



Corporate Parenting Board

Date: Monday, 6 December 2021

Time: 5.00 pm

Venue: Teams Live Event

Membership: (Quorum 3)

Kate Wheller (Chairman), Richard Biggs (Vice-Chairman), Ryan Holloway, Carole Jones, Stella Jones, Andrew Kerby and Cathy Lugg

Chief Executive: Matt Prosser, County Hall, Dorchester, Dorset DT1 1XJ

For more information about this agenda please contact Megan Rochester, Democratic Services Officer Apprentice Tel: 01305 224709 - m.r.rochester@dorsetcc.gov.uk

For easy access to the Council agendas and minutes download the free public app Mod.gov for use on your iPad, Android and Windows tablet. Once downloaded select Dorset Council. Due to the current coronavirus pandemic the Council has reviewed its approach to holding committee meetings. Members of the public are welcome to attend this meeting and listen to the debate either online by using the following link:

<https://youtu.be/0HSySMXVnjk>

Members of the public wishing to view the meeting from an iPhone, iPad or Android phone will need to download the free Microsoft Teams App to sign in as a Guest, it is advised to do this at least 30 minutes prior to the start of the meeting. Please note that public speaking has been suspended. However Public Participation will continue by written submission only. Please see detail set out below at item 4. Dorset Council is committed to being open and transparent in the way it carries out its business whenever possible. A recording of the meeting will be available on the Council's website after the event

AGENDA

Page No.

1 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS (17:00)

The Chairman to open the meeting and to note any apologies of absence.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To disclose any pecuniary, other registrable or non-registrable interests as set out in the adopted Code of Conduct. In making their decision councillors are asked to state the agenda item, the nature of the interest and any action they propose to take as part of their declaration.

If required, further advice should be sought from the Monitoring Officer in advance of the meeting.

3 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

To receive questions or statements on the business of the committee from town and parish councils and members of the public. Public speaking has been suspended for virtual committee meetings during the Covid-19 crisis and public participation will be dealt with through written submissions only.

Members of the public who live, work or represent an organisation within the Dorset Council area, may submit up to two questions or a statement of up to a maximum of 450 words. All submissions must be sent electronically to megan.r.rochester@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk by the deadline set out below. When submitting a question please indicate who the question is for and include your name, address and contact details. Questions and statements received in line with the council's rules for public participation will be published as a supplement to the agenda.

Questions will be read out by an officer of the council and a response given by the appropriate Portfolio Holder or officer at the meeting. All questions, statements and responses will be published in full within the minutes of the meeting.

The deadline for submission of the full text of a question or statement is 8.30am on Wednesday 1 December 2021.

4 REVIEW PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES (17:15)

5 - 10

To review the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 16 September 2021.

5 INTRODUCTION AND SCENE SETTING (17:25)

Theresa Leavy, Executive Director Children, to set the scene for the meeting.

6 CORPORATE PARENTING DATASET (17:30)

11 - 28

To receive a report from Matthew Chislett, Service Manager for Corporate Parenting and Permanence.

7 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE VIRTUAL SCHOOL: EDUCATION OF LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN (COMPLETED SEPTEMBER 2020) (17:40)

29 - 56

To receive a report from Lisa Linscott, Principal Teacher.

8 CHILDREN IN CARE AND CLICC STRATEGY AND PLAN (18:10)

57 - 62

Simon Fraiz-Brown, Service Manager Young and Thriving, to report.

9 CARE LEAVER OFFER UPDATE (18:30)

63 - 74

Matthew Chislett, Service Manager Corporate Parenting Permanence and Care Leavers, to update the board.

10 HARBOUR FEEDBACK AND OUTCOMES REPORT (18:45)

75 - 88

Louise Drury, Head Of Service Children in Care and Care Leavers, to report.

11 DATE OF NEXT MEETING (19:00)

To confirm details and deadlines for papers for the next meeting of the (formal) Corporate Parenting Board which will be held on Thursday 20 January 2022.

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CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 16 SEPTEMBER 2021

Present: Cllrs Kate Wheller (Chairman), Richard Biggs (Vice-Chairman), Ryan Holloway, Carole Jones, Stella Jones and Cathy Lugg

Apologies: Cllrs Jane Somper

Also present: Cllr Andrew Parry and Cllr Val Potheary, Stewart Dipple, Kim Rickford, Kirsten Hallett and Lianne Chorley.

Officers present (for all or part of the meeting):

Theresa Leavy (Executive Director of People - Children), Claire Shiels (Corporate Director - Commissioning, Quality & Partnerships), Matthew Chislett (Service Manager - Corporate Parenting Board and Permanence), Megan Rochester (Democratic Services Officer Apprentice), Sarah Jane Smedmor (Corporate Director - Care & Protection), Simon Fraiz-Brown (Service Manager - Adolescent Services), Lisa Linscott (Principal Teacher) and Kaye Wright (Personal Advisor (C&S 13-25))

11. Welcome and Introductions (17:00)

The Chairman opened the meeting and received apologies from Cllr Jane Somper, Louise Drury, Liz Plastow and David Webb.

12. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest

13. Public Participation

There was no public participation to report

14. Introduction and Scene Setting (17:05)

Theresa Leavy (Executive Director Children Services) informed members that members and officers had a collective responsibility for children to have the best life, especially those within care. Officers were working hard to meet this challenge. The Executive Director also informed the board of those areas of focus to ensure that children continued to thrive. These areas were education, wellbeing, and physical health. Another discussion point was the strategy; to ensure that families were kept close, stayed within their communities and to maintain close relationships with support officers. There had been great improvements around building relationships within the last 18 months and the Board were also informed of the steady trickle of applications for foster carers within Dorset.

The Executive Director for Children Services also updated the board on the residential provision, which would be going online this term, providing provision for children. There was a lot of work going on to ensure that the council met its ambition- to be the best Corporate Parents in the country.

15. Dorset Council Permanence Strategy 2021-2023 (17:10)

The Corporate Parenting Board considered the Permanence Strategy Report. The board was informed of the different ways to achieve permanence and the importance of keeping those family lifelong links when safe to do so. They were also informed that permanence could be with extended families. Where children and young people come into care, we are working hard to ensuring that they had stable placements, especially within Dorset as it was the best place for children to live and thrive in their local communities. Members discussed the report and highlighted the following areas:

- The Board welcomed the report and noted that there were several areas doing well.
- Referred to how it would be measured and if there were other ways to measure the quality. It was questioned whether the data set was sufficient and detailed enough. It was suggested that for future meetings, it should be higher up on the agenda due to the importance of it.
- The Report stated that the recommendation for review would be every 3 years. This was thought to be a long time, especially within a rapidly changing world. It was recommended that this be changed to annually to ensure that these targets were being met.
- How were special guardianship orders followed? They created a robust support plan with ASPIRE which set out the support that would be received and what they could expect. It was important to let families be families but if they needed support again then ASPIRE would step in and they can always contact the council if needed.

16. Dorset Council's Care Leaver Strategy 2021-2023 (17:30)

Sarah-Jane Smedmor (Care Corporate Director) informed the board of the Dorset Council's Care Leaver Strategy. She also explained that the next informal meeting will be dedicated to care leavers as it was care leaver week. Kirsten Hallett (Team management with care leaver) informed the board of the Your life beyond care survey. This was conducted to have a better understanding of children's experience and the help and support they receive. The following discussion points were made:

- Was there a target to ensure that every care leaver can read and write before progressing onto the next stages of their lives beyond care? How can a targeted mentoring scheme be monitored to help them into the world of life? The board was assured that officers were working with schools and the virtual school to ensure that all children could read, write, and have basic IT skills. They were also informed that some councillors had come forward to become mentors, whether this be for job interview practice or

university applications. Through working with local businesses, they were also looking into different apprenticeship opportunities for young people.

- Regarding contact, the board was assured that they were in contact with several care leavers. Some chose not to retain contact for personal reasons but those involved there was contact more frequently than every 8 weeks.
- The board was also informed that the target for those in employment or within education was currently not being met. The level was currently at 60% but officers assured the board that they would be working hard to increase this percentage. Several care leavers were not able to work due to illness, criminal records, or personal life choices, so this also needed to be included within these statistics. What can be done to open the doors to employment?
- Due to living in a more rural area, transport was an issue. The board asked how the council could help either financially or by offering transport? In answer to this question Kirsten Hallett (team management with care leavers) informed the board of the guaranteed bursary that was offered to 16-19-year olds within care. This could contribute to books, trips, and transport. In addition to this the council could offer further payments and bespoke packages based on their personal needs.
- Reports were currently produced on 18-21-year olds however the care system looked after young people until the age of 25. For those who wanted contact after the age of 21, they could be contacted on an 8-weekly basis. It was their choice, and bespoke packages could be made between the care leaver and their PA.
- A suggestion was made that schools offer mock interviews which would be useful. It would be good to do marketing with councillors within the different fields to mentor young people.

17. **Emotional Health and Well-Being in Schools and briefing on the Emotional Health and Well-Being Support Group (17:50)**

Theresa Leavy (Executive Director Children Services) introduced the report on behalf of Vik Verma. The number of children who had completed the strengths and difficulty questionnaire had improved. The average score was down to 15.4, this was still elevated but the board were assured that they were looking to get this down by tracking all data. They were also informed of the work being done with schools around mental and physical health which made an impact on a child's life. They were also working with schools around trauma and looking at ways to support them to focus on that. Working to ensure that children knew that a school was a place of safety and to create a sense of normality for them. The following discussion points were made:

- The questionnaire could not be simplified, it was a standard questionnaire. The strengths and difficulties questionnaire were being promoted in all meetings. There were three different questionnaires, for the child over 11, foster carers and teachers. The questionnaire enabled at the identification of trends through the different surveys.

- Relationship with partners in CAMS- this was an ongoing piece of work but would like to update members in the future of the waiting times, outcome and how successful this service has been.

18. **Health of Looked after Children and Emotional Wellbeing of Looked after Children (18:15)**

Louise Smith, designated nurse for children in care and care leavers presented the board with the report. She explained that the report reflected the difficult year due to covid, plus the recovery plan put in place. Another discussion point was the importance of children's voices, and they were working with participation groups to better this. One change that they were making, was how do the children want their health assessments delivered in the future. Would they want virtual or face-face? The board was also informed of the number of care leavers rising, and there was work in progress to transform the care leaver role. They were also wanting a more transitional role into adulthood for 17-18-year olds.

The Corporate Parenting Board was also informed of the progress made with dental care. Children within the care system were now prioritised and there was a robust escalation process in place if any complications arose.

Members asked the following questions relating to the following:

- The report was welcomed by the board and was praised for the hard work that has gone into it.
- Do all children in care have an EHCP? It was suggested to add more information regarding speech and language therapists within the report. It would be useful to see what percentage of children in care had this.
- Vaccination approval, who would need to give this? The board was advised that a process was needed for this and a meeting had been set up to discuss this matter. Due to it not being a routine vaccine, officers would need to make sure that either the authority or parental consent was given.
- Key performance indicators were around referrals with health assessments. Additional needs would be referred to either the GP or other professional services around eating disorders or dietitian services. Training and support was also offered to foster carers around healthy eating.
- Suggestion to speak about religious and spiritual requirements on future agendas to ensure the needs of all children were covered.
- Procedures with disputes with vaccinations- A strong vaccination team within Dorset health care and it will be parental choice. Considering the capacity of children, it was early days but there would be conversations around the procedure for this.

19. **Corporate Parenting Dataset (18:40)**

Matthew Chislett (Service Manager Corporate Parenting and Care Leavers) introduced the members to the Corporate Parenting Dataset. The permanence plan achievement rate was increasing. Last month 30% and to date it was up to 33%. Hoping to see more traction to achieving permanence through the new

processes. The process around early permanence, adoption, and long-term fostering had been streamlined. He also informed the board of having 268 care leavers with 97% keeping in touch and keeping close relationships. Officers aspired to lead the way to be the best corporate parents nationally. In terms of initial health assessments, they were meeting targets. Dental checks were seen within the vulnerable group and if we can't access, an escalation process is in place to ensure all children are seen.

The following suggestions were made:

- The report was welcomed but it was noted that transport was a barrier and it was important to address as employment was below average. Matthew Chislett (Service Manager Corporate Parenting and Care Leavers) assured the board that at the next informal meeting, this would be a topic considered with members.
- It was also suggested that discussions be held with Cllr Bryan on the transport issue how public transport could be improved to help employment chances.

20. **Date of Next Meeting (18:50)**

It was confirmed that the date of the next informal Corporate Parenting Board meeting would be held on Monday 11 October 2021.

Meeting closed at 18:47pm

Duration of meeting: 5.00 - 6.47 pm

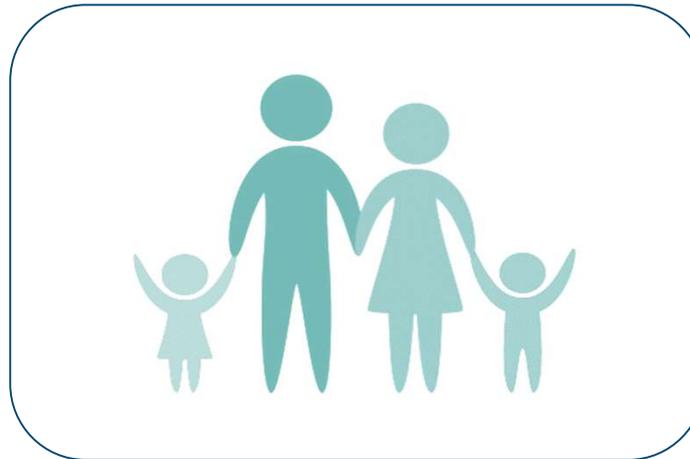
Chairman

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Corporate Parenting Performance Report

People - Childrens



October 2021

Produced by Business Intelligence & Performance (People)

Corporate Parenting Board - Performance



Introduction

This purpose of this report is to provide the Corporate Parenting Board with an overview of performance. These indicators are grouped together under the relevant areas. Work will continue with managers to develop targets.

Overview of Performance

The report assesses the performance of available data during or as at the end of the last month, snapshots of this data are taken. Performance is compared with the previous month and whether there has been an improvement or decline in performance. Where appropriate, a target has been set to ensure high performance and drive improvement and there is RAG rating for these indicators. Targets have been set in line with national and statistical neighbour rates/averages and this information is included in the report where it is available and in discussion

RAG Rating and Performance Direction

Where a target has been set, indicators are RAG rated using the criteria below:

Green Performance is good and in line with or exceeding target: consistent with the National/Statistical Neighbour average.

Amber Performance is below target; inconsistent with National/Statistical Neighbour average; action is in place with likelihood of improvement.

Red Performance is poor; well below expected levels nationally; improvement is required.

Latest performance is compared with the previous month with arrows indicating direction of performance as follows:

-  improved performance compared with previous month
-  same performance compared with previous month
-  decline in performance compared with previous month

Benchmarking Note:

Good and Outstanding Statistical neighbours for 2019/20 includes Shropshire, Wiltshire, East Sussex, Cornwall and Suffolk. The latest available benchmarking data has been included.

Corporate Parenting Data Set (last 6 months)



	Benchmarking 19/20		Current Target	Baseline Dorset March 2020	May-21	Jun-21	Jul-21	Aug-21	Sep-21	Oct-21	Direction of Performance	Status	Trend
	Eng AV	Good + AV											
Profile													
Measure													
Rate of children in care as at end of month													
	67	54	60	70	65.4	65.4	64.8	65.0	64.6	65.1	⊗	⚠	
Number of children who became CIC													
			10	21	4	15	5	8	7	13	⊗	⚠	
Number of children who ceased to be CIC													
			13	22	7	15	9	7	13	9	⊗	⚠	
Health													
% of New Children in Care receiving their IHA within 20 days (one month in arrears)													
			95	28	75.0	66.7	0.0	87.5	66.7		⊗	⚠	
% CIC for 12 months or more with Annual Health Assessment completed on time													
	90	88.8	90	79	81.0	81.3	83.1	82.4	84.7	84.2	⊗	⚠	
% CIC in care 12 months or more who have had a dental check within 12 months													
	86	82.2	85	78	23.0	34.6	41.5	42.8	45.5	47.7	✓	⚠	
% of ALL CIC at end of month with up to date immunisations													
	88	92.4	88	83	87.4	88.1	88.0	88.5	87.9	86.2	⊗	⚠	
Emotional Wellbeing													
% of children for CIC for at least 12 months age 4-16yrs with completed SDQ assessment													
	81	74.2		61	73.8	74.4	73.7	79.8	80.3	82.0	✓	⚠	
Average SDQ score for children in care who have been in care for more than 12 months (age 4 to 16)													
	14.1	14.8		18.6	15.6	15.6	15.6	15.2	15.3	15.3	⊗	⚠	
Safety													
% of children in care (at any point in last 6 months) with at least one missing episode in the last 12 months													
	11	10.4	10	16	13	13	14	14	13	12	✓	⚠	
% Children in Care who have had more that 1 episode of Missing													
	7.4	6.8		8.2	8	8	8	8	8	8	⚠	⚠	
Number of allegations made against foster carers													
	10	8.8		27	2	3	3	2	1	1	⚠	⚠	

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Corporate Parenting Data Set (last 6 months)



	Benchmarking 19/20		Current Target	Baseline Dorset March 2020	May-21	Jun-21	Jul-21	Aug-21	Sep-21	Oct-21	Direction of Performance	Status	Trend
	Eng AV	Good + AV											
Placement													
% Children in Care living in foster placement													
	71.8 (18/19)	73.3 (SN 18/19)			73	73	72	71	70	70	⚠		
% of CIC at end of month with 3+ placements in previous 12 months													
	11	11.6	10	11	6.1	6.3	5.7	6.8	9.2	9.1	✓	 	
% of children in care for 2.5 years or more, aged under 16 who have been in their placement for 2 or more years													
	68	69.2	70	69	72.0	70.1	69.1	67.7	64.8	64.9	✓	 	
% Children in Care living in a commissioned placement													
	51	41		49	53	52	54	54	53	54	✗		
% CIC placed 20 miles away from home													
	20	33.4	35	47	43.2	42.8	42.0	43.5	44.4	43.8	✓	 	
% CIC placed outside Dorset													
	41	26.2	30	40	40.5	39.6	40.9	40.8	41.0	40.8	✓	 	
Number of unregulated placements (H5, P2, R1)													
				47	25.0	20.0	20.0	20.0	22.0	21.0	✓		
Education													
% Children in Care with an Education Health and Care Plan													
	28	32			40	36	37	NA	38	39			
% Children in Care achieving expected standards in Key Stage 1													
								Data not available due to COVID		Data published August 2022			
% Children in Care achieving expected standards in Key Stage 2 Maths													
	51 (18/19)	48.6 (SN 18/19)						Data not available due to COVID		Data published August 2022			
% Children in Care achieving expected standards in Key Stage 2 Writing													
	50 (18/19)	46.3 (SN 18/19)						Data not available due to COVID		Data published August 2022			
% Children in Care achieving expected standards in Key Stage 2 Reading													
	49 (18/19)	46.9 (SN 18/19)		51.0				Data not available due to COVID		Data published August 2022			
Average Attainment 8 score for Children in Care													
	17.7	24.16						Data not available due to COVID		Data published August 2022			
Average progress 8 score for Children in Care													
	1.23 (18/19)	1.42 (SN 18/19)						Data not available due to COVID		Data published August 2022			
% of children with a PEP within 20 days of coming into care													
					NA	100	100	NA	NA	NA			
% all Children in Care Unauthorised absence													
	1.4 (18/19)	1 (SN 18/19)			2.29	2.28	2.25	NA	1.84	2.29	✗		

Corporate Parenting Data Set (last 6 months)



	Benchmarking 19/20		Current Target	Baseline Dorset March 2020	May-21	Jun-21	Jul-21	Aug-21	Sep-21	Oct-21	Direction of Performance	Status	Trend
	Eng AV	Good + AV											
Education													
Average Attendance % for Children in Care of school age													
					91.8	85.2	91.9	NA	93.3	92.6	✗		
% Children in Care who have been in care for 12 months who have had at least one Fixed Term Exclusion (in the month)													
					2.6	2.6	2.9	NA	2.1	2.5	✗		
% all Children in Care on reduced timetable													
					5.3	4.9	6.2	NA	4.6	1.4	✓		
Permanence													
% of CIC for 4 months or more with a completed permanence plan													
		90	73		98.6	97.9	97.9	97.1	96.2	98.1	✓		
% Children who have achieved Permanence													
					26.8	30.3	30.2	33.2	34.3	35.5	✓		
% Children Achieved Permanence SGO													
	12.2	11.4		8.6	8.0	11.0	14.0	14.0	17.0	15.0	✗		
% Children Achieved Permanence Adoption													
	11	12.2		9.0	14.0	11.0	13.0	11.0	14.0	13.0	✗		
Sufficiency													
Number of Foster carers at end of month													
		215	200		205	202	197	196	198	194	✗		
Number of new households recruited – Mainstream													
			22		1	0	2	0	2	0	✗		
Number of new households recruited – Connected Person													
			18		1	1	0	0	2	2	!		
Number of new households recruited – Temporary													
					2	8	1	2	1	0	✗		
Number of households de-registered – exclude connected carers													
			22		1	1	0	1	0	1	✗		
Number of households resigned													
			64		2	4	4	3	4	1	✓		
Number of applicants undergoing assessment (Foster Carers)													
					16	14	11	10	12	13	✓		
Number of allegations made against foster carers that were substantiated													
			14		1	2	0	0	0	1	✗		

Corporate Parenting Data Set (last 6 months)



	Benchmarking 19/20		Current Target	Baseline Dorset March 2020	May-21	Jun-21	Jul-21	Aug-21	Sep-21	Oct-21	Direction of Performance	Status	Trend
	Eng AV	Good + AV											

Adoption

Number of adoptions finalised in month				16	2	1	2	0	1	1	!		
Number of children living in adoptive placements pending adoption orders					19	20	20	21	20	21	✓		
Number of children with a match identified					1	1	0	0	2	1	✗		
Number of children where family finding is ongoing					19	17	19	18	15	13	✓		
Numbers of Adoption placement order revocations over last 12 months											✓		
Average number of days between entering care and moving in with adoptive family for adopted children (adjusted for foster carer adoptions)				2	8	8	6	7	7	6	✓		
The average number of days from the date of the placement order to the date the child was matched to prospective adopters				412	481	450	508	482	487	521	✗		
Number of adoptive families recruited				203	246	240	231	253	253	268	✗		
Number of adoptive Families in assessment				60	2	3	2	5	0	1	✓		
					46	45	45	41	41				

Care Leavers

% Care Leavers with an up to date pathway plan at end of month				95	66.5	85	85	86	82	76	71	✗			
% Care Leavers who are living in suitable accommodation (19-21 yrs)				85	85.4	96	88	96	94	94	94	!			
% Care Leavers who are in Employment Education or Training (19-21yrs)				53	55.4	60	48	51	52	55	54	52	53	✓	
% Care Leavers who are in touch with Dorset Local Authority (19-21yrs)				90	89.3	93	92	99	99	99	99	99	99	!	

