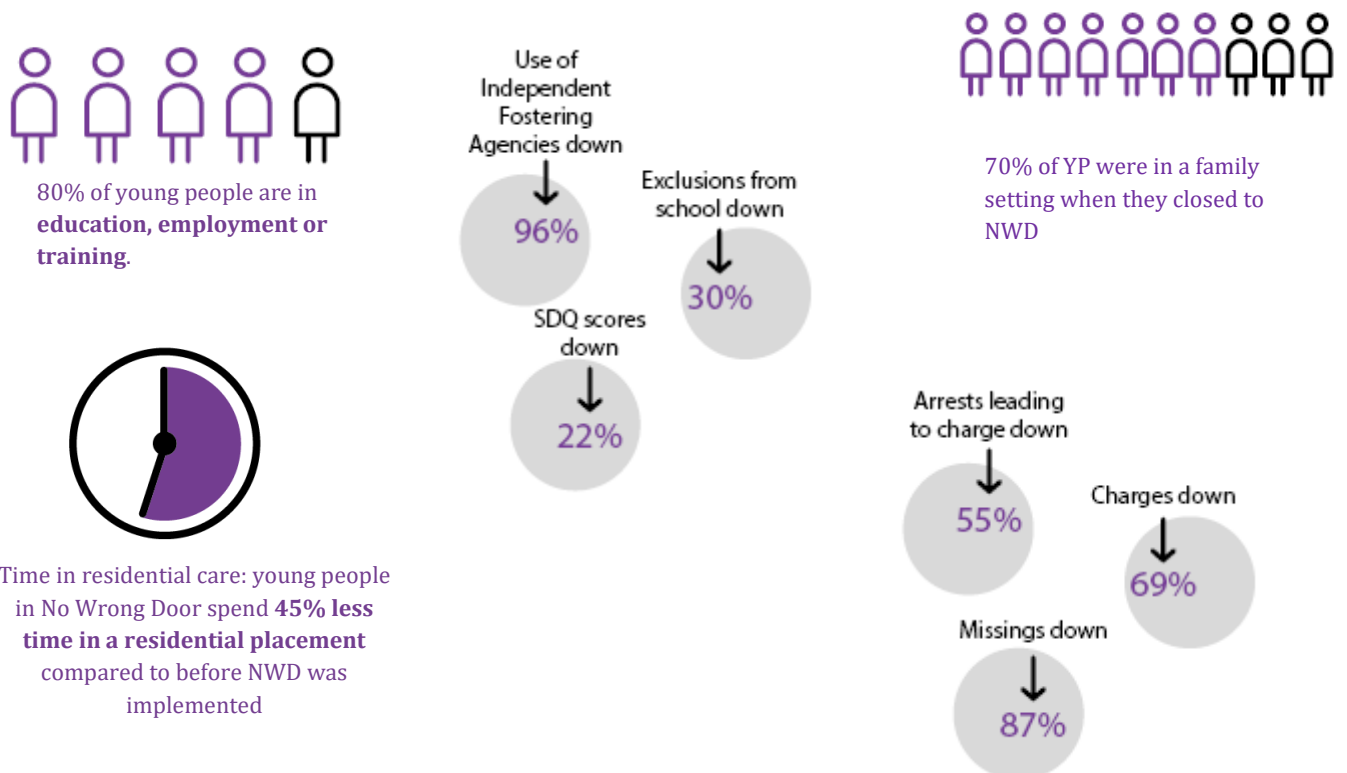
Why is this being recommended?

What has been achieved in NYCC, the approach that we are adopting and adapting:

- ▶ Since January 2020 they have taken 55 referrals

- ▶ Since September 2017 they have trained 22 people in Foundation level Restorative Practice
- ▶ Of those trained in Restorative Practice they offered sessional contracts to 16 of these
- ▶ 70% of the Restorative Academy Workers are care experienced themselves
- ▶ Since January 2020 a further 11 more relief workers have been recruited
- ▶ 3 of the workers have gone on to secure university placements, 1 of the workers went on to do an apprenticeship working in a school, and 1 worker successfully gained employment in a Children's Home.

In real terms means:



15. These figures are accredited to the new approach and have encouraged service-connected young people to raise aspirations, build confidence and take a route that they may otherwise never have thought possible for them.

Middlesbrough want to be able to offer this service to our young people, creating lasting positive impact on our service-connected young people, creating opportunities and

Other potential decisions and why these have not been recommended

N/A

Impact(s) of recommended decision(s)

N/A

Legal

N/A

Financial

16. The Relational Practice Service is a part of the Futures for Families budget and is funded accordingly with oversight from the service manager and finance with regular monitoring meetings.

Policy Framework

N/A

Equality and Diversity

N/A

Risk

17. Each piece of work which the RP Service will complete will be considered and risk assessed on an individual basis. The service doesn't pose any risk to the wider organisation.

Actions to be taken to implement the decision(s)

August 2022 – The formal process for referrals is in place

August 2022 – All Children's Services teams have had a presentation introducing the Restorative Relational Practice Service

September 2022 – Two Relational Practice Participation Causal Worker are in post

October 2022 – Go live as a Service and start accepting referrals from Children's Social Care

January 2023 – 3-month review of service delivery

Background papers

Body	Report title	Date

No background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

Contact: [Rob Hamer.](#)

Email: rob_hamer@middlesbrough.gov.uk

The Relational Practice Service

Rob Hamer Futures for Families Service Manager

Rob_hamer@middlesbrough.gov.uk

Julie O'Connor Restorative Relational Practice Coordinator

Julie_o'connor@middlesbrough.gov.uk

What is the Relational Practice Service?

The Relational Practice Service (RPS) is a part of Futures for Families. The RPS offers job opportunities for care experienced and service connected young people aged 18 years plus, to allow them to use their past experiences to help other young people.

The Relational Practice Workers offer support and guidance to young people who are otherwise struggling to engage with other services. The workers form a trusted relationship with the young person, as a peer mentor, who they can express their thoughts, wishes and feelings to.

The RPS's Mission and Values

- ▶ To develop resilience and empathy in young people and young adults through engaging with their personal experiences and those of others;
- ▶ To offer young people an opportunity to be Relational Practice advocates post training to support young people in a range of settings;
- ▶ To offer continued self-development for young people and young adults in effective communication;
- ▶ To offer training, work experience and career development opportunities to those employed within the service;
- ▶ The Relational Practice Workers engage with young people where other agencies have not been successful, and will act as a voice for the young person, encouraging reflection on their own current experience

How this will fit in Futures for Families

- ▶ Relational Practice Workers will be supported by the Restorative Relational Practice Coordinator within Futures for Families.
- ▶ When employed these workers will be trained in a variety of qualifications - Mandatory Council and restorative / Relational / trauma informed approach
- ▶ The role will deliver Restorative Relational Practice support, complete mentoring work, and offer Asdan awards if appropriate.
- ▶ Gaining this experience will enable the Restorative Workers to apply for vacant roles within resource and residential teams.

Interventions provided by the RPS

- ▶ Conflict resolution interventions led by young people and young adults supervised by the Relational Practice Service offering a variety of services
- ▶ Supporting young people with tenancy disputes (supporting Housing meetings)
- ▶ Group and circle work in Residential (supporting Residential meetings)
- ▶ Supporting relationship repair with those around a young person
- ▶ Supporting young people with issues of bullying
- ▶ Supporting young people in Schools
- ▶ Offering training and support to professionals
- ▶ Offering training to other young people and adults

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