Corporate Parenting Data Set

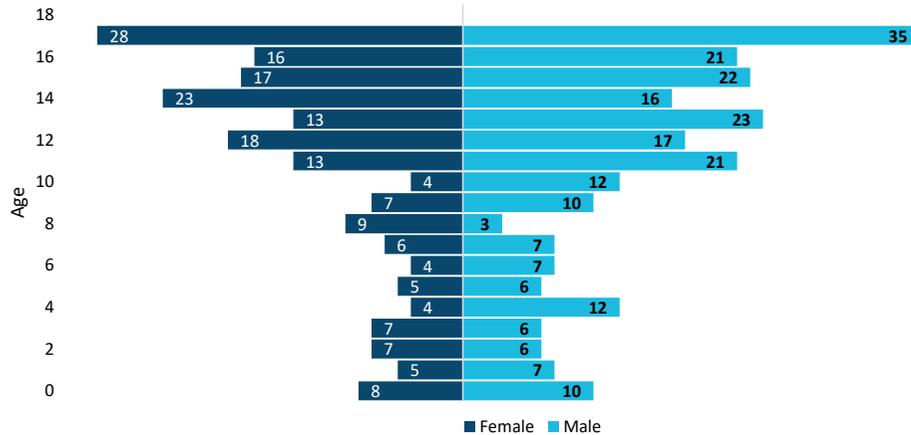
People - Childrens

Produced by Business Intelligence & Performance (People)

PROFILE



Children In Care by Age & Gender at 31st October 2021



Number of Children In Care at 31 October 2021:

441



Number of Care Leavers at 31 October 2021:

277



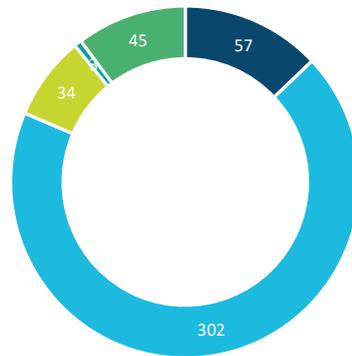
Comments:

We continue to see work towards reduction in our total number of children in care, which is now much closer to our statistical neighbours. This in part is due to improved processes and oversight of children coming into Dorset Councils Care and progressing their permanence option. We continue to see children coming into our care in a planned way in the majority.

We also have seen a slight increase in our total children and young people who are care leavers this month. This however is likely in the medium term to increase as

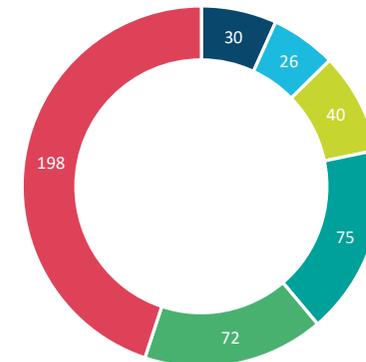
Legal Status at 31st October 2021

- C1 Interim Care Order
- C2 Full Care Order
- E1 Placement Order Granted
- L2 Emergency Protection Order
- V2 Single Period of Accom Under Section 20



Duration in Care at 31st October 2021

- 0-3 months
- 4-6 months
- 7-12 months
- 13-24 months
- 25-36 months
- 37+ months

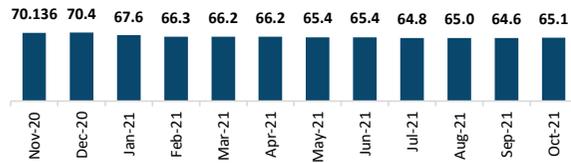


Corporate Parenting Data Set

People - Childrens

Produced by Business Intelligence & Performance (People)

Rate of Children In Care per 10,000



England Average 19/20 (67)

Dorset 19/20 (70)

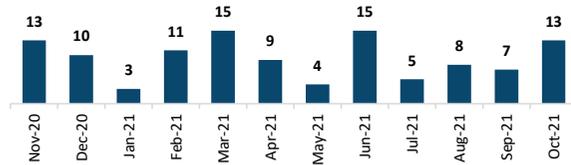
Good + Statistical Neighbours

Comments:

Our rate of Children in care per 10,000 has steadily reduced month on month since January 2021. Our rate of children in care is now lower than national average for the past 10 months. This is positive and an improving picture for Dorset Council, we remain with a higher rate of children in care than our good or outstanding statistical neighbours. Considerable efforts have been made and continue to be made to only have children come into our care when appropriate to do so and they achieve permanence without drift or delay.

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Number of Children who have come into Care



Number of Children who ceased to be in Care



Comments:

We continue to see a trend of less children entering care than leaving for most months of 2021. Whilst this is positive and a result of the refined process's we remain committed to ensuring children coming into our care in a planned way and achieve permanence in a timely way, further progress is required, and this remains our priority.

Attention continues to be given to ensuring that plans for permanence include all permanence options which are being explored and progressed in a timely manner. This results in achieving permanence for our children in a timely way.

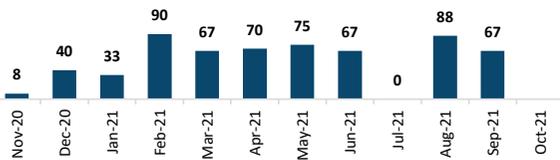
Corporate Parenting Data Set

People - Childrens

Produced by Business Intelligence & Performance (People)



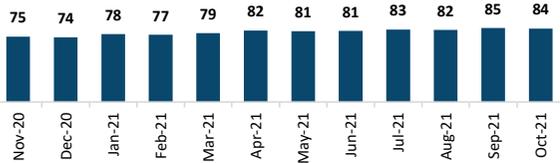
% of New CIC receiving their IHA within 20 days



Comments: % of New Children in Care receiving their Initial Health Assessment (IHA) monthly data is reported 1 month after the month is due, this is to allow for the data to fall into the month due, i.e. a child accommodated on the 31 December would not be calculated until 26 January. Data is from our Mosaic system. Benchmarking data is currently not available.

We have seen an improvement in performance in completed IHAs since January this year. We have better management oversight of this process in real time, reducing and preventing delay in completing and sharing relevant consent documents with health which has led to delay in setting up an IHA within 20 days. We continue to work closely with our health colleagues to address any issues in real-time with all professionals involved fully committed to improving performance. Performance should continue to improve in this regard. We have seen some difficulties in progressing out of county IHA in timescales and we continue to work closely with the Clinical Commissioning group to improve performance.

% CIC Annual Health Assessment completed on time

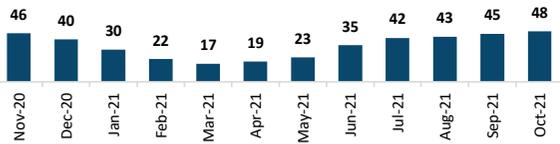


- England Average 19/20 (90%)
- Dorset 19/20 (79%)
- Good + Statistical Neighbours

Comments:

Figures shown on the graph are for children in care for 12 months or more, the percentage having their Annual Review Health Assessment (RHA) completed on time. It should be noted that our measures are different from the CCQ who measure % of children in each month who have had their review health assessment as opposed to our measure.

% CIC who have had a dental check within 12 months

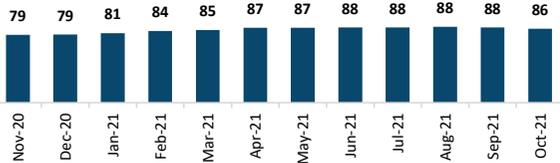


- England Average 19/20 (86%)
- Dorset 19/20 (78%)
- Good + Statistical Neighbours

Comments: Figures shown on the graph are for children in care (CIC) for 12 months or more and whether they have had a dental check within the last 12 months.

We continue to see an improvement in our children accessing a dentist for their 12 monthly dental check. Our children accessing their annual dental check is also a month on month improving picture as our children are now seen as a priority vulnerable group in the South West. Performance was impacted due to the Global pandemic.

% CIC at month end with up to date immunisations



- England Average 19/20 (88%)
- Dorset 19/20 (83%)
- Good + Statistical Neighbours

Comments:

Figures shown on the graph are for the percentage of children in care at end of month with up to date immunisations. CCG data shows Immunisations for Children in care are up to date with the UK Immunisation schedule for the month of those due an RHA in the month.

Corporate Parenting Data Set

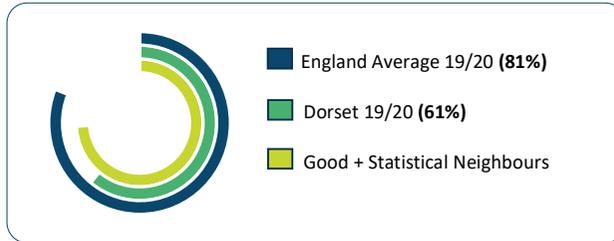
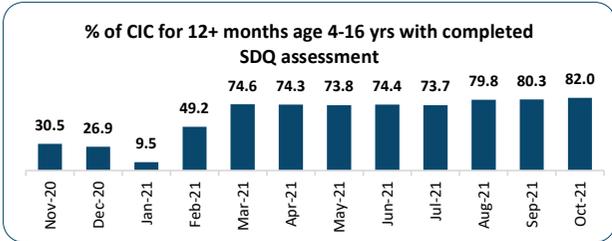
People - Childrens

Produced by Business Intelligence & Performance (People)

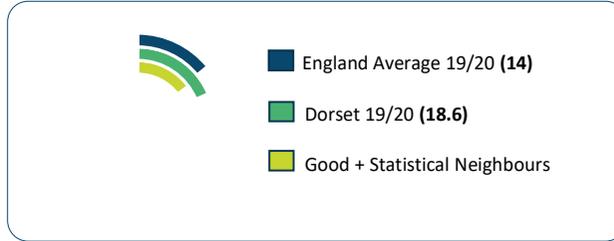
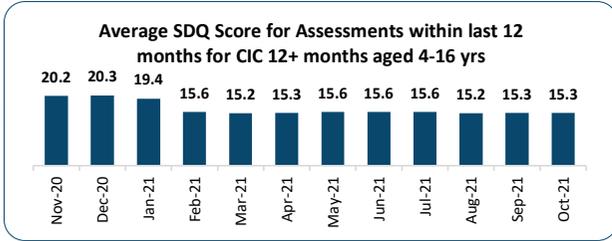
EMOTIONAL WELLBEING



Page 20



Comments:
 We continue to remain focused on this as a priority for Children Services. We have seen an improvement in completion of the Strengths and difficulty questionnaire, and we are monitoring and tracking on a child level data these scores and what that means for our children. We have sustained this performance and the % return is greater than last year and in line with statistical neighbours.



Comments:
 A score below 14 is best. Dorset's average score has dropped as the percentage of SDQs completed has increased. The average score for those completed falls in the slightly raised banding. This suggests that overall the wellbeing of our children in care has improved and may indicate that we are better at meeting and responding to their emotional and behavioural needs.

Corporate Parenting Data Set

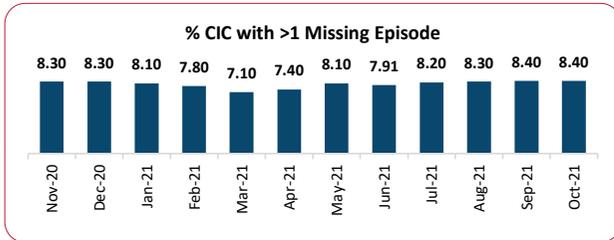
People - Childrens

Produced by Business Intelligence & Performance (People)



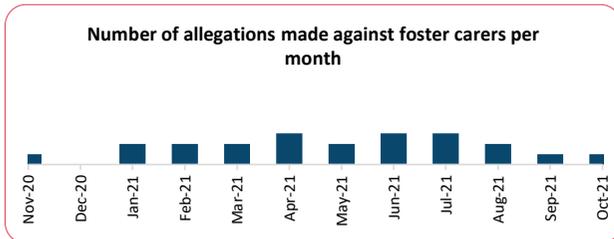
- England Average 19/20 (11%)
- Dorset 19/20 (16%)
- Good + Statistical Neighbours

Comments:
13% of our children in care had a missing episode in September and 12% in October, so a slight reduction on previous months figures. However, our data shows that this remains a consistent picture across the year, as monthly percentages since November have ranged from 12% - 14%. The daily missing meeting now has consistent attendance from Police missing team and IMPACT (child exploitation team) will also share information and practice, for those young people open to their service.



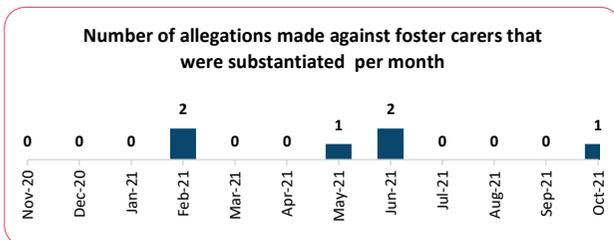
- England Average 19/20 (7%)
- Dorset 19/20 (8.2%)
- Good + Statistical Neighbours

Comments:
During September and October this remained consistent with 8.4% CIC with more than one missing episode. We remain a statistical outlier with our current data set, when compared to our good/statistical neighbours and England average. As noted previously, the daily missing meeting and consistency in professionals engaging with our children in care who have gone missing, will develop our responses and practice to reduce the % of children in care who have missing episodes.



- England Average 19/20 (10)
- Dorset 19/20 (27)
- Good + Statistical Neighbours

Comments:
In October there was one allegations against foster carers. This related to concerns that the foster carers had allowed a young person to consume alcohol.



12 month total: Dorset 19/20 (14)

Comments:
There has been one allegation substantiated against a foster carer which relates to an incident dating from August 2021

Corporate Parenting Data Set

People - Childrens

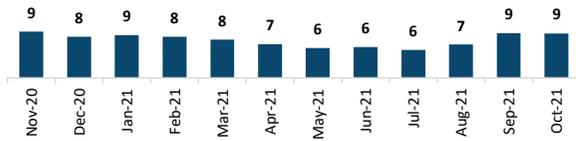
Produced by Business Intelligence & Performance (People)

PLACEMENT



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% Children in Care with 3 or more Placements

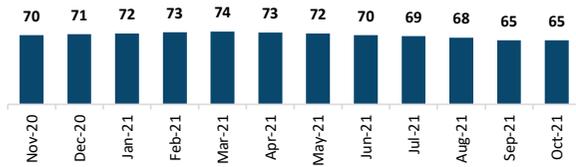


- England Average 19/20 (11%)
- Dorset 19/20 (11%)
- Good + Statistical Neighbours

Comments:

Dorset Council continues to perform better than our good statistical neighbours and the national average. We continue to use stability meetings as a way of offering support early to reduce crisis escalating and placement break down. The Harbour Outreach team are also now working with our children where placement break down has been identified.

% CIC 2.5 Years in same placement for 2+ Years

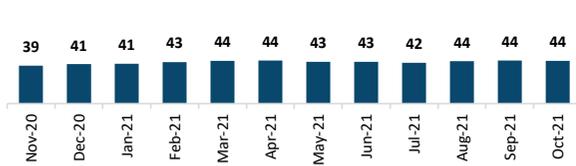


- England Average 19/20 (68%)
- Dorset 19/20 (69%)
- Good + Statistical Neighbours

Comments:

This continues to be an improving picture as we develop practice to ensure that where possible children achieve permanence and stability earlier. We know our children and have a forward planner all our children who have not achieved permanence in these placements and have clear plans to progress their permanence in a timely way.

% CIC Living 20+ Miles from Home Address

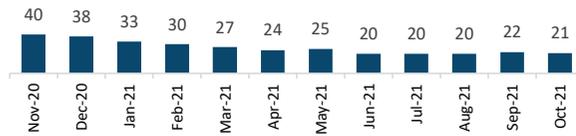


- England Average 19/20 (20%)
- Dorset 19/20 (47%)
- Good + Statistical Neighbours

Comments:

We continue to have too many children who are placed away from their local community and are not yet settled in their permanent placement. Recruiting local carers for local children is central to our sufficiency strategy. There is an ongoing recruitment drive underway.

Number of unregulated placements (H5, P2, R1)



Comments:

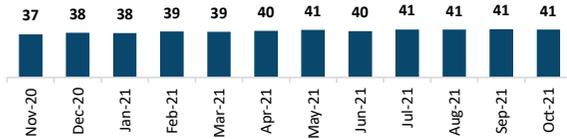
All of our children in unregulated placement are 16 + and are closely monitored on a monthly basis.

Corporate Parenting Data Set

People - Childrens

Produced by Business Intelligence & Performance (People)

% CIC Living Outside Dorset Council Area

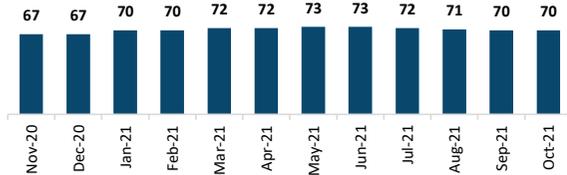


- England Average 19/20 (41%)
- Dorset 19/20 (40%)
- Good + Statistical Neighbours

Comments:

We continue to have too many children placed out of their local area. We continue to review permanence plans for these children. Just over two thirds have been in their placement for more than a year. A proportion of these children are placed in connected persons placement which are placement falling outside of the Dorset Council locality.

Children in Care Living in Foster Placement

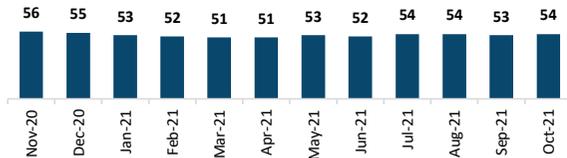


- England Average 18/19 (72%)
- Dorset 18/19 (70%)
- Good + Statistical Neighbours

Comments:

The majority of our children continue to live in a family home. Figures are taken from ChAT.

CIC Living in a Commissioned Placement



- England Average 19/20 (51%)
- Dorset 19/20 (49%)
- Good + Statistical Neighbours

Comments:

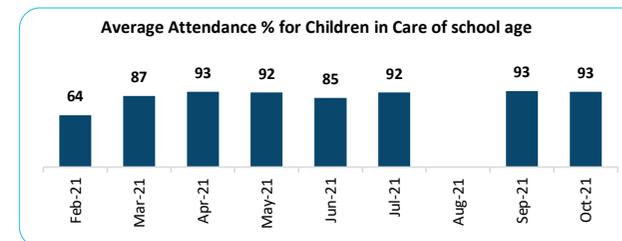
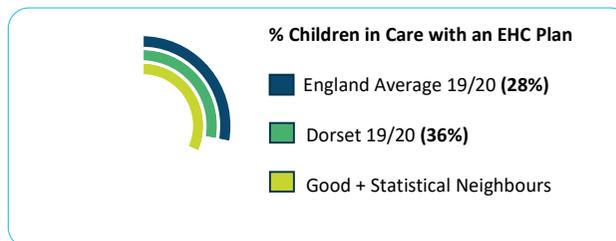
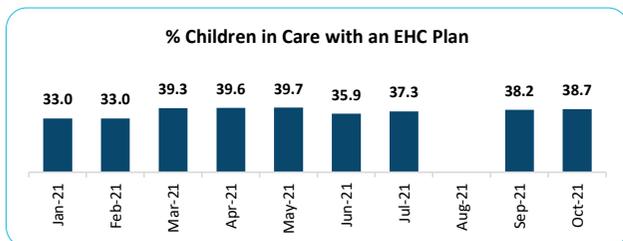
Figures are taken from ChAT and include children in care as at the end of each month. Includes all placements that are not in Dorset provision.

Corporate Parenting Data Set

People - Childrens

Produced by Business Intelligence & Performance (People)

EDUCATION



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Indicator	National 19/20	Dorset 19/20	Good + SN Average 19/20	May-21	Jun-21	Jul-21	Aug-21	Sep-21	Oct-21
Children with a PEP within 20 days of coming into care (%)				NA	100	100	NA	100	100
Children in Care Unauthorised absence (%)	1.7%	1.0%	1.3%	2.3	2.3	2.3	NA	1.8	2.3
Children in Care 12+ months who have had at least one Fixed Term Exclusion (%)	11%	14%	13%	2.6	2.6	2.9	NA	2.1	2.5
Children in Care on reduced timetable (%)				5.3	4.9	6.2	NA	4.6	1.4

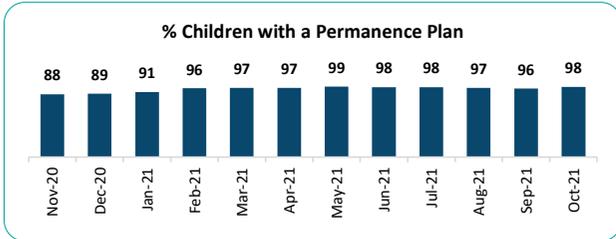
Indicator	National 18/19	Dorset 18/19	SNs 18/19	Outstanding SN 18/19 Range	County and National data is not available for 2021 year due to Covid-19 pandemic. The use of these indicators , for accountability, is suspended. Dorset Council continues to support our schools to provide the best education for all.
Children in Care achieving expected standards in Key Stage 2 Maths (%)	51%	57%	49%	35% - 46%	
Children in Care achieving expected standards in Key Stage 2 Writing (%)	50%	43%	46%	32% - 42%	
Children in Care achieving expected standards in Key Stage 2 Reading (%)	49%	43%	47%	25% - 37%	
Average Attainment 8 score for Children in Care	19.2	14.4	15.4	14.9 - 17.8	
Average progress 8 score for Children in Care	-1.23	-0.96	-1.42	- 0.93 - -1.33	

Comments:
 PEPs for children new into care within 20 days remains 100%.
 Some students had a short burst of a reduced timetable in September; pleasingly most have now returned to a full time timetable in October.
 Unauthorised absence improved dramatically in September but has taken a further dip in October to similar levels to last year. Overall attendance rates have continued to improve on last year which is pleasing given overall absence rate from schools due to Covid. Year 11 continue to be a year group of concern in terms of attendance.
 Fixed term exclusions so far this term equates to 10 children. All bar one are secondary school age and the other has now moved to a more suitable provision where he is settling in well.

Corporate Parenting Data Set

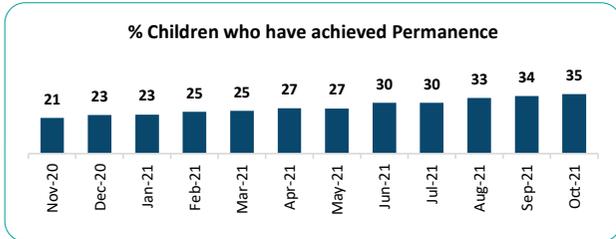
People - Childrens

Produced by Business Intelligence & Performance (People)



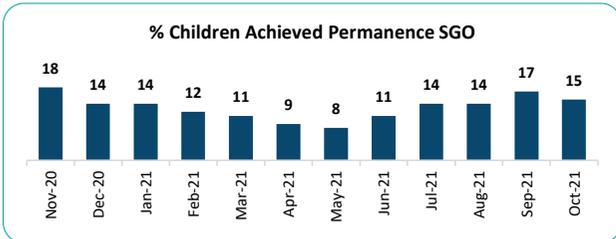
Comments:

This continues to be an improving picture for Dorset Children with month-on-month improvement. We have processes in place and a data dashboard to track permanence and we continue to monitor and track our children's permanence option and timeliness of achieving permanence. A monthly permanence reports is also shared with senior managers and operation staff. There continues to be growing scrutiny from our Quality Assurance and Reviewing Officers to ensure further oversight of timeliness and quality of permanence plans. Figures taken from Mosaic for children in care for 4 months or more at the end of each month



Comments:

We remain committed to ensuring our children are achieving permanence in a timely way. This performance is a month on month improving picture. This is due to better monitoring and tracking of our children's journey to permanence in our care, supported by improved date (dashboard) accessible by our staff.



England Average 19/20 (12%)

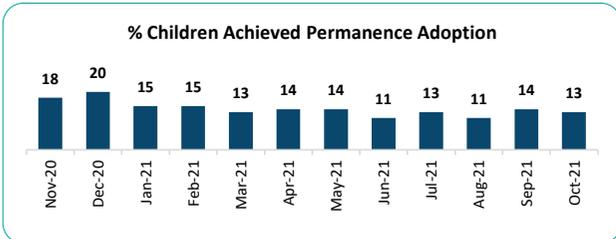
Dorset 19/20 (8.6%)

Good + Statistical Neighbours

Comments:

Figures are taken from ChAT and include children who left care in the last 6 months.

We continue to look at all options for securing permanence for our children whilst in our care.



England Average 19/20 (11%)

Dorset 19/20 (9%)

Good + Statistical Neighbours

Comments:

Figures are taken from ChAT and include children who left care in the last 6 months.

Dorset Council continues to progress and track our children through the adoption process in a timely way, in close partnership with ASPIRE.

Corporate Parenting Data Set

People - Childrens

Produced by Business Intelligence & Performance (People)

SUFFICIENCY



Indicator	Dorset 18/19	Dorset 19/20	Nov-20	Dec-20	Jan-21	Feb-21	Mar-21	Apr-21	May-21	Jun-21	Jul-21	Aug-21	Sep-21	Oct-21
No of approved foster carers (All)	186	202	205	204	207	201	203	202	205	202	197	196	198	194
No of new households recruited														
Mainstream	21	22	3	3	3	2	3	3	1	0	2	0	2	0
CP	14	18	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	2	2
Temporary CP	0	0	2	4	0	1	5	5	2	8	1	2	1	0
No of households de-registered (excludes connected carers)	16	22	1	0	3	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	1
No of households resigned	44	64	1	1	1	2	3	3	2	4	4	3	4	1

Comments:

The number of new households recruited each month is recorded separately for Mainstream Fostering, Connected Persons and Temporary Approved Connected Persons.

The number of households deregistered only applies to mainstream fostering. A clear action plan is in place to improve the level of foster carer availability. There is an on going recruitment campaign to develop our inhouse provision.

There is an ongoing plan to manage the number of unavailable beds within the service. This is regularly monitored and foster carers are encouraged to consider availability. It is hoped that this will improve as Covid restrictions are now lifted. Recruitment efforts continue with the latest advertising campaign focussed on recruiting carers for teenagers. Dorset council participated in a South West regional campaign during the annual Fostering Fortnight Campaign in may and generated 15 enquiries from the public about becoming foster carers. This is a disappointing result. However there has been a noticeable drop in the number of enquiries in the last two months and this has been felt by the other LA's in the South West region. One hypothesis is that people are concentrating on going out or visiting relatives and friends as the Covid restrictions lift and the weather is good.

Sufficiency remains an issue and during the period of October there were no newly approved mainstream foster carers. It should also be noted that enquiries had reduced by 57%. The reasons for this are related to a number of issues.

1. Face to face recruitment was stopped correctly due to the pandemic but unfortunately there was a delay in recommencing this. The impact of face to face recruitment events is that a 'footprint' is left which kindles interest and eventually enquiries.
2. There is a significant need to develop links with key stakeholders, businesses and enterprises to ensure that there is a vehicle for marketing. Examples of this would be advertising in GP surgeries and individual companies and sectors promoting fostering within the County.
3. The need to complete and launch a newly designed marketing campaign which will give Dorset Council fostering a softer and more accessible face. This also needs to be more targeted because the current data indicates that people who are making enquiries have not made similar enquiries with independent fostering agencies which would appear to show that we are not currently reaching out to the correct market.

A piece of work is also being undertaken within the team to review current vacancies and to explore on an individual basis with households if approvals can be increased and there is scope to increase individual vacancy rates.

Corporate Parenting Data Set

People - Childrens

Produced by Business Intelligence & Performance (People)

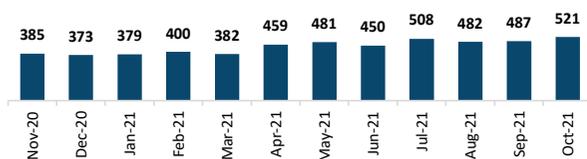
ADOPTION



Indicator	Dorset 19/20	Feb-21	Mar-21	Apr-21	May-21	Jun-21	Jul-21	Aug-21	Sep-21	Oct-21
Number of adoptions finalised in year	16	3	1	2	2	1	2	0	1	1
Number of children living in adoptive placements pending adoption orders	-	16	18	18	19	20	20	21	20	21
Number of children with a match identified	-	5	3	3	1	1	0	0	2	1
Number of children where family finding is ongoing	-	20	22	22	19	17	19	18	15	13
Number of revocations of Placements Orders	2	7	7	8	8	8	6	7	7	6
Number of adoptive families recruited	60	4	4	0	2	3	2	5	0	1
Number of adoptive Families in assessment	-	47	49	49	46	45	45	41	41	

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Average number of days between entering care and having an adoptive placement



National 18/19: **486**

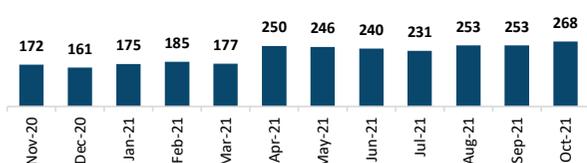
Dorset 18/19: **433**

Statistical Neighbours 18/19: **453**

Comments:

Dorset have 13 families where family finding is ongoing . All of these children have been either linked with an adopter or the plan has changed to foster care. The number of days between a child entering care and having an adoptive placement has risen slightly. This is due to the pandemic slowing down court work leading in some cases to the need for reassessments due to the time lapse in hearings. This is national and not specific to Dorset.

Average No. of days between a child receiving a PO & being matched to an adoptive family



National 18/19: **201**

Dorset 18/19: **137**

Statistical Neighbours 18/19: **176**

Comments:

The number of days between a child receiving a PO and being matched to adopters has also risen due to some extremely complex children and siblings being matched. Younger children and babies are still placed quickly. The impact on the number of days this is a consequence of a higher level of ambition and ability to find adoptive families for hard to place children.

Comments:

Dorset have continued to perform well among statistical neighbours for the time a child starts in care and moves to their adoptive family.

All data is taken from Aspire Adoption Agency.

Corporate Parenting Data Set

People - Childrens

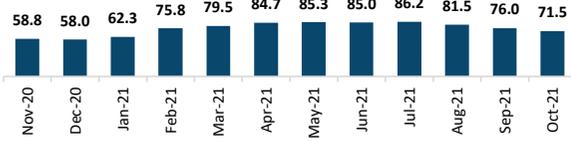
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CARE LEAVERS



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With an up to date Pathway Plan

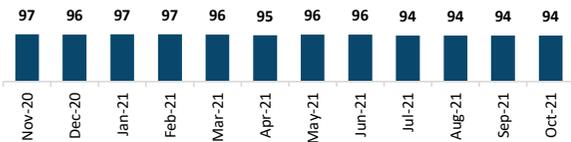


Comments:

Benchmarking data currently not available. We are currently developing best practice guidance for operational staff and continue to monitor and track progress in this regard. Figures taken from Mosaic for all Care Leavers at the end of each month.

Please note: For 'Living in Suitable Accommodation' and In Employment, Education, or Training' measures we use current data available but benchmarking data is using data from last birthday.

Living in Suitable Accommodation (19-21)

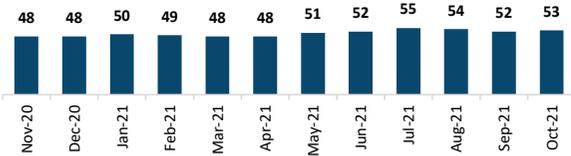


- England Average 19/20 (85%)
- Dorset 19/20 (88%)
- Good + Statistical Neighbours

Comments:

Although a high number of our Care Leavers are in suitable accommodation, we have a small number that are in B&B, in emergency accommodation and or in custody or no fixed abode/residence unknown. 4 in B&B and 6 in custody 1 in no fixed abode and residence unknown. Those in unsuitable accommodation are monitored through a monthly highlight report to CSLT.

In Employment Education or Training (19-21)

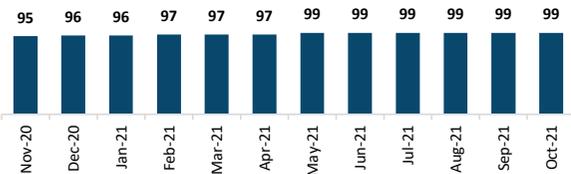


- England Average 19/20 (53%)
- Dorset 19/20 (48%)
- Good + Statistical Neighbours

Comments:

Improvements in our NEET statistics have levelled off in the past few weeks. However, we have 3 Personal Advisers who focus on supporting Care Leavers around their employment, education and training and we have established a referral system within the team and are developing bespoke interventions to support around 20 Care Leavers. Figures are taken from ChAT based on current care leavers at the end of each month.

Who are in touch with Dorset LA (19-21)



- England Average 19/20 (90%)
- Dorset 19/20 (92%)
- Good + Statistical Neighbours

Comments:

Our 'In Touch' rates are higher than our statistical neighbours, we do have a small number of Care Leavers we are not in touch with. Where we are not in touch, Care Leaver will still have an allocated PA who will continue to try to make contact by whatever means they can. We remain in touch with every care leaver who has left our care in the last 12 months.

Corporate Parenting Board 6th December 2021 Annual Report of the Virtual School: Education of Looked after Children

Choose an item.

Portfolio Holder: Cllr A Parry, Children, Education, Skills and Early Help

Local Councillor(s): Cllr

Executive Director: T Leavy, Executive Director of People - Children

Report Author: Lisa Linscott

Title: Principal Teacher

Tel: 01305 228587

Email: lisa.linscott@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Report Status: Public

Recommendation:

1. That Dorset Virtual School's contribution towards securing an overall 'Good' OFSTED judgement 2021 for Children's Services is recognised
2. That the Virtual School's current priorities and direction of travel are supported by the Board in order to secure further improvements to educational outcomes for Dorset's care experienced children
3. That further dissemination of the report is identified and agreed

Reason for Recommendation:

The Virtual School is a key part of Children's Services and holds statutory responsibilities for children in care. Support from the Board to raise the profile of this work would be beneficial to the Virtual School's continuing development and success.

1. Executive Summary

This report provides an overview of the Virtual School's work and impact during the academic year 2020 - 21, together with analysis of educational outcomes for

the Dorset cohort of children in care. It sets out the priorities for securing greater individual and cohort progress, better educational experiences and better outcomes for children in the care of Dorset going forwards.

The Virtual School has provided agile response to the needs of our children through a challenging year and has shown relentless determination to achieve the best outcomes possible. The 2021 ILACS Inspection of Dorset Children's Services recognised that "The virtual school is highly ambitious for children in care, wherever they live." with inspectors clearly impressed by the approaches and strategies being taken by the Virtual School in partnership with other professionals to "secure creative and beneficial outcomes for children."

2. Financial Implications

The Virtual School manages pupil premium plus funding provided by the DfE and ensures that as per DfE conditions of grant, all funding received is spent within the financial year. This can be seen in budget reporting.

3. Well-being and Health Implications

The wellbeing of children is referenced within the report in relation to Personal Education Plan processes and use of pupil premium plus funding.

4. Climate implications

No climate implications have been identified in this report.

5. Other Implications

No other implications have been identified.

6. Risk Assessment

Having considered the risks associated with this decision, the level of risk has been identified as:

Current Risk:

Residual Risk:

7. Equalities Impact Assessment

8. Appendices

9. Background Papers

Dorset Virtual School Head Teacher Annual Report

Footnote:

Issues relating to financial, legal, environmental, economic and equalities implications have been considered and any information relevant to the decision is included within the report.

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Dorset Virtual School Annual Report

December 2021

Introduction

This report provides an overview and analysis of the impact of the Virtual School's work during the academic year 2020 - 21. The Virtual School is a key part of Dorset's Education Service within the Children's Services Directorate. The Virtual School is ambitious for its children and has strong oversight from the Virtual School Governing Body and Corporate Parenting Board.

Our Virtual School Vision

"I am thriving in the best school for me. I know I am thriving because I am included and listened to. I am achieving and I enjoy school"

Dorset Virtual School equips our children for success and happiness by delivering highly effective support for their education, including their academic outcomes and their engagement in experiences that will help them towards adulthood.

Our young people are at the heart of every decision we make. They tell us that they would like:

- Love and kindness
- For adults to acknowledge that not everything is a big problem
- Not to be judged
- Not to be left waiting for help
- Time
- Not to be treated differently
- For barriers to be removed
- To be involved

Therefore, we aim for our work to embody these wishes. We are relentless in making sure that every child is in the right educational setting for them and will support and challenge those settings to understand and help our children to achieve great educational outcomes that prepare them for their next stage in education and for independent adult life and the world of work.

A Year In Summary

This has been a year of continuous improvement and agility for the Virtual School as we remain responsive to the needs of our children and partnership working with our schools through a challenging period. We have focused on effort to ensure we are delivering best practice in the monitoring of our children's attendance, progress and attainment and ensuring we have strong quality assurance.

The Virtual School employed new technology as part of its digital strategy and now uses the Welfare Call system which provides access to live analytical dashboards and reports which inform the work of the Virtual School. Key Performance Indicators are reported monthly to the Children's Services Leadership Team to ensure that there is a line of sight of the work of the Virtual School. Performance is also reported on a monthly basis to the Corporate Parenting Board. The Governing Body has a forward plan of monitoring activity linked to the priorities on the School Development Plan.

Some of the key strengths this year have been:

- Strong systems and processes, with strong multi-agency working
- Accurate use of pupil premium funding clearly linked to planned outcomes
- GCSE grade 4+ English and Maths remained above the published 2020 national, south-west and statistical neighbours for the second year in a row
- A significant improvement in the number of children remaining in education or training post 16
- A reduction in the number of children missing education
- An effective quality assurance process for PEPs, showing an increase in the number of PEPs rated as good or better
- We are celebrating our children's successes more than ever before

We need to continue to focus on:

- Reducing the number of pupils who are persistent absentees or have unauthorised absence
- Further reducing fixed term exclusions
- Ensuring that if a school move is required, the transition is achieved as quickly as possible, particularly for those children with an EHCP
- Ensuring that all PEPs are child centred including an increase in the number of children attending their PEP meeting

The overall impact of the service improvements and determination of the Virtual School staff to do the absolute best for our children can be seen in the recent Ofsted (ILACS) Inspection report, November 2021. The inspection entailed the inspector's analysis and evaluation of Virtual School attainment, progress, attendance, exclusions and post 16 education and training data, meetings with the Virtual School Head, Virtual School Leads and Specialist Teachers, and calls with children, Designated Teachers and Head Teachers. The inspection concluded that:

“The virtual school is highly ambitious for children in care, wherever they live. They have an accurate analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of educational provision for children in care and care leavers. A particular strength is the impact of more aligned working in the six localities; headteachers, designated teachers and staff at the virtual school work together to secure creative and beneficial outcomes for children. At times, this has included working with school governors to reverse permanent exclusions. The pupil premium, linked to personal education plans, is used creatively. In the context of COVID-19, this support has extended to extra-curricular activities that benefit children's mental health and help to create the right environment for learning.”

The Virtual School Structure

The Virtual School is led by the Principal Teacher for Dorset Council. The role brings together the wider responsibility for education and inclusion within the Education Service within Dorset Children's Services and be able to apply this to the Virtual School.

The Virtual School team delivers their work within the locality structure which embeds our work within communities. The team consists of:

- 8 Virtual School Leads: responsibilities are for a case load of children in each locality (and a share of those children out of authority), ensuring that children have a suitable and ambitious education offer, there is strong liaison with their schools and Designated Teachers, and the Personal Education Plan (PEP) is effective in supporting children's progress.
- 3 Specialist Teachers: a Virtual School SENCo, a data and assessment lead, and an attachment lead. All three also hold wider responsibilities for helping to build skill and capacity in schools to meet the needs of all children.

Each member of staff within the Virtual School now holds a whole school responsibility, enabling everyone to take a leadership role on the developments where they feel they can best apply their knowledge and passion. These link to the School Development Plan (Summarised in Appendix 7). This has enabled team members to take ownership of the following developments all of which are well under way and will be delivered in the 2021 – 22 academic year:

- The production of a PLAC Handbook aimed at supporting schools and parents in relation to children who were previously in care
- The production of an induction pack for young people who are unaccompanied asylum seekers
- The creation of a Virtual School Council

A programme of half termly team Continuous Professional Development (CPD) is in place for Virtual School Staff. CPD training themes in the academic year 2020 - 21 have included:

- What a good PEP looks like and PEP quality assurance
- Effective target setting
- Attendance and exclusions
- The graduated approach
- Language and communication needs

The team also have half termly group supervision with the Educational Psychologist linked to the Virtual School. This has enabled team members to reflect on their practice and leadership, bring cases to group problem solve and address team issues in a solution-focused way.

The Virtual School Cohort

Children are in the Virtual School from the age of 3 to the end of the academic year following their 18th birthday. In this way the Virtual School can bridge the change from Social Worker to Personal Assistant (PA) and maintain advice and guidance about education from a position of best knowledge of the young person. The Virtual School ensures that the PA is involved in post 16 PEPs alongside the social worker and is well briefed with regards to the young person's ambitions and any barriers to learning. The Virtual School works closely with the Care Leaver Team to ensure that our young people continue on into suitable education, training or employment.

Wherever possible, once a child is allocated to a Virtual School worker they stay with this worker until they leave the Virtual School, enabling trusting relationships to be built and maintained.

Appendix 1 provides the makeup in 2020 – 21 of the statutory school age element and post 16 element of the Virtual School respectively.

Attendance

The Virtual School undertakes daily attendance monitoring through Welfare Call's live dashboard. This robust system provides data at a cohort, group and individual level to give an accurate view of attendance, reasons for absence and patterns of absence. This has enabled the Virtual School to monitor, analyse and respond to attendance concerns rapidly and remains a key area for improvement (priority 1 on the School Development Plan). The attendance overview for statutory school age children in the academic year 2020 - 2021 is provided in Appendix 2.

In a non-pandemic year, the Virtual School sets an ambitious attendance target of 95%. Due to the pandemic attendance dipped to a low in January 2021 of 59.7% from 90.9% in September 2020. Close monitoring of children not physically attending school during the lockdowns enabled Virtual School staff to ensure that remote learning was the right option and to return children to school where necessary. There were many examples of children who received high quality live lessons and enjoyed learning virtually. When schools fully reopened in March 2021 Virtual School staff worked hard with schools to return all children to good levels of attendance. By July 2021 attendance had returned to 91.9% and 199 children has summer term attendance of over 95%. The strong focus on supporting good attendance led to 133 of the 300 statutory school age children maintaining over 95% attendance for the whole year, which is impressive, particularly given the pandemic.

Monitoring identified two particular challenges with attendance: Year 10 were significantly below the rest of the cohort, and unauthorised attendance of 3.18% in November was significantly worse than the national average of 1.4%.

Year 10 attendance was 78.5% in September 2020, the lowest year group attendance and lower than the secondary cohort average of 88.8%. This did not improve over the autumn term so a close focus on individuals was put in place with the aim of improving their attendance. 10 students in particular were a focus for moving out of persistent absence (below 90%). In all cases regular monitoring, close contact with the school and an improvement focus in the PEP meetings was key in order to understand the reasons for absence and address the causes. 9 out of 10 students improved their attendance over 90% by the end of the year. The impact of the work on the year group was that their attendance improved from a spring term low of 57.2% to 79.6% in the summer term. The overall attendance of the whole Year 10 cohort by the end of the year was less positive at 80.2% and going into Year 11 this group remain a focus for attendance improvement.

In order to address the unauthorised absence figure, we introduced weekly monitoring that picked up any unauthorised absences and addressed these immediately with school and if need be carer. In some instances, school miscoding was identified and corrected, and in others, actions were put in place to support identified concerns such as anxiety-based absence and disengagement. The impact of this was that unauthorised absence improved in July 2021 to 1.98%. However, this remains an area for further improvement to ensure that the Virtual School is better than national.

The Virtual School provides Designated Teacher training which includes a focus on their role in promoting the attendance of children in care and setting aspirational attendance targets. Virtual School Workers work with Designated Teachers to ensure PEPs identify and address any barriers to good attendance.

Exclusions

Our ambition is for effective inclusive practice in our schools which leads to zero fixed term or permanent exclusions of children in care. Currently this is an area for further improvement and therefore forms part of priority 1 on the school development plan. Appendix 3 gives a breakdown of exclusions in 2020 – 2021. Steps taken thus far to reduce exclusions are:

- The Virtual School Team are alerted to exclusions via Welfare Call. They then attend the reintegration meeting and, where needed hold a professionals meeting. In all cases the Virtual School staff focus is on underlying causes and what the school and wider professionals need to put in place to ensure that there are no further exclusions.
- There is a focus on any children who have had exclusions in Virtual School monthly pupil progress meetings, giving oversight and priority to these children, and ensuring that Virtual School staff actions are robust.
- There is a wider local authority focus on inclusion with strategic support for schools to follow relational practice methods and employ the graduated approach to ensure that early intervention addresses need.
- Training for schools has been delivered by Specialist Teachers on Speech Language and Communication Needs (SLCN)
- Training has been provided for schools on emotion coaching

The impact of this is that 38 children received exclusions in the 2020 - 21 academic year (11.48% of the cohort, which is in line with the national average). However, reducing exclusions remains a focus for improvement on the development plan and as more children at in authority schools are excluded than those in schools out of authority, and it is essential that this is a focus of our work with these schools.

The Virtual School was also successful in rescinding a permanent exclusion of a child by working with the governors to detail steps the school needed to take before they could justify an exclusion. The child is now happy and successful at another setting and without a permanent exclusion blighting their education record. However, a child in care was permanently excluded during 2020 – 21 and despite the best efforts of the Virtual School to rescind this decision in reviewing the history there is clear learning for the professionals around the child, including the Virtual School, and there is an absolute determination that no other children in care will be permanently excluded.

Attainment And Progress

Appendix 4 provides attainment and progress data for the cohort. The Virtual School worker attends all PEP meetings, ensuring that the right support and interventions are put in place to enable each child to make progress from their own starting points. The Virtual School challenges where academic expectations are too low and celebrates successes, including overcoming barriers. As a result, the academic outcomes for our children are very positive.

Progress Towards Agreed Targets

- 70.1% of primary students made at or above expected progress in reading
- 64.8% of primary students made at or above expected progress in writing
- 65.9% of primary students made at or above expected progress in maths
- 83.3% of primary students made good overall progress in school
- 59.7% of secondary students made at or above expected progress in English
- 59.5% of secondary students made at or above expected progress in maths

The trend for most year groups is very pleasing. The data does indicate that Year 3 will need additional monitoring and support as they move into Year 4 in 2021, and they have therefore already been a focus on a pupil progress meeting.

Key Stage 4 Attainment

GCSE grade 4+ English and Maths remained above the published 2020 national (24.4%), South West (24.2%) and statistical neighbour (25.9%) average for the last two years (2021: 28.6%, 12 young people; 2020 33.3%, 15 young people). There were also some excellent overall sets of results which has led to 74.7% of pupils moving into post 16 education in September 2021.

Key Stage 5

The Virtual School works hard to support this group despite the fact that there is no DfE pupil premium plus funding for post 16 students. Where students have not achieved the required GCSE grade in Maths or English, students are supported to complete re-take or alternative equivalent courses post 16. As a consequence of this work 7 students achieved level 2 maths and 2 achieved level 2 English post 16.

Students are all supported with a termly PEP and the leaving care team are invited in order to build a relationship with the young person and understand their educational strengths and needs. Creative solutions are found to re-engage young people who are at risk of being NEET, including vocational options and traineeships where appropriate. There is a consistent worker in place who knows the young person and their strengths and aspirations, and there are strong links with the local 6th form colleges as well as the schools.

The Virtual School staff have received training on planning for good transitions into post 16 and the team regularly problem solve to support young people with next steps. The impact of the Virtual School support of post 16 students this year is that there has been a zero drop-out rate from level 3 courses as students move from Year 12 into Year 13. The support also impacted extremely positively on the post 16 Education, Employment and Training (EET) figures, as seen in Appendix 5 which shows an improvement in 2021 to 66% post 16 EET compared to 51% the previous year.

Higher education

The work mentioned above continues in supporting the young person to the end of the academic year that they turn 18 and in some cases beyond. There are pleasing signs of the level of ambition that the Virtual School and Care Leaver team have for our young people:

- 9 students graduated in 2021, including 2 post graduates
- 8 students achieved a university place for this September

- 27 students at university September 2021

However, more work needs to be done to ensure that all young people who are capable of level 3 courses and higher education courses are given every opportunity and support to take these options where appropriate.

Children In Care Missing Out On Education (CMOOE)

Reducing the number of children in care who are missing out on education is within priority 1 of the development plan. During the course of the academic year too many children in care were missing education or missing out on education (for example due to reduced time in school). Too many children remained out of full-time education for more than a term. In order to address this there are robust methods for identifying, supporting and tracking these children. The Virtual School has supported social workers sourcing mainstream schools for those without EHCPs and worked closely with SEND teams both in LA and from other LAs for those with EHCPs. A Children in Care CMOOE meeting chaired by the Director of Education focuses on actions being taken to re-engage identified children and young people in education (or training and employment if relevant post 16). Attendees include Quality Assurance Reviewing Officers, SEND, Social Care and Heads of Locality representation. The meeting gives clear oversight of these children and ensures that robust actions are in place to secure suitable full-time education.

Personal Education Plans (PEPs)

The statutory expectation is to hold two PEP meetings per year. Dorset Virtual School follows the good practice model of a PEP meeting per term. Holding the PEP on Welfare Call has enabled the Virtual School to ensure that:

- The PEP template used is strong and includes all recommended content
- Termly PEP completion rates are monitored
- Key professionals can access the PEP at any time and updates are seen concurrently by all
- The PEP QA process and decisions are transparent to all involved

PEP completion for the spring term was 98% and improved to 99% in the summer term. This is a pleasing position and one that the Virtual School intends to maintain. 100% of PEPs for children new into care were held within 20 days enabling the first PEP to inform the first Child In Care Review meeting.

PEP Quality Assurance (QA)

The Virtual School uses a PEP quality assurance process for all PEPs. There are clear quality assurance criteria and training has been delivered to the Virtual School Team on what a good PEP looks like. Training has also been delivered to Designated Teachers and there is a strong focus on the PEP in the Virtual School Handbook. Top tips for PEPs are a feature of Designated Teacher Newsletters.

All PEPs are peer Quality Assurance (QA) reviewed. The QA outcome appears on the PEP so that all involved in the PEP are able to see the grading and any feedback given. The QA process grades a PEP red (inadequate), amber (requires improvement) green (good) or gold (outstanding). Themed audits of PEPs review specific aspects of the school development plan, such as the quality of the use of the child's voice through person centred planning, are a central part of link governor monitoring. QA outcomes are fed back to the Full Governing Body Meeting for oversight.

The impact of the work to strengthen the PEP process, including the Designated Teacher training can be seen in the PEP QA results: 83.8% of PEPs were found to be good or better.

PEP QA has revealed the following:

- PEPs that were QA'd as red were largely due to:
 - Targets not being SMART or being actions for professionals rather than targets for the child
 - Targets not reflecting pupil voice
 - Lack of Social Worker / Personal Adviser completion of the social care information (30 PEPs, spring term only)
- PEPs that were QA'd as amber were largely due to:
 - Insufficient pupil voice or insufficient follow-up on pupil voice
 - Targets being appropriate but still too broad to be achievable by the following term's PEP
- PEPs that were QA'd as green were due to:
 - A 'golden thread' between the meeting discussion, pupil's voice, targets and, where appropriate, request for funding
 - Multi-professional attendance at the PEP meeting
 - SMART targets set for the child
 - Evidence of pupil voice informing the meeting, and even better the child in attendance

Wider learning from the PEP QA process has been:

- Having a pre-planned structure to the meeting is beneficial to consistency.
- The meeting itself should concentrate on celebrating the child and identifying the right targets for them.
- The relationship with Designated Teachers is important and once established aids the PEP process
- Pupil voice needs to be featured further in future DT newsletters and training sessions, and there is a need to increase the number of children who attend their PEP meeting
- Where the child has either co-created their targets or in a small number of cases lead the PEP meeting it is very powerful and this should be a model for PEPs going forward

Pupil Premium Plus Spend

During the autumn term 2020 the Virtual School was re-audited for its financial effectiveness. The financial processes were overhauled as part of the school's strengthening service plan. A pupil premium plus policy was created, a fortnightly funding panel put in place and a robust financial tracker created. The impact of this was that the audit found 100% of the areas audited to be green and no further actions required.

The final element of improvement was detailed tracking via Welfare Call by type of intervention. The average pupil premium cost per pupil of PEP outcomes achieved was £506.02 (£405.60 per outcome). 60.3% was spent on academic achievement and progress and wider achievement, and 29.61% was spent on emotional health and wellbeing. The quality of funding requests is improving as evidenced by the fact that only 11.9% of requests were declined in the summer term compared to 19.2% in the spring term.

The Virtual School receives no funding from the DfE for post 16 young people. In order to be able to allocate funding the Virtual School's policy is to allocate some of the Year 11 funding to

support good transition into post 16 and to support committed post 16 students who did not achieve their Key Stage 4 English and / or Maths in Year 11.

Designated Teacher Training

The Virtual School provides an extensive training and development programme via termly Designated Teacher training, new to the Designated Teacher role training and bespoke training on themes identified from cohort need. Based on the identification in September 2020 of challenges with the quality of target setting in PEPs, CPD for Designated Teachers was put in place to focus specifically on good target setting in PEPs. The impact has been seen in the improved quality of PEPs as referenced above.

In order to have a long-term impact on the inclusion of children in care and ensuring that they are not excluded, a range of CPD approaches are being taken:

- Promotion of Relationship-based approaches: Relational practice training is offered by school link EPs working with Specialist Teachers and encouraging where possible commitment to ongoing training and policy change. A relational practice group led by the Educational Psychology Service has worked with 30 schools in 2020-21 who had previously completed attachment aware training funded by the Virtual School. The purpose is to encourage a focus on trauma-informed principles, allowing opportunities for schools to raise questions or seek support, to celebrate all the examples of practice in schools, and to facilitate the opportunity for schools to work together and support each other.
- Emotion coaching: Research carried out by Bath Spa University found that using Emotion Coaching as a whole-school approach helped to reduce the number of negative behaviour incidents and exclusions. So far this relational approach has been rolled out to a small number of Designated Teachers but the aim is to deliver it more widely going forward.
- Language needs: Only a small number of our children in care have a primary need of Speech, Language and Communication (SLCN). We have a hypothesis that there are many others with undiagnosed SLCN needs and wider research indicates that underlying language and communication needs are often hidden behind the history of children identified as having behavioural challenges. Supporting schools in identifying and more effectively supporting language and communication needs will benefit the children's access to their learning and address the longer-term inclusion issues that can lead to exclusions. The Virtual School staff had a CPD session in March 2021 followed by two training sessions for Designated Teachers in April / May 2021. Having trialled this with schools, a recorded webinar will now be created and rolled out to all schools to raise awareness of SLCN alongside the use of an SLCN checklist created by Specialist Teachers for schools to be able to start an identification process.

Celebrating Child Successes

The Virtual School has a strong focus on celebrating child successes and sharing these widely including with the extended Children's Services leadership team to ensure that our children's lived experience is in everyone's minds in a positive, strengths-based way and also to celebrate good practice from teams working with our children. Children's successes are celebrated weekly within the team, with each identified child receiving a £20 book voucher. The positive acknowledgement of children's successes in the PEP meetings was recognised in governor monitoring as a strength of the PEPs. There is an annual awards event called Dorset EPIC Awards (Exceptional People In Care), the most recent of which took place on 22nd July 2021 and

celebrated 93 children and young people. Going forward the Virtual School will be developing further opportunities for our children which will incorporate celebration of their work, attitude and engagement.

Promoting Literacy

This year we invited schools to be part of the Letterbox Club, run by the Book Trust. This is a 6-month project where a parcel of books and learning materials is sent to the child's home to support their learning. The aim is for the child to feel 'remembered' and are excited about receiving their parcels and that they develop a love and confidence in reading. The scheme will be evaluated in the new year. The Virtual School is keen to develop further such projects in the next academic year.

Appendix 1: Virtual School Cohort 2020 – 21

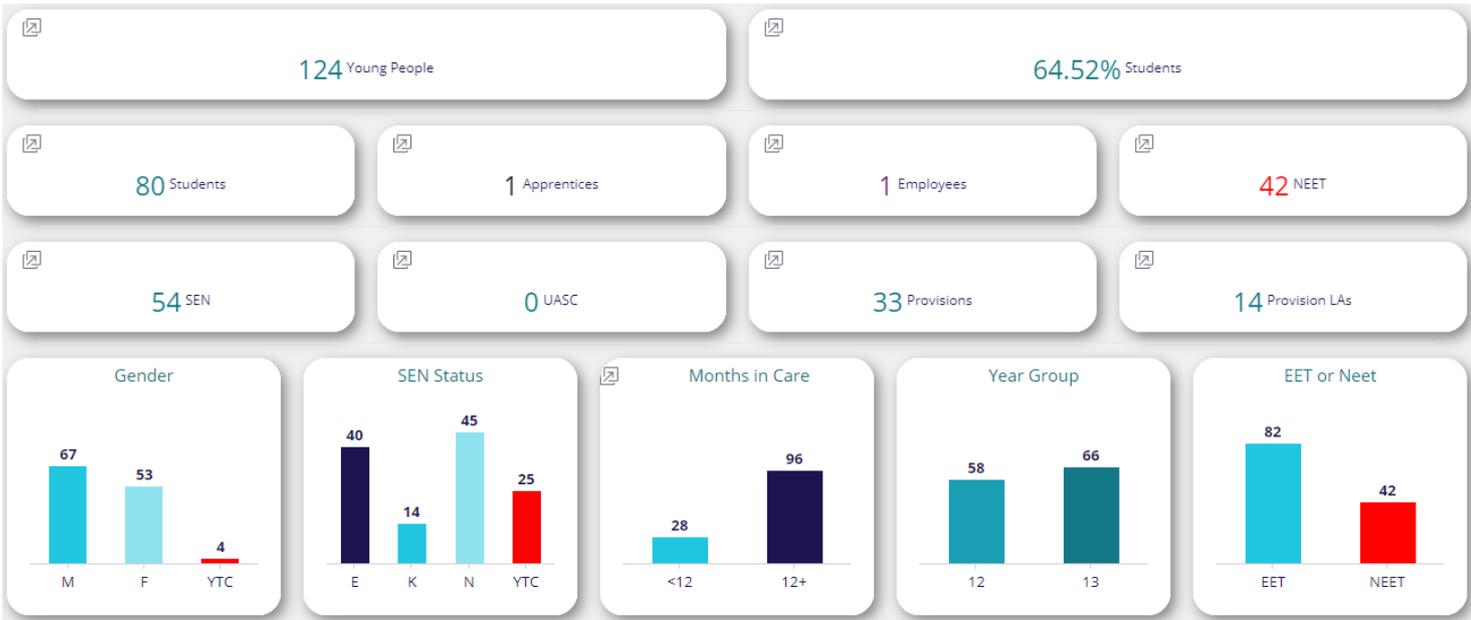
Please note that the cohort details change very regularly and therefore this is a snapshot at a particular point in the year.

Statutory School Age Cohort



Where the Ofsted grading appears as 'unknown' this is because it is not published by the DfE. In most cases this will be due to a change in the school's name (e.g. due to academisation) or because the school is in Wales.

Post 16 Cohort



Appendix 2: Virtual School Attendance

Attendance 3 Year Summary

Year	Overall Absence (%)	(Difference from national figure)
2018-2019	5.0%	-0.1
2019-2020	13.4%	Not yet published
2020-2021	14.5%	Not yet published

2020 – 2021 Attendance

2020-2021 (Internal Data)	Overall Attendance (%)	Persistent Absentees (%)
Whole Cohort (307)	85.5%	44.6%
<i>Year 11 (42)</i>	77.9%	66.7%
<i>Year 10 (43)</i>	73.0%	67.4%
<i>Year 9 (37)</i>	81.1%	64.9%
<i>Year 8 (33)</i>	83.8%	54.5%
<i>Year 7 (32)</i>	91.7%	28.1%
<i>Year 6 (36)</i>	94.2%	19.4%
<i>Year 5 (24)</i>	91.8%	30.4%
<i>Year 4 (13)</i>	92.9%	30.8%
<i>Year 3 (15)</i>	93.0%	20.0%
<i>Year 2 (12)</i>	84.3%	50.0%
<i>Year 1 (10)</i>	96.5%	0.0%
<i>Reception (10)</i>	89.2%	20.0%

2020 – 2021 Unauthorised Absence

2020-2021 Unauthorised Absence (National average 1.4%)	
Whole year average	2.26%
November 2020	3.18%
July 2021	1.98%

Appendix 3: Exclusions

Fixed Term Exclusions 2020 – 2021

Year	Episodes	Children	Days Lost	Male	Female	
Primary	0	0	0	0	0	
	1	4	1	7.5	1	0
	2	0	0	0	0	0
	3	0	0	0	0	0
	4	0	0	0	0	0
	5	5	2	6.5	2	0
Secondary	6	0	0	0	0	
	7	9	2	14.5	2	0
	8	27	10	56.5	6	4
	9	19	8	22	5	4
	10	22	10	75.5	6	4
	11	8	4	12	3	1
Sum	94	37	194.5	25	13	

Exclusions By Cohort Educated In Dorset Schools (200 CIC)

Year	Episodes	Children	Days Lost
Primary	0	0	0
	1	4	7.5
	2	0	0
	3	0	0
	4	0	0
	5	5	6.5
Secondary	6	0	0
	7	6	7.5
	8	18	37
	9	17	19.5
	10	18	70.5
	11	6	6
Sum	74	24	154.5

Exclusions By Cohort Educated In Schools Outside Dorset (147 CIC)

Year	Episodes	Children	Days Lost
Primary	0	0	0
	1	0	0
	2	0	0
	3	0	0
	4	0	0
	5	0	0
	6	0	0
Secondary	7	3	7
	8	9	19.5
	9	2	2.5
	10	4	5
	11	2	6
Sum	20	13	40

Exclusions With SEN Detail

SEN Status	% of Cohort	Episodes	Children	% Excluded Children	Days Lost
Education Health and Care Plan	6.3%	46	21	55.3%	84.5
SEN Support	3.6%	38	12	31.6%	91.5
No SEN	1.5%	10	5	13.2%	18.5
Sum		94	38		194.5

Exclusions With Ethnicity Detail

Ethnicity	% of Cohort	Episodes	Children	% Excluded Children	Days Lost
WBRI - White British	26.5%	88	34	92.1%	173.5
MWBC - White & Black Caribbean	0.3%	1	1	2.6%	1
WROM - Gypsy/Roma	3.0%	3	1	2.6%	9
BOTH - Any Oth Black b'ground	0.3%	1	1	2.6%	11
Sum		93	37		194.5

Appendix 4: Virtual School Attainment

Please note that the national testing and summative assessments for pupils in Early Years, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2, and Phonics screening test for Year 1 pupils have not been carried out this year.

Key Stage 4 Attainment

National Key Stage Measures (Key Stage 4)	CiC in Cohort	CiC achieving Grade 4+ EM	CiC achieving Grade 4+ English	CiC achieving Grade 4+ Maths	Average Progress 8 Scores	(Difference from national figure)	Average Attainment 8 Scores	(Difference from national figure)
2018-2019	43 (27 Mainstream)	4.7% (2)	14% (6)	7% (3)	-0.96	0.27	14.4	-4.8
2019-2020	45 (29 Mainstream)	33% (15)	40% (18)	35.6% (16)	NA	NA	23.3	1.9
2020-2021	42 (26 Mainstream)	28.6% (12)	33.3% (14)	38.1% (16)	*	*	*	*

Key Stage 5: Year 12

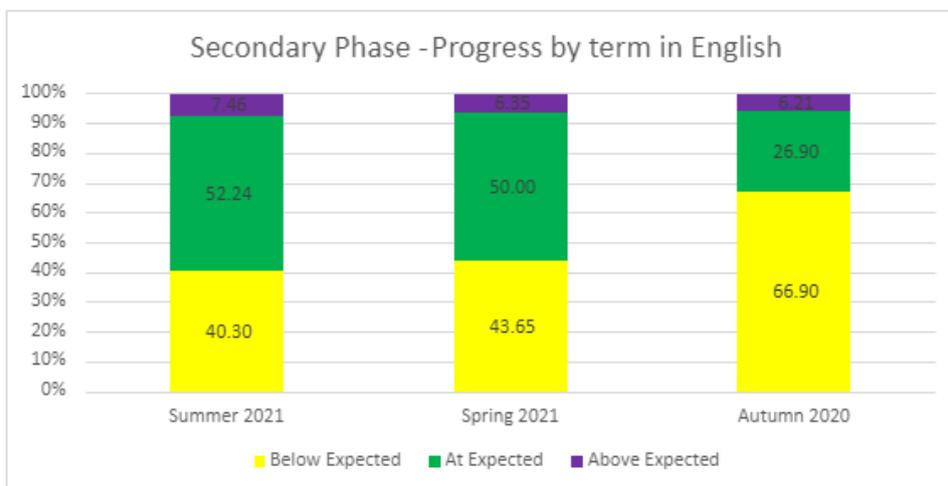
National Key Stage Measures (Key Stage 5 - Year 12) 2020-2021	GCSE English (Grade 4+)	GCSE Maths (Grade 4+)	Functiona l Skills English (Range E1-L2)	Functiona l Skills Maths (Range E1-L2)	Entry Level Programme	Level 1 Programme	Level 2 Programme
Enrolled	2	6	10	6	9	10	10
Achieved	0	2	8	5	7	9	8 (2 continuing L2 in Yr3)

Key Stage 5: Year 13

National Key Stage Measures (Key Stage 5 - Year 13) 2020-2021	GCSE English (Grade 4+)	GCSE Maths (Grade 4+)	Function al Skills English (Range E1-L2)	Function al Skills Maths (Range E1-L2)	Entry Level Programme	Level 1 Programme	Level 2 Programme	Level 3 Programme
Enrolled	4	4	4	8	13	9	10	5
Achieved	1	1	3	6	11	8	8 (1 awaiting outcome)	3

Appendix 5: Virtual School Progress

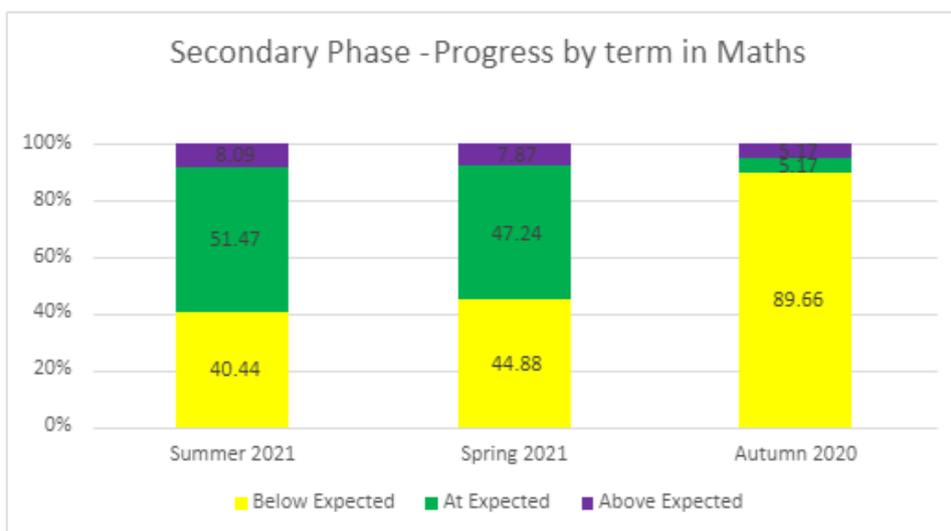
Secondary Phase Progress By Term In English



English (Secondary)	Above	At	Below	Cohort Number
Summer 2021	10	70	54	134
Spring 2021	8	63	55	126
Autumn 2020	9	39	97	145

English (Secondary)	Progress Summer 2021			Progress Spring 2021			Progress Autumn 2020		
	Above	At	Below	Above	At	Below	Above	At	Below
Year 11	12% (4)	45.5% (15)	42.4% (14)	3.1% (1)	56.3% (18)	40.6% (13)	5.6% (2)	33.3% (12)	61.1% (22)
Year 10	4% (1)	52% (13)	44% (11)	0%	43.5% (10)	56.5% (13)	5.6% (2)	22.2% (8)	72.2% (26)
Year 9	14.3% (4)	46.4% (13)	39.3% (11)	19.2% (5)	38.5% (10)	42.3% (11)	12.9 (4)	32.3% (10)	54.8% (17)
Year 8	3.7% (1)	66.6% (18)	29.6% (8)	4% (1)	64% (16)	32% (8)	4.2% (1)	25% (6)	70.8% (17)
Year 7	0%	52.3% (11)	47.6% (10)	5% (1)	45% (9)	50% (10)	0%	16.7% (3)	83.3% (15)

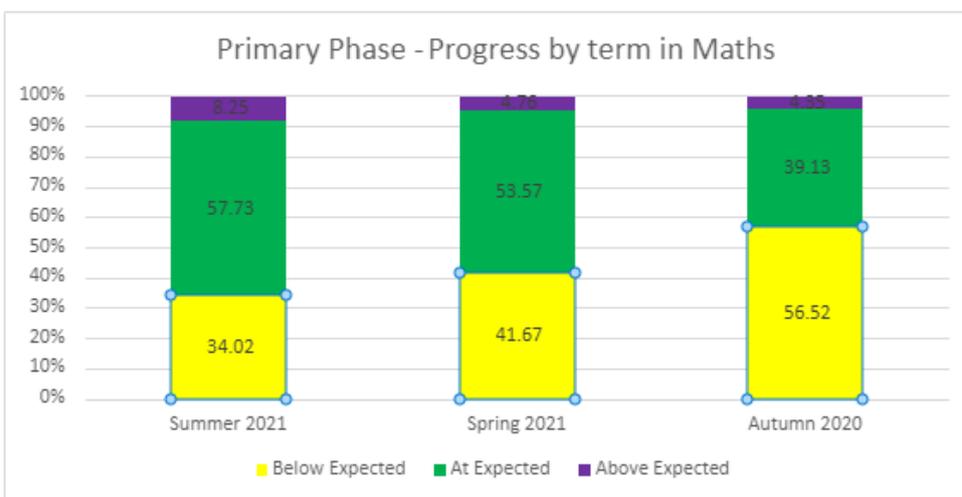
Secondary Phase Progress by Term: Maths



Maths (Secondary)	Above	At	Below	Cohort Number
Summer 2021	11	70	55	136
Spring 2021	10	60	57	127
Autumn 2020	6	6	104	116

Maths (Secondary)	Progress Summer 2021			Progress Spring 2021			Progress Autumn 2020		
	Above	At	Below	Above	At	Below	Above	At	Below
Year 11	9.1% (3)	60.6% (20)	30.3% (10)	6.3% (2)	50% (16)	43.8% (14)	0%	45.7% (16)	54.2% (19)
Year 10	7.4% (2)	44.4% (12)	48.1% (13)	4.2% (1)	33.3% (8)	62.5% (15)	0%	22.2% (8)	77.8% (28)
Year 9	14.3% (4)	39.3% (11)	45.6% (13)	15.4% (4)	34.7% (9)	50% (13)	6.3% (2)	28% (9)	58.3% (21)
Year 8	7.4% (2)	59.3% (16)	33.3% (9)	8% (2)	64% (16)	28% (7)	10.3% (3)	24.1% (7)	65.6% (19)
Year 7	0%	52.4% (11)	47.6% (10)	5% (1)	55% (11)	40% (8)	4.2% (1)	25% (6)	70.8% (17)

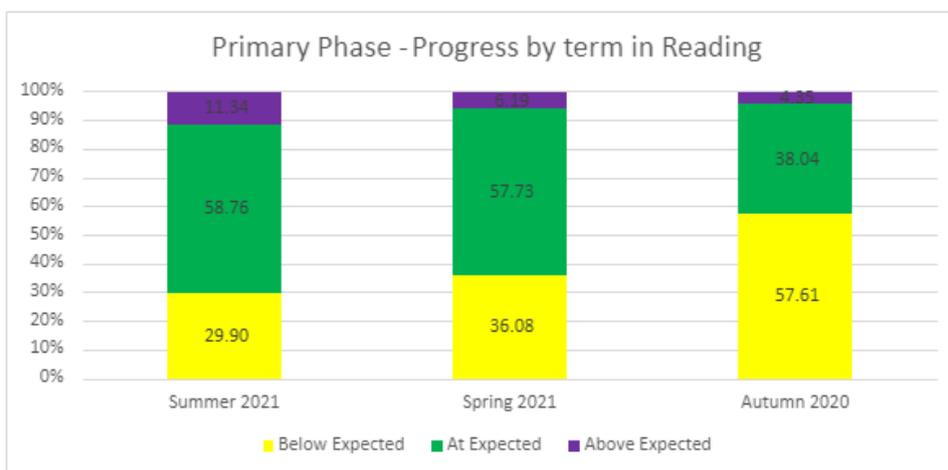
Primary Phase Progress: Maths



Maths (Primary)	Above	At	Below	Cohort Number
Summer 2021	8	56	33	97
Spring 2021	4	45	35	84
Autumn 2020	4	36	52	92

Maths (Primary)	Progress Summer 2021			Progress Spring 2021			Progress Autumn 2020		
	Above	At	Below	Above	At	Below	Above	At	Below
Year 6	6.45% (2)	64.5% (20)	29.1% (9)	3.5% (1)	58.7% (17)	37.9% (11)	3.5% (1)	37.9% (11)	58.7% (17)
Year 5	23.8% (5)	47.6% (10)	28.6% (6)	4.8% (1)	52.4% (11)	42.9% (9)	4.8% (1)	47.6% (10)	47.6% (10)
Year 4	10% (1)	70 (7)%	20% (2)	9.1% (1)	63.6% (7)	27.3% (3)	11.1% (1)	44.4% (4)	44.4% (4)
Year 3	0%	38.5% (5)	61.5% (8)	7.1% (1)	28.6% (4)	64.3% (9)	0%	30.8 (4)	69.2% (9)
Year 2	0%	54.5% (6)	45.5% (5)	0%	66.7% (6)	33.3% (3)	12.5% (1)	37.5% (3)	50% (4)
Year 1	0%	72.7% (8)	27.3% (3)	0%	72.7% (8)	27.3% (3)	0%	33.3% (4)	66.6% (8)

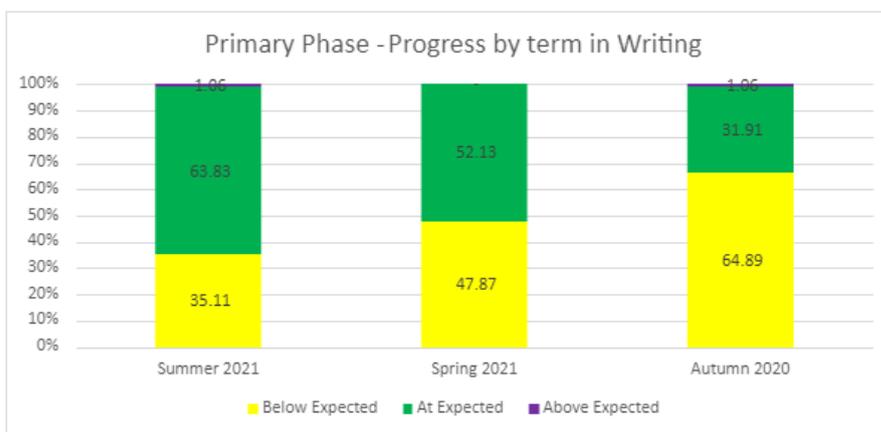
Primary Phase Reading



Reading (Primary)	Above	At	Below	Cohort Number
Summer 2021	11	57	29	97
Spring 2021	6	56	35	97
Autumn 2020	4	35	53	92

Reading (Primary)	Progress Summer 2021			Progress Spring 2021			Progress Autumn 2020		
	Above	At	Below	Above	At	Below	Above	At	Below
Year 6	9.4% (3)	65.6% (21)	25% (8)	0%	69% (20)	31% (9)	7.1% (2)	39.3% (11)	53.6% (15)
Year 5	14.1% (3)	66.6% (14)	19% (4)	9.5% (2)	66.6% (14)	23.8% (5)	4.5% (1)	45.5% (10)	50% (11)
Year 4	20% (2)	60% (6)	20% (2)	9.1% (1)	54.5% (6)	36.4% (4)	0%	33.3% (3)	66.6% (6)
Year 3	7.7% (1)	30.8% (4)	61.5% (8)	7.1% (1)	28.6% (4)	64.3% (9)	0%	38.5% (5)	61.5% (8)
Year 2	18.1% (2)	36.4% (4)	45.5% (5)	10% (1)	50% (5)	40% (4)	12.5% (1)	50% (4)	37.5% (3)
Year 1	0%	80% (8)	20% (2)	8.3% (1)	53.8% (7)	30.8% (4)	0%	16.7% (2)	83.3% (10)

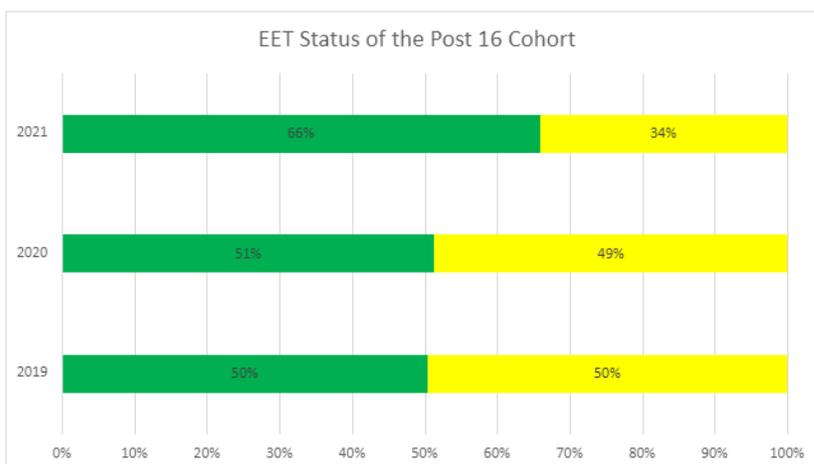
Primary Phase Writing



Writing (Primary)	Above	At	Below	Cohort Number
Summer 2021	1	60	33	94
Spring 2021	0	49	45	94
Autumn 2020	1	30	61	92

Writing (Primary)	Progress Summer 2021			Progress Spring 2021			Progress Autumn 2020		
	Above	At	Below	Above	At	Below	Above	At	Below
Year 6	0%	75.9% (22)	24.1% (7)	0%	58.6% (17)	41.4% (12)	0%	32.1% (9)	67.9% (19)
Year 5	0%	66.6% (14)	33.3% (7)	0%	57.1% (12)	42.9% (9)	0%	45.5% (10)	54.5% (12)
Year 4	0%	70% (7)	30% (3)	0%	45.5% (5)	54.4% (6)	0%	11.1% (1)	88.9% (8)
Year 3	7.7% (1)	30.8% (4)	61.5% (8)	0%	28.6% (4)	71.4% (10)	0%	38.5% (5)	61.5% (8)
Year 2	0%	54.4% (6)	45.5% (5)	0%	66.6% (6)	33.3% (3)	12.5% (1)	50% (4)	37.5% (3)
Year 1	0%	70% (7)	30% (3)	0%	50% (5)	50% (5)	0%	8.3% (1)	91.7% (11)

Appendix 6: Post 16 EET



Category	2019	(%)	2020	(%)	2021	(%)
EET	58	50.4%	71	51.4%	81	65.9%
<i>Education</i>	<i>54</i>	<i>46.9%</i>	<i>68</i>	<i>49.3%</i>	<i>78</i>	<i>63.4%</i>
<i>Training</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>2.6%</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0.7%</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>1.6%</i>
<i>Apprenticeship</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0.9%</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>1.4%</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0.8%</i>
NEET	57	49.6%	67	48.6%	42	34.1%

Appendix 7: Virtual School Development Plan (SDP)

Following a Strengthening Service Plan which ran from September 2020 to March 2021 to set up new systems and processes, the current School Development Plan was put in place in March 2021 and will run until the end of July 2022. Priorities in the SDP are outlined below. The SDP is reviewed with the Virtual School team every term and updates are brought to the termly governing body meeting for monitoring.

	Priority	Success Measures
1	<p>Improve inclusion of all children in Dorset's care:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reduce fixed term and permanent exclusions - Increase attendance - Reduce number of CIC CMOOE 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0 Permanent Exclusions, and no worse than 0.05% of cohort • No higher than 11.67% of cohort with at least one Fixed Term Exclusion • Reduction in the number of children with repeat exclusions • At least 95% statutory school age attendance • No higher than 10.9% statutory school age Persistent Absence (PA) • No higher than 1.4% statutory school age unauthorised absence • At least 75% of cohort have 95%+ attendance • Reduction in number of children who are CME for longer than one term • 100% of those children without a school have a suitable short-term alternative package • Reduction in number of children not accessing full time education
2	<p>Improve outcomes of all children in Dorset's care:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improve quality of PEPs - Improve impact of PEP-related interventions - Make PEPs person-centred - Impact of targeted interventions measured and analysis used to inform future interventions - Incorporate SDQs into PEPs - Celebrate child successes - Engage schools in action research - Produce schools CIC self-evaluation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100% of initial PEPs completed within 20 days of coming into care • 100% of children on roll have a PEP meeting each term • 100% attendance at PEP meetings of SW, VSL and DT • 100% of PEPs are quality assured as 'good or better' • 100% of PEPs reference the SDQ score • 100% of PEPs contain child presence / input • 100% of Yr11s have a viable transition plan • 100% of Yr11s who need one have a completed post 16 application by the closing date • 100% of Yr11s (who need it) have had travel training to prepare for post 16 • End of Key Stage attainment for those children not in special school is at least in line with national • End of Key Stage outcomes for children in special school are in line with their individual targets in preparing them for next stages of education or adult life • Children's successes are celebrated and shared
3	<p>Improve positive destinations for care leavers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Put in strong transition support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100% of young people with a plan for post 16 education transition successfully

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100% of those post 16 young people seeking a university place secure one • At least 78% of CIC are in sustained education or employment (with training) after KS4
4	<p>Create and introduce support package for EY Children in Care:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Co-design and introduce EY PEP - Provide training and support package for EY settings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100% of children in nursery have an EY PEP each term • 100% of EY PEPs are quality assured as 'good or better'
5	<p>Create and introduce support package for children previously looked after:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Co-design and introduce education plan for settings to use - Provide PLAC support package for settings - Provide good support for individual children when needed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PLAC Guidance pack provided to all schools, settings and relevant families • PLAC Education Plan introduced to all schools and settings for their use • Register of PLAC children includes record of advice, guidance or support provided by the Virtual School
6	<p>Create and introduce support package for UASC young people:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Co-create induction programme - Create and share guidance document for professionals - Provide strong PEP support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Induction programme delivered to young people who are UASC • 100% of young people who are UASC have appropriate education provision
7	<p>Improve use of child's voice throughout our work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop Virtual School Council - Improve quality and use of child's voice in the PEP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All development work is co-produced with the VS Council • 100% of PEPs contain child presence / input that is good quality and therefore enables the PEP to be quality assured as good or better.

Corporate Parenting Board 6th December 2021 Children in Care and CLICC Strategy and Plan

Choose an item.

Portfolio Holder: Cllr A Parry, Children, Education, Skills and Early Help

Local Councillor(s): Cllr

Executive Director: T Leavy, Executive Director of People - Children

Report Author: Simon Fraiz-Brown and Kaye Wright
Title: Children in Care and CLiCC Strategy and Plan
Tel: 01305 224776
Email: s.fraiz-brown@dorsetcc.gov.uk

Report Status: Public

Recommendation:

That members of the Corporate Parenting Board endorse that recommendations in Section 4 of this report.

Reason for Recommendation:

The recommendations in this report are to strengthen and develop the relationship between the CLICC group and CPB so that we are able to work together better on the solutions needed for our care experienced children and young people.

1. Executive Summary

This paper sets out how we carry out our responsibility as a corporate parent to listen to and respond to the children in our care and our care leavers. Members are asked to consider how these views will inform both strategic decisions for these children and young people and how officers will be accountable for changing practice accordingly. Members are asked to consider how they respond to the views of children and young people and how they can use their influence to improve the experience of being in care and being a care leaver.

2. Financial Implications

Whilst some recommendations may incur a cost, they are achievable within our current budget.

3. Well-being and Health Implications

Giving young people a voice in issues that affect them helps to ensure that services are better able to support them and therefore improve their wellbeing. Having a voice also helps to make young people feel that they belong, that they are valued and that their contributions matter and provides young people with an opportunity to develop a wide range of skills that can be useful right into adulthood.

4. Climate implications

There will be an impact on the climate when CPB members are attending groups and activities where young people meet together. Car sharing where possible, would reduce this impact.

5. Other Implications

Not applicable.

6. Risk Assessment

Having considered the risks associated with this decision, the level of risk has been identified as:

Current Risk: LOW

Residual Risk: LOW

7. Equalities Impact Assessment

Our care experienced children and young people are a vulnerable group in themselves. We will provide additional support to those who have additional needs or disabilities and those who experience low emotional wellbeing and poor mental health to enable them to participate.

8. Appendices

None

9. Background Papers

None

- 1.1 A key tenet of our responsibilities as a corporate parent is that we listen to and respond to the children in our care and our care leavers. This paper sets out how we intend to do this going forward.
- 1.2 Members are asked to consider how these views will inform both strategic decisions for these children and young people and how officers will be accountable for changing practice accordingly. Dorset is ambitious in ensuring our Corporate Parenting role is shaped and co-produced in dialogue with our children and young people.
- 1.3 Members should be aware that this Youth Voice service has recently come back 'in house' having been provided by an external provider, Participation People, for several years. The team is made up of a Youth Voice Manager and two Youth Voice Officers, one of whom has TUPE'd in from Participation People. The change in arrangements provides an opportunity to reflect on how we carry out our responsibility to involve children in care and care leavers in decision making whilst ensuring there is continuity with programmes and activity which has been effective previously.
- 1.4 In capturing the voice of children in care and our care leavers a balance is needed between ensuring effective governance arrangements for the Corporate Parenting Board and ensuring children and young people feel comfortable in giving their views and feeling listened to. To achieve this, a range of opportunities will need to be available, both formal and informal, and members are asked to be flexible in how children and young people's views inform decisions.
- 1.5 Key to this will be the redevelopment of the long established CiC Council (CLiCC) and Care Leaver Forums. The previous provider struggled with the numbers of young people and membership has further dropped since the transfer. The Youth Voice Team is working hard to recruit new members but in order to represent the range of experiences of our children in care and care leavers, it will be important to see these groups in terms of a range of activities rather than as formal entities with designated representatives.
- 1.6 In early 2020, Children's Services launched a Co-Production Framework, underlining our commitment to develop services with those that use them; children and young people, parents and carers, and stakeholders. The Framework was developed in partnership with Dorset Youth Council, the Dorset Parent Carer Council and key stakeholders. Part of this work included a toolkit which included a range of resources that commissioners and managers can use when making changes to provision.

2 Principles

- 2.1 Dorset has already made a commitment under the title of the Dorset Promise which built on a previous commitment known as the Dorset Pledge, which was developed closely with young people. The Dorset Promise included eight commitments to children in care and care leavers:
 - A safe and stable home
 - Help them to do well in education and find training and employment
 - Keep them safe and support them in staying safe
 - Work together and guide them into adulthood
 - Be honest, kind and reliable
 - Listen to them and act on what they say
 - Provide and advise them on opportunities to enjoy life

- Help them to be aspirational about their lives

In addition to this the Dorset Pledge included a specific commitment to support them to stay healthy and live a healthy lifestyle, which was not included in the Dorset Promise. The children in care and care leavers that were involved in the work to develop the Dorset Pledge would like this to be added to the Dorset Promise.

3 Plans going forward

3.1 Formal - There are existing formal structures where we would want direct involvement of children and young people:

- Corporate Parenting Board – Members are asked to consider how children and young people can contribute to formal meetings. CPB meetings should have the young person's voice at the start of the agenda. We are proposing that children and young people will be invited to attend to present any updates to report cards and progress in co-production work, but if they choose not to attend, the youth voice team will present on their behalf. They then have the choice to leave if they do not want to attend the full meeting. In addition, it is proposed that this replaces the Challenge Cards which have been used in the past. The report cards will be produced jointly with the CLiCC or the Care Leavers Forum and the relevant officers concerned.
- Care Leaver Delivery Group – This group is already up and running and is leading on key work strands for Care Leavers as identified by the New Belongings programme and the commitment to Care Leaver Covenant. The group will be advised by the Care Leaver Forum to ensure actions are co-produced. The Youth Voice Manager is part of the group.
- Harbour Board – The Head of Service for Children in Care and Care Leavers is keen to develop a mechanism for young people to steer and advise the development of the Harbour and the delivery model. Although not every young person supported by the Harbour will be a child in care, we can often find this cohort of young people difficult to engage and therefore it is important that their voices are heard both from a Corporate Parenting Board perspective as well as the wider work of Youth Voice Team. The Youth Voice Manager will be part of the group.
- Virtual School – The Virtual School is keen to develop a 'School Council' to ensure that the young people they work with are actively involved in decision making. The Virtual School staff team will work closely with the Young Voice team to ensure we are sharing messages from young people and not asking too much from a small group of young people.
- Training for Elected Members – The Youth Voice team will provide training for members on what it is like to be a child or young person in care and the range of experiences that children and young people may have.

3.2 Informal – Alongside the formal structures of the Corporate Parenting Board, the Youth Voice Team will make use of a blend of informal approaches, which will enable children and young people to access the ones which work for them. It can take time to build trust and a variety of communication methods, and creative approaches will be used to make the team as visible and approachable as possible. This will include sending mail, SMS, and social media campaigns.

- 3.2.1 A whole family approach will be tried over the next year to enable carers and their birth children to attend activities alongside the children in care that they provide foster care for. Consultation is taking place with the DFCA (Dorset Foster Carers Association) via WhatsApp to have conversations about what might and might not work. This approach aims to remove some of the barriers for our younger children CIC to get involved and to hear the voices of birth children too, who may wish to join our Youth Council which is for all children in Dorset. The whole family approach will also offer carers the chance to meet other carers, having their own space at activities or supporting children to join in. This is also important so that children with SEND who need support, can access what we offer. We will work with the fostering team to offer informal support for carers over coffee and cake.
- 3.2.2 A range of engagement tools will be used to hear the voice of children and young people who do not wish to attend meetings or activities. This might include use Slido, Mentimeter, Miro, Padlet and Forms, which they can access in their own space, in their own time. We will also group text links using Gov.Uk, to these platforms.
- 3.2.3 The Youth Voice team will be reaching out to young people wherever they are and will attend their spaces wherever possible. This might include young people's housing projects or residential settings including the Harbour, for example
- 3.2.4 Members of CPB will be invited to engage with our children in care and care leavers in more informal settings where the children and young people are more comfortable. The Youth Voice team will be creating a schedule for these opportunities and members will be invited to reserve a place at all CLiCC meetings and activities. The purpose of these sessions will be that members can work out solutions to issues together with children and young people, rather than responding to an issue raised in the formal CPB meeting. The Youth Voice Team will be developing a co-produced charter to provide guidance for members about children and young people expectations for how this will work.
- 3.2.5 The Virtual School have their own school council. Colleagues in both teams will work together to ensure that the best use of time is considered for children and young people, and their carers', and that resources are shared where it makes sense to do so.

4 Recommendations

- 4.1 The Youth Voice Manager is a standing member of Corporate Parenting Board and Care Leaver Delivery Group.

- 4.2 Using the proposals outlined in this paper, the Corporate Parenting Board adopt a charter designed with CLICC outlining how children and young people would like members to be involved with their groups, hear their voice, and support their campaigns for change.
- 4.3 A delivery plan for the Dorset Promise is co-produced with children in care and care leavers and is adopted by the Corporate Parenting Board so that children and young people can hold the board accountable and work with them on solutions. This would form the basis of the report cards which children and young people bring to the Corporate Parenting Boards
- 4.4 Youth Voice and Fostering Team to embed the culture of participation better with our carers and work together to hear the voice of the whole family. Progress on this approach will be reported back to the board in six months
- 4.5 Youth Voice Team to visit the Harbour project homes to build relationships with CYP and amplify their voice. The team can support colleagues in the project with consultation and co-production with their CYP.
- 4.6 Officers across the Children's Services workforce to complete co-production training to ensure this is done in line with children and young people's expectations and that co-production work is as effective as possible in delivering the changes that children and young people ask for.
- 4.7 Children and young people that want to, including those with SEND, will be trained in co-production.
- 4.8 The Youth Voice Team develop a mechanism for young people to have 'peer-to-peer' conversations in a way which is safe and can be monitored by the Youth Voice team. This will allow children and young people to collaborate on projects together.
- 4.9 Dorset Council elected members are offered training facilitated by the Youth Voice team to understand what is like to be a child in care and understanding their experience.
- 4.10 All members of Corporate Parenting Board will commit to attending training outlined above.

[Please do not delete the footnote.](#)

Footnote:

Issues relating to financial, legal, environmental, economic and equalities implications have been considered and any information relevant to the decision is included within the report.

The Care Leaver Offer 2022-2023

1. Context

- 1.1. Historically, many of our care leavers are children who come into our care and have remained in care beyond their 16th birthday. As a result of this, we are now seeing an increasing number of young people with care leaver entitlements. We expect these numbers to grow as responsibilities for care leavers were amended in the Children & Social Work Act 2017, extending corporate parenting responsibilities to all local authorities, and extending support to the age of 25. As of 30 October 2021, we are supporting 277 young people as care leavers and there are a further 197 young people who we are not actively involved with but can request services as they are over 21 (177) or qualifying care leavers (20).
- 1.2. Young people leaving care are one of the most vulnerable groups in our society. Research shows they face greater health problems, lower educational attainment than their peers and higher levels of unemployment. In common with other leaving care services, we know that many young people struggle to access support for emotional wellbeing and mental health.
- 1.3. The Care Leaver Offer sets out the importance of providing Dorset care leavers with access to the same level of care and support that other young people get from their parents, holding in mind our corporate parenting objectives to ensure services are 'good enough for my child.' Our ambition is to be the best Corporate Parents in the country. The below offer looks to support that ambition.

2. Accessibility and visibility of the Care Leaver Offer.

- 2.1. Dorset Council Care Leaver offer is currently published on Dorset Council's website and is accessed by the young person via their Personal Adviser. Having a published offer ensures there is a consistent and equitable offer for our care leavers and that this is known and understood.
- 2.2. Through the New Belongings programme, care leavers have identified ways in which the digital presentation of the Care Leaver Offer can be published in a way that meets the accessibility code of practice but is also user friendly and attractive to the care leavers who are the primary audience.

2.3. We are working with the Digital Strategy and Design team, young people and Youth Voice Service through a series of co-production workshops to ensure the offer is presented in a way which takes account of our young people's feedback:

- Have a contents page with clear headings throughout the document.
- Keep it simple - use relevant animated pictures and info graphs where possible.
- Use drop-down boxes and less links to other pages.
- Have QR codes and links in emails to the offer when emailing care leavers.
- Use of Instagram to publicise our Care Leaver offer.
- Availability of PDF format.

2.4. We aim to be able to launch the new website in January 2021.

3. Co-production with our Care Leavers

3.1. Through the support of the Youth Voice Team, we continue to work with young people to co-produce our care leaver offer and update this annually.

3.2. We are also developing a Charter for our Corporate Parenting Board which is designed by Care Leavers and the Children in Care Council for corporate parents to sign up to. The charter will outline how children and young people would like members to be involved with their groups, hear their voice and support their campaign for change.

4. Care Leaver Offer

4.1. The current care leaver offer covers a wide range of support which is provided for by the Care Leaver budget. The offer is designed to cover all aspects of our care leavers lives as they transition into adult life.

5. Housing and living independently

5.1. Care leavers receive support in a number of ways, for example payments may include a contribution to help a young person to set up home, which they can use to purchase electrical goods, kitchen equipment and utensils, bedding and furniture.

5.2. The most significant provision within the framework is a £2,000 setting up home allowance. This allowance will cover the key costs of setting up home and young people will be able to draw this as a one-off payment or spread it out over several payments according to their needs.

- 5.3. In addition, Dorset Council may also provide the young person with rent in advance and a deposit where they move into independent tenancies or Housing Authority properties. It may also include help with short term storage and removal costs. Dorset Council has also agreed that care leavers are exempt from council tax where they are the sole tenant and receive a 25% contribution to council tax where they live in a shared property within the Dorset Council boundary.
- 5.4. The development of a joint protocol with housing colleagues is nearing completion. This sets out the arrangements for young people to ensure that they have access to the full range of accommodation at the appropriate time and proposes that no care experienced young person is placed in Bed and Breakfast accommodation or deemed intentionally homeless.
- 5.5. All care leavers living in Dorset are placed on “Band B” which is similar to previous ‘Gold Banding’ on the housing register. Young people may also be supported by the local authority as a guarantor to secure accommodation for those seeking private rented accommodation. The impact of this will see young people being able to access a greater range of better-quality accommodation in the private sector.
- 5.6. As a council we are actively exploring opportunities to identify more affordable housing. This includes access to the private rented sector, use of capital assets or borrowing capacity and developing new partnerships with providers.
- 5.7. 10 Kirtleton Avenue is an example of Dorset Council’s commitment to increase the availability of suitable accommodation for care experienced young people. Planning permission was awarded on 4th November 2021 by Dorset Council’s Area Planning Committee for 7 self-contained flatlets which will be single or multiple occupancy. In addition, the property has an additional training flatlet that can be used on a short-term basis, a separate training kitchen and communal engagement space for visitors including friends, family and professionals. We continue to engage with our young people in the interior and exterior design and anticipate residents commencing their tenancies in March 2022.

6. Access to learning, training, including university and employment

- 6.1. Dorset Council provides financial support to support care leavers to access employment, education and training.
- 6.2. This academic year we have 28 care experienced young people enrolled on university courses, all supported by specialist Personal Advisers. All care leavers at University are provided with a bursary of £2,000 over their

degree course. The national recommendation, and the offer from most local authorities is a £2,000 bursary over the whole of the degree course.

- 6.3.** Dorset Council may also fund specific courses or training, including online courses, on a full-time or part-time basis. We offer support towards the cost of specific equipment or resources such as a laptop, specialist clothing or safety boots and with travel and childcare costs where required.
- 6.4.** Dorset Council currently offers four apprenticeship opportunities across the directorate through the Pathways to Employment scheme. These opportunities are open to care leavers, young people with SEN and young carers
- 6.5.** Care leavers are guaranteed an interview should they apply for any Dorset Council apprenticeship and where they meet the essential criteria. This is an offer we are looking to expand upon across all job roles within the council.
- 6.6.** We value apprenticeships as these provide opportunities for young people to gain a qualification alongside developing important work experience. We continue to work with partner agencies and local businesses as we develop the Care Leaver Covenant and welcome the opportunities this may create regarding apprenticeships, work experience and mentoring.
- 6.7.** Typically, anyone on the first year of an apprenticeship will receive £4.15 per hour which is insufficient to live independently, so a top up payment would be provided during the first year for those who are living independently.
- 6.8.** In 2022, we are planning annual business and partner engagement events within localities which will offer young people the opportunity to showcase their talents, skills and expertise to local businesses for the purpose of work experience, apprenticeships and employment.
- 6.9.** We recognise the importance of young people gaining experience which will promote future employment opportunities. All care experienced young people who remain in contact with us up to their 25th birthdays may receive up to £30 a week if they are participating for 12 or more hours per week in training, voluntary work, internship, or a traineeship.
- 6.10.** This is to support with travel costs and suitable clothing needed for the given activity.

7. The Care Leaver Covenant

- 7.1.** The Care Leaver service is working with the national Care Leaver Covenant on two fronts.
- 7.2.** Firstly, to expand the internal offer across all Council departments to offer services and/or experiences to care leavers. This includes identifying a care leaver champion in each directorate. This work is being overseen by the Care Leaver Service Delivery Group chaired by Cllr Kerby.
- 7.3.** Secondly, the Covenant are working with us to engage and encourage local business, charities and organisations to consider what they may be able to contribute to the development and opportunities for care leavers.

8. Documentation and Identity

- 8.1.** Most young people on leaving care, will have all the documentation they need for adult life prior to turning 18. Where required, support is available to cover the cost of a passport, driving licence or other documents as required.

9. Support with pregnancy and maternity and paternity

- 9.1.** Financial support is provided to ensure the mother has access to maternity clothing and can attend key appointments and maternity classes. Support is also extended to the father where they are a care leaver.

10. Keeping in Touch

- 10.1** Dorset Council provides financial support to care leavers to remain in touch. This includes provision of a Dorset Council SIM card with free calls, text and up to 10GB of data per month. Young people may also choose to use their personal budget to pay towards transport to visit family members and significant others.

11. Emergency Financial Assistance

- 11.1** There are inevitably times when additional assistance is needed. These are responded to promptly by the team either via a bank transfer, or through the purchases such as small supermarket shop.

11.2The key change is that there is now a framework in place which allows for each young person, between the ages of 18 and 25, to have a personal budget which they are able to draw down from this when they need to.

11.3This ensures there is an equitable response with the right support in place for young people to manage their finances with the flexibility to provide financial assistance where necessary.

12. Birthday and Festive Gifts - Implemented 1 April 2021

12.1As any parent, we celebrate birthdays and festive events that are significant to young people.

12.2Young people from the age of 18+ receive a gift on their birthday to the value of £25 and on their 21st birthday £50.

12.3All young people will also receive a festive gift voucher of £20.

13. Beyond the direct financial provision to care leavers.

13.1The Care Leaver service works in partnership with a range of services and organisations to access the help and support young people are entitled including benefits and grants as well as advice and guidance into education, employment and training.

14. The Rees Foundation “Ask Jan Membership” for care leavers - Implemented 1 June 2021

14.1The ‘Ask Jan Membership’ has been developed to assist care experienced young people of all ages by providing access comprehensive, practical advice and support and additional benefits.

14.2This is a good example of how Dorset Council have looked to lead the way nationally by reaching out to other agencies to support our care leavers. Dorset Council is the first Local Authority to have a service level agreement with the Rees Foundation’s Ask Jan Membership for our care leavers.

14.3The membership is for up to 150 care leavers at £60 per membership, costing a total of £9,000 annually. The Ask Jan Membership is promoted via our Children’s hub and our Personal Advisers to the young people they are working with. The membership offers a wide variety of supports as detailed below:

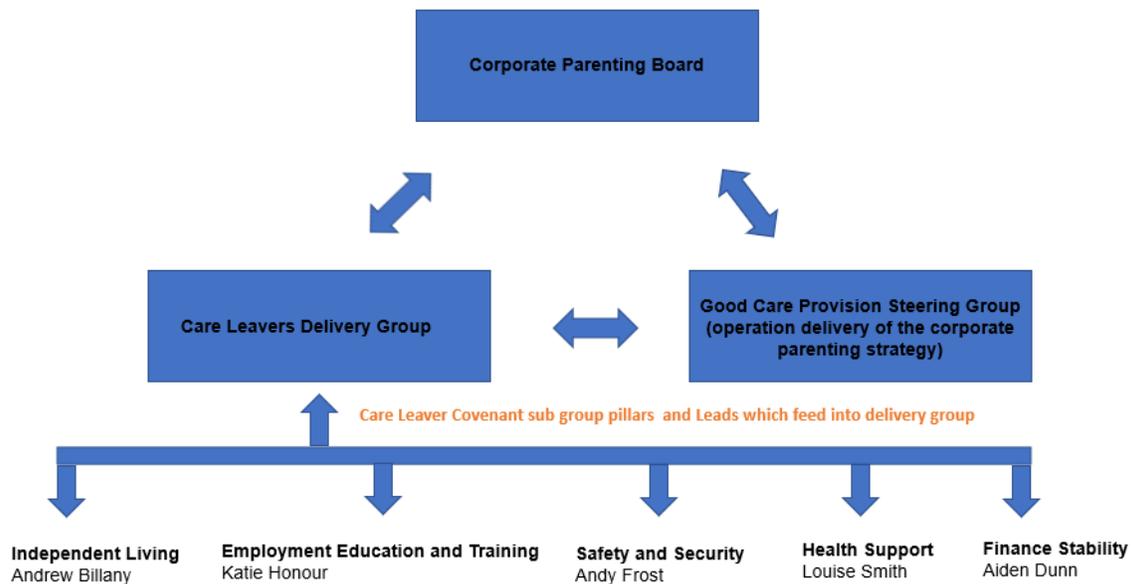
- A 24-hour counselling helpline with access to a BACP accredited counsellor
- Up to 8 face to face counselling sessions where assessed and agreed by the counsellor
- Personal finance advice – mortgages, pensions, insurance, debt, and savings
- Nutrition, exercise, stress and wellbeing advice
- Specialist advice helplines including housing, legal and citizens advice 8am to 8pm
- Access to an enhanced wellbeing App - My Possible Self
- Cognitive behavioural therapy – available online or via the App
- Discounts and special offers on days out and activities with The Max Card
- Access to all other Rees Foundation projects

15. Care Leaver Delivery Group

15.1 The Care Leaver Delivery Group was formed on the 21st June 2021 and includes representation from Dorset Council and key partner stakeholders. Membership will include a care experienced apprentice once in post.

15.2 The delivery group is chaired by Cllr Andrew Kerby and is held a minimum of seven times a year. The group holds Dorset Council and its partners to account in delivery of services and dispensing of their duties, promises and commitments to our care experienced young people.

15.3 The delivery group, as detailed below, feeds into the Good Care Provision steering group and feeds up into the Corporate Parenting Board which drives the priorities of Dorset Council's Corporate Parenting Strategy.



15.4 The Care Leavers Delivery Group has outlined the following five outcomes which anchor all of our activity:

- Independent Living – Care leavers are better prepared and supported to live independently
- Employment, Education, Training – Care leavers have improved access to employment education and training
- Safety and Security – Care Leavers experience stability in life and feeling safe and secure
- Health Support – Care Leavers have improved access to health and emotional support
- Financial Stability - Care leavers achieve financial stability.

15.5 Work to achieve these outcomes is being undertaken within task and finish groups and progress reported to the Care Leaver Delivery Group.

16. Annual National Care Leavers' Week

16.1 National Care Leavers' week was started in 2002 by an independent charity which aimed to bring together other charities and interest groups working with our care leavers campaign.

16.2 The week provides an opportunity for Dorset Council and young people to raise awareness and shine a bright light on our young people.

16.3 Dorset Council celebrated National Care Leaver Week from the 21st – 28th October 2021. Over the course of the week there was a series of workshops and events that have been co-produced with our care leavers. Examples of workshops and events covered include a Business Event – co-hosted with the Care Leaver Covenant - and a co-produced workshop of recognising care leavers achievements.

16.4 There are a number of proactive actions which have arisen in Dorset's participation in National Care leavers week. The below is not an exhaustive list but for illustrative purposes:

- Young people would like their achievements to be recognised on an individual basis, preferably by their Personal Adviser's, but not exclusively if a 3rd party wants us to do this e.g. housing provider.
- Young people would like to be involved in organising the annual Epic Awards, to 'showcase' their achievements and to be aspirational for younger children.
- The leaving care team to host an annual 'social gathering' which is planned with young people who have received recognition awards over the year. This will be their 'together' celebration.

17. Personal advisers' role in the Care Leaver Offer.

17.1 The following is not an exhaustive list but is intended to give an insight into the range of activity that Personal Advisers might be involved to support our young people.

- A Personal Adviser is secondary allocated to a child in care from the age of 16 and will attend key meetings until the young person turns 18. Their keeping in touch with the young person will gradually increase as the young person approaches 18. This is to promote working relationships with the young person, supporting smooth transition between services. As well as supporting the young person transitioning into adulthood as any good parent would.
- Support to claim Universal Credit: The team have agreed a joint working protocol with the Bridport and Weymouth Job Centre Plus teams to achieve advance claims for Care Leavers; for any proposed sanctions to be discussed with the Personal Adviser before being applied and identifying additional support in finding work. Our young people living out of area may not have access to this as this requires voluntary agreement with the Job centre based in the area where they reside. The Care Leaver Team make this request where appropriate for our children out of area.

- Support in access to grants and bursaries: Personal Advisers will help young people with applications to any which are available. Many colleges and universities have schemes which provide additional financial support to care experienced young people, and there are also charities, local community groups and businesses which do this too.
- Support with access to work experience and voluntary work for young people who may have an interest in a specific field of work, or currently unable to undertake paid work.
- Access to a business mentor under a scheme run by the Chamber of Commerce.
- Personal advisers provide a home start box with essentials for a new home. Contents include:
 - Collapsible storage box
 - Shampoo, Conditioner and Shower gel
 - Toothpaste and Toothbrush
 - Toilet rolls Washing up liquid and powder, Bleach & multi surface cleaner
 - Cleaning cloths, sponges and Tea towel
 - Bin bags, compostable bags and kitchen roll
 - Cling film and Foil
 - Vinegar Salt, Pepper, Ketchup & Brown Sauce
 - Cooking oil
 - Teabags, coffee and sugar
 - Care Leaver Cook Book
 - New home card with £10 food voucher for first meal shop

18. Aspirational Financial Provision

18.1 Within the developed framework, there are financial provisions which Dorset may want to consider going forward. These costs are not obligations and fit within the spirit of a Corporate Parent role. These include providing, for example, Cold Weather payments.

19. Next steps

19.1 To embed the principles of services being designed by young people, for young people, through the recruitment, training and recognition of the time and expertise that our young people can give.

19.2 Development of clear pathways for young people to access timely help with mental health and low emotional wellbeing, providing a clear direction for our young people to work towards. The Care Leavers Team are listening to young people and working with the Clinical Commissioning Group and the Child in Care Health Service to provide a more responsive and earlier intervention to promote wellbeing and positive emotional health.

19.3 To expand the current offer to our Care Leaver regarding apprenticeships and guaranteed interview to include all appropriate vacancies across the council and key partners.

19.4 To ensure that on publication, The Care Leaver Offer is available digitally on an accessible and inviting web page and available in PDF format. The target date for this is the 30 January 2022.

20. Recommendations

20.1 For CSLT to support the 2021-2022 offer as detailed above.

20.2 For CSLT to support the development of the Charter.

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Corporate Parenting Board 6 December 2021 The Harbour Impact and Outcomes Reports

For Decision

Portfolio Holder: Cllr A Parry, Children, Education, Skills and Early Help

Local Councillor(s): Cllr Wheller Chair

Executive Director: T Leavy, Executive Director of People - Children

Report Author: Louise Drury

Title: Head of Service Children in Care and Care Leavers

Tel: 01305 228382

Email: louise.drury@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Report Status: Public

Recommendation:

That the Corporate Parenting Board note the impact and support the work being undertaken in The Harbour.

That the Corporate Parenting Board provide challenge and support to strengthen the impact and outcomes going forward.

Reason for Recommendation:

1. Executive Summary

This report analyses the impact of the Harbour Project from December 2020 to July 2021. Within the limits of a short time frame and the service not being fully operational, it provides encouraging emerging evidence of improved outcomes for young people in the target cohort for the service. These include:

- Improved performance against a range of KPIs for the target cohort during this period
- Strong evidence from a range of case studies of the success of individual interventions
- An estimate of cost avoidance

Work will continue with the longitudinal tracking of outcomes for young people involved with the Harbour, alongside the capture actual spending reductions.

The report provides encouraging emerging evidence of improved outcomes for young people in the target cohort for the service. These include:

- Improved performance against a range of KPIs for the target cohort during this period
- Strong evidence from a range of case studies of the success of individual interventions
- An estimate of cost avoidance

Future work will take place to develop the longitudinal tracking of outcomes for young people involved with the Harbour, and, alongside a more developed benefits model, to capture actual spending reductions.

2. Financial Implications

The Harbour has worked with a total of 55 young people as at the end of July 2021 and the cost avoidance for these young people is currently forecast to be £1,879,517 for 2021/22.

There were 27 young people with open interventions and the cost avoidance, assuming that the young people continue to receive interventions or do not require care services during the financial year is forecast to be £803,445 for 2021/22.

There were 28 young people no longer receiving an intervention from The Harbour and the ongoing cost avoidance for this group of young people is forecast to be £1,076,072. This assumes that no further interventions are required for the remainder of the financial year and that there is no change in care plan.

An average weekly cost of all children in care has been used to calculate the cost avoidance for young people on the Edge of Care. Costs avoided from Placement Stability are calculated using the current placement cost and an assumption of the cost of an alternative placement. Costs avoided from Reunification are calculated using the current placement cost. Cost avoidance for young people turning 18 during the financial year 2021/22 ceases on their 18th birthday.

3. Well-being and Health Implications

Some young people find it difficult to engage with a CAMHS mental health service. Having an embedded clinical psychologist and speech and language therapist who will be able to assess without an appointment will ensure that the emotional wellbeing and mental health needs of young people are better met.

The Harbour Team offer a wide range of activities from art activities to extreme sports providing the opportunity for young people to have new experiences and strengthen emotional wellbeing. The impact of this is yet to be captured consistently through SDQ

scores although where reported there is evidence that following involvement with the Harbour emotional wellbeing is improved.

4. Climate implications

In addition to matching skills and experience attention is paid to where practitioners and young people live to reduce mileage.

In furnishing our children's homes we plan to acquire a selection of previously loved quality furniture which meets the safety requirements. This will be chosen in consultation with young people.

For the same or less expenditure we will be able to have higher quality, robust furnishings which will have a more homely feel.

We will reduce the carbon impact of the homes and be supporting the Council's Environmental Action Plan in response to the Climate Emergency.

We will be able to share as a model of good environmental practice to other organisations.

We will role model environmentally responsible action for the children and young people and the staff.

We will create a unique environment with high quality but not institutional furnishings.

5. Other Implications

There are no other implications

6. Risk Assessment

Having considered the risks associated with this decision, the level of risk has been identified as:

Current Risk: Low

Residual Risk: Low

7. Equalities Impact Assessment

Not applicable

8. Appendices

The Harbour Impact and Outcomes Report dated 5 September 2021

9. Background Papers

Not applicable

Footnote:

Issues relating to financial, legal, environmental, economic and equalities implications have been considered and any information relevant to the decision is included within the report.

1. Summary

1.1. This report analyses the impact of the Harbour Project from December 2020 to July 2021. Within the limits of a short time frame and the service not being fully operational, it provides encouraging emerging evidence of improved outcomes for young people in the target cohort for the service. These include:

- Improved performance against a range of KPIs for the target cohort during this period
- Strong evidence from a range of case studies of the success of individual interventions
- An estimate of cost avoidance

1.2. Future work will take place to develop the longitudinal tracking of outcomes for young people involved with the Harbour, and, alongside a more developed benefits model, to capture actual spending reductions.

2. **Our Approach**

2.1. The Harbour provides a multi-agency approach to support our most vulnerable young people, recognising that these vulnerabilities cut across and impact on all agencies within the public sector.

2.2. Our approach aims to :

- Reduce Risk – including criminal activity, self-harm, child exploitation, missing from home incidents and drug and alcohol misuse
- Build and restore relationships
- Plan transitions and accommodation
- Education and Training
- Develop self-esteem and resilience through a diverse offer of activities
- Mental health and wellbeing

2.3. The Harbour operates as one team with two components.

- **Residential** –The range of residential options available to young people include a 5 bedroomed home and a 3 bedroomed short-term home in Weymouth and a number of single occupancy homes. All accommodation operates on the principle that any young person placed there is being prepared and supported to return to foster care or family care. Harbour specialist foster carers provide placements as part of a supported move out of residential care and into foster care. The carers also undertake sessional work in the residential homes, building relationships with young people prior to young people moving to their care.

- **Outreach** – The Harbour youth practitioners provide outreach to young people and their families to work with young people within either, their family home, or their foster placement, to provide intensive support to both the young person and either their parents or carers. The outreach service started to formalise in October 2020 and further development was embedded in April 2021 with the embedded police roles joining the team.
- **Portfolio Leads** – The Harbour Senior Youth Practitioners champion one of six areas: reduce risk; build and restore relationships; planned transitions and accommodation; education and training; develop self-esteem and resilience through a range of activities; and mental health and wellbeing.
- **Wider Team** – Beyond the Residential and Outreach elements, there are embedded roles to provide specialist support to any young people receiving a service. Embedded police support, and a police researcher are in post and recruitment is underway for speech and language therapist, and clinical psychologist.

2.4. As part of the development work for the Harbour, work has been undertaken to identify the specific knowledge and skills required for The Harbour Team. Our partnership with The Mulberry Bush, an Outstanding Provider, will see The Harbour Team strengthened by an accredited workforce development programme which includes the option to continue to Level 5 Foundation Degree.

3. Impact and Outcomes

3.1. The Harbour Team has grown steadily since embedding in April 2021 under consistent and committed leadership of the Head of Service for Children in Care and Leaving Care and the Responsible Individual. Work has been undertaken to ensure that the right people are in the right roles and within a relatively short period of time it is possible to see that progress is being made towards meeting the intended outcomes. In total 56 young people have been supported by The Harbour between December 2020 – August 2021, 53 supported by Outreach and 3 in the care of The Harbour (residential and foster care). The duration and intensity of support has varied according to the needs of young people.

4. Placement stability

4.1. There is evidence that The Harbour is contributing to supporting young people to remain safely at home. This can be seen in in Fig 1 New CIC 13+ which shows the number of young people age 13yrs and above entering care compared with the total number of new entrants. The graph shows a decreasing trajectory of new entrants age 13+ and it is positive to see that the variance month on month is relatively steady.

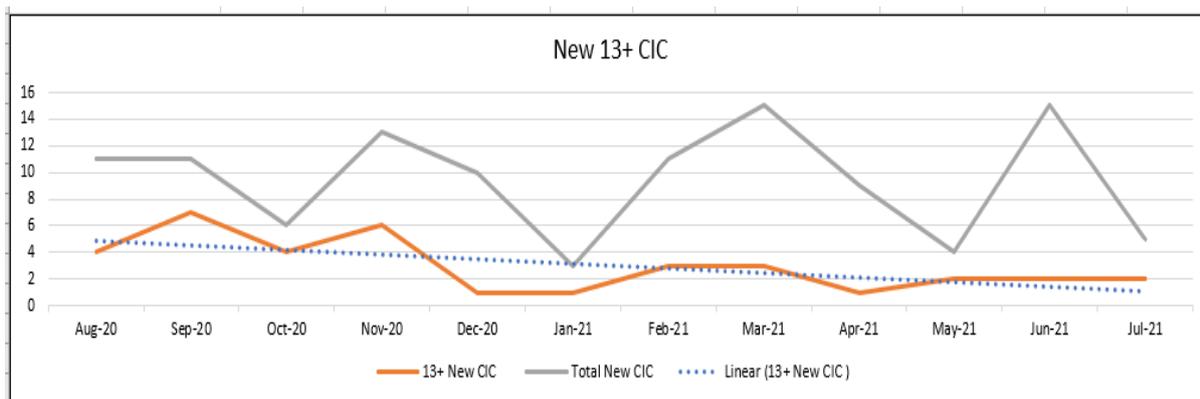


Fig 1

4.2. Fig 2 New 13+CPP which shows the number of children age 13+ who are subject to a child protection plan. As above the graph shows a downward trajectory with steady variance which indicates that where we are seeing a reduction in the number of children age 13+ entering care we are not seeing an increase in child protection plans for this age group which supports the statement that more children in this age group are being supported to remain safely at home.

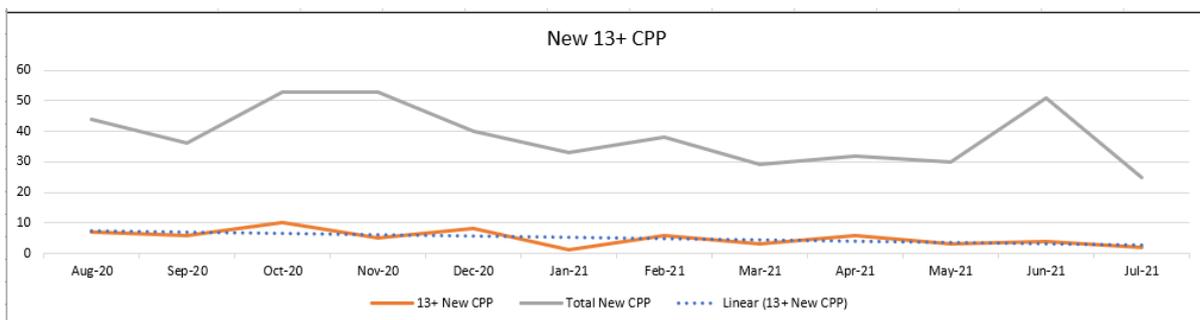


Fig2

4.3. Outreach has been effective in supporting placement stability, reducing the need for placement moves. In Dorset, there has been a decrease in the number of children experiencing placement moves since the Harbour commenced. In December 2020 40 children had experienced 3+ placement moves, 8.4% of the total number of children in care. As of the 31st August 2021 this has reduced to 30 children, 6.8%.

4.4. The Harbour Specialist Foster Carer role has been developed to support children to be cared for in stable family-based care and to build a strong foundation for next steps e.g. a move to independence or return home. The role is embedded in the team, has access to 24/7 support and The Harbour workforce development program.

4.5. AB who is currently living with a Harbour carer, moved there at the beginning of the year having experienced 7 placement moves in the previous 3 months. She was reported missing on 6 occasions in one month, had fractured relationships with her sibling, parents, wider family, and friends and was at

the point of exclusion from school. The carer has focused on providing a secure home for AB from which to strengthen relationships with people who are important and provide the support that she needs to regulate her emotions. Activities have been provided for self-defined success, building her self-esteem and strengthening her emotional wellbeing. Over the last 8 months, missing episodes have significantly reduced month on month with the carer supported by Harbour on call and building relationships with family and friends who in turn have engaged proactively to build a network of support. On the first day back to school, AB stuck with it when she would previously have walked away.

4.6. As we continue to move forward with the opening 45 Dorchester Road we anticipate that we will see an increase in the number of children being supported by The Harbour cease being in care and further reduce the number of placement moves children experience. The 3 bed-roomed short-term home provides an option for young people to take a break from their family or foster home to prevent breakdown and for the team to work with the young person before they then return to either the family home or their substantive foster placement.

5. Education, Employment and Training

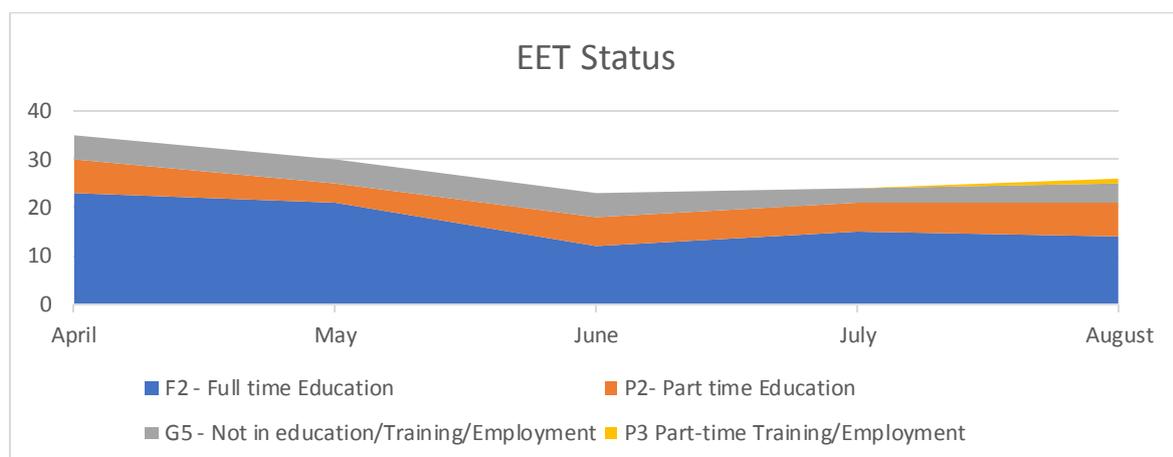


Fig 3

5.1. Fig 3 EET status provides an overview of the education status of young people who are receiving a service from the Harbour.

5.2. Data shows that children who are already in full time education at the time they are referred to The Harbour remain in full time education. Of the children who were not in Education Employment of Training and remain in receipt of a Harbour service in August, 4 out of 5 have a confirmed education placement for September 2021. 2 of these young people have an education health and care plan. Progress is being made towards securing an education placement to commence in the Autumn Term for the remaining child, with engagement from the Locality SEN Service, Virtual School and education providers.

5.3. Data also evidences that there has been a reduction in fixed term exclusion from 2 in April 2021 to 0 in July 2021.

5.4. Progress for children who are in receipt of a part time timetable to a full-time timetable is not as well evidenced in this period. We know that if children are not in school there is an increased likelihood of low education attainment, poor emotional wellbeing, exploitation and involvement in youth justice. We have been successful in recruiting a senior portfolio lead for Education and Training who joined the team in June 2021. Going forward this role will strengthen oversight of the education and training needs for children receiving a service from The Harbour which will be enhanced further once the Speech and Language Therapist and Clinical Psychologist are in post.

6. Reducing Risk

6.1. The latest national data, relating to the 12 months to December 2019, shows a combined pan-Dorset rate of 251 per 100,000 10-17 year olds entering the justice system for the first time. This compares with a figure of 344 per 100,000 10-17 year olds in the year to December 2018. Local data for the year to December 2020 shows further reductions in the first-time entrant's rate in the Dorset Council area.

6.2. Local re-offending rate has for the most part remained below the national rate the rates of custodial sentences, are below the regional and national averages. In Dorset no children were sentenced to custody in the year April 2020 to March 2021.

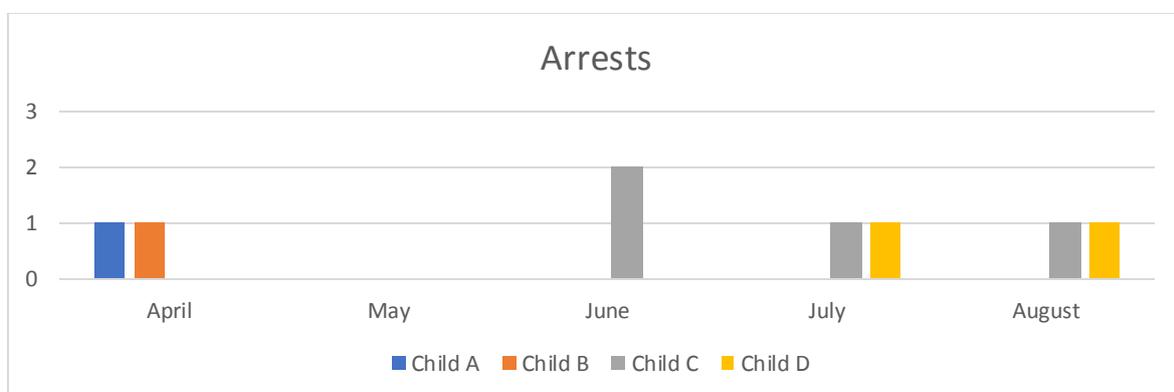


Fig 4

6.3. Fig 4 shows that other than in May 2021 when there are no records of children who are open to the Harbour being arrested, the number of arrests month on month has remained consistent at 2/month although the number of episodes per month has reduced for one young person, Child A who was referred to The Harbour in June 2021. In Dorset LPA showed a gradual increase in the number of arrests for young people age 12 – 25, peaking at 80 in July 2021. This decreased to 61 in August 2021 which evidences an alternative route to arrest being undertaken as one would anticipate an increase in August as the population can double in the summer months in the coastal areas of Dorset.

- 6.4. In comparison the number of charges has remained at 0 other than in April 2021 where a charge resulted in a youth restorative disposal.
- 6.5. We have received positive feedback from custody regarding the Harbour embedded police role, strengthening sharing of information and working better together in providing timely responses and better outcomes.
- 6.6. Between April 2021 – August 2021 we have seen a decrease in the number of young people using substances in the first 3 months followed by an increase in July and August which may be influenced by the easing of Covid restrictions. The most common used substance that is reported is cannabis and the most frequently consumed alcohol is spirits, particularly Vodka. In August 2021 we have seen more young people report a decrease in use than in previous months.
- 6.7. The Harbour team are working with 8 young people who are identified as being at significant risk of exploitation. The PRIDE (Prevention, Risk Identification, Disruption and Evaluation) process has been effectively used with 3 young people to ensure there is an evidence based approach to reduce risk and disrupt activity alongside the offer of something better for young people to engage with. The embedded police roles have been instrumental in the effective sharing of information across local authority borders and engaging with parents and carers acting as a conduit for gathering intelligence and offering re-assurance.

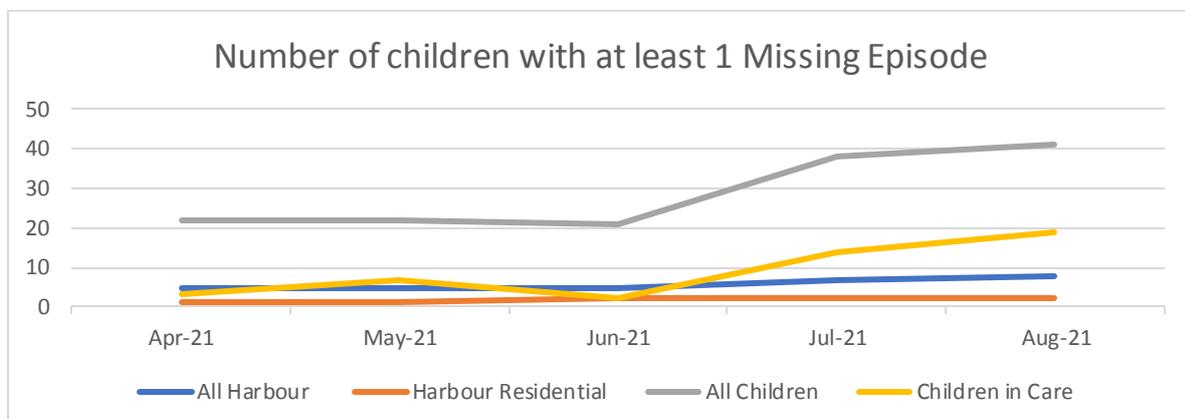


Fig 5

- 6.8. Fig 5 compares children receiving a service from The Harbour with all children with at least 1 missing episode highlighting children in care and children in The Harbour residential care/foster care. June 2021 saw an increase in the number of children with 1 missing episode and the trend was similar for both all children and children in care. Children receiving a service from The Harbour either through outreach or Harbour residential/foster care did not follow the same trend.

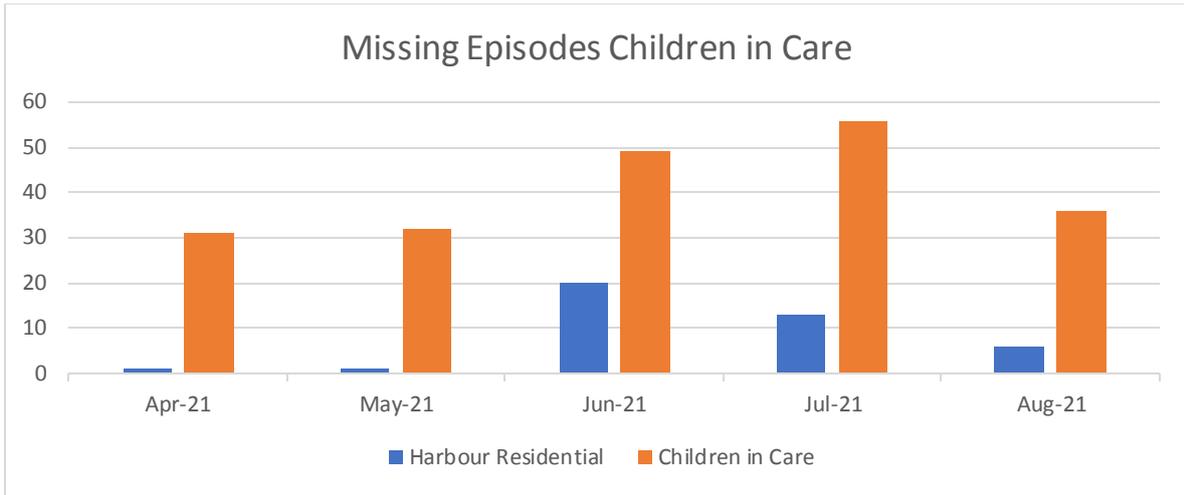


Fig 6

6.9. Fig 6 compares missing episodes for all children in care with those children in Harbour Residential/foster care. Involvement from the embedded police and youth practitioners working alongside providing opportunities to engage in other activities have had an impact on reducing the number of missing episodes.

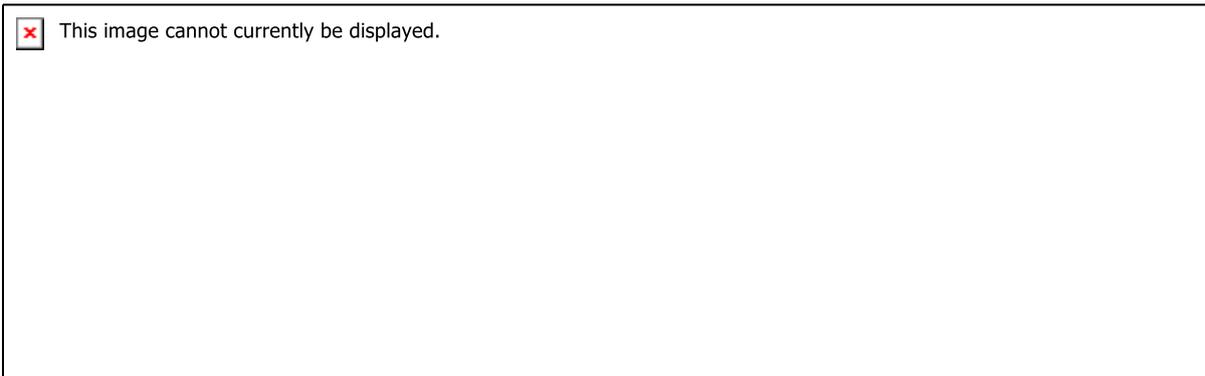


Fig7 Child A Missing Episodes

6.10As shown above in Fig 7 one young person who was referred to The Harbour in June 2021 has been supported to find employment which as seen below has significantly reduced the number of missing episodes.

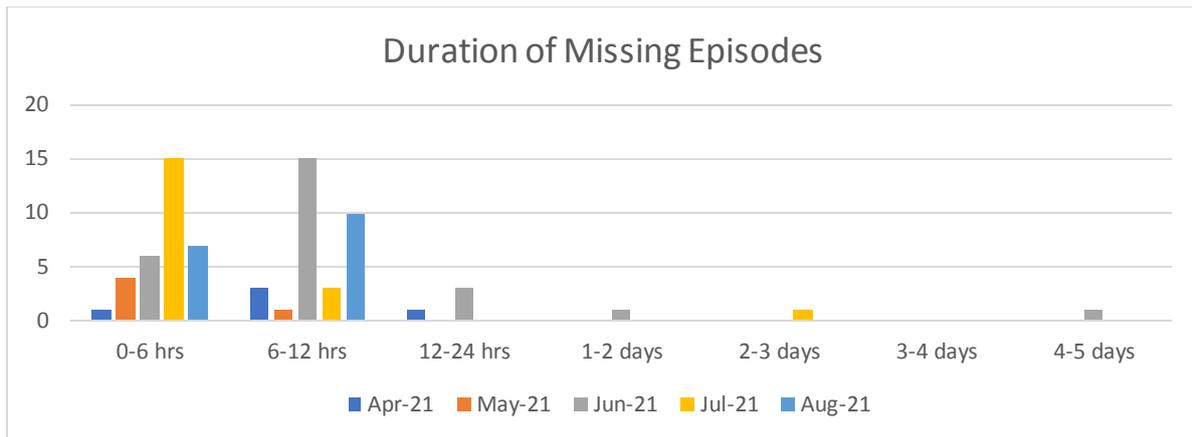


Fig 8

6.10 Fig 8 evidences that alongside seeing a decrease in the number of missing episodes for children receiving a service from The Harbour we are also seeing a change in the duration of episode with a noticeable reduction in duration being seen in August 2021.

7. Relationships

7.1. Appendix 1 includes 5 case studies that have been written by youth practitioners and the embedded police colleagues within The Harbour. The case studies provide examples of how practitioners have developed authentic relationships with young people, their carers, their family, and schools to enable conversations of high support and high challenge and improve outcomes.

8. Transitions from care

8.1. There are good examples of focused work taking place e.g. Case Study 4 to support better transitions from care. What is evident is that it will be better when transition to independence commences at an earlier point with Pathway plans driving progress. Steady and Settled Pathway is in place and further embedding will be led by the Senior Portfolio Lead for Transition.

9. Emotional Wellbeing

9.1. The Harbour Team offer a wide range of activities from art activities to extreme sports providing the opportunity for young people to have new experiences and strengthen emotional wellbeing. The impact of this is yet to be captured consistently through SDQ scores although where reported there is evidence that following involvement with the Harbour emotional wellbeing is improved.

9.2. Initial SDQ scores have been recorded for 7 children in care who are receiving a service from The Harbour (4 in Feb/Mar 2021 and 3 in June/July 2021). 4 young people show scores above 20 with the remaining 3 between 14 and 17. Scores over 20 are very high and found only in 5% of the

population. 3 young people have been offered a service from CAMHS with 2 young people attending.

9.3. We know that some young people find it difficult to engage with a CAMHS mental health service. Having an embedded clinical psychologist and speech and language therapist who will be able to assess without an appointment will ensure that the emotional wellbeing and mental health needs of young people are better met.

10. Cost Avoidance

The Harbour - Placement Cost Avoidance Tracker 2021/22						
Update as at		31/07/2021				
2021/22	Harbour Referrals	Harbour Interventions	Harbour Interventions	Harbour Interventions	Harbour Interventions	Harbour Interventions
	Total Number of Young People Referred	Current Young People Receiving Interventions	Forecast Cost Avoidance of Ongoing Interventions	Young People With Ceased Interventions	Forecast Cost Avoidance of Ceased Interventions	Total Forecast Cost Avoidance for 2021/22
	December 2020 July 2021	As at 31 July 2021	1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022	As at 31 July 2021	1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022	1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022
28 Day Pathway	0	0	£0	0	£0	£0
Harbour Residential	0	0	£0	0	£0	£0
Edge of Care	29	13	£499,659	16	£895,187	£1,394,846
Placement Stability	19	12	£214,536	7	£129,056	£343,592
Reunification	7	2	£89,250	5	£51,829	£141,079
2021/22 Total	55	27	£803,445	28	£1,076,072	£1,879,517

10.1. The Harbour has worked with a total of 55 young people as at the end of July 2021 and the cost avoidance for these young people is currently forecast to be £1,879,517 for 2021/22.

10.2. There were 27 young people with open interventions and the cost avoidance, assuming that the young people continue to receive interventions or do not require care services during the financial year is forecast to be £803,445 for 2021/22.

10.3. There were 28 young people no longer receiving an intervention from The Harbour and the ongoing cost avoidance for this group of young people is forecast to be £1,076,072. This assumes that no further interventions are required for the remainder of the financial year and that there is no change in care plan.

10.4. An average weekly cost of all children in care has been used to calculate the cost avoidance for young people on the Edge of Care. Costs avoided from Placement Stability are calculated using the current placement cost

and an assumption of the cost of an alternative placement. Costs avoided from Reunification are calculated using the current placement cost. Cost avoidance for young people turning 18 during the financial year 2021/22 ceases on their 18th birthday.

11. Feedback and audit

- 11.1. Feedback is invited from family, social worker/early help practitioner and young person at the point at which the intervention with the Harbour is concluded.
- 11.2. This will be better when this is undertaken consistently and when relationships are so well developed that there are a greater number of responses.
- 11.3. To date The Harbour was graded as excellent by 46% of young people and 79% of parents by those who have responded. There were no responses that described the Harbour as unsatisfactory.
- 11.4. Going forward audit activity will be strengthened now the deputy manager for outreach is in post. This role will provide oversight to ensure that audit activity is completed each month and quality assurance activity is firmly embedded in The Harbour.

Louise Drury
5 September 2021